



# Building Skills for Community Safety Planning

Project Newsletter  
December 2014 - April 2015

## PARTNERS IN SAFETY PLANNING

- West Rand District Municipality
- Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Municipality
- Ikwezi Local Municipality
- Amahlathi 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 Community 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

In the previous newsletter we outlined a busy period of training and engagement with community safety personnel and other stakeholders. The project had started to deal with the challenges of safety planning in a major imperative and the building of capacity around actual safety planning had to be placed on hold for a while.

The past period of project work was nonetheless useful in establishing some of the foundation knowledge and skills. This included the basic concept and model for Community Safety Forums (CSFs) and the rationale for

community safety plans that went beyond crime prevention and security matters. In an interactive way we also began to explore the reality of CSF experiences and what this implied for the CSF model going forward. The lessons emerging from most sites were simple – CSFs needed to become more pro-active and locality specific in their approach to planning and coordinating community safety. Secondly, in order to achieve this, they need stronger political and administrative support from the municipality.

One of the key shifts in the project approach was the broadening of the target group for building skills and capacity. Thus the number of trainees increased because the idea that there were dedicated *community safety coordinators* in each municipality proved questionable. Instead, a much broader base of relevant officials and political heads had to shoulder the responsibility for improved community safety strategies and strong CSFs.

The project also had to deal with the political reality that the imperative to have CSFs in place sometimes over-shadows the need to ensure that those CSFs are functional and guided by a viable safety plan. In this respect the project message was clear – launch your CSF only once you know what you are going to do about community safety.

An initiative by

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



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**West Rand District Municipality (WRDM):** In the previous project phase we reported that the capacity and resources for community safety is uneven and fragmented across individual local municipalities, within this district. A core team of district safety coordinators was therefore formed to take the process forward with the local municipalities. However, this revised strategy also ran into a few problems, with coordination of the different role-players and the communication of key events and information sources continuing to be a challenge. The review of safety plans faltered and was eventually undertaken by Mbumba itself – the results being circulated to the team. Arrangements are now being made to hold a final workshop to assist with the drafting of new safety plans.

**Ikwezi Local Municipality:** Ikwezi and Amahlathi municipalities were some of the first to undergo training on the basic concepts of community safety, safety planning and CSFs in August 2014. The workshop included a very broad array of stakeholders. However, progress on subsequent planning assignments was minimal and in Ikwezi’s case much energy instead went into the launch of the CSF in November 2014.

After the Ikwezi CSF launch, Mbumba worked with portfolio Councillor Johnny Lewis to map the best way forward for the new CSF and its executive. A workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> of February dealt with CSF leadership responsibilities and the assignment of tasks within the executive. The workshop report included the agreed roles of executive members, steps needed to compile a safety plan and the guideline template for a safety plan. All contracted activities are now complete and the Ikwezi team now have all the tools and basic knowledge to develop a safety plan and keep the CSF on track.

**Amahlathi Local Municipality:** This municipality only joined the project in October 2014 but has made great strides since then. As a pilot site it has much the same community safety planning focus but with a special emphasis on youth empowerment in safety research and planning. Previous reporting covered the training for youth on basic concepts of community safety, safety planning and youth as a constituency with special safety considerations. An assessment of the capacity needs of the CSF proved very useful in framing capacity building targets and two rounds of workshops have since followed on basic concepts, CSF options and safety planning. Youth driven research has



**The Amahlathi CSF Chair addresses a CSF training workshop**

provided important evidence for the draft safety plan and the input of all CSF members has strongly framed the emerging safety strategies.

Amahlathi CSF stakeholders have consistently shown high levels of commitment to the process and the municipality has taken its own initiatives to ensure that community safety is properly integrated into future administrative structures. Provincial government and Amathole District representatives on the CSF have been active throughout the process, guiding intervention strategy and attending key events. Participants now have a good understanding of how their CSF should be structured and what the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders are. There is also clarity on what a Community Safety Plan is, what it should contain and how to draft it. In addition, concepts such as social crime prevention have been explained and are understood by all participants.

Work has also begun on a youth policy and a mentoring plan has been submitted to municipal officials. At the request of the Manager for Community Services, Mbumba drafted a motivation for mainstreaming the community safety function as part of the administration’s formal strategic planning exercise.

A major milestone has been achieved with the drafting of a comprehensively revised Safety Plan. The draft has been submitted to the Manager for consideration.

The safety planning project at Amahlathi is rapidly emerging as a highly beneficial exercise with considerable modelling potential. Rather than simply revising the safety strategy, we are confident that a *model safety plan* will shortly be delivered. Indeed it will be comprehensive and evidence-based beyond the original terms of reference. Most importantly, it will be based on the full participation of the CSF stakeholders.

**Nelson Mandela Bay Metro:** As previously reported the Metro has followed a different project path to the other sites. Strategic planning and institutional realignment has been the main focus after it became clear that there were a host of different units and departments involved in different aspects of community safety.

Project plans were therefore revised in order to assist the Directorate with institutional planning and definition. Documentary evidence of past institutional experience with community safety was examined and the Director was interviewed. This process culminated in detailed problem analysis and a draft restructuring proposal, which was presented at an NMBM workshop on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2015.

Based on the input and feedback from this workshop the restructuring proposal was revised and presented to the Standing Committee by Mbumba and GIZ on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2015. At this point it seems that council have yet to finalise the process, however, all contracted project activities are now complete.

### Other Project Activities:

- A submission was made to the Civilian Secretariat for Police on the *Draft White Paper on Safety and Security*. The submission is based on lessons learnt during the course of this project
- A *Policy Report* representing the main policy findings and recommendations of the project has been compiled. These represent insights from the project which could be used to review or supplement current frameworks, inform future guides and resources and in some cases, actually amend legislation. Some may require further discussion and clarification as envisaged in the final phase of the project.
- The project has developed a *generic job description* for community safety coordinators. This aims to be a functional and adaptable management tool that can be customised to different municipal circumstances. It is hoped that this will also add impetus to the efforts to have community safety coordinators included as funded posts within municipal organograms.
- The project has also developed a template and guideline for an ideal safety plan.



Youth engaged in participatory research in Amahlathi

## Highlights

### News from the Sector

- 👉 The Draft White Paper on the Police and the Draft White Paper on Safety and Security were published for public comments. Written comments were to be submitted by the end of March 2015. Once this process is complete it will be submitted to Cabinet and then ultimately to parliament.
- 👉 The King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality held a *Crime and Public Safety Summit* at the end of February 2015. The summit was jointly organised with the Eastern Cape Department of Safety and Liaison and aimed to develop a framework for a safety strategy, enhance the collaboration of state and non-state actors against crime and boost community participation in KSD safety programmes
- 👉 In the wake of the attacks on foreign nationals in various parts of the country over the past two weeks, Police Minister Nathi Nhleko has launched a national *We are One Humanity Campaign*. The campaign aims to combat xenophobia by celebrating diversity and embracing difference.
- 👉 The Amathole District Municipality and the EC Department of Safety and Liaison in a meeting in mid-April, praised the GIZ project approach to safety planning in Amahlathi and called for its replication across the district.

## Key Insights

The resurgence of xenophobic violence in at least two large urban areas is a major threat to community safety and a potentially de-stabilising force within South African society. The attacks highlight the importance of having effective community safety plans in place. Indeed, it might be speculated that these attacks may have been prevented had these areas been served by long-term development strategies that imparted an understanding of the causes of social and economic vulnerability and exclusion.

At a more technical level, the project has had to adapt to the institutional reality at different sites and the fact that the expected institutional capacity for safety planning did not exist at most sites. Considerable time and effort has been expended on unravelling who exactly is responsible for community safety and what would be a more rational institutional arrangement to support the function.

In general though, capacitation work has been well received and there is widespread understanding among participants that community safety involves complex social interventions geared at reducing vulnerability and preventing social violence.

## Forthcoming Events & Activities

- Final WRDM safety planning workshop – provisionally scheduled for mid-May
- Finalisation of the Amahlathi Safety Plan and Youth Policy by end May
- National learning event and project close-out in June