



Building Municipal Skills for Community Safety Planning

Project Newsletter
September - November 2014

PARTNERS IN SAFETY PLANNING

- West Rand District Municipality
- Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality
- Ikwezi Local Municipality
- Civilian Secretariat for Police
- Provincial Governments: Gauteng and Eastern Cape Departments of Community Safety/Safety & Liaison, Local Government
- Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG)
- South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

The *Building Skills for Safety Planning* project is an initiative of the **Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP)** programme and its partners. The VCP programme is a joint South African-German intervention coordinated nationally by the Department of Cooperative Governance and implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Project Activities

From the start-up and status quo assessment phase that started in June, the project entered the training and partner engagement phase in September. Training workshops were scheduled to be held at all project sites but organisation and logistics proved difficult, often reflecting the fact that participants came from a diverse array of line departments and the lack of clear institutional responsibility for the community safety function. The training focused mainly on the following learning areas/key objectives:

1. Understanding of CSF and Community Safety concepts
2. Awareness of the legal and policy provisions governing community safety and the mandate of CSFs

3. Understanding the need for collaborative action and the challenges of coordinating diverse stakeholder groups within the community safety sector
4. To reflect on the lessons arising from experiences of current and past CSF operations
5. To create an understanding of how sector driven planning fits with IDP and what the elements of a safety plan are

West Rand District Municipality (WRDM): 16 - 18 September. Staff from all participating municipalities attended the workshop, but attendance fluctuated and a number of the participants did not attend all the sessions due to other work commitments. This reflects the reality that, as a function *community safety* often has to compete with other functions that are considered more 'mainstream.'

A positive feature of the workshop was the commitment shown by the province - the Gauteng Department of Community Safety also sent delegates to the workshop and was thus able to stay in touch with the capacity development imperatives. In response to concerns expressed by participants that their political and managerial heads also needed exposure to the importance of *community safety*, an additional training workshop was organised.

An initiative by

The Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention for Safe Public Spaces (VCP) programme



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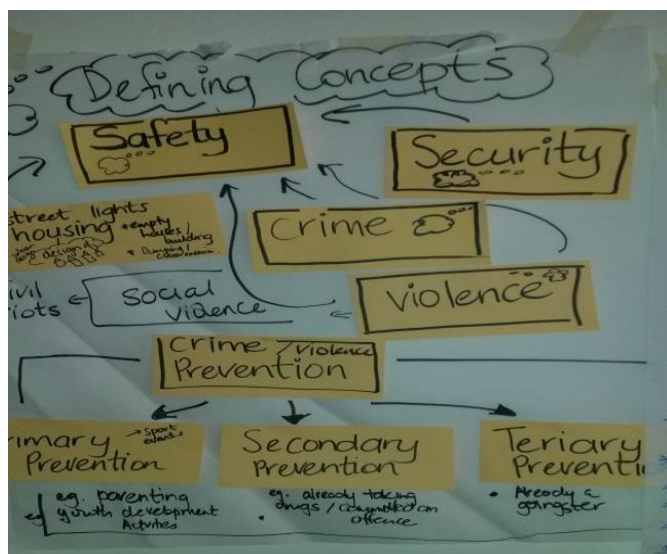


Mbumba
Development Services

Unfortunately attendance at the 2nd training (29 – 31 October) was very poor. Instead some value was realised through the IDP officials who attended and expressed great interest in a subject that often lay outside their professional domain.

Because capacity and resources for community safety is uneven and fragmented across individual local municipalities, a core team of district safety coordinators has been formed to take the process forward with the local municipalities. This team will be closely supported by Mbumba.

Ikwezi Local Municipality: (Training held from 26 – 28 August.) The training was held at the Jansenville Town Hall – an attractive and learner-friendly environment. The workshop was well attended by councillors, ward committees, SAPS, municipal officials and community safety forum stakeholders. A new partner to the project, the Amahlathi Local Municipality also sent their key officials. Further capacity development was scheduled to take the form of a review of safety planning content in the Ikwezi IDP. The Ikwezi team however, did not find the time to complete the exercise and much energy instead went into the launch of the CSF on 17 November



Ikwezi LM workshop output

Amahlathi Local Municipality: joined the project in October as a pilot site with much the same community safety planning focus but with a special emphasis on youth empowerment in safety research and planning. After participating in the Ikwezi hosted workshop, Amahlathi officials were able to briefly review safety planning in their IDP process. Training has subsequently been provided to approximately 40 youth in basic concepts of community safety, safety planning and youth as a constituency with special safety considerations. The project has also been introduced to

political and managerial heads and an assessment of the capacity needs of the CSF has been undertaken.

Nelson Mandela Bay Metro: (Planning conducted on 11 September.) After consultation with GIZ VCP it was agreed that the NMBMM intervention should be revised to a strategic planning session for the Safety and Security Directorate. The 20 participants at the strategic planning included four councillors and various officials. The interactive exercise revealed a host of different units and departments involved in different aspects of community safety. Each tends to have their own strong imperatives e.g. fire services recently clamped down on dangerous and illegal auto spray-painting operations. The Directorate is trying to properly define its role and coordinating function in a community safety responsibility that cross-cuts many other directorates. An immediate priority is to find the resources and staff to support the CSF which has been largely inactive since it was re-launched in 2013. There is an agreement to assist the Directorate with institutional planning and definition of functions and to seek contact and consultation with the IDP unit.



Training in West Rand District

National Project Steering Group: the meeting held on 11 November reviewed challenges and successes of the project. It transpired that project experiences and sector analysis aligned closely with that of the key government role-players. Strong affirmation for the project was obtained from Gauteng Provincial Safety, the Civilian Secretariat for Police and SALGA. Key points raised were:

- The awkward fit and lack of rationale for assigning safety function in LMs
- The post of a dedicated safety coordinator rarely exists and instead, safety functions are ‘tacked-on’ to other posts

- Personnel with a dominant function e.g. traffic officers have limited time and scope for community safety matters
- No linkages between community safety function and IDP process
- CSFs are in danger of becoming a clearing house for generic programmes like 16 days, World Aids Day etc. that flow from provincial and national programmes i.e. no local plan or programme of their own
- CSF M&E systems need to focus less on red tape compliance / who is in control and more on local analysis of safety issues and proven coordination capability
- Councils are reluctant to mainstream community safety, preferring to rely on budgets and resources from SAPS, province, the district etc.



Strategic planning at Nelson Mandela Bay Metro

Highlights

News from the Sector

- SALGA is organising an event designed for local government (districts and metros), to conduct an introspective exercise on community safety issues and welcomes any initiatives to align the two programmes. The process will be rolled out to local municipalities during 2015
- There has been a directive from the Gauteng MEC for Safety that all municipalities in the province should have functional CSFs by April 2015
- Both Gauteng and Eastern Cape Departments of Safety have started using the CSP tool for monitoring and evaluating CSFs

Key Insights

- In many instances there are no substantive safety plans or safety components of IDPs as a basis to begin the review / improvement process. Most of the groups have therefore been unable to complete their assignments (review of community safety content of the latest municipal IDP of their respective municipalities)
- Existing safety partner groups within the various municipalities appear to have little connection to the IDP units
- It is apparent from the questionnaire completed by all training participants capacity development challenges relate to:
 - *Policy and legal framework applicable to community safety and crime prevention*
 - *General concept of a Community Safety Forum*
 - *The link between an IDP and a Community Safety Plan*
 - *The concept of Integrated Development Planning applied by municipalities*
- A review of CSFs conducted by participants during the workshops showed that CSFs generally either do not exist at all or where they do exist, there is very little in place to ensure effective functioning
- SALGA and the CSP have identified the lack of legislation regarding local municipalities as the main problem in funding and supporting CSFs and ensuring that community safety is included in IDPs. Both organisation identified a need to move forward with this as a policy imperative and ensure that community safety becomes a dedicated function at the local level

Forthcoming Events & Activities

- Ongoing technical support to pilot municipalities
- Develop the institutional proposals for NMBMM before the end of 2014 (proposed)
- Safety Plan best practice model (end January 2015)