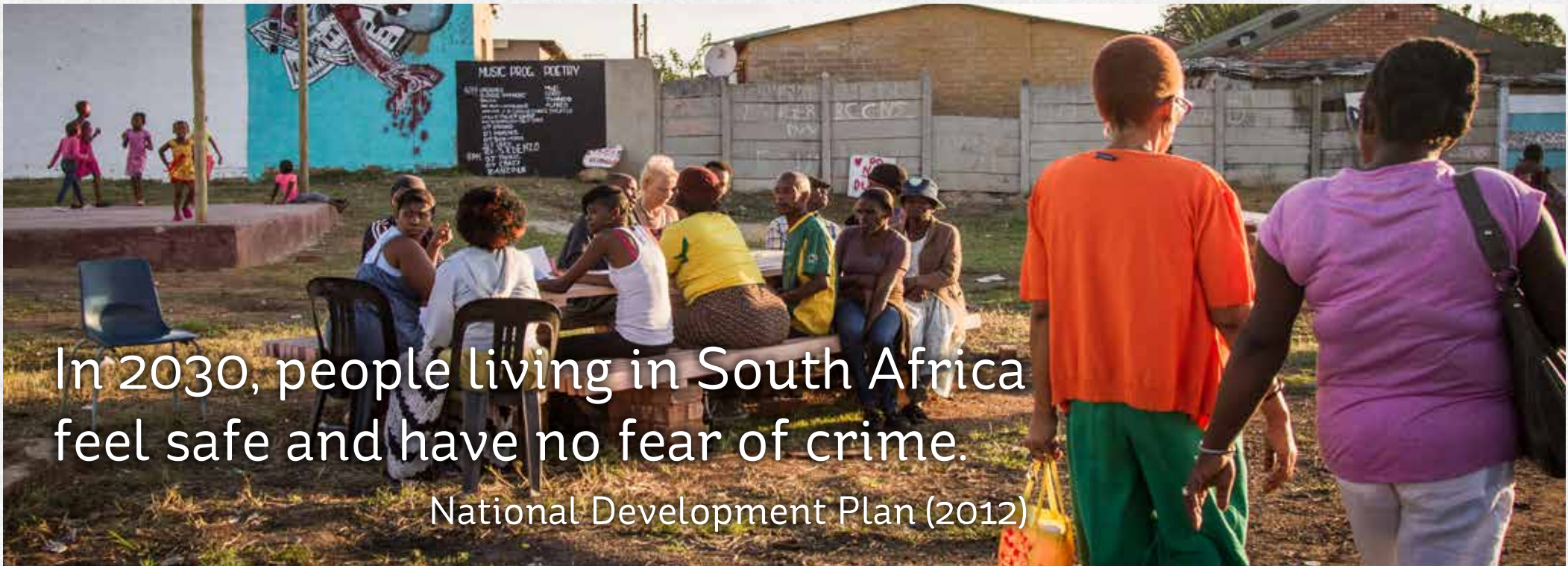# saferspaces

working together for a safer South Africa

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Gazette 2015

In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe and have no fear of crime.

National Development Plan (2012)

EDITORIAL

"Violence can be prevented. Violent cultures can be turned around. In my own country and around the world, we have shining examples of how violence has been countered. Governments, communities and individuals can make a difference."

NELSON MANDELA

From a small community in Limpopo that vows to end gender-based violence to a provincial network of youth desks that put young people in the driver's seat for developing safety initiatives: there are countless examples of projects and initiatives across South Africa that all work towards the same goal of a safer South Africa for all its people.

There is a growing community of practitioners from civil society, academia and all spheres of government who work hard to address the root causes of violence and crime in South Africa. They understand, just as Madiba did, that violence can be prevented.

SaferSpaces is an online portal for this community of practitioners working towards violence prevention and community safety in South Africa to find safety-related information and resources,

showcase their work, share information, connect with and learn from each other.

The site promotes the networking amongst and sharing of safety-related knowledge by practitioners. To this end, SaferSpaces offers an easy-to-use member section that allows safety practitioners to publish and promote their own content, events, resources and research within a growing network of members.

SaferSpaces was launched in 2014 by the GIZ Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) programme in close cooperation with a cross-sectoral advisory group of South African partner organisations. It is planned to migrate the hosting of the portal from the VCP programme to a partner – or a partner consortium – within the next year.

It is my great pleasure to

present to you the first edition of the SaferSpaces Gazette – an annual newspaper that presents a small selection of the many interesting articles, projects and other knowledge products that were published on SaferSpaces during the last year.

As you browse through the Gazette and the website, you will come across a wealth of examples that show how government, communities and individuals can make a positive difference to safety in our communities. If you're a practitioner, I encourage you to join the community and start sharing your knowledge with others.

Let's work together for a safer South Africa!

Daniel Brumund
GIZ Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme

IN THIS ISSUE

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WHAT IS SAFERSPACES?

saferspaces
working together for a safer South Africa

www.saferspaces.org.za

Across South Africa, there is a growing community of practitioners – from government, civil society, academia and business – who are committed to making their communities and the country as a whole safer. They understand that violence is preventable and work hard towards a common vision: a South Africa where all people feel and are safe.

SaferSpaces is an online portal for the community of practitioners working towards violence prevention and community safety in South Africa to find safety-related information and resources, showcase their work and organisations, share knowledge, network and learn from each other.

UNDERSTAND
Learn more about violence prevention and safety.

BE INSPIRED
Discover projects that promote safer communities.

LEARN HOW
Find tools for planning safety initiatives.

CONNECT
Join the community of practitioners and present your work.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTITIONERS

If you are a practitioner working in community safety or violence prevention, register yourself and your organisation on SaferSpaces. Join the community, share your knowledge and connect with other members working in the field.

Join these and other organisations on SaferSpaces

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

At its core, SaferSpaces provides an easy-to-use platform for practitioners to share their knowledge and network with others working towards a safer South Africa. Once registered, practitioners can log in to the members section and start:

- **Sharing resources:** Do you have publications or advocacy material that you'd like to promote? Share your resources on issues of violence prevention and community safety.

- **Promoting events:** Would you like to announce upcoming safety-related public events - maybe a seminar or a conference? SaferSpaces helps you promote them via its network and social media.

- **Showcasing projects:** Share your experience by profiling your projects and initiatives aimed at violence prevention and community safety. Let other practitioners know about and learn from your work.

- **Writing blog posts:** Do you have interesting news or a safety-related issue which you would like to write about? Be featured on SaferSpaces and its newsletter.

- **Profiling research:** Are you involved in research programmes that look into violence prevention in South Africa? Profile them on SaferSpaces and learn about the insights and recommendations from other programmes.

- **Curating thematic pages:** Are you an expert in a particular field related to safety? Share your expertise with others in the form of a thematic page in the "Understand" section.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA!

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UNDERSTAND

What are the main causes for violence and crime? How can we prevent violence and contribute to safety? SaferSpaces offers introductions to concepts and topics relevant to the understanding and prevention of violence and crime.

PUBLIC SPACES: MORE THAN 'JUST SPACE'

Public spaces are created and maintained for citizens. They are owned by the public, serve the public good and promote social cohesion. By definition they are accessible to all citizens, regardless of their income and personal circumstances.

Public spaces are where people meet and interact; socialize and discover common passions; and where they affirm their shared rights to the city. In a people-centred city public space is central to the notion of a liveable and human environment.

Public space can become the ideal platform for building a sense of community and to move on to even more ambitious collective goals.

"Safety, particularly safety in public spaces, is an essential ingredient for the creation of liveable and prosperous cities: urban spaces and facilities need to be designed and managed in a way that makes citizens feel safe from violence and crime."
Integrated Urban Development Framework (2014)

Types of public spaces

Public spaces exist for various uses and in different forms. One can distinguish between open public spaces such as beaches, parks and other natural spaces, pavements or squares and closed public spaces such as libraries, museums or religious, spiritual and heritage sites.

Other spaces of public use such as transport interchanges, sports grounds and recreational facilities can be either open or inside buildings. Streets or sidewalks can be considered as more ubiquitous and flexible public spaces that have to exist to promote mobility.

Public spaces promoting democratic values

Any equitable city or town needs to offer a substantive and accessible amount of quality public space, accessible amenities and useful.

Public space is a powerful instrument of social inclusion. This is of great importance to cities. It means that all those who happen to be in a city and behave responsibly are treated as equals, at least in those spaces of a city that are public.

One can even argue that, following the logic of freedom as a universal value, the city itself is a public space.

Safe, lively and well-maintained – according to UN-Habitat these should be the three main qualities of public spaces. They are much more than just 'space' that can be used by citizens. They bring economic value, promote social cohesion and often offer environmental as well as cultural benefits.

Public spaces in South Africa

In South Africa, the challenge and promise of public space takes on a historical dimension. During apartheid the equal right of all citizens to access quality public spaces was denied to the majority of non-white South Africans. Spatial segregation enforced a limited, discriminatory access to the city centres and certain areas for the majority of citizens. In the planning and building of townships, quality public spaces were assigned a minimal role and were all but neglected.

For many black South Africans during apartheid open spaces in townships, informal settlements and inner cities were often frightening places - dirty, garbage-strewn and unsafe. Sadly, this is often still the case in many settlements.

Loss of physical space in post-apartheid South Africa

Today, the legacy of apartheid's spatial policies is still widely reflected in South Africa's cities. The so-called 'public space deficit' particularly affects peripheral lower income neighbourhoods and especially informal settlements. In many cases, these are still segregated along racial lines, but also along class lines.

South Africa, with its history of segregation, needs physical spaces for citizens and communities of different backgrounds to interact. But there has generally been a lack of provision for such spaces where individuals of different classes, races, cultures and traditions can mingle.

Over the last twenty years of democracy, many parks and other public spaces have fallen into disarray or are simply not accounted for. This is often both a result of and reason for a general perception that open public spaces are unsafe. Instead malls have increasingly become the physical spaces where people gather without interacting with each other.

But there exist a growing number of promising initiatives and interventions that aim at reclaiming public open spaces, such as the Braamfontein Regeneration Project in Johannesburg or the Open Streets Cape Town campaign.

Interventions such as these show how interventions can help improve the perception of safety as well as unlock the social potential of public spaces.

Reclaiming public spaces – enhancing safety

People's mobility, quality of life, their participation in public life and in sustainable development greatly depends on the safety of public spaces.

There is a direct relation between safety and public space. Upgrading and increasing the quantity and quality of existing public open spaces can help improve urban safety. The goal is to enhance safety in public spaces as a way to reclaim public spaces and therefore resolve the impediments to people's movement.

Quality open spaces have been proven to help reduce insecurity and interventions aimed at improving public spaces call for a new approach through community

Quality public spaces promote social cohesion and contribute to community safety.

THE BENEFITS OF GREAT PLACES

+ Visually pleasing
+ Generally stimulating
+ Sense of belonging
+ Greater security
+ Better environmental quality
+ Feeling of freedom

+ More walkable
+ Safe for pedestrians and bicyclists
+ Compatible with public transit
+ Reduces need for cars and parking
+ More efficient use of time and money
+ Greater connections between uses

+ Greater community organization
+ Sense of pride and volunteerism
+ Perpetuation of integrity and values
+ Less need for municipal control
+ Self-managing

Promotes Sense of Comfort / Creates Improved Accessibility / Nurtures & Defines Sense of Community / PLACE / Builds & Supports the Local Economy / Promotes Health / Social Interaction

+ Small-scale entrepreneurship
+ Economic development
+ Higher real estate values
+ Local ownership, local value
+ More desirable jobs
+ Greater tax revenue
+ Less need for municipal services

+ Increased physical activity
+ Access to fresh food
+ Greater security
+ Greater social inclusion
+ Enhanced environmental health

+ Improves sociability
+ More cultural exposure, interaction
+ Draws a diverse population
+ More women, elderly, children
+ Greater ethnic/cultural pluralism
+ Encourages community creativity

PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES

Quality public spaces hold great benefits for cities   © Project for Public Spaces

Promoting the use of open spaces in Langa, Cape Town   © Open Streets Cape Town

participation. There is a need for greater individual, community and civil society involvement in reclaiming public spaces that have fallen in disrepair, and converting disused areas into active spaces, such as local public parks.

Shared public spaces encourage citizens to participate and become drivers in ensuring the attainment of safety. Through public spaces, cities can promote more inclusive, convivial and safer places for their citizens, which as a consequence will reinforce social inclusion, community organisation and participation to prevent insecurity and violence.

Useful Links
UN-Habitat: Global Toolkit for Public Space
www.urbangateway.org/publicspace
Project for Public Spaces
http://www.pps.org/
Open Streets Cape Town
http://openstreets.co.za/

Find this article online

Place-making

The process of place-making is a key tool in creating quality public spaces. A participatory and collaborative process, place-making involves anyone who is interested and allows people's creativity to emerge in developing public spaces. Such an open and inclusive process is effective in making people identify with the places they inhabit and involving them in building a shared vision of their communities.

Urban acupuncture

Successful (re-)development of public space does not depend on expensive grand gestures. Rightly planned small-scale urban interventions can have a positive impact that radiates beyond the immediate sites. A concept called 'Urban Acupuncture', for example, focuses on turning central urban nodes into vibrant public spaces. Just like Chinese acupuncture relieves the human body of stress, urban acupuncture aims to relieve urban congestion.

YOUTH VIOLENCE: STRENGHTEN YOUTH RESILIENCE

CJCP
CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND CRIME PREVENTION

Thank you to the **Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP)** for providing the content of this page.

For more information, visit
www.cjcp.org.za

Quality public spaces promote social cohesion and contribute to community safety.

Youth violence is a growing challenge for the societies and governments of many countries, including South Africa. Internationally, the number of youth homicides has been increasing for years.

Around the globe, every year almost a quarter of a million people under the age of 30 are murdered. This accounts for half of all homicides globally per year. [1] For every young person killed by violence, 20 to 40 more become victims of violence and require hospitalisation.[2]

Violence affects youth and adults differently. If children and youth are exposed to or become victims of violence, there is a high risk that they will show violent behaviour themselves at a later stage. In South Africa, a study by the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention showed that young people who have been victims of violence were six times more likely to commit a crime than those who have not been victimised.[3]

In most countries, young people – particularly young men – constitute both the majority of perpetrators and victims of violence and crime.

Focus on youth resilience

The prevalence of youth violence in South Africa requires dedicated, targeted responses. A 2008 study found that young people were almost twice as likely to have been victimised by violence or crime than adults.[4] Youth violence therefore takes a great toll on the wellbeing of South Africa's youth.

There are several characteristics that distinguish youth violence from violence among adults and motivate for specific interventions. Most significantly, youth violence is distinct as a result of the unique characteristics of youth and the specific effects of violence on young people.

South Africa's National Youth Policy (2009-2014) defines youth as persons from 15-34 years old.[5] This age range is characterised by

the transition from childhood into adolescence and adulthood. It represents an important period of development and change in a young person's life.

An important feature of this age range are the vulnerabilities young people face at this time as a result of their lack of independence, lack of maturity, propensity to take risks and susceptibility to peer influence.

Young people can be harmed in more significant and long-lasting ways than adults from exposure to and perpetration of violence, due to their vulnerability and ongoing development. The impact of violence inflicted on children, and young people, is particularly important to consider in that it can often initiate or catalyse a pathway to violence and offending by the victim.

Violence prevention measures with a strong focus on youth therefore have great potential to reduce violence and crime rates across society. By addressing the root causes of youth violence and strengthening young people's resilience to risk factors, prevention efforts can reduce youth's susceptibility to violence and crime, and thus increase safety for all of society.

Youth violence in South Africa

In South Africa, youth violence has a long history and is experienced by a significant portion of the country's youth. In 2013, non-natural deaths accounted for more than a third of all deaths of people between the ages of 15 and 29 years.

For boys, just under a fifth of these were as a result of assault.[6] For girls, this number was much lower at around a tenth. In South Africa, boys tend to be the most affected by violence, with the one exception of sexual violence, which is experienced at higher rates by girls.

Youth violence is deeply normalised in South Africa. For many decades youth have been involved in political, criminal and gang-related violent activity.[7] It is fundamentally influenced by the high levels of violence throughout South African society at large. As a result the line between victim and perpetrator often is difficult to determine because so many young perpetrators have also been victims of severe violence.

Many South African youth are repeatedly exposed to violence in their homes, schools and communities as well as amongst their peers, both as victims and witnesses.

The home environment

Many South African youth are exposed to violence in the home from an early age. This includes intimate partner violence between caregivers, violence between other adult family members and abuse perpetrated against children.

Cases of children being victimised sexually by adults and other children in the home are not uncommon and other forms of physical abuse are often noted in the home. In particular, corporal punishment is widely practiced as a form of discipline in South Africa, in many instances taking especially violent forms that result in injuries.

A 2008 study found that 53% of young people had often seen their families lose their tempers, 24% had been physically punished by their parents and 11% had seen family members hurting one another.[8]

The school environment

Young people in South Africa are exposed different types of violence in the school setting.

According to a 2012 study, 22.2% of high school learners experience some form of violence in schools.[9] 6.3% of learners experience assault, 4.7% experience sexual assault and 12.2% experience threats of violence. A study in Gauteng found that 61% of learners said that fellow learners sometimes brought weapons to school.

Many learners in South Africa are fearful of certain places within

Categorising youth violence

Violence can typically be categorised in a specific way that takes into account its varying nature and manifestations. This categorisation is helpful for understanding the types of violence and for developing appropriate responses.

▶ **Self-directed violence**
...refers to intentional and harmful behaviours directed at oneself. Many youth are known to inflict violence against themselves and suicide and self-mutilation often occur at high rates in this age group.

▶ **Psychological violence**
...involves acts of harassment intended to degrade the victim, exert control over him or her, and stand in the way of their autonomy. There are many ways in which young people may experience or perpetrate psychological violence, such as bullying or intimidation.

▶ **Sexual violence**
...involves subjecting a victim to sexual activity against their will and includes sexually abusing minors. Young people, particular girls, may experience sexual violence at the hands of peers or adults.

their schools environment, such as the bathrooms, and are also scared of travelling to and from school because they are vulnerable to violence in these spaces.

Although teachers are responsible for some of the violence perpetrated in schools, by and large, learners are the most frequent perpetrators of violence within schools. They are also more likely to verbal abuse a teacher than the other way around.

However, teachers were more likely to assault learners than learners were to assault teachers. In fact, although corporal punishment is illegal in schools in South Africa, 49.8% of learners in 2012 reported being given corporal punishment as a form a discipline in schools.

In many cases, schools are therefore also violent places, with young people both perpetrating violence against fellow learners and teachers as well as being victimised or witnessing violence. The effects of this early socialising to violence can have a significant impact of normalising the use of violence among young people.

The community environment

Neighbourhoods and communities can be violent places in South Africa, with young people often being victimised or victimising others. Young people are exposed to various kinds of violence while commuting to and from school, for example, or while socialising in the community.

Young people may be robbed, attacked or even sexually victimised while out and about in the community. They may also witness violence between members of their community. The community is often also a site where young people perpetrate violence against each other in the form of fights, robbery or sexual violence

One of the most violent activities to occur in some communities is gangsterism, which often particularly affects the youth. All over the country, but particularly within metropolitan centres such as Cape Town, gangs operate in ways that can be especially violent. For example, tensions between gangs can result in shootings and community members are often caught in the cross fire of these attacks.[10]

People are recruited into gangs from a young age because of their vulnerability and their potential to face softer legal consequences as a result of being underage. Thus, many young people are exposed to, and frequently perpetrate, criminal and violent activity long before they reach 18.

This can have a significant im-

pact on their wellbeing and the trajectory of their lives, with many young people either being killed as a result of their gang membership or remaining involved in violent or criminal lifestyles for life.

Dated estimates from the Western Cape suggest the over 100 000 people in the Cape Flats are gang members and recruiting activity suggests that the numbers may have grown.[11] This indicates a high risk for young people living in these areas to be recruited into gangs or exposed to gang-related violence.

The peer environment

In much of the violence experienced by youth, the perpetrator is a peer. Bullying and cyber-bullying is one example where much of the violence is perpetrated by peers. A 2012 study found that 20.9% of learners were the victim of some form of cyber aggression.[12]

Another kind of peer violence is sexual violence, and especially intimate-partner violence, between young people in their early romantic relationships. Many young girls report that their first sexual experi-

ence is coerced or forced and there are many instances of young boys experiencing sexual abuse at the hands of their peers.[13]

From risk to resilience: A framework for prevention

There is no single reason that explains why some youth resort to violence. It is the exposure to a variety of risk factors – ranging from the experience of violence to dysfunctional family structures or drug abuse – that can draw a young person into violence and crime. This experience is often compounded by social marginalisation, poverty or a lack of future prospects.

Prevention requires understanding the factors that influence violence. The so-called socio-ecological model offers a useful guide by differentiating risk factors along four levels – the individual, relationship, community and society. These levels of our social environment interact with and reinforce one another.

If we are to work effectively to end (youth) violence, we must address these factors at each level.

The socio-ecological model provides a better understanding of violence and the effect of potential prevention strategies. It allows us to address the factors that put youth at risk of experiencing or perpetrating violence.

Resilience factors in youth violence prevention

Building onto the socio-ecological model, the CJCP's Youth Resilience project recognised that young people are shaped by their family unit, school, network of peers and community.[14]

Resilience factors, therefore, are those factors in a young person's life that work to decrease the likelihood they will take up violent behaviours.[15] More specifically, these factors provide a buffer against exposure to risk factors and the onset of delinquent and criminal involvement.

The project identified nine key factors that served to enhance the resilience of young people to risk factors:

1. **Education:** Youth who show an interest in their schooling by working hard to obtain good marks are less likely to engage in criminal behaviour.
2. **Gender:** A 2009 study found that men commit more crimes than women and gender was found to be a significant protective factor against offending.[16] Men are more likely to have friends who engage in delinquent activities, and studies have found that men are more vulnerable than women to the negative influences of

their deviant friends.[17]
3. **Non-violent family environments:** Young people who are raised in homes where disputes are resolved without violence are less likely to engage in criminal behaviour than those who are raised in violent homes.
4. **Non-exposure to criminal role models:** Young people who are not exposed to anti-social or criminal role-models within their family environments are more likely to refrain from criminal behaviour.
5. **Substance abstinence:** The absence of substance use was found to be a significant protective factor against offending. Young people who do not consume alcohol or use drugs. are less likely to commit criminal offences.
6. **Interaction with non-delinquent peers:** Young people who socialise with peers who have never been arrested are more likely to refrain from engaging in criminal behaviour. Similarly, those whose friends have never dropped out of school are more likely not to commit an offence.
7. **Victimisation:** Young people who have never been the victim of crime are less likely to commit a criminal offence than those who have ever been robbed, assaulted, raped/sexually assaulted, hijacked, had their home burgled or their property stolen.
8. **Neighbourhood factors:** Young people without access to weapons in the areas in which they live are more likely to refrain from becoming involved in criminal activity than those for whom it was easy to obtain a firearm in their residential areas.
9. **Attitudes intolerant of violence and anti-social behaviour:** Young people who do not believe that people who have hurt them deserve to have bad things happen to them are twice as likely to refrain from offending as those who hold the opposite opinion.

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Youth who show interest in their schooling by working hard to obtain good marks are less likely to engage in criminal behaviour.

Where do we start? Levels of violence prevention

Efforts for preventing youth violence require a comprehensive approach that aims to reduce the risk factors and strengthen resilience amongst youth. Such efforts can be carried out at three levels – primary, secondary and tertiary prevention.[18]

▶ **Primary prevention**
...seeks to stop violent behaviours from occurring in the first place.
Activities may be focused on children from pre-birth through school age to adolescence, and their parents or principal caregivers.
Interventions include parenting initiatives, life and social skills training for children, and efforts to harness the violence-reducing effects of policies that address wider causal factors such as social and economic inequality, social and cultural norms that support the use of violence, and access to guns, alcohol and illicit drugs.

▶ **Secondary prevention**
...aims to halt the progression of violence once it is established. This is achieved by early detection followed by prompt, effective treatment.
This may include a focus on children and young people aged between 10 and 21 years.
Activities might include diversion from the criminal justice system and positive opportunities for young people, mentoring schemes and social education, or alcohol treatment.

▶ **Sexual violence**
...involves the rehabilitation of people with an established violent behaviour or affected as a victim.
Activities might include programmes for violent offenders within prisons and with victims in the community to minimize the impact of violence on them.

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Find this article online

LEARN HOW

Find tools for planning, implementing and evaluating community safety initiatives. Browse through manuals and guidelines covering issues such as youth resilience, urban safety, gender-based violence or school safety.

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES - A TOOLKIT FOR PARTICIPATORY SAFETY PLANNING

Safety of public spaces and within communities impacts profoundly on the mobility and quality of life of citizens and their opportunities to participate in public life and developmental processes. The causes of violence are multilayered and complex. Confronting it requires a systemic approach facilitating active cooperation across disciplines and stakeholders and encompassing all levels, from national to local.

In order to respond to its alarmingly high rates of violence and crime the South African government has developed a number of comprehensive policies and strategies on social crime prevention. The Toolkit for Participatory Safety Planning aims towards providing participatory tools and methods that are in line with the principles of the National Development Plan (NDP) with its Vision 2030 and the Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy (ISCPS). It also aims to support the work of Community Safety Fora (CFS) and the integration of safety into Integrated Development Planning (IDP).

The toolkit's overarching objective is to guide the user in the systemic planning of violence prevention and safety measures at the local level. The aim is to identify risk factors as well as sources of resilience to build on when planning measures and interventions on the promotion of community safety. Engaging communities in making their own environments safer can achieve long-term behaviour change in young people and those that influence them directly or indirectly.

The Toolkit for Participatory Safety Planning draws on existing knowledge, research results, guidelines and manuals to promote an integrated and holistic way of addressing the multiple causes of violence and crime. The toolkit is developed in cooperation with relevant government and civil society partners.

Themba Fosi
Department of Cooperative Governance

As the chair of the national steering committee for the Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme (VCP), it is my great pleasure to introduce the Toolkit for Participatory Safety Planning. The toolkit provides methods and tools for engaging stakeholders and residents in coordinated efforts for building safer communities through systemic approaches to violence prevention. The Department of Cooperative Governance supports the central role that local government plays in planning and initiating action for safer communities. As the sphere of government closest to the people, municipalities can make an important contribution to the safety of our communities. Within our mandate we support municipalities in utilising this resource to assist the work of Community Safety Forums and the integration of safety into Integrated Development Plans. Within the context of the local government programme of Back to Basics, we encourage ways in which more citizen involvement can be promoted and communities can take ownership in planning and implementation of good governance.

We are humbled by the partnership with GIZ and VCP in their commitment to empowering South African citizens to take ownership of safety of their community spaces.

Mr Themba Fosi

SECTIONS OF THE TOOLKIT

The toolkit provides an overview on the situation regarding violence and crime in South Africa and offers a comprehensive conceptual framework on the systemic approach to violence prevention, the causes of violence and crime and the promotion of behaviour change in young people as well as significant others that influence them directly or indirectly.

It is organized in five sections that provide a range of tried and tested tools and methods to pick-and-mix according to the user's demand and specific context.

Setting the Scene for Participation	Data and Information Collection Phase	Data Analysis Phase	Planning Phase	Participatory Impact Monitoring
This section provides participatory tools that introduce basic concepts of violence prevention that can be used as icebreakers and sensitizers leading up to workshops for data collection, analysis and planning of safety measures.	Tools provided in this phase support the conduction of a situation analysis to obtain information about the specific conditions, causes of violence and risk factors together with the community you work in.	Building on the data generated in the previous phase analyses of actors, sectors and levels of violence can be carried out using participatory tools. The results of the analyses can be utilized as a baseline study for monitoring and evaluation of the measure. It helps identify strategic starting points for prevention activities.	This phase provides process-oriented planning tools for safety measures. Together with the workshop participants the results from the analyses are used to identify partners and establish objectives of the measure in terms of desired behaviour change among young people and intermediaries.	The last section of the toolkit provides tools to support the monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes achieved by your activities. The aim is to engage the community in assessing behaviour change achieved by the intervention and its impact on the resident's perception of safety.

BE INSPIRED

Discover existing projects and initiatives that are promoting safer communities across South Africa. Be inspired by their commitment and actions on the ground. Learn from their approaches and experiences. Connect and start networking with the people behind the projects.

YOUTH FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

In a nutshell

A youth activation project that enables youth to contribute towards making their communities safer. The project views youth as change makers who play a decisive leadership role in shaping and improving community life and reversing the current crime trends. A peer-learning approach is applied.

What we do

Youth for Safer Communities builds on Masifunde's work as a non-profit organisation that "provides educational support in a holistic and sustainable manner to motivated learners from previously disadvantaged communities … educational support includes bursaries, life skills training and extra-curricular activities in the fields of arts, media and sport".

Aware of the destructive role of crime and violence in the communities served by Masifunde, the organisation designed an intervention to address this, using a tried and tested methodology. This approach and methodology sees youth as agents in society who actively shape their own destiny and have the potential to become peer educators.

How we do it

The process began with a research phase late in 2012. This was conducted by Masifunde's learners themselves and involved a detailed engagement with stakeholders to develop an in-depth analysis of the impact of crime and violence on young people in Nelson Mandela Bay. The research also explored factors that cause young people to participate in crime and violence.

Stakeholders included non-governmental organisations, such as the South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO) and Families South Africa (Famsa), community police forums, academics and the local business sector.

The research was conducted by learners in grades 10 to 12 who participate in the Masifunde's Learn4Life programme. Masifunde's youth journalists for its Walmer's Own magazine also participated in the research team, which comprised about 45 young people.

The action research included visits to relevant institutions such as a youth prison, rehabilitation centres, public spaces, police stations and private security companies. The intention was for each grade to visit at least two institutions.

According to Jonas Schumacher, managing director of Masifunde, the objective was for participants to become young experts in the field of crime prevention and understand systematic approaches to public safety.

The participating learners spent eight days at a summer camp where they consolidated the information and developed the first draft of a workshop methodology based on their research findings. The aim was to present this workshop to other learners.

In June 2013, the workshop method was refined and youth facilitators from Walmer Township were trained to present the workshops. The workshops targeted 2 000 learners at 25 high schools in the Nelson Mandela Bay area, including both state-funded and private schools.

The workshops took off with a collaboratively developed song entitled I Can Make a Difference that encapsulates the aims and ethos of the project. The song was composed and performed by jazz band VuDu and hip hop crew Geniuses, both from Walmer Township, and features the Masifunde choir. You can watch the video of the song in the gallery at the top of this page.

The workshops were well received by participating learners, who came from diverse backgrounds and represented 225 schools.

One of the methods used saw participants carrying out a safety mapping exercise to understand the nature of public safety in their communities and areas. The safety map is a drawing of a community with its range of facilities, from spaza shops to parks, indicating those areas where people feel safe and unsafe. Through the workshop participants were challenged to develop project ideas that they could implement in their communities to make them safer.

The development of project ideas to improve public safety gathered momentum as the workshops rolled out, with workshop participants finding this process interesting, practical and positive as they envisaged their communities as being safe. The method also encouraged the participants to share their experiences, particularly experiences of crime. Workshop participants responded well to the peer learning method that was used in the workshops, which encouraged participation from all attendees.

The workshops were facilitated by two learners each, with each learner facilitating between two and three workshops. Sessions were held on school premises outside of regular school hours.

Participants who put forward the best ideas on how to make their communities safer were invited to participate in a city-wide youth conference. This marked the culmination of the 2013 workshops. At the three-day conference learners worked in groups to develop project ideas that could be implemented by Masifunde, with young people acting as lead agents in making their communities safer. The workshop drew to a close with participants choosing the best ideas for implementation in 2014.

Building on the successful rollout of Youth for Safer Communities in 2013, the programme was extended. The 2014 school workshops are being facilitated by the 2013 facilitators who matriculated, and they are paid a stipend for their work.

What we have achieved

The project had high attendance rates and a positive response from participants.

Attendees completed questionnaires after each workshop. Their responses will be used to gauge the success of the programme and inform its development going forward.

According to project manager Linda Zali, response to the peer-to-peer learning approach has been particularly positive. And as managing director Jonas Schumacher points out, involving the 2013 "graduates" as facilitators in 2014 provided a significant self-confidence boost for these young people.

What we have learned

The project managed successfully to overcome challenges that were encountered along the way. This included a sustained effort to get the schools to participate in Youth for Safer Communities. The initial idea was to run the workshops during school hours, but teachers were not supportive of this and the compromise was to move the workshop times to afternoon slots.

There was no public sector support for the project.

Organisation
Masifunde

Province
Eastern Cape

Timeframe
2012 to present

Topic(s)
Safety planning, Youth

Sector(s)
Civil society organisations, Education

Type(s) of Prevention
Primary prevention, Secondary prevention, Social prevention

Website
www.masifunde.com

Uploaded by
Linda Zali

Project resources

- Youth for Safer Communities (Infographic)
- Magazine: Walmer's Own Special Edition "Youth for Safer Communities"
- Masifunde - Youth for Safer Communities - Final report
- YSC - Youth Safety Summit Magazine

▷ Find them on SaferSpaces

Related project

Chrysalis Youth Empowerment Training
Chrysalis Academy | Western Cape

Chrysalis Academy is a youth and leadership organisation in Tokai, Cape Town. Established in 2000 in response to crime and substance abuse amongst the youth, it has grown to become a life-skills programme and a stepping stone to employment for young people from some of the province's most deprived communities.

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BLOG

XENOPHOBIA AND MIGRATION: ADJUST OUR URBAN POLICIES TOWARDS SAFER CITIES FOR ALL

27 May 2015 | by Siphelele Ngobese | South African Cities Network
Topics: Hate Crime / Xenophobia • Safety planning • Urban safety

Downtown Johannesburg increasingly sounds like central London. Polish, Pakistani, Japanese and South Africans, among others, conversing in their various home languages is now organic to the city of London.[1] Similarly, in Johannesburg Somali, Urdu, Shona, Amharic and Chichewa interweave beautifully with local languages.

It is sonically pleasing and so embedded in the fabric of the city that it is difficult to imagine a Joburg devoid of these sights and sounds. The same can be said for other major South African cities, be it Tshwane or eThekwini. In the age of migration the convergence of cultures is one of the signs of a truly global city.

The recent spate of violent attacks on foreign nationals indicates that the cosmopolitanism of our cities, an attraction as it is, has had little positive impact on the outlook and experience of poorer urban residents. The fact that South Africa was founded on the principle of embracing difference does not automatically translate into an embrace of migration.

This is not to suggest that xenophobic sentiments are exclusive to this demographic. However, patterns of where violent reactions are most likely to occur point to extreme economic deprivation and social exclusion as being major factors driving perpetrators to act on their prejudices.

Referring to what is termed the age of migration, the World Migration Report by the International Organisation of Migration debunks the myth of migration as just a South-to-North phenomenon[2]. Since 1990, most countries in the world have witnessed an increase in the number of migrants.

However, since 2000, the number of migrants in the global South has been growing more rapidly than in the North.[3] Moreover, in terms of development, major cities of the global south are positioning themselves to compete in a rapidly globalising world.

This suggests that global migration will intensify rather than reverse. It is pivotal for cities to manage well the continued influx of migrants. Cities need to have strategies in place that minimise the challenges and maximise benefits that can be drawn from the more fluid movement of persons, goods and services.

Against this backdrop, xenophobia poses a direct risk to our cities' growth and development aspirations. It exposes the failure of policies and plans to resonate with the urban poor.

For this reason, the business case against xenophobia, citing the success of South African businesses on the continent, is unconvincing to South Africans neither able to meet their own basic needs nor to directly access essential services like water and energy; which South Africa depends on parts of the African continent for. The narrative's failure to resonate compounds the need to "manage migration for the political and socio-economic benefit"[4] of South African cities.

"Cities need to have strategies in place that minimise challenges and maximise benefits that can be drawn from migration."

As the public outrage over the xenophobic attacks fades and the media gaze wanes, it is important to reflect from a city planner's point of view on global migration and its impact on cities. The Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) is one of the spaces that can play an important role in this area, given it is a forum for learning and exchange.

In a 2013 report, the African Centre for Migration and Society called for immigration policies that are "based on objective research and full consultation with the relevant stakeholders", as opposed to "personal beliefs or anecdotes that inform commonly-held perceptions about immigration and immigrants."[5]

"Xenophobia poses a direct risk to our cities' growth and development aspirations."

Recognising the various dimensions of creating safer cities, coupled with its emphasis on research, the USRG is well placed to advocate for domestic policies that meet these criteria and provide a framework for cities to better deal with the pressures of migration, particularly where community stability is threatened.

Apart from influencing national policies, cities need to invest more intensely in local level strategies and responses. This is because the local level is not only vested with implementation, it is also the government sphere most directly affected by migration. Cities are significant receivers of migration inflows. This makes issues of migration a critical aspect of thinking and creating safer cities.

"A progressive migration agenda is key when thinking about the growth, stability and future of cities."

There is a role for, inter alia, planners, social development, and safety and security practitioners in thinking about how best to include migrant communities in social crime prevention strategies. This requires sensitivity to the psycho-social wellbeing of foreigners who often find themselves in South African cities with an unclear immigration status and suffering from traumatic experiences in their home countries.

As a result, it is important for the approach to urban vulnerabilities to encompass the aspect of humanitarian immigrants. Furthermore, preventive interventions should be aimed at the social and economic drivers of community instability.

South African cities have the potential and incentive to drive a progressive agenda around migration. Recent events demonstrate that it is a key consideration in thinking about the growth, stability and future of cities. Most importantly, it is a critical part of making South African cities safe for all who live in them.

Siphelele Ngobese works for the South African Cities Network (SACN). She is the coordinator of the Urban Safety Reference Group.

A progressive agenda around migration is critical for making South African cities safe for all, says Siphelele Ngobese from the South African Cities Network

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[4] Op. Cit. IOM
[5] REPORT: African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) & Lawyers for Human Rights, Policy Shifts in the South African Asylum System: Evidence and Implications, 2013

Related posts

Do cities need safety strategies? A case of the Joburg City Safety Strategy
25 Feb 2015 | Nazira Cachalia | Joburg City Safety Programme

The Johannesburg City Safety Strategy has shifted the focus on what constitutes a safe city from crime and violence alone to viewing crime through a multitude of factors.

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Let's put safety at the core of South Africa's national urban development framework
28 Jan 2015 | Siphelele Ngobese | South African Cities Network

Siphelele Ngobese, Co-ordinator of the Urban Safety Reference Group hosted by the SACN, explains why community safety and violence and crime prevention should be an integral part of the Integrated Urban Development Framework and encourages you to contribute to the debate.

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Related project

Urban Safety Reference Group
South African Cities Network | National

The Urban Safety Reference Group was established to serve as a platform for peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing amongst practitioners from the South African Cities Network (SACN) member cities as well as other key government role-players on urban safety and violence prevention.

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BE INSPIRED

YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION DESKS

In a nutshell

The Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desks are volunteer-based structures based at police stations within the province. The desks encourage and enable young people to participate actively in identifying the causes of youth violence and crime, and to collaborate in creating social crime prevention strategies for their communities.

What we do

Recognising that young people in South Africa are a key target group as both victims and perpetrators of crime, the Youth Crime Prevention Desks (YCPDs) in Gauteng mobilise and involve young people in violence and crime prevention interventions.

These volunteer-based structures mainly comprise youth between the ages of 18 and 27 and are based at police stations within the province. They encourage and enable young people to participate actively in identifying the causes of youth violence and crime, and to collaborate in creating social crime prevention activities with relevant stakeholders.

The YCPDs are a joint initiative between the Department of Community Safety (DoCS), the South African Police Service (SAPS), and Community Police Forums (CPFs). Initially designed to promote coordination between these entities to create safer environments for young people, the YCPD programme has become a platform for youth to share their vision for a safer future.

This programme seeks to address various aspects of crime and its impact on youth. This includes:
- Developing cooperative relations between SAPS and youth
- Assisting in identifying safety needs of youth
- Developing and implementing programmes to address identified safety needs
- Enabling youth to act as good citizens and role models
- Empowering youth in crime prevention, as well as communication, conflict-resolution, and interpersonal skills

How we do it

The core objective of the YCPD programme is for young people to help identify causes of youth violence and crime and to work with other role-players to design and implement relevant social crime prevention interventions.

The YCPD members coordinate youth safety activities and projects at police station level. The main pillars are school safety, substance abuse prevention, and the prevention of violence against women and children. The idea is to work with other youth and youth groups to develop projects that are attractive, sustainable and implementable, and to respond to the specific safety needs of their communities. Initiatives include:
- Sports against crime
- Prison talks
- School talks and debates
- Substance abuse campaigns and projects
- Child protection

The YCPDs do not only respond from a crime prevention angle. They also tackle youth development, seeking to empower young people with skills to become better citizens. Employment is vital for security as unemployment is a major driver of crime among children and young adults. The YCPD programme strives to equip young people with hard and soft skills for future employability.

Who was involved

Three main partners work collaboratively to guide the youth desks on which areas to focus on, how best to go about designing a safer environment and why youth empowerment is critical for the creation of a greater and safer South Africa:
- The DoCS supports these structures through the placement of social crime prevention coordinators who oversee and ensure that there are functional YCPDs in each station. The DoCS, in collaboration with the youth desks, initiates and runs knowledge forums related to traffic, health and policing to increase awareness of social issues affecting crime.
- In every police station a SAPS coordinator is responsible for the overall coordination of all social crime prevention-related activities, including the youth desk, victim empowerment centres (VECs) and CPFs. These coordinators work closely with the DoCS social crime prevention coordinators. Resources such as office space, transport, stationery and computers are provided by SAPS.
- CPFs work with the youth desks to help them understand crime hot-spots and identify which crimes and social issues need to be addressed most urgently.

What we have achieved

Thanks to the YCPDs, young people are being incorporated more widely into community safety matters. Their voices are being heard and they are actively contributing towards crime prevention.

In April 2014 there were 22 YCPD clusters within the provincial youth desk leadership structure. Within these clusters, 92 out of 141 police stations had functional youth desks.

Other identified outcomes include:
- A wide variety of community-based initiatives and activities, as mentioned above, which raise awareness and dialogue around crime and crime prevention
- The link between SAPS and the youth desks has helped to create a channel of communication between SAPS and youth networks in communities. Previously, SAPS had difficulties accessing schools and had a purely confrontational relationship with youth in their jurisdictions. The youth desk programme has helped to build trust and create a collaborative environment for the police to identify problematic young people from a preventive perspective
- The DoCS, in partnership with the Department of Infrastructure Development, placed 900 youth desk members in the National Youth Service Learnership programme – 300 in 2011/12 and 600 in 2012/13, for a period of 12 months each. These young people are deployed in communities within the province to do youth safety work.

What we have learned

An impact study conducted in 2013 identified challenges in the following areas:

Training

Some youth desk members say they would like to have more training to be able to deal with the wide variety of problems facing the community. Others say it is not the type or amount of training they receive, but the fact that it is not accredited, which means that potential employers don't recognise it.

Resources

A lack of resources presents a challenge for the youth desks. However, there are many creative solutions to this problem. By finding partners and focusing on low-cost activities, youth desks are able to make the most of minimal resources.

Space

Sharing resources and office space with the CPF can be frustrating for both parties. In some police stations there are tensions, mainly due to the need to share office space, stationery or telephone lines. This issue can be resolved through education around cohesive branding and developing a clear understanding that both parties have the same objectives for the various programmes.

Recruitment and retention

Recruiting new members is a key challenge. In response, some YCPDs are actively recruiting from the community and developing better induction processes. The message being shared is that youth desks can be used to develop skills for the job market, but that individuals must play an active role in their own professional development.

Project resources

- Impact Analysis Report: Youth Crime Prevention Desks
- Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desks (Infographic)
- Podcast: Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desks

▷ Find them on SaferSpaces

Related project

#EKSÊ! My Voice, My Safety
Gauteng Department of Community Safety | Gauteng

#EKSÊ! My Voice, My Safety aims to explore the potential of new and traditional media in enabling young people to engage in political processes. The initiative empowers young people to positively influence their vision of life and further their career paths. It furthermore activates the youth's motivation and expands their skills to be agents of change for safer communities.

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BLOG

"IT'S TIME TO GET OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONES"
– SUPPORT RESILIENT YOUTH

Topics: Children • Gangs • Youth   **12 May 2015**

Sadick Da Silva has been working with youth in communities in the Cape Flats for over thirty years. His organisation Arise Community Development Projects offers sports programmes to youth that incorporate life skills trainings to strengthen youth resilience to the many risk factors they face – and help them grow up to their full potential.

In this interview, Sadick speaks about how sports programmes can help strengthen youth and uplift their communities, the challenges NGOs face in their work and why we need to start pointing fingers at ourselves.

"We need youngsters to get out of their comfort zones and become active agents of change … The wake-up call needs to be now." says Sadick Da Silva who has been working with youth in communities in the Cape Flats for over thirty years.

Sadick Da Silva trains kids at risk in the Cape Flats and teaches them life skills.

Sadick, you have been working with youth in the Cape Flats for over thirty years. What inspired you to work with youth? What is your relationship to that area?

This goes way back. As a kid, I grew up in Heideveld which is a predominantly coloured suburb in the Cape Flats. When I was 14, one of my sister's girlfriends was raped and murdered on her way to the local metro station. At the time I wasn't much of an outdoor person. But that incident took me out of my comfort zone. As a response I started mobilising youth in the area and together we turned an area next to the station into a recreational facility and sports field. It is still used as such today.

After that we started a youth club amongst friends in the area and I became involved in a local football club at the age of 17. From there on, I grew up as a soccer player, underwent training to become a coach and started my first coaching clinic.

This whole experience made me realise that there is a big need within our communities for children and youth at risk to have access to sports programmes.

So this experience then led you to start Cape Flats Soccer Development (CFSD) in 2003. What is the aim of the programme?

With Cape Flats Soccer Development we aim to get kids involved in physical activities. Our communities lack formal recreational structures. As a result, there are lots of kids are loitering around. We are creating spaces for these kids to become active – and to give them an alternative to substance abuse or other illegal activities they were getting involved in.

This is why CFSD focuses on working with kids at risk. I used to call them the forgotten kids. Many of them have been expelled from school and don't have parents or relatives that look after them. There is no one who really cares about them. Formal sport clubs won't allow them in because of their background. Or there are subscription fees that they cannot afford. Therefore these kids find that they have nowhere to go other than standing at the corner, smoking drugs or joining gangs.

"Kids need to be resilient to negative influences... We need to support them in making informed decisions about how they lead their lives."

We need to ask ourselves, how do we get these kids back into the mainstream? With CFSD we try to provide them with structure and life skills training, and support them to go back to school, or to help them find a job. So it is really as much about helping them achieve their personal goals as well as their sporting goals.

Today, CFSD is incorporated as a programme within Arise Community Development Projects which we established in 2007.

CFSD aims to create a social, drug free environment – and to empower youth to support the uplifting of the communities in which they live. How can sport trainings contribute to this?

At first, our trainings focused mainly on creating professional soccer players. But we were missing a key component: life skills trainings. Thanks to trainings provided by the GIZ Youth Development for Football (YDF) programme, we understood and could integrate these components into our sports trainings. This includes issues such as gender awareness, HIV prevention, environmental awareness or violence prevention.

These trainings changed my whole concept at the time. It helped

me understand that through life skills trainings we can have a huge positive impact on a kid's life. We quickly realised that development is not just a once-off event, it is an on-going process.

When we started working with youth in the Delft township, a young girl joined our trainings. She had left school and was prostituting on the road. Our programme and the life skills training she participated in helped her change her life around. She went back to school and today she is married and has a kid. That's the type of change you want to see.

Our work in Laingsburg, a rural village in the Karoo, shows how these programmes can positively affect an entire community. Within six months, we established five structured soccer clubs that now provide sports and life skills trainings to youth in the area. At the same time, we helped unemployed locals establish a small business cooperative that focuses on sowing and clothing. Among other things, they now manufacture the outfits for the soccer teams – locally produced and at a much more reasonable cost.

GIZ | Youth Development through Football (YDF)

For more information on how to incorporate life skills components with soccer programmes, check out the YDF profile.
Download training manuals for free on SaferSpaces.

You mentioned the high levels of gang violence in the communities you work in. How does this affect your work? And how does it affect the youth you work with?

There is an important fact that many people don't understand about gangs: Once a youngster has crossed the line and joined a gang, it is very difficult to get out again. The only way out is by death or to relocate far away. Just two months ago we had a case where a young boy was killed by his cousin when he tried to leave a gang.

That is why prevention is so much more important than intervention. Preventing youth from joining gangs in the first place is the key to success. But you have to start working with the kids from an early age. Gangs increasingly recruit kids as young as ten to twelve years old because they cannot be jailed when committing crimes.

Kids and teenagers need to become resilient to these negative influences. If you support and strengthen them, you increase the chance that they won't be involved with gangs. For many of them, a major challenge is to find employment. If they are idly hanging out in the street, they are very vulnerable to gangs and drugs.

It is important that we support our youngsters to make informed decisions about how they lead their lives. They have to know about the consequences of their actions.

As an NGO, what are some of the main challenges you face in your work?

Our major problem is a lack of funding. Governmental funds for sports programmes are made available almost exclusively for federations. These federations hardly recognise the work of NGOs which makes it difficult for us to get access to these funds. Plus we are lacking facilities that we can use.

It comes down to this question: What roles do we as NGOs play in the structure? And how is this role understood by governmental departments? Take Manenberg, for example, which is characterised by high rates of gangsterism, crime and drug abuse. Government calls upon NGOs to assist in coming up with solutions. But when we provide our proposals together with a cost plan for implementation, the departments are not forthcoming.

As local NGOs, we often feel as if we are seen as beggars when we ask for funds and resources to do our work. There is a lack of understanding and appreciation from government of what we do – and that we need resources to do it.

Looking to the future, what is your wish for the youth you work with?

You know, unless all relevant stakeholders – government, police, NGOs – come on board, we will continue losing our kids at a fast pace

to drugs and gangsterism. That is why Arise has been strengthening its relationship with SAPS as well as other with sports-related programmes, most recently Play Handball SA. So I am optimistic about the future of our work.

During our trainings, I always tell the youth we work with is that they need to have faith and belief. If you are a kid at risk or suffer from substance abuse, you first need to accept that you have a problem. No rehabilitation is possible without belief – irrespective of the religion you follow. You need to have a goal that you dream of – and then you have to go for it.

My message is this: If you truly believe, you can make a change. As a first step, start helping your neighbours. If everybody looks

after somebody in their community, we would have much less violence and crime.

Youngsters need to ask themselves: What am I doing to change my community? Not what is the government or someone else doing. You know, we have a tendency to point fingers at the shortcomings of our governmental structures. But we need to start pointing the fingers at ourselves. We need more youngsters to get out of their comfort zones and become active agents of change. All too often people only wake up and become active when something bad happens to their own families. But the wake-up call needs to be now – so you can prevent something bad from happening in the first place.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION:
CRITICAL TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

19 Mar 2015 | Chandré Gould | Institute for Security Studies
Topics: Children   •   Family   •   Parenting   •   Prevention concepts   •   Safety planning   •   Urban safety

Sustained high levels of violence and crime pose a fundamental threat to South Africa's development, not least because of the adverse effect violence has on the realisation of human potential.

Both the NDP and the Integrated Urban Development Framework[1], released last year for comment by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, recognise that safety is fundamental to development. However, the visionary IUDF, much like the National Development Plan, upon which the framework builds, runs the risk of being so vague about what needs to be done to prevent violence in the medium to long term that it may become inactionable.

Both the NDP and the IUDF recognise the importance of investing in social protection, health care and education to realise human potential which is necessary for a greater number of South Africans to be able to access jobs or create their own, and live healthier, happier lives. But, it does not necessarily follow, as we might expect or hope, that improving access to job markets and services will increase safety. Experience in Latin America

In this commentary on the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), Chandré Gould from the Institute for Security Studies explains why there is a need to focus on early childhood interventions if we want to sustainably reduce crime and violence in South Africa.

shows that job creation, particularly for young people, also does not necessarily achieve the intended outcomes of social inclusion and social cohesion, nor an increase in safety, largely because the kind of jobs that are available to them

do not meet their earning or status expectations[2]. Also, for many young people who bear the burden of intergenerational deprivation and disadvantage, education followed by entry to job market is not an obvious trajectory[3].

It is quite understandable that neither the NDP nor the IUDF are specific about how to reduce violence and increase safety. The interventions required don't yield quick results and can seem overly complex. Also discussion about

violence prevention is mostly either confined to criminal justice or public health – so happens in silos between people who are comfortable with particular languages and responses. This we see reflected in the framework's emphasis on placing local safety plans in the hands of community policing forums despite recognising that there is such a low level of skill and capacity in many localities that any safety plans that may be developed are unlikely to address the root causes of violence.

To achieve violence reduction and increase safety in the long run we need to be specific about what needs to happen, how these actions contribute to long-term safety and security, and who is responsible for making them happen. Furthermore, the evidence is clear that, for sustainable reductions in crime and violence, we need to enhance our approach to include making available and accessible interventions that focus on what happens to children in the first three years of their lives; and then following up to ensure that as they grow they remain safe and are enabled to take advantage of the opportunities that do exist.

For more news on the IUDF, visit:
http://www.iudf.net/

The case for primary prevention

Our challenge as a country is to reduce entrenched inequality, reduce violence and increase safety. We can do these simultaneously. But, doing so requires a radical shift of attention and investment into the very early years of children's lives.

A significant number of children (estimated at over two hundred million) in low and middle income countries do not achieve their developmental potential because of the effects of poverty.[4] This is because poverty negatively affects physical growth (if coupled with inadequate nutrition), cognitive development, health and social and emotional competence. These factors combine to entrench poverty and inequality intergenerationally[5]. One of the reasons for this is that cognitive and socio-emotional

development and the ability to regulate our emotions is critical to our ability to interact successfully with others. And this in turn is critical to educational achievement. It is also necessary to the formation of healthy intimate partnerships, and to success in the job market.

Nobel laureate and economist, James Heckman, has made a strong case for investing in children's lives. He has shown that investments in interventions that support the cognitive and socio-emotional development of disadvantaged children ages 0 – 3 yields a significantly higher return in terms of human capital than investments later on in life, such as through youth employment strategies[6].

"Ensuring that infants get the right kind of care … is the best chance we have at breaking cycles of poverty and violence."

In short, the evidence shows that if we seek to increase human capital, which is necessary for the realisation of the development goals of the NDP and the IUDF, our investments need to be made in infants and children, and then follow them up with skill building after school care.

Making sure that babies and infants get the right kind of care, nutrition and stimulation in the first 1000 days of their lives is the best chance we have at breaking cycles of poverty and violence, increasing the number of young people who complete school, reducing inequality and building a healthy future. This is the time of our lives when we have both the greatest potential and are most vulnerable to the effects of toxic stress, abuse and neglect.

Here's why: Between conception and two years a babies brain will grow to 80% of its adult weight; also in this time connections in the brain are created at a rate of I million per second, faster than at any other time in our lives. The ability to regulate emotions is also learnt in the first few months of our lives, and it is this ability that enables us to cope in the world and establish meaningful relationships with others. Emotional regulation depends on a healthy, nurturing bond being established between a baby and their primary caregiver[7].

Thus during this period there is enormous potential for creating a strong foundation for the rest of our lives. But, just as we can positively affect children's lives in this time; if things go wrong in the first few years it can set a child back permanently. Babies and infants are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than older children and that means we need to give particular attention to ensuring their safety. Abused or neglected children, who don't have a healthy bond with a

caring adult, are at risk of not coping at school; becoming the victim or perpetrator of violence and are likely to struggle later in life; so too are babies who are exposed to 'toxic stress' which includes exposure to alcohol and other drugs in the womb, violence in the home; or whose caregiver is depressed or mentally ill.

Children who experience neglect and abuse, and who are not cognitively stimulated in their infancy are likely to go on to repeat the cycle of deprivation and disadvantage. This is exacerbated by exposure to violence in the home, stressed parents, harsh corporal punishment at school and at home, bullying at school. Together this creates a toxic mix that massively reduces human potential and lays the basis for continuing cycles of violence.

The good news is that there are a number of programmes that have been developed and tested in South Africa that address exactly this. These are programmes such as the Thula Sana home visiting programme which has been shown to help mothers form healthy, warm bonds with their infants; a book sharing programme in which caregivers are taught to share a book with infants that has been shown to increase attention, focus and vocabulary; programmes that help parents to use positive discipline and improve their experience of parenting; in-school programmes that reduce sexual offending; after school skill building programmes that reduce risky behaviour in teens, including substance abuse.

"If we focus only on building and maintaining infrastructure, and situational crime prevention, without paying attention to the people who will use it, we risk swimming against the tide of violence in perpetuity."

These programmes could be rolled-out. Doing so will not only prevent violence in the longer term, but it will also have a positive effect on productivity. In other words to achieve the development outcomes envisaged by the NDP and IUDF we need to focus

our investments on ensuring that babies born today can grow up to be healthy, motivated adults in the future. If, on the other hand, we focus only on building and maintaining infrastructure, and situational crime prevention, without paying attention to the people who will use it, we risk swimming against the tide of violence in perpetuity.

In order to make this shift to enable development we need to ensure that:

1. budgets at national and provincial level are allocated for primary prevention programme delivery
2. key performance indicators motivate and enable referral by primary health care providers, and other 'first responders' such as social workers, to programmes
3. local and provincial government are informed about and understand the value and importance of primary prevention
4. safety plans are developed that include primary prevention

Integrating these factors into the IUDF would be a huge step towards achieving the goal of a safe, healthy, prosperous country.

Furthermore safety plans need to recognise the reality that, as data from the National Income Dynamics Surveys show, the majority children (57%) in South Africa do not live with their fathers, and only 40% of fathers contribute towards the cost of their upbringing.[8] What this means is that when we think about transport routes, location of health and educational services, ECD centres, after school care and the opening hours of service providers we need to consider how these meet the needs of single, working parents. We also need to ask whether community policing forums are the right forums for discussing primary interventions to decrease violence, as the knowledge about such programmes is unlikely to be found here.

Chandré Gould is a senior research fellow at the Governance, Crime and Justice Division of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). A slightly revised version of this article has also been published on the ISS website (www.issafrica.org)

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BE INSPIRED

ZERO TOLERANCE VILLAGE ALLIANCE

In a nutshell

The Zero Tolerance Village Alliance focuses on sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse and HIV/AIDS-based stigma. It is based on a holistic approach to the eradication of gender & child based crime, this strategy targets all elements of "hot-spot" villages, to ensure that everyone in the community is empowered on their rights and responsibilities.

What we do

The Zero Tolerance Village Alliance is an alliance of villages that have taken full ownership of the social ills that beset their communities, specifically relating to sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse and HIV/AIDS-based stigma, and have pledged not to tolerate incidents of such nature occurring in their villages. It was developed in response to the fact that knowing one's rights does not necessarily translate to the claiming of those rights. One of the primary reasons for women to stay in abusive relationships, for example, is evidently the sense of isolation and failure and the fear of negative responses from their family and peers.

To address this, a project was developed that would holistically incorporate all sectors of the community, so as to create "safe villages" in which victims of abuse would have the confidence and agency to take assertive and remedial action, knowing that they will be supported. Villages wanting to join the alliance have to meet a list of criteria, with guidance, technical assistance and resources initially provided by TVEP.

Forming part of the criteria is the requirement that a minimum of 1,200 men and women must participate in TVEP's 4-day rights bases workshops, covering sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and HIV&AIDS. Over-arching all these workshops is the principle of accountability monitoring – thus participants do not only learn their rights, they are encouraged to take responsibility for ensuring that such rights are realised, and to act appropriately against any person or service point that may be denying them those rights.

The intervention culminates in a ceremony at which the village is awarded ZTVA status and the men – led by their Traditional, Church and Civic Leaders - take a public pledge, in the presence of a magistrate, not to tolerate any form of violence against women or children, or the stigmatisation of PLWHA, in their communities. Subsequently they are awarded a "badge of honour" and sign a "roll of honour", from which they can be publically struck off as a "name and shame" gesture; the hypothesis being that women and children witnessing the pledge-taking will feel sufficiently confident to report any incidents of abuse to which they may have been, or are being, subjected.

TVEP's database, in which all incidents of abuse reported to them are recorded, is used to identify villages in most need of assistance. After the initial "ground breaking", villagers elect a Stakeholder Forum which will take responsibility for driving the project. This forum consists of traditional, church, civic, educational and other community leaders, and critical to the sustainability of the project is their willingness to take ownership of it; "buy-in" infers granting permission for the project to be implemented in their village by someone else, which is not acceptable.

How we do it

The programme's methodology incorporates lessons learned over 8 years of piloting the ZTVA project, during which various approaches were tested. TVEP first tried to implement the ZTVA strategy in 8 villages with high domestic violence and sexual assault incidents and prevalence that had been identified through their database. This proved to be an unrealistic number for piloting, and subsequently a partnership was entered into with the Population Council and Raising Voices, which ended in October 2011. Subsequently the intervention was externally evaluated and found to effect positive changes in behaviour. A copy of the evaluation is available on TVEP's website.

To ensure sustainability and full ownership, community members in the respective villages are involved and participate in the planning and implementation of the intervention. Past experience revealed that "buy-in" is insufficient, as it is then considered to be a TVEP project which has simply been endorsed by the village leaders, when in actual fact, the ZTVA is a community driven project aimed at addressing problems identified by the community in their own respective localities.

What we have achieved

Four Vhembe villages are currently members of the Alliance, with many others waiting for resources to become available. One of Venda's paramount chiefs has asked for the project to be implemented in all 70 of his villages, and the District Dept. of Social Development has facilitated funding for local CBOs to be trained in the methodology.

A partner has submitted a proposal for the model to be implemented in 12 villages in the Eastern Cape, and recently a member of the Provincial Legislature recommended at a symposium on SGBV that the model should be rolled out "country wide". In 2013 TVEP were invited to present on the model at the SVRI conference in Thailand, and next year TVEP's training team will capacitate an NGO in Uganda, for roll out of the model in refugee settings.

What we have learned

- "Buy-in" is not sustainable; villages must take full ownership of the project;
- The biggest challenge we face lies in building agency amongst women raised in patriarchal settings so that they may claim their rights;
- Service delivery will not improve until the average citizen has the agency and capacity to hold providers accountable to their delivery mandates in an efficient, non-violent manner.

Project resources

- Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (Guide/Toolkit)
- Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (Infographic)

▷ Find them on SaferSpaces

Related project

Consciousness Raising Programme
Project Empower | KwaZulu-Natal

The Consciousness Raising Programme empowers women from disadvantaged communities in KwaZulu-Natal to develop their own solutions to the problems they are confronting – many relating to domestic and gender-based violence. The programme facilitates joint learning groups and capacitates women to engage with relevant stakeholders from their communities, local police and government.

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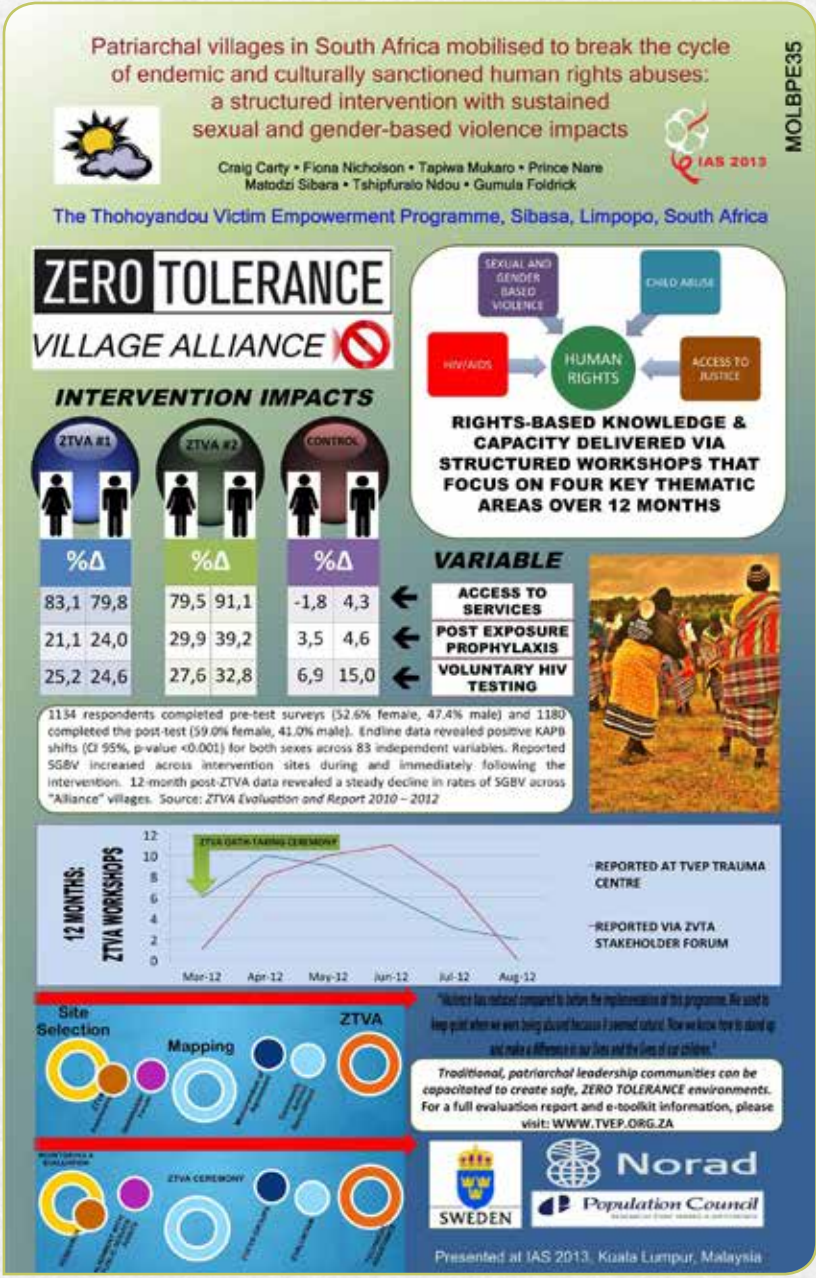
BE INSPIRED

FAMILY PRESERVATION PROJECT

In a nutshell

Strengthening the family unit and, in particular, providing support to young parents, have made a real difference in two Cape Town suburbs, where poverty, gangs and violence are features of everyday life.

What we do

A social development think-tank, the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP), is tallying the lessons learned over the nearly five years in which they have piloted their Family Preservation Project in the Cape Town communities of Wesbank and Belhar. The project is unique in South Africa, where very little research and few interventions have been done into the risk factors that contribute towards determining a young person's vulnerability to becoming involved in crime. The project is a collaboration between the CJCP and the Western Cape Department of Social Development, which has funded the pilot project. Community members, schools and project staff are also partners in the project.

Belhar and Wesbank have high levels of poverty and unemployment, gang violence, substance abuse and child abuse and neglect. Both communities are remote from parts of the city where social and economic opportunities are concentrated. Wesbank is a post-apartheid neighbourhood established in 1999 with a diverse, low-income community of residents. While the quality of infrastructure in the area is good, the settlement is far from economic opportunities. There are few community facilities with no police station, day hospital or library. Belhar is different, with more community facilities, more middle-class residents and a longer history. It also has a substantial number of households negatively affected by poverty and unemployment, crime and violence.

How we do it

There are no quick fixes,' says project social worker Anthea Davids.

The interventions are designed to 'preserve' and build family structure so that young people have the support they need to finish school and progress on a path to adulthood and a future of opportunity. To do this, the programme has developed a multi-pronged approach to make the family unit cohesive and strong.

There are two social workers and a 10-person team of male and female family care workers. They interact daily with community members, whom they see as clients. A typical day starts with a staff group session, focussing on priority cases and planning group sessions. Between mid-morning and early afternoon the family care workers carry out home visits. Later support groups take place at schools and the project offices. Group work includes kids clubs, teen clubs, parent support groups, grandparents support groups and more. Some of the groups are gender specific.

Motivating young people to finish matric is one of the project's main aims, as the CJCP's research shows that young people who complete school are less likely to engage in crime. This and other research findings contributed to the development of the CJCP's resilience model, which informed the kind of interventions that the project would pilot. A central aim of the project is to divert youth from participating in crime.

What we have achieved

The project is viewed by the community, its clients and staff as very successful. The interventions have improved the quality of life of participants with quantitative measures of success including reduced teen pregnancies, reduced absenteeism and premature school leaving and reductions in the level of crime and violence. For young people in these communities the project has provided support, entertainment and education, while the staff and family care workers are palpably enthusiastic about their jobs.

A strength of the project is its services for teenage mothers. For example, Jasmeen Koopman was 17, pregnant and had dropped out of school. With the encouragement of home visits and support groups, she completed her schooling and is studying for a nursing diploma.

Providing sexuality training, beginning at primary school, has also made a marked difference. At one local school, Excelsior High, the teen pregnancy rate was zero in 2013 for the first time. Sexuality training focuses on empowering young people. Schools invite the team to engage with learners in Life Orientation classes. Davids says the focus is on providing information needed to make informed choices and not moralising.

The project has a strong focus on young men, with male family care workers facilitating a range of interventions. Bi-weekly support groups for teen fathers are led by care workers who are parents themselves. They emphasise that fathers are part of the family unit, even if they no longer have a relationship with the mother of their child. Relationships between father and child are encouraged, with mothers urged to give access, to reduce the high rate of absentee fathers in the community.

There is also support for early childhood development (ECD). Most ECD centres or community crèches are not formally registered with the state, which is a requirement for facilities with more than six children. They must meet a range of requirements, from having dedicated premises to having a formal programme of activities, safety measures and some formal training. Community crèche owners are helped to meet the requirements of registration, with one now formally registered.

What we have learned

The main challenge confronting the project, its staff and its clients, is the strong presence of gangs. Gangs and the drug trade fill a gap for many young people by providing a sense of community and 'jobs' or a source of income, which may allow a young man to `put food on the table'. In Wesbank, the CJCP's baseline study shows that 28% of household heads were either unemployed and seeking work, or long-time unemployed and not seeking work. In this context gangs provide opportunities that the formal economy does not.

In South Africa, social development services, which are a provincial competence, are often not available and are usually provided by implementing agents drawn from the not-for-profit sector. While community volunteers may be able to provide some of these services going forward, it is unlikely that under-resourced communities will be able to provide all of the skills and infrastructure needed to continue providing the range of professional services that the project has been able to offer. The projects have shown evidence that this social worker-driven intervention delivers for a community, and that they are worthy of public funding and rolling out on a larger scale.

CJCP Resilience Model

RISK FACTOR

RESILIENCE FACTORS

Risk Factors, Interventions and Resilience Building across the spectrum of these interacting groups:

CJCP INTERVENTIONS

Organisation
Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention

Province
Western Cape

Timeframe
2010 to present

Topic(s)
Family / Parenting

Sector(s)
Community

Type(s) of Prevention
Primary prevention, Social prevention

Website
www.cjcp.org.za

Uploaded by
Patrick Burton

Related project

The Seven Passes Initiative
Western Cape

Youth in the Hoekwil/Touwsranten farming district near George in the southern Cape spurred farmers, businesspeople and community members to establish a community-based organisation - the Seven Passes Initiative - to support the education of young people. The organisation offers afterschool homework classes for children and young people in the community of Touwsranten.

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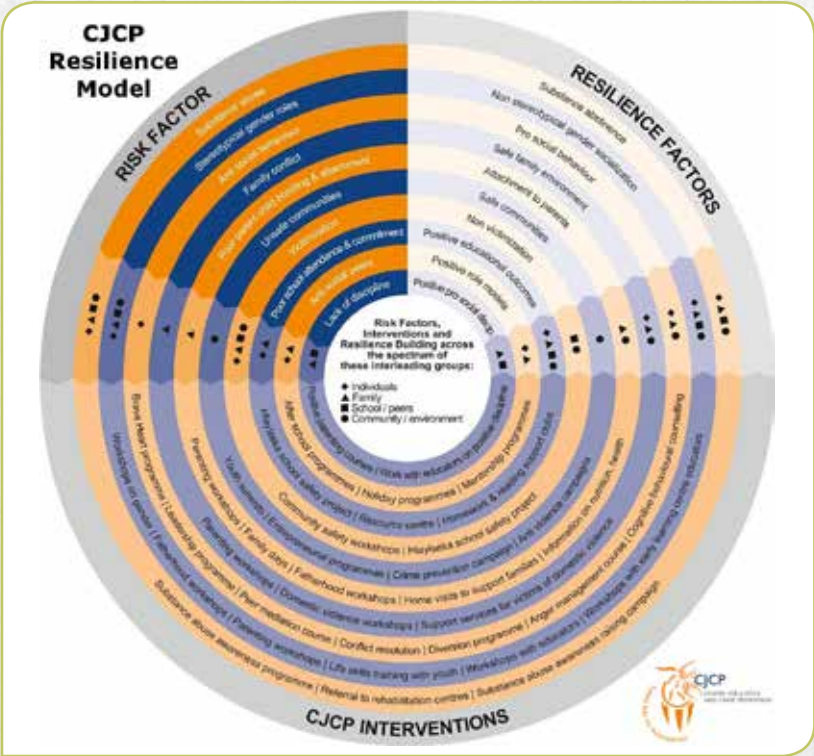
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BLOG

"OUR STREETS MUST BECOME DEMOCRATIC SPACES!" – TRANSFORM OUR CITIES

Topics: Crime prevention through environmental design • Public spaces • Urban safety   **27 Jan 2015**

Luyanda Mpahlwa, born in 1958, is director of DesignSpaceAfrica, an architecture and design firm in Cape Town. Luyanda was one of the first black students to be allowed to study architecture in South Africa. After serving a five-year prison term on Robben Island for his anti-apartheid activism, he went to exile in Berlin and returned to South Africa in 2000. He has been awarded for his contribution and critical thought on innovative technologies and design for social change.

Luyanda is a Cape Town based architect with a strong focus on design for social change

In this interview, Luyanda speaks about urban development in Cape Town and Johannesburg, the need for integrated urban transformation in townships, and why we must revive public street culture to make urban spaces in South Africa safer.

You live and work in Cape Town. To many people Cape Town feels different from other cities in the country – they enjoy its inner-city vibe and feel safe strolling around. Yet Cape Town repeatedly surpasses Johannesburg when it comes to murders per capita.

Of course the vast majority of murders and other violent crimes take place in the townships sprawling across the Cape Flats, out of sight for the more affluent inner-city dwellers.

As a local and an architect, how do you relate to these contrasting realities in Cape Town?

The inner city of Cape Town may be safer than Johannesburg due to the fact that the Cape Town urban fabric has remained 'largely intact and protected' despite the post 1994 changes. The urban fabric in Johannesburg, on the other hand, started its decay prior to 1994, when white capital took a flight to the suburbs such as Sandton or Melrose Arch.

Downtown Johannesburg was then left with absentee landlords, and that's when issues of a collapse in the urban fabric and its dilapidation crept in. The consequence was the collapse of law and order, and public safety became compromised. Today downtown Johannesburg seems to be recovering from these negative urban conditions. Inner-city Cape Town did not experience the same decay.

At the same time, the biggest township Soweto has undergone a major transformation in terms of urban upgrading and clean-up efforts. The township has seen major investments due to its prominence.

"Public space has long been privatised. Real public space is seen as dangerous. We need a change of mind-set towards a better understanding of public space"

Johannesburg is an economic hub which attracts people from all over, including other African countries in search of economic opportunity. Therefore Soweto residents had to become 'entrepreneurial'. This way they have been able to survive the Apartheid economic onslaught. They have since 'moved on and up' the economic ladder by taking ownership of their own destiny and economic development.

However, Soweto has also attracted 'other entrepreneurs from elsewhere' and this becomes another source of conflict with local residents. Townships, therefore, become contested spaces for economic opportunities and this leads to violence.

Although the sprawl of Gauteng townships has also multiplied in the last twenty years, it is very difficult to compare this with the Cape Flats. Completely different urban conditions apply in the Cape Town townships and these have largely remained unchanged since 1994. This is a major difference between these two cities. Yet, the contestation for economic opportunities remains the same in all townships

Despite these realities and the post-1994 changes, South African townships will remain the 'sources of violent and petty crimes' for some time to come due to the density of these areas, inadequate economic opportunities and lack of social and public infrastructure. The majority of the economically deprived population in South Africa reside in these areas and this will not change any time soon.

It was urban development during the apartheid era that enforced spatial segregation and created the townships in the Cape Flats. Twenty years into the new South Africa, they are still largely detached from the rest of the city. Why has urban development so far failed to transform these disadvantaged areas into safer, integrated parts of Cape Town?

In my opinion, urban development has been driven by political imperatives rather than an urban development agenda which is geared at urban transformation! My observations are based on the following:

• The demographics of these townships have not changed since 1994. They are still largely black residential areas which lack economic opportunities, public infrastructure and social amenities.

• The increase in urban sprawl and informal settlements makes policing a worse nightmare and public safety remains compromised.

• The focus on providing large quantities of state-subsidised low cost urban housing rather than creating integrated environments does not contribute to urban transformation.

• Townships offer disproportionately more residential opportunities than economic opportunities. As a result townships continue to be deprived of a viable tax base which would assist in funding urban upgrading. Thus they remain 'dormitory towns' for sleeping only. These places should be integrated into areas to live, work and play.

• Townships remain unsafe areas for investments, situated far from places of work and mainstream economic activity. The only meaningful investments are made in building shopping malls. These, however, promote unproductive economic activity.

• Urban transformation and upgrading in townships has been delegated to NGOs and international donors. The state only provides 'low quality housing' on a massive scale, while public infrastructure like schools, clinics etc do not meet the needs of the densely populated areas.

• The standard of education and technical knowledge remains very low in townships. There is an inadequate development of skills to assist the unemployed to find economic opportunities.

• Townships are located very far from work opportunities. The lack of public transport infrastructure condemns these areas to ever growing poverty. Salaries are spent on unsafe public transport and mini-buses. Admittedly, the recent provision of Rea Vaya buses in Johannesburg and MyCiti Bus in Cape Town will help improve these conditions. However the contestation with the Taxi industry, make public transport a fragile industry, often experiencing violent conflict.

In many South African cities public space is viewed and experienced as being out of control and dangerous. It is dominated by walls, private guards and cameras. Making the city exclu- sive rather than inclusive.

Public life withdraws into the private realm of homes, malls or gated enclaves and public space is abandoned. People from every third household in South Africa avoid going to public spaces or parks for fear of crime in their area.

How do you see the impact of safety concerns on the social fabric of our cities?

In South Africa, public space has long been privatised. Real public space is seen as dangerous and only meant for the poor. What we need is a change of mind-set towards a better understanding of public space.

On the one hand, shopping malls have taken precedent for urban development and have become new urban/public commercial centres. On the other hand, the street culture has been destroyed!

Public areas and pavements in malls are occupied by restaurants. Streets and roads in suburbs and townships are planned without pavements or bike paths. Parks are not maintained properly and perceived as 'unsafe' because they are occupied by the homeless and marginalised. As a result, many parks have now been fenced in and cannot be used.

Urban planning professionals have to put pressure on city authorities to promote public space and develop integrated, accessible and safe urban centres. We need to 'de-privatise' public space and bring back public street life.

As an urban designer, how important are considerations related to safety in your work? What are your ideas for designing and managing urban spaces where people feel safe?

There are various considerations for creating safer spaces. It starts with changing urban development policies to create integrated environments and make public spaces the centre of urban environments.

Some good examples have been realised in the Newtown Precinct and recently the Maboneng Art Precinct both in Johannesburg. The Green Point precinct around the Cape Town Stadium has seen a major upgrade which was part of the 2010 World Cup.

"We need to 'de-privatise' public space and bring back public street life." Initiatives such as Open Streets promote the pedestrian use of urban centres - here on Bree Street in Cape Town, 18 Jan 2015

We need similar approaches in other areas including the townships. Old stereotypes must be changed and integration must be promoted and supported to improve urban quality of life.

It is important that South African cities increase residential opportunities. This will contribute in making safer urban spaces.

"We need safe and well equipped play areas that promote creativity and urban culture."

The public must be educated regarding the value and respect of public space. This includes maintenance and cleanliness as well as consciousness about waste management.

Public spaces must be pedestrianized to exclude cars and focus on non-motorised transport, e.g. bikes. We need safe and well equipped play areas that promote creativity and urban culture, including recreational areas such as skate board parks. Our streets must become democratic spaces!

What is your vision for South Africa's cities 15 years from now?

I hope to see truly integrated city and township environments with vibrant public street life, parks and safer urban spaces and environments. Safer streets and an efficient public transport system, which is supported by a network of buses, taxis and other forms of non-motorised transport including transportation of bicycles from areas located far from workplaces.

Our schools should become centres of promoting environmental awareness and citizens who value and respect public spaces.

Related post

How can we make South African cities safer?
16 Oct 2014 | Siphelele Ngobese | South African Cities Network

Cities are centres of economic growth and innovation across the world. People are increasingly drawn to these urban hubs; often in the hope of finding a better job and affording a better life for themselves and their families.

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BLOG

ENHANCING SAFETY THROUGH UPGRADING: EXPERIENCES FROM CAPE TOWN

27 Jan 2015 | by Mercy Brown-Luthango | African Centre for Cities
Topics: Crime prevention through environmental design • Public spaces • Urban safety

Violence and crime are spatially distributed with violent crime often concentrated in poorer, underdeveloped urban areas - such as this informal settlements in Khayelitsha, Cape Town

Improving safety is a key outcome of the South African policy on upgrading informal settlements. Yet little is known about the impact urban upgrading has on reducing violence in these settlements.

In this article, Mercy Brown-Luthango from the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town shares preliminary findings from a research project that looks at the effectiveness of different urban upgrading approaches with regards to safety.

Safety is an issue which occupies the minds of most South Africans on a daily basis. South Africa is one of the most violent countries in the world with a death rate of 157.8 per 100 000 population which is nearly double the global average of 86.9 per 100 000 population.[1]

Violence and crime are spatially distributed with violent crime often concentrated in poorer, underdeveloped parts of the city. The relationship between violence and the nature and quality of the physical environment is well acknowledged.

Safety needs to be priority of urban upgrading – not a coincidence

A 2010 World Bank research report on violence in cities argues that the physical attributes of poor living environments in the form of inadequate infrastructure and services do not only create opportunities for violence, but can also heighten frustration and a sense of exclusion which might find expression in violent acts.[2]

A 2011 UN Habitat report argues that informal settlement dwellers are more vulnerable to crime and violence and are often the main victims and perpetrators of violent crime.[3] The physical upgrading of informal settlements is proposed as a tool to improve the quality of life of residents and to address growing violence and insecurity in such settlements.

The report further states that violence prevention and improving the safety of informal settlement dwellers should be one of the most important priorities of an upgrading intervention rather than just an "incidental consequence" of upgrading projects.

Yet globally, only very few cities have a coherent and focused violence prevention strategy as part of their urban upgrading programmes. Even in cases where improvements in safety have been observed, this has been an unexpected outcome of the programme.

Assessing the impact of urban settlement upgrading on safety

South African upgrading policy clearly identifies the improvement of health and safety as an important outcome of an upgrading intervention. However, it is not clear whether departments responsible for upgrading of informal settlements systematically monitor the achievement of these outcomes. Little is also known about the impact and effectiveness of different upgrading approaches in terms of improvement of safety.

A study conducted by the African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town is trying to assess the effectiveness of upgrading of informal settlements as a tool to improve safety and to compare the violence reduction and safety outcomes in different types of upgrading projects. Three types of upgrading projects have thus far been studied. These include:

1. An informal settlement in Mitchell's Plain which was upgraded into formal housing, through a roll-over type upgrading, using the People's Housing Process.
2. An informal settlement in Philippi which was upgraded using a re-blocking approach which involved the spatial re-configuration of the site and structures to enable the provision of infrastructure and services like electricity and sanitation.
3. An informal settlement in Khayelitsha, currently undergoing an upgrading process as part of the Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU) programme. The VPUU programme focuses on the improvement of safety through an approach which integrates of situational, social and institutional crime prevention.

What is urban upgrading – and how do residents perceive it?

Upgrading is defined as a process aimed at improving the physical, social, economic, organizational, and environmental conditions of residents through the provision of infrastructure, services and tenure security.

South African upgrading policy advocates a 4-phased approach to upgrading with the first three phases committed to the preparation and delivery of services and infrastructure as well as tenure security. The final phase, which might or might not form part of an upgrading intervention, involves the delivery of formal houses.

As far as residents' perceptions of the improvement in safety after the upgrading intervention is concerned, the ACC study revealed quite interesting results from all three settlements.

In Mitchell's Plain residents felt no real improvement in the levels of violence in their settlement since it has been upgraded. The majority of resident felt unsafe in the settlement due to high levels of gang violence linked to high levels of unemployment and drug abuse.

They felt quite ambiguous about their safety within the home. For some their home provided a refuge from gang violence outside whereas others felt unsafe in their homes due to the poor structural quality of the housing product. Many respondents lamented the loss of neighbourliness and solidarity after the upgrading project, which some attributed to the receipt of the formal house.

> **"You feel protected with your family in the house; you can lock doors properly; no gangster can come into my house, but the physical infrastructure of the house does not make me feel safe."**
> Respondent from Mitchell's Plain

In the re-blocking project in Philippi, respondents generally felt more positive about the improvement in their safety. The re-organisation of the structures into a cluster formation improves visibility and allows neighbours to look out for one another's safety. The provision of fire-resistant building materials helped reduce the risk of fires. The biggest source of unhappiness though is the fact that residents are still waiting for electricity to be delivered.

> **"There is no crime now, because the shacks are no longer congested and you can see your neighbor now. It's safe now, because people watch each other's houses."**
> Respondents from Philippi

Interestingly, unlike in Mitchell's Plain, respondents in Philippi felt that the clustering of the dwellings has actually improved relationships and support amongst neighbours.

In the VPUU project, more than half of the respondents felt that the settlement is safer and attribute this to the provision of electricity. Respondents also felt that there has been some improvement in the safety of children in the settlement and credit VPUU's Early Childhood Development projects and the provision of safe places for children to learn and play as significant in this regard. However, housebreakings and the lack of sanitation which forces many residents to use the surrounding bushes to relieve themselves, contribute greatly to feelings of unsafety amongst respondents.

Safety is multi-dimensional

The described preliminary findings of research into urban upgrading in Mitchell's Plain, Philippi and Khayelitsha clearly show that the provision of infrastructure and services has a significant impact on the informal settlement dwellers' quality of life as well as their experiences and perceptions of safety. However, experiences and perceptions of violence and concerns over safety are very different in these three settlements. These can be ascribed to the broader social and spatial contexts within which these settlements are located, the nature of the upgrading intervention as well as the process of formalisation and its consequences.

While in Mitchell's Plain, much concern was expressed over a perceived increase particularly in gang-related violence after upgrading, the safety concerns in Philippi were much more linked to concerns over environmental hazards. In Khayelitsha, the lack of sanitation facilities which forces residents to make use of the bushes still causes much anxiety over the safety of women and children.

As a whole, the research has shown that safety is multi-dimensional and it is important to take this into consideration when planning upgrading interventions. More research, also in other cities beyond Cape Town, is needed to expand the evidence base regarding the importance of informal settlement upgrading as a safety tool.

Related project

Mainstreaming Urban Safety and Inclusion in South Africa
African Centre for Cities | Western Cape

The project aims to do a systematic analysis of the impact of informal settlement upgrading on the quality of life of informal settlement dwellers post-upgrading with a specific focus on how the nature and extent of violence and violent crime have changed and whether or not there has been an improvement in safety in the settlement.

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

Find this profile online

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BE INSPIRED

SEDIBENG COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

In a nutshell

The Sedibeng Community Safety Forum synchronises community safety initiatives and promotes development of communities by ensuring safer environments and access to high quality services in Sedibeng District. By coordinating efforts and mobilising people and resources towards a common vision, the highly recognized SCSF is developing violence prevention interventions often cited as a model for other municipalities.

What we do

The Sedibeng District Municipality covers much of southern Gauteng. Like much of South Africa, safety and security of residents is a high priority. Sedibeng District Municipality first established the Vaal Inter-sectoral Forum on Safety and Security in 2004, at a time when the district, as much of the country, was experiencing soaring rates of violent crimes. These increasing crime rates drove businesses, clientele, employees, and residents slowly out of the Sedibeng district.

This sparked the municipality to embark on a pro-active strategy to spur economic growth, build investor confidence, and bring a sense of belonging and safety to its citizens. Renamed in 2006, the Sedibeng Community Safety Forum (SCSF) operates within Sedibeng District Municipality's greater vision outlined as the "Vaal Metropolitan River City."

Effective Community Safety Forums are critical for communities experiencing violence. They both help to coordinate efforts for maximum impact, while also debunking ideas that safety and security is the responsibility of law enforcement alone. The Sedibeng Community Safety Forum involves different government departments, business, churches, schools, the elderly, and every other individual belonging to the community, all working toward common goals for community violence prevention. The Forum holds regular meetings, coordinates violence prevention activities, and hosts special events. It is seen as a place not only to react to what is happening, but to share information, identify possible "crime generators," and maximise scarce resources through collaboration.

How we do it

At the heart of Sedibeng Community Safety Forum is the principle of coordination and collaboration, with systems put in place to monitor tasks and keep all involved accountable. Most importantly, each stakeholder maintains active and engaged interest, commitment, and participation in crime prevention.

Cooperative initiatives not only pay attention to law enforcement interventions (such as road blocks, evictions and confiscation) to create safety, but also focus on long-term activities to address root causes of crime. The initiatives

combine the following measures:
- Social and environmental crime prevention (family cohesion, substance demand reduction, youth employment, offender reintegration, installing street lights, cleaning public spaces)
- Victim empowerment (trauma counselling, court preparation)
- Traffic and road safety
- Law enforcement (patrols, stop and search etc.)
- Monitoring service delivery (by actors from all three spheres of government using the Inter-governmental Relations Framework)

Community safety forums are found across the country. Some are more effective than others, and in some cases forums flounder without having the desired impact. Several factors can be highlighted that contribute to the Sedibeng CSF's success in addressing violence prevention:
- Provide enabling environment: Sedibeng District Municipality has taken a stand to provide an enabling environment for relevant stakeholders to participate in the promotion of a safe and secure region. The work of the CSF is part of a commitment to consistently build on progress made towards fighting crime, which also includes the Community Policing Forums and Law Enforcement Services.
- Operates at policy and oper-

ational level: The CSF takes a leading role in developing and implementing policy at the local level, which is aligned with national and provincial policies. However, the forum also works at the grassroots hosting road shows, working in schools, helping families.
- Regular meetings: Stakeholders in the CSF come together, plan together, and provide funds to help support different initiatives. They also ensure that they meet on a regular basis once per month.
- Sharing the load: Work is divided amongst the stakeholders so they all take on aspects of ongoing or special activities. Each stakeholder reports on their work at monthly meetings, with each usually tackling 2 or 3 key initiatives in a year.
- Putting plans on paper: Each year the group usually develops a memorandum of understanding with each stakeholder outlining participation. While this is not legally binding, it provides a common understanding and encourages delivery and accountability.

What we have learned

Narrow understanding of crime prevention

Many people, in partner agencies and the community, do not understand the concept of social crime prevention. Crime prevention is

thought of as being about police, fire departments and rescue services.

This presents a challenge when beginning to engage the municipality and community on a more holistic approach in that social crime prevention has not been included in plans or budgeted. To develop this understanding, the municipality engages with leaders and works to promote concepts of social crime prevention.

Need to promote responsibility

Since crime prevention is thought of as using or having access to police, fire-fighters and rescue services to curb crime and dangerous situations – all of which do not involve community members – there is a general perception that crime prevention is the responsibility of the Police only.

SCSF educates communities against the negative implications of this notion, promoting the idea that safety and security is everyone's responsibility.

Lack of resources

Sedibeng Community Safety Forum operates from existing municipal budgets, and has no budgetary allocation of its own.

To continue to work effectively, each stakeholder pitches in with resources and leverages their own ongoing activities to contribute to the common goal of safety.

Project resources

- Sedibeng Community Safety Strategy 2013-2017 (Policy\Legislation)
- Presentation - Establishment of CSFS in Sedibeng region (Advocacy)
- Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desks- July 2013 (Advocacy)

▷ Find them on SaferSpaces

Related project

Building municipal skills for community safety planning

Joint initiative | Eastern Cape, Gauteng

The Building Municipal Skills for Community Safety Project was initiated in 2014 by the GIZ Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme with various partners with the aim of strengthening the institutional capacities of municipalities to contribute to building safer communities through participatory, evidence-based community safety planning processes.

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

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BLOG

LEARNING FROM MEDELLIN:
A SUCCESS STORY OF HOLISTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

27 Jan 2015 | Gabriela Aguinaga
Topics: Crime prevention through environmental design · Prevention concepts · Public spaces · Safety planning · Urban safety

*O*nce known as one of the most violent cities in the world, Medellin in Colombia achieved an astonishing reduction in violence and crime over the past ten years.

In this article, Gabriela Aguinaga sheds light on the reasons behind this successful violence prevention. Gabriela finished her studies of Political and Administrative Sciences at the University of Konstanz and currently interns at the GIZ Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme.

Urban violence is a growing concern for many cities across the world, particularly for those located in the global South. In Latin America and Africa, urban violence in some cities has reached alarming levels, posing serious challenges for the inhabitants' safety and for the cities' economic and social development.

Governments around the globe often tend to regard violence mainly as a security concern and have predominantly focused on strengthening the police and law enforcement. This hard-line (or 'mano dura') approach, however, has failed on its own to provide a sustainable solution to high rates of violence and crime.

"Within a few years, Medellin cut its homicide rate by 90% - the most significant decrease in its history."

This led to an increasing consensus among policymakers that violence needs to be tackled holistically, taking into account its social and economic root causes.[2]

Recent research into the safety policies of the city of Medellin, the second largest city of Colombia, has shown that a combination of both approaches - effective law enforcement as well as socio-economic policies - can be very successful in reducing high rates of violence and crime states.[3]

Medellin: a success story

In the 1990s, Medellin was widely known as one of the most violent cities in the world. Scenes of armed confrontation belonged to everyday life and death rates were comparable to a civil war.

The city had experienced a similar pattern than other violent cities of the South: a massive unplanned urban growth added to poor planning and weak governance led to the emergence of informal settlements that became no-go areas

and were completely neglected by the state.

This favoured the establishment of ungoverned spaces, which became an ideal environment for drug cartels and other paramilitary groups. Violent confrontations with the police and between the different armed factions became the order of the day.

The dismantlement of the drug cartels and the pacification policy with the guerrillas and paramilitaries during 1993 to 2003, did not put an end to violence, exposing that the problem was structural and deeply rooted in society. Repressive policies had shown to be ineffective or even counterproductive and it became evident that another approach was needed.

Sergio Fajardo, an independent mathematics professor whose 2004-2008 term as mayor of Medellin was strongly supported by the business elites and civil society, recognised this. He made his formula against violence and insecurity the linchpin of his term of office: "Medellin, the most educated city" and "The most beautiful things for the poor".

"The case of Medellin shows that a holistic response to violence and crime that combines law enforcement policies as well as social and economic policies can be effective in reducing violence and crime."

In fact, Fajardo and his administration designed a comprehensive policy aimed at tackling the root causes of violence but without overlooking the importance of strengthening the police and the law enforcement. The strategy focused on six main aspects:

1. Implementing pacification and community policing
2. Improving access to good basic services by marginalized communities.
3. Changing the built environment and the spatial segregation of the city.

Escalators assisting those living up the hills of Medellin to have easy access to the city centre - contributing to a more inclusive city for all citizens.

4. Addressing youth unemployment and youth-at-risk
5. Promoting social capital and cohesion within the city.
6. Improving urban governance for security.

This holistic strategy proved to be very successful. Within a few years, Medellin cut its homicide rate by 90% - the most significant decrease in its history - turning from the city with the worldwide highest murder rate with over 350 homicides per 100.000 inhabitants in 1991 to 52 per 100.000 inhabitants in 2012. Consequently, Medellin has been hailed as a model case for other violent cities in the world.

What were the main success factors in Medellin?

The case of Medellin shows that a holistic response to violence and crime that combines law enforcement policies as well as social and economic policies can be effective.

On the one hand, an increased community presence of the police went hand in hand with a more rigorously enforced justice system that focused very much on the re-

gaining of the institutions' legitimacy in the communities, thus re-establishing the rule of law in the problem areas.

On the other hand, socioeconomic policies were introduced that addressed the root causes of violence and aimed at what Farjado called 'paying back the historical debt' of the city with disadvantaged communities which had been historically deprived of any public services or investments.

One of the most innovative measures concerned the upgrading of marginalized neighbourhoods and connecting them to the more affluent parts, thus creating spaces for social interaction.

For example, so-called 'library parks' were built that serve as meeting and recreation points for the communities and the new 'Metro Cable' transport system connects the remote marginalized communities with the city centre.

The commitment of the main political and social actors in the city to work together in implementing the new policies proved to be crucial for their success. Participation and coordination between the main actors in the city - civil society, communities, national and local governments and business elites was essential.

The most important role was played by economic elites and civil society organizations, which supported Sergio Fajardo who could integrate the interests of both sides:

Economic elites acknowledged that Medellin had become a more service sector based economy and the bad image of the city was discouraging investments. Therefore,

they were interested in the implementation of a city-branding campaign, which became an important part of Sergio Fajardo's strategy.

But Fajardo's strategy went much further, implementing the civil society's demands for a real change in the city's structure in a way that benefited and integrated the previously marginalized communities. Fajardo strongly committed to the participation of civil society actors, who were not only involved in the discussions but were also integrated in the institutions in the sector of citizens' security.

Medellin Metro Cable transport system, connecting remote marginalised areas with the city centre.

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STATS & FIGURES

SAFERSPACES IN A YEAR: JULY 2014 – JULY 2015 (STATS AS OF 7 AUGUST 2015)

By the numbers
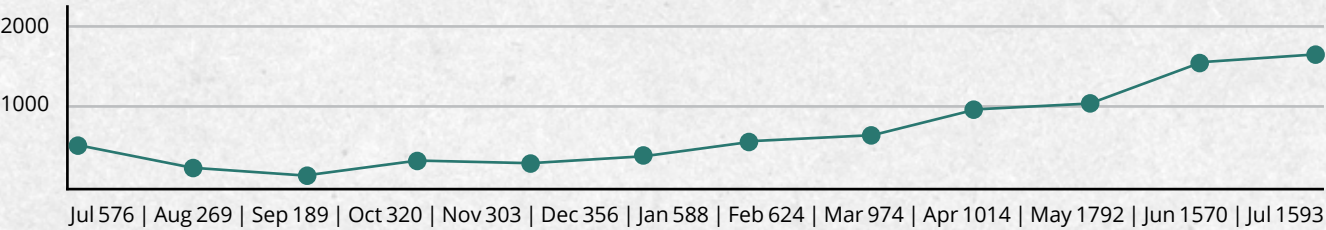
94	46	33	29	95	9,837	51,591
Registered members	Registered organisations	Showcased projects	Blog posts	Resources	Site users	Pageviews

Which were the most viewed site sections?

Be Inspired	2,468
Connect	1,716
Blog	1,375
Understand	1,113
Resources	820
Events	463
Learn How	332

Flow of users per month

Jul 576 | Aug 269 | Sep 189 | Oct 320 | Nov 303 | Dec 356 | Jan 588 | Feb 624 | Mar 974 | Apr 1014 | May 1792 | Jun 1570 | Jul 1593

### What were the favourite pages?

1) Be Inspired | Project: Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desks (Gauteng Department of Community Safety)
2) Understand: Public spaces: More than 'just space'
3) Be Inspired | Project: A Safer South Africa for Women and Children (UNFPA South Africa)
4) Understand: How does policy respond to violence and crime in South Africa?
5) Event: International Dialogue On Citizen Safety
6) Be Inspired | Project: CWP – Social-Health-Education Initiative (Seriti Institute)
7) Blog: Learning from Medellin – A success story of holistic violence prevention
8) Learn How: Building Safer Communities – A toolkit for participatory safety planning
9) Be Inspired | Project: Soul Buddyz Alcohol Free Initiative (Soul City Institute)
10) Blog: "Our streets must become democratic spaces (Interview with Luyanda Mpahlwa)

How do users browse through SaferSpaces?

5% Tablet
20% Cell phone
75% Desktop
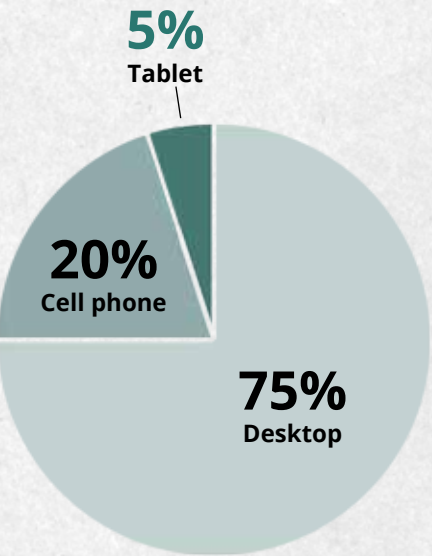
Twitter
@safer_spaces

Tweets: 265

Following: 325

Followers: 163

Most popular tweet

Understand | #PublicSpaces help cities promote more inclusive & safer cities bit.ly/1KjOPtR @PPS_Placemaking

Facebook
www.facebook.com/saferspaces.sa

Likes: 281

Most popular post

"In my opinion, urban development has been driven by political imperatives rather than an urban development agenda which is geared at urban transformation!"

In this interview, Cape Town based architect and urban designer Luyanda Mpahlwa speaks about urban development in Cape Town and Johannesburg, the need for integrated urban transformation in townships, and why we must revive public street culture to make urban spaces in South Africa safer.

"Our streets need to become democratic spaces"

CONNECT

SaferSpaces connects practitioners from various sectors working towards violence prevention and community safety in South Africa. It promotes the networking and sharing of knowledge amongst this community of practitioners.
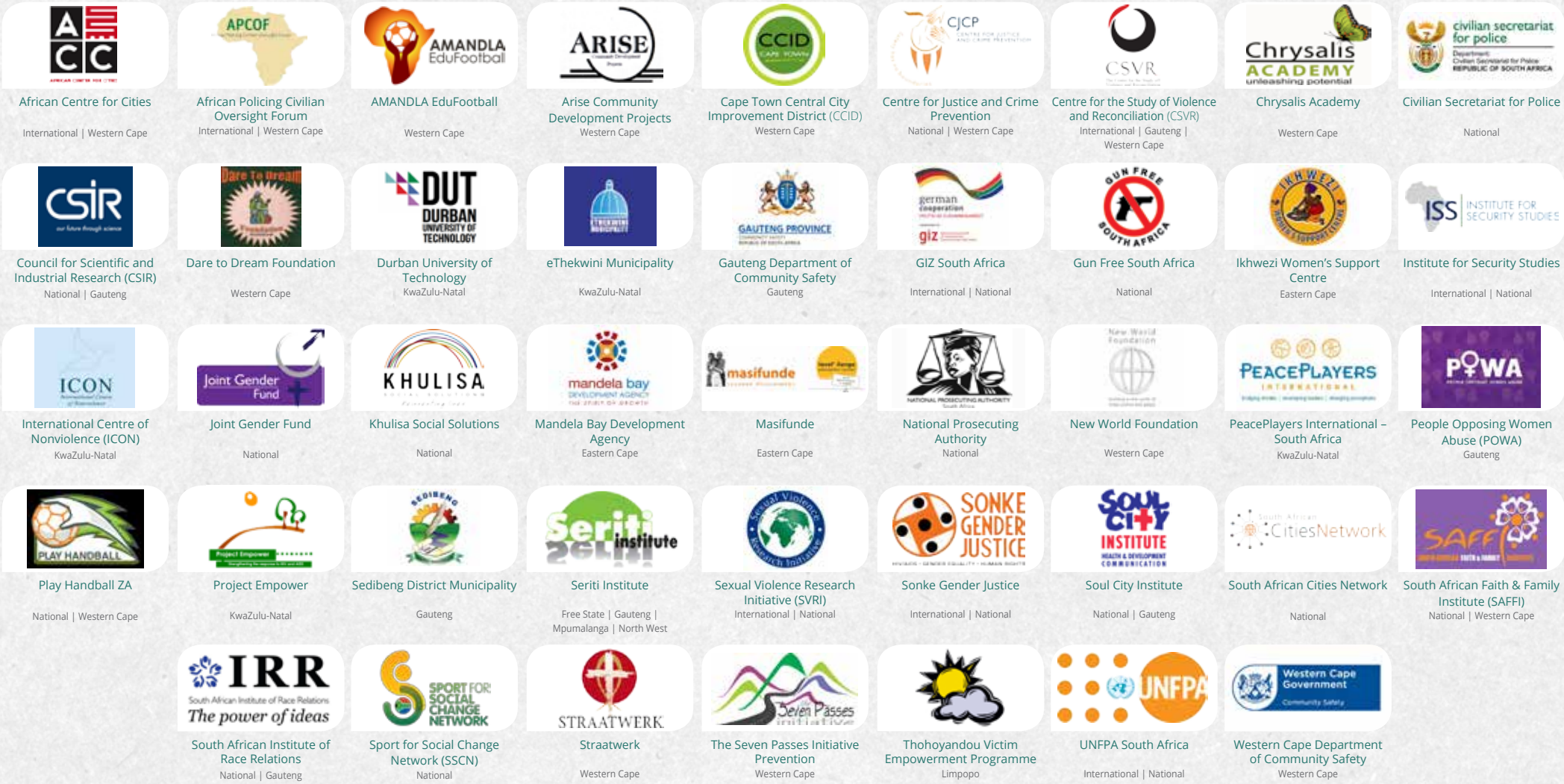
As a practitioner, you can easily register for free and start using the user-friendly member dashboard to share resources, announce events, showcase your projects and organisation or profile research projects. Furthermore, you can contribute by writing blog posts about safety-related topics or hosting a thematic page.

Be Inspired ▶

Over 30 projects and initiatives promoting safer communities across South Africa are already profiled on SaferSpaces.

Practitioners can showcase their own projects, share experiences and resources with others. To view all projects, visit:
www.saferspaces.org.za/be-inspired

Community of Practitioners ▼

More than 90 practitioners and 40 organisations from government, civil society and academia working towards violence prevention and community safety are already registered on SaferSpaces.

Are you a practitioner? Join the community and start showcasing your work, sharing your knowledge and connecting with others.
Visit www.saferspaces.org.za/connect

Zero Tolerance Village Alliance — Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme

Sedibeng Community Safety Forum — Sedibeng District Municipality

Gauteng Youth Crime Prevention Desks — Gauteng Department of Community Safety

Primary School, Leadership and Professional Development Programme — PeacePlayers International

Family Preservation Project — Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention

Safety and Peace through Urban Upgrading — Mandela Bay Development Agency

Youth for Safer Communities — Masifunde

African Centre for Cities — International | Western Cape
African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum — International | Western Cape
AMANDLA EduFootball — Western Cape
Arise Community Development Projects — Western Cape
Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID) — Western Cape
Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention — National | Western Cape
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) — International | Gauteng | Western Cape
Chrysalis Academy — Western Cape
Civilian Secretariat for Police — National

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) — National | Gauteng
Dare to Dream Foundation — Western Cape
Durban University of Technology — KwaZulu-Natal
eThekwini Municipality — KwaZulu-Natal
Gauteng Department of Community Safety — Gauteng
GIZ South Africa — International | National
Gun Free South Africa — National
Ikhwezi Women's Support Centre — Eastern Cape
Institute for Security Studies — International | National

International Centre of Nonviolence (ICON) — KwaZulu-Natal
Joint Gender Fund — National
Khulisa Social Solutions — National
Mandela Bay Development Agency — Eastern Cape
Masifunde — Eastern Cape
National Prosecuting Authority — National
New World Foundation — Western Cape
PeacePlayers International – South Africa — KwaZulu-Natal
People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) — Gauteng

Play Handball ZA — National | Western Cape
Project Empower — KwaZulu-Natal
Sedibeng District Municipality — Gauteng
Seriti Institute — Free State | Gauteng | Mpumalanga | North West
Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) — International | National
Sonke Gender Justice — International | National
Soul City Institute — National | Gauteng
South African Cities Network — National
South African Faith & Family Institute (SAFFI) — National | Western Cape

South African Institute of Race Relations — National | Gauteng
Sport for Social Change Network (SSCN) — National
Straatwerk — Western Cape
The Seven Passes Initiative Prevention — Western Cape
Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme — Limpopo
UNFPA South Africa — International | National
Western Cape Department of Community Safety — Western Cape

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