



SAFER PLACES:
RESILIENT INSTITUTIONS AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS TOGETHER

SPRINT

LEARNING BRIEF 2

Integrated area-based violence prevention interventions

2021



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RESILIENT INSTITUTIONS AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS TOGETHER

SPRINT

An initiative of the South African -
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Implemented by:



The intelligence of change



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This initiative will contribute to strengthening and empowering a learning network amongst already well-established civil society organisations, working closely with municipalities and other partners, to apply approaches and tools for violence prevention through urban upgrading, in line with the objectives of the Integrated Urban Development Framework and other relevant policy frameworks, particularly in the human settlement and safer communities sector.

ABOUT SPRINT

The Safer Places: Resilient Institutions and Neighbourhoods Together (SPRINT) Project is a joint initiative of the South African-German Development Cooperation with the support of the GIZ – Inclusive Violence Prevention Programme (GIZ VCP), implemented by Isandla Institute and Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU NPC). The initiative was conceptualised in response to the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which has amplified risk factors for violence and crime in vulnerable communities. The project aims to support and strengthen institutions and organisations working to build resilience in communities across the country by utilising and upscaling targeted, area-based violence prevention interventions (ABVPI). The project vision is the institutionalisation of effective ABVPIs in the development and management of vulnerable urban communities.

To achieve this, the SPRINT Project has two distinct, but inter-related, pathways:

A Learning Network, which consists of a civil society organisations (CSOs) from a cross-section of sectors, and creates opportunities for peer exchanges resulting in learning and advocacy documentation.

A Laboratory, which involves capacity-building processes with participating municipalities and local CSOs, and focuses on co-designing and implementing practical, area-based solutions to violence-related challenges.


The project's Steering Committee, which is led by the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), together with the Department of Human Settlements (DHS), National Treasury and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), oversee and endorse this initiative.



ABOUT THE LEARNING NETWORK

In 2020/21, the thematic journey of the Learning Network is conceptualised in two parts. The first is contextual which relates to the South African VPI context and the impact of COVID-19 and the second part focuses on institutions and systems needed to implement VPI. Critical knowledge from participating organisations is drawn into the Learning Network's outputs and the multistakeholder events. The multistakeholder events bring together CSOs, municipalities and national government departments and agencies to discuss violence and crime prevention theory and practice. The deliberate and unique cross-section of CSO participants within the Learning Network and their varied experiences, knowledge and expertise is central to the success of the SPRINT Project. Participating organisations include Afesis-Corplan, Masifunde, Agape Youth Movement, Ndifuna Ukwazi, Cape Development and Dialogue Centre Trust (CDDC), Open Streets Cape Town, Caritas, People's Environmental Planning (PEP), Planact, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), Project Empower, Development Action Group (DAG), Sinosizo Siyaphambili, Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU NPC) and Isandla Institute.

The long-term aim of the Learning Network is to achieve enhanced innovation and evaluation capacity to strengthen and expand violence and crime prevention solutions.



There are a number of risk factors that contribute to the high levels of violence and crime in South Africa. The impact and consequences of violence and crime including loss of life, bodily and emotional harm, stress and fear further increase the risk factors and so the cycle continues.

INTRODUCTION

This is the second in a series of learning briefs produced by Isandla Institute under the Safer Places: Resilient Institutions and Neighbourhoods Together (SPRINT) Project. The briefs are developed from the Learning Network sessions. The focus of this brief, based on the second session hosted by Isandla Institute on 03 December 2020, is “Integrated area-based violence prevention interventions (VPIs) and examples of VPI practices”.

This brief begins with a contextualisation of violence and crime in South Africa. There are a number of risk factors that contribute to the high levels of violence and crime in South Africa. The impact and consequences of violence and crime including loss of life, bodily and emotional harm, stress and fear further increase the risk factors and so the cycle continues. Recent evolutions in the violence and crime prevention sector have led to an understanding that in order to break this cycle, it is essential that violence prevention is systematically prioritised. This is done through the introduction and adoption of approaches and tools for VPIs, specifically area-based violence prevention interventions (ABVPIs), including the socio-ecological model, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), and activation of spaces. Ultimately, integrated area-based VPIs that are evidence-led and informed by practices and programmes lead to reduced violence and crime and contribute to the broader repository of good practice. As this brief will show, there are many different models and examples which can be drawn on and adapted when designing and implementing violence prevention interventions.

The background of the slide features several overlapping, irregular red shapes that resemble torn paper or abstract architectural elements. These shapes are layered, with some appearing in front of others, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors are various shades of red, from a deep crimson to a lighter, almost pinkish-red.

In the Global Peace Index, South Africa is positioned 123rd out of 165 countries, making the country one of the most violent countries in the world.

(Vision of Humanity. 2020)



VIOLENCE AND CRIME IN SOUTH AFRICA

The total number of murders in South Africa for 2019/2020 was at 21,325, six times the global average, and 18,635 cases of attempted murder; there were also 53,293 instances of sexual offences and 332,214 reported assaults in this same year (SAPS. 2021).

A variety of factors contribute to the high levels of violence and crime in the country. The first to note is that inequality is an important risk factor for inter-personal violence (Fajnzylber, Lederman & Loayza. 2002) and South Africa has the highest levels of inequality in the world (World Bank. n.d.). In addition, the country's legacy of apartheid includes the utilisation of violence as an acceptable means of resolving social, political and even domestic conflict. The historic marginalisation of the youth, combined with the slow growth in the job market, has contributed to the creation of a large pool of 'at risk' young people who could go on to be a perpetrator of crime or violence. Ongoing issues in the implementation of development interventions, including corruption, undermine those efforts and exacerbate poverty and inequality. An additional contributing factor to the high levels of violence and crime in the country is gender inequality, both in terms of common attitudes and the inadequate response to violence against women by the criminal justice system. A compounding factor is the absence of services to victims of crime, which means that the negative impact of crime on the individual, family and community is largely ignored. Not only does this contribute to the incidence of repeat victimisation, but it may lead to retributive violence, or the perpetration of other crimes displaced into the social or domestic arena. Finally, inadequate

systems or approaches to rehabilitation of perpetrators and their reintegration into society ultimately contributes to repeat offenses (National Crime Prevention Strategy. 1996).

The high levels of violence and crime in South African result in pain, trauma, unfulfilled human potential, a national psyche of fear, an undermining of trust in government, an erosion of social cohesion and an exacerbation of underlying racial and xenophobic tension. There are also significant economic costs: lost economic growth, lost tax revenues, and a financial burden on public health and criminal justice systems (Alda and Cuesta. 2011). The current levels of crime result in a climate of fear in negotiating public spaces. Safety of public spaces broadly, and within communities more specifically, impacts on quality of life for those people who must negotiate these.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact to the wellbeing of people worldwide. As the country with the highest number of cases recorded on the African continent, it is evident that South Africa has been hit hard by COVID-19 (Statista.2021).Inajointstatement(2020),InternationalLabour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agricultural Organisations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Health Organisation discussed some of the impacts of COVID-19 globally, which were mirrored in South Africa. This includes an unprecedented, sometimes devastating, challenge to the systems which sustain human life including food, health, education, and livelihoods. The pandemic and its resulting impacts have placed pressure on several already strained services, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable where it has been evident that inequality affects availability, access, and quality of services. This has been further compounded in instances where, for example, fear of contracting COVID-19, transport issues, or concerns about the availability of medication meant that people were not accessing health care. "Social comorbidities – those rooted in South Africa's wide levels of income, spatial, gender, racial and wealth inequality – play as important, or more important, a role as physical comorbidities such as diabetes and heart

disease, resulting in the already-vulnerable being hardest hit” (Osborne and Choga. 2020).

A July 2020 National Income Dynamics Study - Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM) working paper examining national income trends during the pandemic noted a 40% decrease in active employment in South Africa. In almost half of these instances, the job losers did not expect to return to their jobs. They also found that “women, those with lower levels of education, those in manual occupations, informal workers, and the poor face the greatest net employment losses.” (Jain, Budlender, Zizzamia, and Bassier. 2020). A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP. 2020) study found that for female-headed households, 34% (approximately 3.2 million people) predicted falling into poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UNDP (2020) also predicts that from 2020-2024, as a result of COVID-19, South Africa will experience an overall economic loss of between 14% of the 2019 GDP (R453 billion) and 32% percent of the 2019 GDP (R1 011 billion). While the economy will start to recover, figures show that it will not recover to previous levels by 2024. This will lead to major setbacks in addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality in the country. COVID-19 exacerbates the risk factor of violence and crime, particularly in densely populated areas. The need for more spatially targeted interventions that build on examples of good practice and meet identified necessities has become more evident.

Figures show that the South African economy will not recover to pre-COVID-19 levels by 2024. This will lead to major setbacks in addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality in the country. COVID-19 exacerbates the risk factor of violence and crime, particularly in densely populated areas.

The intersectional nature of violence and crime means that it happens across all areas of space - both public and private - including inside the home, outside in the neighbourhoods as well as the spaces in between. As such, addressing violence and crime requires interventions which consider each corner of the 'triangle of crime'.

ANALYSING AND UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS (VPIs)

Previous approaches to violence and crime reduction sought to control the physical environment in order to limit opportunities for violence and crime. Such a view has shifted over time from crime control to violence and crime prevention, which incorporates a much broader, and more inclusive approach.

Violence and crime prevention models are built around the concept of the 'triangle of crime' – the three interrelated factors that result in crime: victim, offender and environment. More recent approaches to violence prevention recognise that "violence is a context-specific behaviour and should therefore be conceptualized within the context by taking into account the socio-cultural norms that maintain such violence" (Heise. 1998). The 'environment', while previously described as being a physical location, or place, now is acknowledged as encompassing a larger socio-ecological context. Such a shift also emphasises the role of the environment on the victim and offender and considers these in violence prevention interventions. In this way we see how spatial issues impact households and spaces (both public spaces and the spaces 'between') and ultimately how spatial and physical aspects impact violence prevention interventions, and vice versa.

Physical environment encompasses both public and private space – the home, community, larger neighbourhoods and areas, as well as the spaces between these. As such, area-based violence prevention interventions (ABVPIs) require a holistic, integrated approach, such as outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 which recognises the broader socio-economic factors that contribute to crime.

STRATEGIES FOR VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION

There are three main strategies to violence prevention: **situational crime prevention**, **social crime prevention** and **institutional crime prevention**.

While situational crime prevention focuses on *how* crime occurs, social crime prevention engages with *why* crime occurs. As such, situational crime prevention aims to make changes to the built environment so as to deter opportunities for crime to occur, whereas social crime prevention focuses on interventions that will impact the people who commit violence and crime and those who are victimized by it. Institutional crime prevention targets the larger, influencing institutions or those responsible for policy frameworks that assist in preventing, maintaining or enabling crime. These strategies are further outlined below.

SITUATIONAL VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION

Situational violence prevention aims to reduce the opportunity for violence by *altering the physical environment or other environmental factors*, e.g. improving public infrastructure and basic services like street lights, public toilets etc.; reclaiming public spaces through local interventions; and creating safer spaces through principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

CPTED APPROACH

CPTED “is a multi-disciplinary approach of crime prevention that uses urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments. CPTED strategies aim to reduce victimization, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, and build a sense of community among inhabitants so they can gain territorial control of areas, reduce crime, and minimize fear of crime.” (ICA. no date). There are five key interrelated and interdependent principles of CPTED that are important to note. These principles include:

surveillance and visibility; territoriality; access and escape routes; image and aesthetics; and target hardening.

CPTED's principles should be incorporated throughout the environmental design process. This includes incorporating CPTED in the planning, design and management of spaces. In addition, the principles highlight the vital role that the community plays in identifying environment-related crime problems, developing appropriate responses, and contributing to long-term violence prevention.



FIVE PRINCIPLES OF CPTED

- Surveillance and visibility optimises visibility and maximising opportunities for observance in both public and private areas by users or residents during the course of their normal activities (passive surveillance) and/or police or other security personnel (active surveillance). This includes ensuring uninterrupted lines of sight, different levels and types of lighting, strategic positioning and nature of windows, doors and other openings, building layout and the distances between buildings, the sizes of the public spaces and the extent, degree and type of use of the space.
- Territoriality encourages a sense of ownership of, and responsibility for, a space by employing mechanisms that will allow residents or users to identify with the space, as this improves the likelihood of passive observers intervening. Places should be designed and managed in ways that encourage owners/users to take responsibility for them and feel responsible for their use, upkeep and maintenance.
- Clear access and escape routes limits opportunities for offenders to utilise access and escape routes such as vacant land, and enhance the level of ease with which potential victims could find and access escape routes, such as signposting of streets, buildings and exit routes.
- Good image and aesthetics ensures that the physical appearance of an environment creates a positive image and instils feelings of safety in users. The image of spaces and facilities can be improved by ensuring human scale in design, using attractive colours and/or materials and providing adequate lighting. Combatting urban decay through the effective maintenance of the physical environment and infrastructure is a critical aspect of this principle.
- Target hardening reduces the attractiveness or vulnerability of potential targets by physically strengthening them and/or by installing mechanisms that will increase the effort required to commit an offence such as walls, security gates, burglar bars and alarm systems.

(Adapted from SaferSpaces. n.d.)

SOCIAL VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION

Social violence prevention aims to *strengthen social cohesion* and reduce people's inclination or motivation to engage in violent behaviour, e.g. building capacity within communities to participate in decision-making processes; providing resilience services and job-skills training programmes for youth; and offering parenting programmes and other support services to caregivers.

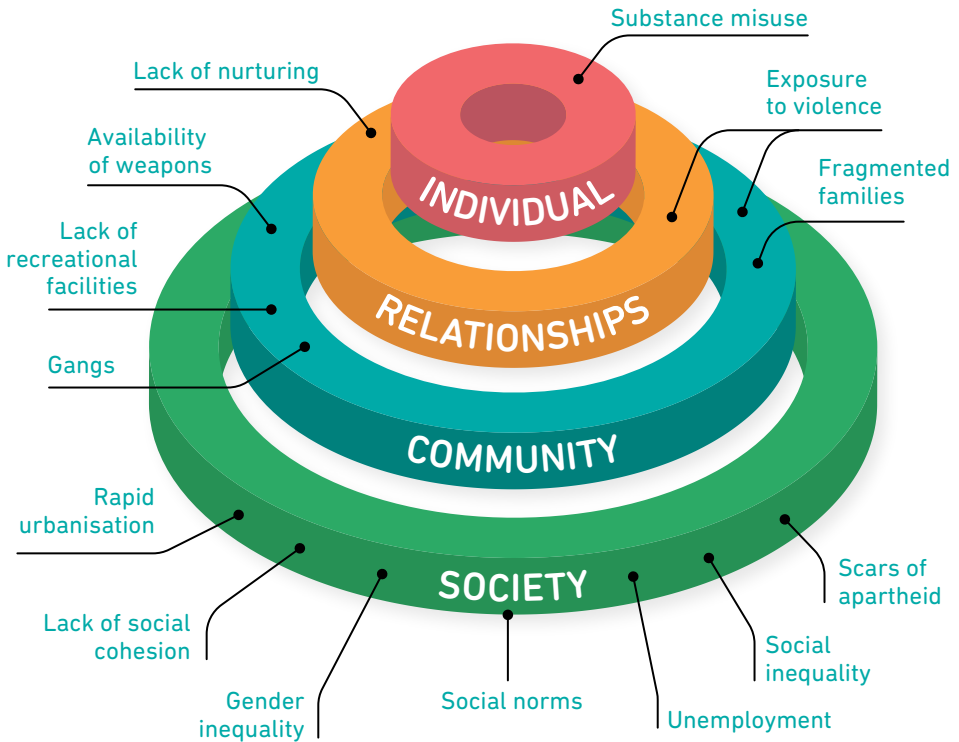
SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL MODEL

The socio-ecological model is useful to understand the risk factors that influence both victimisation, or violence perpetration. This model recognises that violence and crime are influenced by a variety of interrelated factors at four different levels, those being: individual, relationships, community, and societal. These different levels also interact with each other. For example, an intervention targeting the issue of 'fragmented families', as seen in the community level of Figure 1 does not sit in isolation. Rather, the factors that cause fragmentation in a family are influenced and created by factors found in the individual, relationship, community and society levels. The more risk factors a person is exposed to, the more likely it is that the individual will fall victim to violence and/or become violent.

To understand and create systemic change, we need to understand the bigger picture into which our intervention fits and work together, rather than in isolation. The model is a useful visual through which to conceptualise the complex interrelated factors that contribute to violence and crime as the "model considers the multiplicity of factors that put people at risk and that need to be addressed, in order to protect individuals from experiencing or perpetuating violence... Prevention strategies must therefore address risk and protection factors at different stages of a person's life and development, in order to increase safety, as each level of human development is associated with different, and often overlapping, set of risk factors" (Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy. 2021). The model also shows how coordinated efforts are required on several levels in order to strategically implement violence prevention interventions.

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Figure 1: Hellmann, 2020 (Adapted Bronfenbrenner, 1979)

Risk factors to violence across the socio-ecological model



INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION

Institutional violence prevention aims to reduce violence by *changing the policies, legislation and overall functioning of institutions* (both state and non-state) that affect people, e.g., training municipal officials on integrating safety principles into Integrated Development Plans (IDPs); strengthening structures and opportunities for meaningful participation in local governance; and increasing awareness-raising campaigns about the duties and obligations to provide a safe environment.

CHALLENGES FOR VPIs

There are a variety of challenges and constraints for the implementation of VPIs.¹ The first is a lack of common understanding of what violence prevention is, which leads to a focus on the apprehension and punishment of offenders rather than addressing the underlying issues that lead to violence and crime and/or the rehabilitation of those affected. Closely linked to this is a lack of understanding of the different roles and responsibilities in VPI, which leads to assumption that it is an SAPS or criminal justice system issue alone.

The second is a dearth of knowledge about effective VPIs which limits the ability to learn from experiences of others and build upon this best practice.

The third identified constraint is a lack of agreement on services/programmes to be prioritised. This lack of a shared vision leads to poor coordination between team members or at worst, exclusion from key processes or groups.

A fourth challenge is inappropriate resource allocation which leads to projects becoming unsustainable beyond the pilot, or a prioritisation on the enforcement side of crime prevention which does not have a holistic impact.

Finally, there is a lack of knowledge on how to scale up interventions that work, which limits the impact that successful projects can have on the broader area (Institute for Security Studies. 2019).

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1: Adapted from the Violence Prevention Forum: 'What will it take to prevent interpersonal violence in South Africa?'.
<https://www.violencepreventionforum.org.za/>

VPI POLICY FRAMEWORK

The importance of violence and crime prevention is reflected in the South African government's plans and policies which include: the South African Police Service's National Crime Prevention Strategy (1996); the Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy (2011); the White Paper on Safety and Security (2016); Integrated Urban Development Framework (2016); the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide (2020); and most recently, the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (2021). Key to note is the approach to violence and crime prevention in the National



Development Plan (NDP) 2030 (2011). One of the NDP's key strategic areas is 'Building Safer Communities' with the vision that "In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe and have no fear of crime. They are safe at home, at school, at work and they enjoy active community life free of fear. Women can walk freely in the streets and children can play safely outside" (NDP, 2011). Such a vision recognises the intersectional nature of violence and crime across all areas of space – both public and private. Efforts to address the risk of violence and crime are underpinned by the other key areas of the NDP that include economic growth, improved infrastructure, an inclusive and integrated rural economy, improving the quality of education and health services, and a reduction in poverty and inequality (NDP, 2011) which recognise the role that the broader socio-economic environment has on violence and crime.

Despite these policies, violence prevention is not *systemically prioritised and implementation on the local level continues to be challenging.*

There is skewed national budget, with criminal justice-focused responses still predominant. In June 2019, Police Minister Bheki Cele said that there are currently 193,000 SAPS police officers in South Africa. The 2018/2019 report by the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority estimated that 498,435 security officers, of an estimated 2.36 million registered security officers, were employed (Business Tech. 2019). In contrast, only 35,000 social workers were registered in South Africa in 2020 (Rasool.2020). In order to address this contradiction, it is essential that violence prevention is systematically prioritised through the adoption, adaptation and upscaling of approaches and tools for violence prevention interventions.

There are a number of different considerations when creating violence prevention interventions. One of the key components is ensuring that activation, maintenance and management of the intervention is included from initialisation and supported beyond the project life cycle.

VPIs IN PRACTICE: LESSONS FROM THE LEARNING NETWORK MEMBERS

There are many great examples of ABVPI in South Africa. In the process of putting together the Violence Prevention Case Studies (VPUU, 2020), the team drew on examples from four programmes including Safety Promotion through Urban Upgrading (SPUU), Safety and Peace through Urban Upgrading (SPUU), Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme (GIZ VCP) and Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU NPC). In this brief, we'll share more about the work of VPUU NPC.

VPUU is an area-based community development organisation operating across South Africa. VPUU is working towards moving away from enforcement through police, gated communities, surveillance technologies etc., and towards violence and crime prevention through co-creation of safety strategies based on on the ground information, partnering with communities and government and the use of technology as a supporting element. The organisation's approach comprises four strategies: prevention, cohesion, protection, and research and development. Prevention encompasses efforts to enable a healthy and

less violent community within the VPI area by supporting targeted interventions over the whole cycle of human life, from early childhood development (ECD) to adult employment and income-generating activity. Cohesion focuses on developing community-based social capital in order to foster participatory community processes and partnerships with communities. Such cohesion is important for the support of on-going operations, maintenance and management of the public spaces and facilities in the programme area. The third strategy, protection, integrates planning efforts by government with community-based protection measures such as CPTED, as well as 'Neighbourhood Watch' efforts. The strategy also includes the access to justice for residents. Finally, research and development includes efforts to "enable evidence-led development processes, capacity building, sharing of knowledge and the ability to replicate and mainstream tested and proven interventions and processes" (VPUU. n.d.).

VPUU recognises that crime is a result of the interplay between environment, offender and victim. As a result, crime prevention is multi-faceted and highlights the significance of utilising the three strategies (situational, social and institutional) in the creation of multisectoral, co-ordinated and integrated approaches. The following examples illustrate how VPUU implements its work, employing the situational, social and institutional strategies for violence and crime prevention. While VPUU's VPIs integrate situational, social and institutional strategies in the implementation of their VPIs, the following examples draw out key features of each strategy so as to illustrate the impact of these. The examples also illustrate how by partnering with government and utilising public funds, prevention efforts of civil society can be amplified and reinforced creating even greater impact.

—————→
Figure 2: VPUU,
2020 (Adapted
Kania&Kramer.
2011)

Why multisectoral?



Collective impact occurs when organisations across different sectors and stakeholders agree to solve a specific social problem using *a common agenda, aligning their efforts, with common measures of success, ongoing communication, in a coordinated way.*



SITUATIONAL VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION: HARARE STATION, KHAYELITSHA TOWNSHIP, WESTERN CAPE

VPUU has been involved in the implementation of VPIs in Khayelitsha since 2005. VPUU's methodology includes use of CPTED principles which have been integrated into interventions. The CPTED principles highlighted by VPUU for their intervention in Harare Station include: neighbourhood-focussed; surveillance and visibility; owned spaces; defined access and safe movement; image and aesthetics; physical barriers; operation, maintenance and management and inclusive, connected design. Applying crime prevention through environmental design principles needs to be applied across multiple precincts and to the neighbourhood as a whole.

The approach aims to reclaim the public domain and positively occupy dangerously labelled space; improve and manage public space; and involve residents in ownership and management of spaces to encourage a sense of citizenship so as to improve community cohesion and reduce the risks of violence and crime (VPUU. n.d.).

Through engagement with the community to identify violence and crime hotspots in the area, Harare Square was identified as an unsafe area due to large parcels of vacant land, badly managed buildings, and underutilisation of the space after business hours – importantly there is a pedestrian route through it due to the bus and taxi stops. Through engagement with the community, the desire for the development of a youth

development and local business opportunity was expressed. A number of multi-purpose developments have been built, which include: a multi-functional 'House of Learning', that includes an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Resource Centre, a library with special focus on youth and office spaces for NGOs and other organisations; a business hub with shops for local entrepreneurs, a boxing gym, open plan offices, a community building for skills development; and live-work units for local business people. Such infrastructure provides users with a variety of options and create a safer environment within the square, as well as in the surrounding streets. Importantly, such an intervention needs to be linked to a broader network that connects other urban improvements and the broader context. Key to the development was the repurposing of space for more positive, productive activities through built environment tactics.

An illustration of a brown hand with a white outline, pressing a circular power button. The button has a white power symbol in the center and a grey outer ring. The background is a solid green color.

SOCIAL VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION: LOTUS PARK PRECINCT, GUGULETHU TOWNSHIP, WESTERN CAPE

When focusing on social crime prevention, VPUU recognises the risk factors for becoming a perpetrator or a victim of violence in line with the socio-ecological model. In order to engage and address the risk factors to violence and crime, protective factors and tools should be identified, developed and implemented.

continued...

The protective factors at an individual level include job skills, pro-social attitudes and beliefs and education. At a family level, examples of protective factors include psycho-social support and fostering children's social/cognitive skills. Such protective factors at a community level include non-violent values, social capital, and working together. Finally, in terms of societal or institutional protective factors, these include laws and cultural norms against violence, policing, transparency and accountability. The tools that can address and foster these protective factors include: youth development, early childhood development (ECD); programmes for groups vulnerable to becoming perpetrators and to becoming victims; gender safety initiatives; 'Neighbourhood Watch'; safety plan; anti-gender-based violence laws; utilising the Social Development Fund (SDF); and local economic development (LED).

In Gugulethu, VPUU assisted with the development of infrastructure, and while this does contribute to creating safer spaces, it was emphasised that what makes the Lotus Park Precinct a successful intervention is the intersection between situational and social crime preventions – a focus on the programming and the activations within the buildings and within the precinct. The goal is that the infrastructure is busy, or activated at all times, maximising its use in the community and for the community. In this intervention, a wider variety of functions were integrated into the rollout of the infrastructure in order to maximise use by a wide demographic of people. In the precinct, there is a: multipurpose neighbourhood centre that functions as a community hall, postal services, health/sport site, information centre, early childhood development resources centre, a site for toilets and water, etc., hard surface court for various sporting activations; a waste station, business incubator and food garden.

A lot of the focus in the Lotus Park Precinct is on ECD as ECD interventions are seen as a cost-effective and viable societal response across all the strategies of violence and crime prevention. In addition, there is a large focus on youth activations to ensure that opportunities are put forward for young people in the area to engage and for VPUU to embed behaviour change and embed protective factors at the various levels in the community.

INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION

VPUU recognises the importance of embedding integrated violence and crime prevention principles at all levels of co-ordinating through developing a local accountability framework that includes the power structures (South African National Civic Organisation, civic structures, local government, ward councillors, relevant stakeholders) that impact on development. Such a framework is not tied to IDP cycles or local government elections, but is informed/ guided by larger overarching strategies such as the country's Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), National Development Plan 2030, provincial strategy, and so forth, and integrates these into a local area plan that is developed. Such a plan outlines the short, medium and long term interventions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community members are engaged with, encouraged to participate individually and collectively through community action groups and contribute throughout the process; broader stakeholder engagement is also facilitated. The goal is that the groups that are set up are not project-based, but are programme-based and can plan proactively for what is coming. This vision, or plan is continuously communicated and shared with reference groups, sub-councils, ward meetings etc.

IN SUMMARY

Vital to the success of these VPIs is widespread buy-in. Good methods of monitoring and evidence gathering by all stakeholders who are relevant to the precinct's footprint are necessary to ensure collaborative planning, implementation, management and monitoring. Having thorough monitoring and regular evaluation, as well as regular trend analyses, presents a strong argument to government and stakeholders based on analysed realities that assist to attain great support for the intervention.

VPUU is one of many rich examples of conceptualisation and practice of VPIs utilised by civil society and the public sector. By drawing on these examples, utilising what is relevant and adapting them to specific needs, civil society is working towards the implementation and institutionalisation of effective area-based violence and crime prevention approaches integrated into the development and management of vulnerable urban communities.

Effective area-based violence and crime prevention interventions include combinations of different types of interventions with activation, maintenance and management of the interventions being vital. Critical in the design and implementation of area-based violence and crime prevention interventions is linking with and amplifying existing structures. An example of this are the youth crime prevention desks through the South African Police Service (SAPS) which use institutional structures to foster youth violence and crime prevention through interventions such as the Junior Commissioner Programme, the opportunity to shadow police officers or organised dialogues within schools.

Another critical component in effective area-based violence and crime prevention interventions is the involvement of the community in data capturing and analysis. Before any intervention, VPUU engages with community structures, sometimes for years before the work starts. They also assign dedicated teams and facilitators who lead on such engagements and work with leadership structures and to set up local area teams, such as data collection field workers. While such partnership with community can sometimes be superficial, investing the time, effort and emotion to create substantial, real collaboration can have a catalytic effect in the success and sustainability of an intervention.

A critical component in effective area-based violence and crime prevention interventions is the involvement of the community in data capturing and analysis.

KEY MESSAGES

The complex factors that contribute to violence and crime require spatially targeted, multi responses that mitigate risk and vulnerability. ABVPIs, underpinned by appropriate principles and models assist to address these issues holistically, and have a positive impact on people's negotiation of space. To enable this, there are four key areas of intervention.

The first is that a multi-sectoral approach between stakeholders – government, CSOs, and communities – is necessary to ensure sustainable, integrated long-term violence prevention. Such partnerships enable the violence and crime prevention efforts of civil society to be amplified and reinforced, creating even greater impact.

Secondly, learnings around implementation of VPIs need to be shared widely, to increase knowledge and understanding about these various interventions and programmes. The SPRINT Project is an example of this collaborative learning across the sector.

A third key message is that area-based violence prevention interventions are complex to implement. There is no ideal method, and methodologies and interventions should be adapted based on specific community needs and responses, as well as the capacity and capabilities of the implementing organisation, community members and various relevant stakeholders to the project.

Finally, community participation is a central component of VPIs and should be integrated into all aspects of the intervention to ensure ownership and community buy-in. Active community participation not only assists with the short-term implementation, but continues into the long-term impact of the VPI.



Figure 3: 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security. Figure adapted from VPUU, 2020

CONCLUSION

This brief has outlined the key strategies for violence and crime prevention and highlighted the significance of incorporating integrated area-based violence prevention interventions into the work of civil society. This is particularly important moving forward, with the added strain of COVID-19 on the country. The SPRINT Learning Network holds vital space for the sharing of learnings around VPIs in order to strengthen the civil sector's response to the high rate of violence and crime in the country.

Area-based violence prevention interventions are complex to implement. There is no ideal method, and methodologies and interventions should be adapted based on specific community needs and responses, as well as the capacity and capabilities of the implementing organisation, community members and various relevant stakeholders to the project.

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