



Project title:	Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention for Safer Public Spaces (VCP)
Client:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country:	South Africa
Political executing agency:	Steering Committee
Partner organisations:	Various partners from all spheres of government and non-governmental organisations
Total duration:	2012–2017

Strengthening collaboration for violence prevention and safer public spaces

Scenario

Safety in public spaces and within communities has a profound impact on the mobility and quality of life of citizens and their opportunities to participate in public life and developmental processes. As a response to South Africa's alarming rates of violence and crime, the government has declared the objective that 'all people in South Africa are and feel safe' a priority. In 1996, the national government formulated a holistic national strategy for reducing crime and violence in the country and for paving the way to a more systemic approach to violence prevention and community safety.

Despite significant achievements in the past decade, South Africa is still in the top ranks of international statistics on violence and crime, and a general lack of perceived and actual safety is commonly regarded as a major challenge to sustainable development. Rapid urbanisation and the legacy of apartheid create unique challenges for the governance of urban areas. Insufficient access to basic public services, high rates of unemployment, poor future prospects, and a scarcity of positive role models for young people contribute to high levels of social and interpersonal violence.

Project

Against this backdrop, the governments of South Africa and Germany agreed on a new violence-prevention project during bilateral negotiations in 2008. At the beginning of 2012, GIZ began to

implement the project on Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention for Safer Public Spaces (VCP) on behalf of the German Government. The overarching objective of this project is to create an environment that enables public-, civil society- and community-based organisations to increase the safety of particularly vulnerable population groups in selected disadvantaged areas jointly by strengthening collaborative governance.

The project follows an inclusive and systemic approach to violence and crime prevention that builds a community of practitioners and supports the collaborative action of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at national, provincial and municipal level. This is achieved through dialogue events, exposure visits, as well as through ensuring the availability of existing good practices and providing access to international exchange processes.

Further training for stakeholders from all professional backgrounds, such as the police, urban planners and local-government officials, is one of the project's cross-cutting objectives. Qualification offers range from training opportunities for social workers with regard to the prevention of youth violence and the formation of youth groups, to in-service training on gender- and safety-conscious urban upgrading for urban planners.

A further aim is to enhance the governance of public safety at local level by ensuring that ex-





isting contributions by government, the private sector, universities and civil-society institutions are recognised as contributing to a larger drive for safety. Furthermore, the project is to facilitate the mainstreaming of crime and violence prevention in relevant processes, procedures and institutions in Nelson Mandela Bay and other selected municipalities. Impact-monitoring is to be supported at target-group level through services baselines and safety audits.

Given that young people are recognised not only as the primary victims and perpetrators of violence, but also as a vital force in realising sustainable solutions, VCP adopts a so-called 'youth lense' in all its strategies and activities. The project thus provides young people with opportunities to become active citizens by engaging with their natural environment and getting involved in sports for social change or in creative and cultural activities. This increases youth engagement and employability and, in turn, impacts on social cohesion in communities.

Impact

Since its inception, the project has begun to engage actively with stakeholders in the field of violence prevention and community safety at local, national and international level and has kick-started a number of activities directed at achieving the project's objectives. In Nelson Mandela Bay, for example, a youth-activation project was initiated in cooperation with Masifunde, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO). In the course of the project, young people are interacting with up to 1,400 peers from 25 different schools across the city to learn how young people can contribute to safer communities.

To mainstream safety aspects in relevant governmental processes and programmes, VCP has partnered with the Sereti Institute to integrate violence- and crime-prevention measures in the national government's Community Work Programme (CWP). In collaboration with the CWP-implementing agency and the Youth Development through Football (YDF) project that GIZ is implementing on behalf of the German Government, CWP participants from pilot sites are being trained and engaged in activities that are geared towards improving safety in their communities.

In order to disseminate good practices and successful preventive measures, the project has participated in and contributed to a number of South African, African and international events. Partnerships such as those with the German Crime Prevention Congress and the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) have been deepened. South-north learning was intensified during a study trip to Paris in December 2012, where South African partners of VCP joined and actively contributed to the EFUS conference that brought together decision makers and experts from all over Europe. The study trip also served to link up essential drivers for a safer South Africa and promote the idea of establishing a platform for exchange on crime and violence prevention in the country.

For more information contact:

Dr Tina Silbernagl
Project Manager: VCP
GIZ
Hatfield Gardens, Block E, 3rd Floor
333 Grosvenor Street, Hatfield
Pretoria, South Africa
Tel.: +27 12 423 5962
Email: tina.silbernagl@giz.de