

Municipal Safety Case Studies Project

The “Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme” (VCP), as a joint South African-German cooperation project, co-funded by the Canadian government, seeks to contribute to the national development priority of creating a safer South Africa, through enhancement of local government safety practice. The programme supports multi-stakeholder-driven interventions towards addressing the root causes of violence and crime in South Africa through activating and supporting different sectors and levels of government for prevention work as well as activating and supporting different non-state societal resources and aligning their efforts.

The Municipal Case Studies Project will facilitate dissemination and discussion of recent safety practice by local government, the NGO sector and other partners. The project offers an opportunity to showcase and reflect on useful learning on evidence-informed interventions emerging from efforts of practitioners at local level. The studies engage with perspectives on aligned implementation of the recommendations of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS) and the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide (NSP GBVF) and other associated strategies, by the VCP programme and beyond. All studies include municipal participation, in different modalities, and demonstrate practical approaches the municipality can take to local crime and violence prevention.

The Municipal Safety Case Studies Project will:

- Contribute to enhancing institutional memory;
- Share successes and failures for joint learning;
- Strengthen capacities of local practitioners through exchange and learning;
- Showcase municipalities’ efforts advocating for more political and strategic support for localised violence prevention;
- Engage with mechanisms for institutionalisation of community safety practices;
- Promote spatially targeted and context-informed approaches to prevention;
- Investigate tools for multi-sectoral partnerships and active community participation;
- Catalyse more testing and piloting for the replication and upscaling of successful local prevention interventions.

Each virtual engagement will include presentations of the case studies by key stakeholders in the projects and facilitated discussion on questions arising from the case studies. The learning from each engagement will be recorded in a succinct publication and all of the content from the series will have a digital home which will become a reference tool of best practices and reflections to support practitioners in delivering increasingly sustainable and transformative safety work in South Africa.

The virtual engagements will culminate in an in-person engagement towards the beginning of 2024 to formally launch the case studies through a publication.

The seven themes for the seven virtual engagements are:

Public Spaces (Event in Aug)

This set of case studies looks at planning, design and maintenance of public spaces as a mechanism for violence and crime prevention. The public spaces theme will engage with a wealth of information on spatial interventions, what makes them sustainable and what barriers there are to their effectiveness.

Children and Youth (Event in Sept)

Models for projects designed to respond to the safety needs of children and youth, and to equip them to lead and participate in sustainable safety programmes in their communities, allowing children and youth to grow up in a safe environment, become more resilient and live their best lives.

Community-Driven (Event in Oct)

Examples of community-driven approaches. This theme will offer learning on benefits and drawbacks of different community-driven approaches. It will also investigate how municipalities can be most useful to such approaches to ensure their sustainability.

Data (Event in Nov)

The vital reflection required on data. This theme will engage with qualitative / quantitative data values and approaches, will demonstrate the value of data on local lived experience for designing and measuring safety programmes, and share some emerging digital tools which can make data collection and analysis accessible and useful to municipalities.

Safety Journeys (Event in Jan)

This set will tell the stories of cities which have taken multifaceted approaches to institutionalising safety in their municipalities over a number of years. The safety journeys theme will demonstrate that safety practices take years to show impact and how the transformation is incremental and must be systemic.

Policy (Event in Feb)

Policy is accepted as a fundamental workstream in the institutionalisation of safety work and much work has been done in recent years to integrate crime and violence prevention and safety into municipal policy structures. The policy theme coheres around different policy-related projects and will engage with the effectiveness of different approaches.

Collective Thinking (Event in Mar)

Shared experiences in different settings. This theme will take the form of documented conversations, between practitioners, networks and capacity building entities. The collective view on experiences will provide insight into strategic approaches which can be taken by existing networks to continue to leverage shared experience and knowledge and to continue to build strengthened capacity.

A final face-to-face event will take place in April 2024.



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