saferspaces

working together for a safer South Africa

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Gazette 2017/18

Many who live with violence day in and day out assume that it is an intrinsic part of the human condition. But this is not so. 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

EDITORIAL

The 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security advocates for an integrated approach to the prevention of crime and violence. It recognizes that the reactive nature of a criminal justice approach needs to be complemented by long-term developmental strategies, which aim at a) reducing incidents of people in conflict with the law, and b) increasing levels of safety in communities across South Africa.

The strategies must be knowledge-based, and they require the participation of government, communities and the citizens of this country. Further, the strategies must protect the most vulnerable in our society. In 2017, we were once again faced with the scourge of violence against women and children in South Africa – this continues to be a major challenge for the country. The *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign*, highlights the need for all of us to join hands in eradicating violence in our society.

SaferSpaces is envisioned to serve as a key support mechanism for the implementation of the 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security, which advocates an integrated approach to violence and crime prevention, informed by a sound knowledge base and active community participation.

In May 2017, the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS) assumed the responsibility for managing SaferSpaces with the support and guidance from a cross-sectoral Advisory Group. The Advisory Group is a core group of government departments and non-governmental institutions that are committed to strategically promote, contribute to and guide SaferSpaces.

SaferSpaces is an online portal for safety and violence prevention practitioners, working towards violence prevention and community safety in South Africa, where they can find safety related information and resources, showcase their work, share information, connect with and learn from each other.

This Gazette provides an overview of innovative interventions implemented by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), institutions and government aimed at preventing crime and violence. It also includes blogs from practitioners in the field of safety and security. If you are practitioner, I encourage you to join the SaferSpaces community and start sharing your knowledge with others. South Africa will prosper under safer communities.

Let's work together for a safer South Africa!

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Civilian Secretariat for Police Service

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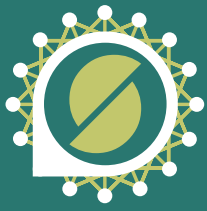*Institute for Safety Governance and Criminology*

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WHAT IS SAFERSPACES?

Building safer communities in South Africa is a collective responsibility of both the state and its citizens. It requires an integrated approach that brings together government, civil society, academia and business. And it needs to be informed by a sound knowledge base.

SaferSpaces is an online knowledge source for practitioners, government officials, academics, journalists and ordinary people that are working towards community safety and violence prevention in South Africa. It aims to become:

saferspaces
working together for a safer South Africa
www.saferspaces.org.za

1 South Africa's key knowledge hub on community safety and violence prevention

2 A central networking hub for practitioners to register, share knowledge and connect

3 An effective support to South Africa's community safety and violence prevention agenda

FIND THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

Most of the information on SaferSpaces is user-generated: It's provided by practitioners and organisations registered on the site.

UNDERSTAND
Learn more about violence prevention and safety.

BE INSPIRED
Discover projects that prevent violence and promote safer communities.

LEARN HOW
Find tools and manuals for planning safety initiatives.

RESOURCES
Browse safety-related publications, articles, videos and more.

BLOG
Read about safety-related insights, news and developments.

EVENTS
Find out about safety-related public events across South Africa.

REGISTER & SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

CONNECT
Are you a practitioner working towards community safety or violence prevention in South Africa, maybe for an NGO, a think tank or government? Then register on SaferSpaces and start sharing your knowledge so that other practitioners can learn from and connect with you.

For a list of organizations that are already registered and contributing to SaferSpaces, have a look at the back page of this Gazette.

CONTRIBUTE
Once you have registered, SaferSpaces provides an easy platform to share your knowledge.

- **Share resources** such as publications, reports, articles or research findings.
- **Profile projects** and share methods, experiences and recommendations with others.
- **Announce events** that are public and safety-related, such as conferences or seminars.
- **Write blog posts** or **thematic introductions** about your areas of expertise within violence prevention.
- **Profile research** projects on violence prevention in South Africa and share insights.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA!
www.saferspaces.org.za

UNDERSTAND

What causes violence and criminal behaviour? How can we prevent it and contribute to safer communities? SaferSpaces offers introductions to concepts and topics relevant to the understanding and prevention of violence and crime.

URBAN SAFETY IN SOUTH AFRICA

urban safety reference group

This introductory text was kindly prepared by the Urban Safety Reference Group.

Introduction

More than half of the world's population live in urban areas, and, by 2030, two-thirds of the population will be urban dwellers. Although cities represent the promise of opportunities for people from all walks of life, at the same time, they are where crime and violence are concentrated. This stems from factors such as extreme inequality, unemployment, inadequate services and health provisions, social exclusion and overcrowding. Urban safety is a key component for realising livable, productive, inclusive and sustainable cities, and therefore, must be prioritized.

Addressing the social, economic, spatial and political drivers of violence and crime requires integrated approaches that go beyond conventional security and policing. Resource allocation is essential to the success of such approaches, and so a greater focus is needed on how the fiscal set-up can and should enable safety. Targeted interventions should be supported by consistent, long-term urban safety policies that are comprehensive, cross-sectoral and set out the competencies, responsibilities and accountability of local governments, as well as other spheres of government and other role-players such as civil society.

Background and concepts

Crime and violence manifest in various forms and are primarily driven by socioeconomic factors. Crime and violence affect the psycho-social wellbeing and physical safety of citizens and have a negative impact on the productivity and sustainability of urban environments. Crime and violence also erode the democratic rights and constitutional integrity of cities, particularly in regard to freedom of movement and access to public spaces. Further, the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) frames the importance of urban safety – Goal 11, in particular – namely as cities being engines of development, and therefore need to be inclusive, safe with emphasis on public space and participatory governance (inclusive particularly of vulnerable groups).

Institutional, fiscal and social interventions are needed to ensure that South African cities meet their developmental potential. These need to be part of an integrated preventive approach, which rests on a clear and common understanding of roles and responsibilities, and the requisite intergovernmental and cross-departmental relations. In practice, the integrated approach underscores social crime prevention, i.e. interventions and programmes that emphasise prevention alongside conventional law enforcement and policing, with a focus on vulnerable groups and targeting risky behaviours early on.

Social crime prevention, as a long-term approach, deals with the root causes of crime and violence that are often embedded in social attitudes. For example, a global safer cities initiative in 2012 found that 92% of women in New Delhi experienced some form of sexual violence in public spaces during their lifetime (UN Women, 2013). It also found that, in Kigali, women are reluctant to participate in activities outside the home for fear of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence. Thus interventions need to target the root of the problem and encompass early childhood education, gender equality sensitization among youth and adolescents, as well as raising awareness around freedom of movement and the right of all to public space.

The concept of urban safety goes beyond the safety of persons, the integrity of investments and the sustainability of urban development – it invokes freedom of movement and access to public spaces, and unfettered participation in school, public life, and income-generating activities.

Why Urban Safety Matters

Urban safety is recognised globally as an essential ingredient of urban development. According to UN-Habitat, 60% of all urban residents in developing countries have been victims of crime at least once over the past five years – 70% of these residents live in Latin America and Africa. Urbanisation is typically accompanied by increased crime and violence, the proliferation of weapons, substance abuse and mass youth unemployment. These crime levels and feelings of insecurity hamper the social and economic development of cities. Thus the prevention of violence and crime is recognised internationally as a key feature of sound urban safety strategies.

There is a growing understanding both globally and in South Africa, that cities are central in advancing urban safety. Because cities experience higher rates of crime than semi-urban and rural areas, safety challenges impose severe limitations to their growth and development, as well as quality of life of residents. In South Africa, uneven spatial distribution of safety affects the overall inclusivity, efficiency and functioning of cities. Further, as a result of poor planning, an exclusionary spatial form and socioeconomic factors, low-income areas, such as townships and informal settlements, suffer from especially low levels of safety.

Research by the Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) in 2014/15 revealed the impact of socioeconomic drivers on levels of safety and crime, as well as the impact of perceptions of crime on the growth, development and the liveability of cities. The research also found a relationship between the fear of crime and movement. The USRG's 2016 research into citizen perceptions in crime hotspots within 3 cities reinforced this correlation. Read together, the studies speak to a diminished quality of life as a result of high crime and violence levels in cities. They suggest the need for urban planning, design and infrastructure development that emphasises safety. In

particular, as cities move towards eco and non-motorised mobility, they will need to consider how their violence and crime prevention strategies can be aligned with safety issues associated with these forms of mobility.

Safety in South African cities

Over the last 10 years, South Africa's crime and safety trends have been mixed. Murder rates have declined considerably – by about 20% over the decade (2005/06–2014/15). This is a good sign, as the recorded murder figures are believed to be a good reflection of reality, and murder is considered a broad but reasonable proxy for crime, violence and safety in general.

However, in recent years, the downward trend has begun to reverse, increasing by 9% between 2011/12 and 2014/15. This pattern of a long decline that then slowed or reversed slightly in the last two or three years, is found for a number of other types of crime:

- Public/street robbery: decreased by a total of 27% over the decade, but up by 24% since 2011/2012.
- Common robbery – down by about 35% over the decade, but by only 1% since 2011/2012.
- Carjacking – down by about 12% over the decade, but up by 29% since 2011/2012.
- Burglary at residential premises – down by about 15% over the decade, but by only 1.3% since 2011/2012.
- Theft of motor vehicles and motorcycles – down by about 43% over the decade, and down by 11% since 2011/2012.

Crime Hotspots Survey

The USRG conducted the Crime Hotspots Survey in three cities. The findings are published in the State of Urban Safety in South Africa 2017 Report.

Aerial view of Alexandra, Johannesburg

Indicators for measuring urban safety

Nine major municipalities are home to 38% of South Africa's population but experience a disproportionate proportion of crimes reported nationally. The nine municipalities are the City of Johannesburg, City of Cape Town, eThekwini, Ekurhuleni, City of Tshwane, Nelson Mandela Bay, Mangaung, Buffalo City and Msunduzi. According to the official statistics, 78% of all carjackings, 58% of all house robberies, 51% of all common assaults and 47% of all murders occur in these nine municipalities. The exception to the rule is, unsurprisingly, stock theft.

This imbalance may be because of reporting factors (e.g. longer distances to the nearest police station may discourage reporting in rural areas), but other factors make it likely that, in reality, these crimes are more prevalent in certain urban environments. This means that crime in South Africa as a whole can be disproportionately reduced through focusing specifically on the larger urban areas.

Factors influencing crime and violence in South African cities

Research has found that many factors can have a bearing on urban crime and safety. One way to conceptualise these factors is as an "onion" of three interlinked tiers that have strong conceptual and practical interconnections.

Inner tier: conditions of crime and violence

The inner tier, "conditions of crime and violence" includes both crime and violence statistics and people's perceptions of their safety. The second tier refers to social/structural factors that might increase condi-
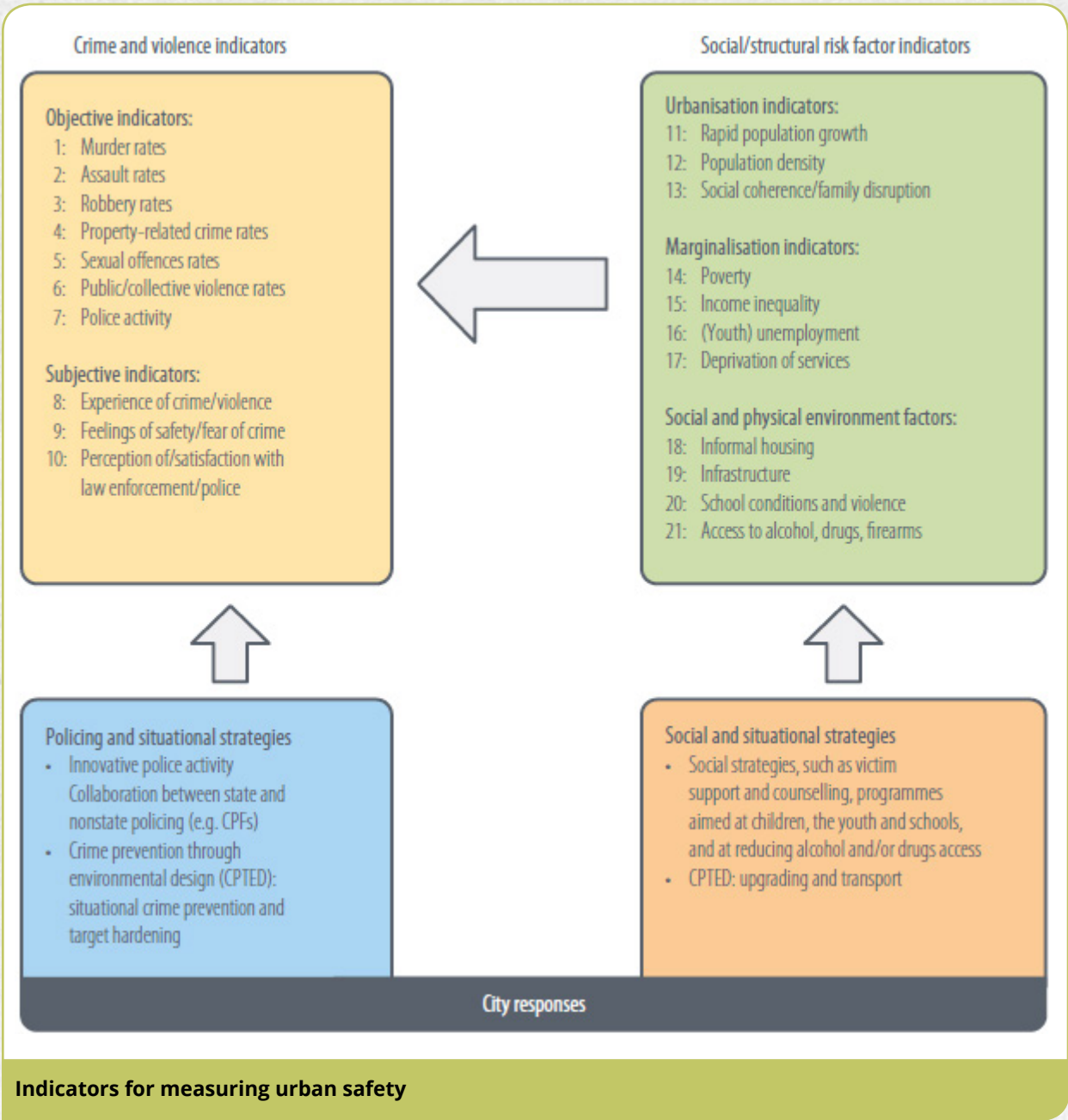
tions of crime and violence. The third tier covers existing and potential policing, crime and violence prevention programmes, which cannot be measured quantitatively; instead a qualitative assessment is done over time to evaluate the effects of the programmes.

Based on an extensive literature review, 21 proposed indicators were identified, grouped into the two inner tiers, in order to standardize the description and measurement of urban safety in South African cities. These indicators, when adapted to take into account each city's unique context, can provide the basis of comparison, assessment and planning. For some of the indicators, the data exists and is available at municipal level, but for others additional research is required to make them useful and comparable.

The data should be compiled at a city level as well as for each police precinct within each city. In this way, the differences within each city – the "hotspots" that contribute disproportionately to crime figures – can be highlighted. Furthermore, some of the indicators require measurement along other dimensions such as gender, age or nationality. This dataset will need to be developed progressively over time.

Second tier: social / structural risk factors

Crime and violence factors exist within a range of social structures and interact with them. Deciding which of these structures to focus on as indicators and possible drivers of urban insecurity depends on the theoretical approach adopted. However, a strong basis can be found in the three overlapping cat-

egories of urbanisation, marginalisation and the state of the social and physical environment. As with the objective indicators, the data from these indicators should be broken down into smaller areas of the city, where possible, in order to identify correlations and to draw attention to the areas where crime rates are high.

Policy framework for urban safety in South Africa

In South Africa, the issue of safety and security figures strongly in strategic policies and plans. Chapter 12 of the National Development Plan (NDP) is entitled "Building Safer Communities" and proposes an integrated approach, the demilitarisation of police and special provisions for vulnerable groups including youth, women and children. The government has developed 14 Outcomes that reflect the desired developmental impacts to be achieved in order to meet various national objectives. The aim of Outcome 3 is that "all people in South Africa are and feel safe" (The Presidency, 2014). This safety and security outcome is driven by the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster with various departments, safety and security MECs and community policing forums (CPFs) identified as delivery partners.

However, a barrier to making cities safer in South Africa is the lack of a clear and coherent framework that pulls together all the different policy intentions and directs, aligns and integrates urban safety interventions, planning instruments and investments by all government spheres and sectors. Many of the urban safety policy building blocks are in place at national, provincial

and municipal levels, but they are fragmented and uncoordinated. As a result, there is no common understanding of what municipalities should do in order to enable and implement integrated responses to making communities safer.

Municipal responsibilities relating to traditional "public safety" functions, such as traffic safety, fire and emergency services, and disaster risk management, are relatively well-defined and accommodated in municipal plans, budgets and institutional structures. However, the mandate of municipalities to promote community safety (i.e. respond to and prevent crime and violence) is not sufficiently elaborated, and so community safety fails to attract the required political buy-in and prioritisation. Consequently, municipalities struggle to motivate for and secure adequate (and sustained, long-term) funding, capacity development and other kinds of support to effectively contribute to community safety.

From a national perspective, a more spatially differentiated policy response is needed that takes into account the concentration of violence and crime in the country's cities and towns, and directs and prioritises the allocation of financial resources and technical capacity development support accordingly. Two quarterly briefs of the USRG argue for this approach. The brief on efficient budgeting for safety calls for targeted approaches as opposed to the mere allocation of more funds and more police. The brief on crime statistics emphasizes the need for improved city-level crime data and argues that National crime statistics obscure the immensely skewed distribution of crime. Cities need to know the dis-

tribution of crime by ward, neighbourhood, and even household. Furthermore, they need to be able to quantify their crime rate benchmarks and to track their relative and absolute progress over time.

Thus, a focused urban approach should reflect the multidimensional nature of urban violence and urban safety, and integrate both law enforcement and targeted social crime prevention measures. Within this approach, the roles and responsibilities of different spheres of government and different departments (including within the criminal-justice cluster), as well as other non-state actors, need to be more clearly defined.

Recent policy developments

National Development Plan

The Vision 2030 of the NDP states that: "In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy a community life free of fear. Women walk freely in the streets and children play safely outside".

The NDP proposes that local government should play a more prominent role in responding to community safety concerns and violence prevention. Among the recommendations are some concrete suggestions of what local government should do:

- Local government should use its Constitutional mandate to promote community safety creatively and innovatively.
- Municipalities and communities should be assisted to develop skills for safety design.
- CPFs as mechanisms for community participation in safety should be strengthened.
- Municipalities should under-

Factors influencing crime and safety

take safety audits with communities to establish safety needs and strategies.
• Local government should report on environmental designs aimed at addressing the safety of women, children and other vulnerable groups.
• Local governments should have safety plans and corresponding budgets.

Soon after the NDP was published, two other key policy processes were initiated: the revision of the 1998 White Paper on Safety and Security and the development of a national urban policy for South Africa, the IUDF.

2016 White Paper on Safety and Security

The 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security builds on the 1998 original and advocates a developmental approach to creating safer communities through addressing risk factors on different levels. It also advocates more effective and integrated planning and implementation by government, informed by a sound knowledge base and active community participation.

Importantly, the new White Paper attempts to deal with gaps within the intergovernmental system by proposing the roles and responsibilities of different government spheres in relation to community safety. Local government is recognised as "a key role player in the delivery of safety and security to communities". The location of municipalities, (at the most direct interface of government with communities), and the mandate of municipalities, represents the most inclusive range of interventions required to create an enabling environment for delivery of services which impact on the safety and wellbeing of communities.

Integrated Urban Development Framework

The Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF, COGTA, 2016) is a policy response to South Africa's current and projected urbanisation trends. Its intention is to provide a national framework for how best to manage urbanisation to reap the potential benefits for cities and towns that are more resilient and inclusive, and for the national economy.

The IUDF presents urban safety as a cross-cutting issue for urban development and governance. It highlights the urban concentration of violence and crime in South Africa, as well as the consequent need for an urban approach, as part of the national response to making the country safer. The IUDF further emphasises safety in public spaces as an essential ingredient for creating liveable and prosperous cities.

While the safety of all communities (both urban and rural) matters equally, an urgent, dedicated focus on urban safety is required. A lack of safety in urban areas directly affects the socioeconomic development prospects not only of cities and their inhabitants, but also of the entire country and population.

While noting the existing legislative and institutional frameworks

in place to promote community safety, the IUDF draws attention to a range of challenges:
• The underlying root causes of violence and crime are not sufficiently addressed, i.e. inequality, unemployment, poverty, lack of social cohesion, availability of opportunities and motives for crime and victimisation.
• Most implementation mechanisms neither sufficiently reflect the multidimensional nature of urban violence and urban safety nor focus on prevention.
• Local safety is not sufficiently mainstreamed into the entire fabric of municipal programmes.
• Communities are not sufficiently activated and resourced to play a meaningful role in community safety.
• Poor planning and management make public spaces crime hotspots.

There are insufficient mechanisms for generating and transferring knowledge about community safety among practitioners and community members. As a response, various considerations and recommendations related to urban safety are found across the IUDF's nine "policy levers". These include the following:
• Public transport nodes should be safe, inclusive, pedestrianized public spaces.
• Densification strategies should require communal and open spaces with clear urban management plans that consider the safety and security of users.
• The regeneration of inner cities should prioritise safety.
• The principles of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) should be actively encouraged and supported, along with municipal norms and standards in urban design, planning and management that give priority to safety considerations in enhancing people's experience of the built environment.
• The lack of safety and high rates of crime are also a direct deterrent to household and private sector investment, and negatively affect informal, small and township businesses and neighbourhoods in particular.
• Urban safety must be specifically addressed in order to create conducive local conditions and

mobility for citizens' engagement in economic activity.

The domestic urban development agenda resonates and aligns with a wider global agenda prioritizing safety in cities as a key component of their development success. The New Urban Agenda (NUA) coming out of Habitat III and the UN-driven 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are increasingly a focal point in the policy and planning space. Among the 17 SDG "Global Goals" Goal 11 prioritises 'making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

This goal was further reinforced when nation states, UN bodies and civil society from across the globe convened at the Habitat III cities conference in Quito, Ecuador in 2016 to pass the New Urban Agenda, a 20 year roadmap for creating sustainable, equitable cities for all. Locally, this urban policy momentum is mirrored in Chapter 8 of the aforementioned South African National Development Plan (NDP, 2011) and the more recent Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), approved by Cabinet in 2016.

The Urban Safety Reference Group

Although local practitioners and many government officials in South Africa face similar challenges in addressing urban safety, there have been few opportunities for a structured exchange on urban safety issues among cities, and with relevant national government stakeholders. The Urban Safety Reference Group (USRG) was established in early 2014 as a way to rectify this gap.

It constitutes the first institutionalised forum in South Africa that enables practice-based learning on the theme of urban safety and violence prevention to inform urban policy, planning and management. It has proven to be a valuable and important 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.

The USRG is premised on the unique position of local government to play a leading role in driving developmental approaches to

preventing violence and crime that complement and extend beyond conventional security approaches such as policing, law enforcement or the reliance on private security firms.

The USRG also provides a basis for cities to collectively raise the profile of the topic of urban safety nationally, and advocates for necessary policy, legislative, institutional or fiscal reforms to empower cities and local government more generally to make an even more pro-active contribution to violence and crime prevention.

The USRG is convened by the SACN with the support of the Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) Programme. The VCP Programme is a joint South African-German intervention coordinated by the South African Department of Cooperative Governance and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The USRG comprises safety managers and practitioners from the SACN member cities. Other relevant institutions and departments represented include the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), National Treasury, the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the Civilian Secretariat for Police. Thus the USRG is more than a platform for urban safety managers and practitioners to share experiences and establish a common language around integrated strategies to reduce violence and crime; it is also a space for city practitioners to interact with their national counterparts.

In terms of its core objectives the USRG seeks to influence greater policy, legislative, institutional and fiscal investment in violence and crime prevention through:
• Facilitating peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing among urban safety practitioners
• Creating space for regular interaction and networking among city practitioners and national departments with safety-related functions
• Identifying topical matters requiring lobbying and interaction
• Providing a platform for struc-

tured engagement between South African municipalities and international urban safety networks, such as the United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLGA), Global Network on Safer Cities, and the African Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS).

USRG Practices and approaches

Although policing and the criminal-justice system are core components of dealing with violence and crime, as the NDP recommends, a far stronger focus on prevention is needed that addresses the many socioeconomic roots of the problem. Therefore, in addition to conventional law enforcement, integrated approaches to urban safety need to include spatial planning, education and early childhood development, and social and economic development.

As a result of this new orientation, USRG member municipalities are increasingly viewing safety as a key consideration when planning and implementing new projects, in particular the upgrading of informal settlements and integrated transport developments.

USRG Member City Approaches and Strategies

Some cities are developing their city safety strategies and implementation plans in line with their IDP, while others are still conceptualising their plans. USRG's interaction with each city, in particular its discussions with each city of where their safety-related functions sit, has assisted member cities in thinking more deeply about the components necessary to an implementation-ready safety strategy, how these align with their IDP and the overall objective to harmonise the urban safety practices of cities.

In 2015, the City of Joburg shared its draft City Safety Strategy (JCSS) with the USRG. This comprehensive document is linked to the objectives of the City. The JCSS recognises the changing realities in Johannesburg and the need for a cogent response to the pressures of urbanisation and development, the changing population dynamics, persistent inequality and resource scarcity, as well as new risks and new types of crime. Thus, the City of Joburg has adopted a tailored, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach.
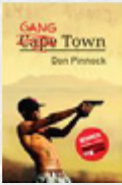
Ethekwini Municipality is in the process of an institutional review of its strategy and programme, 20 years following inception.

Institutional Arrangements in USRG Member Cities

There are key differences in language among cities with regard to urban safety and related functions. For example, some member cities refer to "community safety", while others talk of "city safety" or "safer cities". This has highlighted the areas needing greater convergence in terms of harmonising practices. Beyond budget allocations to safety functions, part of USRG sharing and exchange has included discussion and analysis of how monies are allocated to safety and used across member cities.

UNDERSTAND

GANGS AND YOUTH – INSIGHTS FROM CAPE TOWN

A tale of two cities

Cape Town is essentially two cities. One is beautiful beyond imagining on the slopes of Table Mountain, the other one of the most dangerous cities in the world where police need bullet-proof vests and sometimes army backup.

Here gangs of young men rule the night with heavy calibre handguns defending turf for drug lords, dispensing heroin, cocaine, crystal meth, cannabis and fear. As both a historian and a criminologist, I am interested in the crimes they do and the crimes done to them, why it is so and how it came to be like this.

In a single year ending in March 2015 more than seventeen thousand people were murdered in South Africa. This is higher than some countries at war. Around 600 000 other violent crimes were reported, including attempted murder, rape, robbery and assault.

The country's murder rate per 100 000 is 34.3 per 100 000 (in 2016/17), one of the world's highest. In Cape Town it's much higher at 51.6. This number masks the city's huge internal disparities. In Nyanga, it's estimated the murder rate is above 200 per 100 000. In 2012 contact crime in the Western Cape was 1 852 per 100 000. Much of this is attributed to gangs.

This is a brief overview of what is seen to be a gang problem in the city, followed by the underlying reasons and, finally, by a number of proposed solutions.

What is a gang?

Any formal or informal ongoing organisation, association, or group of three or more persons, which has as one of its activities the commission of one or more criminal offences, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.

This official definition from South Africa's Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) is so broad that it's almost unworkable. Mostly the police simply ignore it unless there have been multiple convictions.

My definition of a criminal gang (there are other types of gangs) is,

on the one hand, simpler, on the other more embracing:

A gang is a group of people with common interests who come together with common criminal purpose.

There are some general things we can say about such gangs:
- They're an urban phenomenon found in most cities throughout the world where there's crowding and low income.
- They're mostly found within particular types or urban structure: tenements, low-cost neighbourhoods and squatter areas.
- They're generally in areas of relative (not absolute) poverty.
- They're mainly a male youth phenomenon.
- They have to do with identity.
- There are often parental attachment issues.
- There can be connections to mental & physical health issues.
- There's almost always a drug connection.
- There are very often education issues – high percentages of gang members have dropped out of school early.
- There are often, but not always, links to a criminal economy.
- They have a bad rap and use it.

They can be structured as:

Hierarchies
which are highly structured and bureaucratic with centralized control systems.

Networks
which tend to have fluid nodes and supply chains. These are harder to take down.

Markets
which buy and sell illicit products and services and are generally fiercely territorial.

Clans
which are family-like and work through reciprocity and blood loyalty and display membership through ceremony, clothes and tattoos.

For many young people, gang membership is a rite of passage into manhood and the urge for this type of associations is very old and embedded in many traditions.

It is a time of anticipation for something other – a longing for magical transformation and a rejection of the mundane. It demands ritual space, a time when a child needs to find the unknown man and woman inside themselves. It's a time when we become obsessed by heroes, performance and ritual.

Why are there gangs?

Cape Town is an enigma. It's one of most spectacular cities in the world and also one of the most

Fixing the gang problem means solving the adolescent problem, says Don Pinnock in this introduction to gangs and youth. [Picture: Lindsay Mgbor/Department for International Development]

violent. In 2015 there were over 2 000 murders – an average of six a day.

If the media is an indicator, this is a city drenched in gang violence. But are gangs at the heart of this violence? Police calculate that 11% of murders in the city are due to gang violence, the rest are domestic violence or the result of shebeen brawls.

But there are still a lot of gangs, and we need to explore why. One of my early discoveries was that Cape Town doesn't have a gang problem so much as a youth problem of which gangs are one of the outcomes. Fixing the gang problem means solving the adolescent problem.

In 2016 nearly half (49%) of young people aged 15 – 35 were unemployed. In January 2017 South Africa had the highest recorded youth unemployment in the world. Half the kids who start school don't make matric and 3.4-million aged 11–24 are not in education, employment or training. In Cape Town that figure, at last count, was 317 000.

Around five million young people are living in a household where nobody has a formal job and 26% are in child-headed households. The conclusion is that a huge majority of these young people are on the streets with nothing to do. And trouble follows idle hands.

Social disruption and family breakdowns

Central to the gang problem is opportunity difference and family breakdown. The old working-class

areas were socially integrated neighbourhoods with extended families which exerted high levels of social control.

Journalist Brian Barrow captured the sense of community this way:

Children everywhere. Shouting, laughing, whistling, teasing, darting between old men's legs, running between fast-moving buses and cars and missing them by inches with perfect judgement. Poor, underfed children but cheeky, confident, happy and so emotionally secure in the bosom of their sordid surroundings. Everyone loved them. To them, it seemed, every adult on those busy streets was another mother, another father.

In the 1960s and 1970s Cape Town restructured along racial lines. All communities deemed non-white were ripped out and relocated to the Cape Flats. District Six is now grass and rubble where the social centre of the city used to be.

After 1994 Cape Town was recast as a world-class neoliberal city. This approach requires that the city is made safe and profitable for investment. Problems were largely pushed to the periphery and bad neighbourhoods remained bad neighbourhoods where poverty continued.

This was compounded by massive in-migration from rural areas – a nightmare for the city's planners. In the past 22 years some things have got better for some but worse

for many and many toxic environments remain.

What was the impact of these changes on parents in these socially churned-up areas?

In search of role models

One of the biggest indicators for male delinquency is absent fathers. They may be absent emotionally, abusive or simply not there. Around 60% of births in the Western Cape are to single mothers. So, in the absence of role models, how do young men assert their masculinity?

The dominant masculinity in movies or on billboards is affluent, light-skinned or African heterosexual men and not achievable for most. Yet such masculinity is held in higher esteem in areas of major gang activity than elsewhere. Their hyper-masculinity swings between being the super-hero of a Hollywood blockbuster and a useless, socially despised 'skollie'.

Respectability is out of reach, but they're able to approach the desired values of toughness, success and control through crime. And gang bosses – with flashy cars, beautiful women and obvious power – are the role models.

It's hard to be a young man in a low-income, high risk neighbourhood.

Mothers and epigenetics

Something else to consider is bio-social adaptation to environmental stress which begins even before a child is born. Its mother is IN an environment and IS an environment. Her nutrition, chemical intake or stress levels are signals that effect an embryo's development.

Hyper stress or drug use by a mother can lead to an overdevelopment in the developing child of its dopamine system and an underdevelopment of its serotonin system.

Dopamine neurotransmitters are the 'seeking' system for things like exploring, foraging or sex. It prompts you to 'go for it'. It raises levels of impulsive action, aggression and desire for reward. Gaining the goal is experienced as
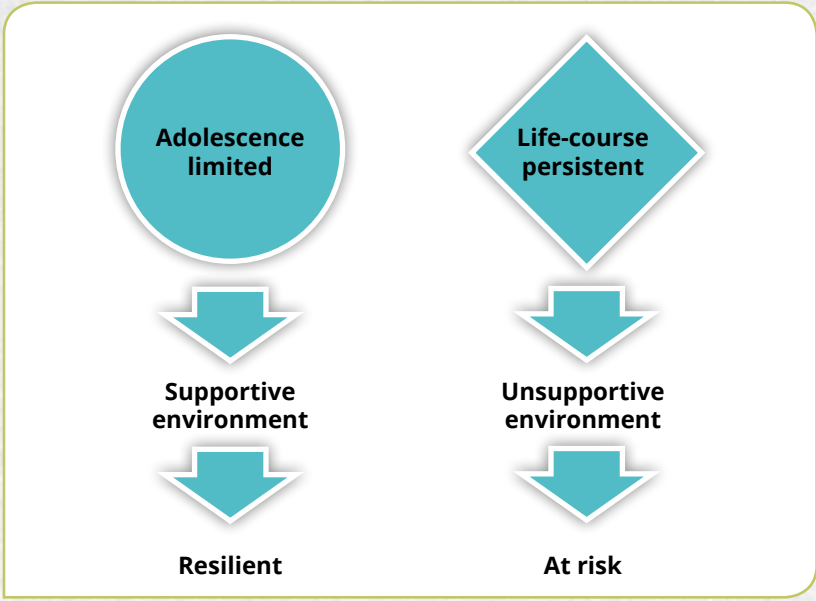
pleasure. The serotonin does the opposite – it cools you down, regulates emotion and behaviour, and inhibits aggression.

The effect of this altered balance kicks in, particularly, during puberty. There's a direct relationship between dopamine highs and aggressive behaviour. Lower serotonin/higher dopamine means lowering of inhibition, increased impulsiveness, public spectacle hyper-masculinity and a greater predisposition to engage in violent behavior and lower overall resilience.

There is also a problem of early emotional attachment. Resilient youths seldom offend or resort to violence. Emotional resilience comes from loving attachments and safe surroundings.

Children growing up where that is absent, have trouble making sustaining emotional connections. They have problems with their own feelings and the feelings of others. They carry feelings of shame and anger which they generally hide with bravado and, often, violence. They're edgy and lock their emotions in a psychological vault. They are drawn to others like themselves without empathy, sympathy and caring.

These kids often turn to violence and aggression because they know these are a reliable method for reasserting their existence. Aggression gets them what they want. 'I hurt others therefore I am.'

How about education?

In 2016, around 800 000 pupils sat down to write their final matric exams. That was about half of the number who had started school 12 years earlier. That means nearly a million, young people failed to achieve the first rung of almost any career. A survey of grade six pupils across South Africa found that in 75% of schools, between about a quarter and half of the learners were functionally illiterate.

One third of young people in the Western Cape under 25 are not in education, employment or training. Most of them are on the streets with nothing much to do. These kids are essentially being socialized into failure.

Drugs

Cape Town is awash with drugs, from cocaine and heroin to chrystal meths and nyope, a low-grade heroin cut with anything from rat poison to chlorine.

Their clandestine, illicit, syndicate-driven use is destroying families, causing epigenetic problems in mothers, fatherlessness, raising levels of violence through turf wars, wasting police time chasing dealers and users, clogging courts and overfilling prisons.

The only sensible solution seems to be to follow the Portuguese example: decriminalize and institute systems of harm reduction.

Are there solutions?

The answer to the question is: of course, there are. But we need to first ask what we mean by solving the gang problem? If we mean solving crime, that's a big ask.

What I'm more interested in is to figure out how to solve violence and hopelessness among young people who, as things stand, have no alternative.

Helping young people live meaningful, resilient lives

Most members of gangs are young people – particularly young men who are seeking an identity; who have little money yet need stuff in high-density urban areas; and who have time on their hands and plenty of adolescent edginess and energy.

The real question is not so much about gangs, but what can we do to help young people live meaningful, resilient lives in environments that favour development of gangs, crime and violence?

It is pertinent to ask: Which young people? All adolescents have the tendency to push the boundaries. While for many youth bad behaviour is limited to adolescence, there are others whose risky behaviour becomes life-course persistent due to epigenetic stress, attachment problems, fatherlessness and high-risk environments. It is these about whom we need concern ourselves.

Rethink education

South Africa spends a huge amount on the roll-out of education but, for most kids, the education system is dysfunctional.

There tends to be a false dichotomy between hand and mind work, with craft skills less valued. Some people work best as mind workers, others as craft workers. It's not a statement of intelligence but of aptitude.

If young people feel the skills they possess and interests they have are not valued, this might explain the high school dropout rate.

Rethink family & community

The first 1000 days from conception create the cognitive groundwork for the rest of a person's life. A solid grounding at this stage has been proved to bring down violence and aggression levels 16 years later.

That's why implementing the Early Childhood Development Policy is so important. Loving attachment is essential in forming resilient children. Resilience is what helps young people succeed in life and avoid gangs, drugs and early childbirth.

Rethink policing & prisons

Containing is what needs to happen when young people fall foul of the law.

The first stop is policing and it's not doing too well. We need to know what policing can't do. They cannot – and should not be expected to – solve the gang problem. Their job is to contain it until it's solved by other departments...

Meanwhile this is how policing could be improved:
- Re-educate police officers prone to violence or corruption.
- Improve the quality of new recruits and quality of training.
- Reintroduce professionalism and pride by employing only the best person for the job.
- Improve police management to curb corruption.
- Simplify grievance procedures so communities can report corrupt officers.
- Reinstate promotions based solely on merit.
- Establish an independent, specialised anti-corruption unit.
- Make the Independent Police Investigative Directorate truly independent.

Rethink prisons

South Africa's prisons are failing for four reasons:
1. They fail to change and often entrench criminal behaviour;
2. They damage people who are already emotionally damaged;
3. They 'cook' crime by housing large numbers of criminals together; and
4. By not expunging an ex-prisoner's record for many years, they stigmatise and make returning to crime the only option.

The solution is to transform prisons into schools of industry that turn out artisans and deal with the very real psychological problems of the people in their care.

If prisons are to be effective they must heal the damage done by society and provide skills to reintegrate inmates back into it.

Reclaim the neighbourhood

The way neighbourhoods are structured has a direct influence on gang activity. Blocks of flats with poor street access favour gang activity because of poor community surveillance.

Any restructuring of neighbourhoods or rebuild plans need to incorporate space for extended families and have verandas for informal community surveillance (one of the reasons District Six worked as a community). We need to value and support grandparents: they are the anchors of any community.

Reduce the flow of illegal drugs

Around 120 000 young people in the Western Cape could be using some sort of illegal hard drug. What we have to do is reduce the harm they can cause – especially to young people. To do that, we need to understand why kids take drugs. One of the main causes of drug taking is sadness, a failure to fit in and the absence of loving relationships.

We need to decriminalize drugs, set up support centres and treat drug-taking as a physical and mental illness. We have to stop stigmatizing and jailing drug takers.

Why we need to decriminalise drugs

- Criminalising drugs, hands the trade to illegal syndicates.
- It is in the interest of syndicates to get customers addicted.
- People who use drugs excessively don't use them because of the chemicals in them but because of sadness, hurt, loneliness.

Positive effects of decriminalisation

- Stop the turf wars.
- Collapse the drug syndicates.
- Disincentivise international drug tasks.
- Hugely reduce the prison population.

To resist the lure of gangs, young people need to be resilient. Resilience is having or developing competencies in spite of a high-risk context.

Build personal resilience

Resilient kids are active, affectionate, good-natured, humorous, confident and competent. They handle frustration and anxiety, ask for help when they need it and can withdraw from stressful situations and postpone an angry response.

In high-risk environments, gang formation is a form of resilience. They build friendships and give meaning, albeit often at high cost. Young people in gangs are telling us what they need: affirmation, exciting ritual, acceptance and respect from peers and a significant adult. They want re-fathering, re-familying and re-attachment in order to feel valued, wanted and respected.

The most successful programme, would be almost like a gang but would take young people to a different place.

In an organization I started, called Usiko, we took young, high-risk youths into the wilderness (which scared them). We linked them to male mentors who took them through certain rituals that required both bravery and trust. It's what I call resilience construction. These are the elements.

The key process in such a programme is described by psychologists as desistence or turning point effect. A discontinuity in relation to daily life. This is what the progression of the programme looks like:
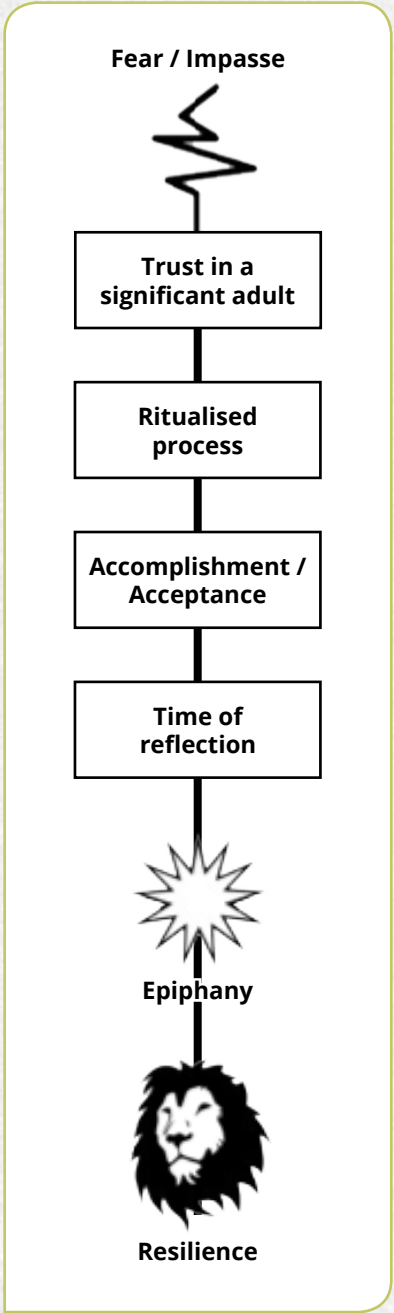
Much of what you've read here is taking place at the Chrysalis Academy in Cape Town. Check out their website at: http://chrysalisacademy.org.za/

You can also find these ideas and many more, plus a toolbox for teachers and parents working with adolescents, in Don Pinnock's book Gang Town.
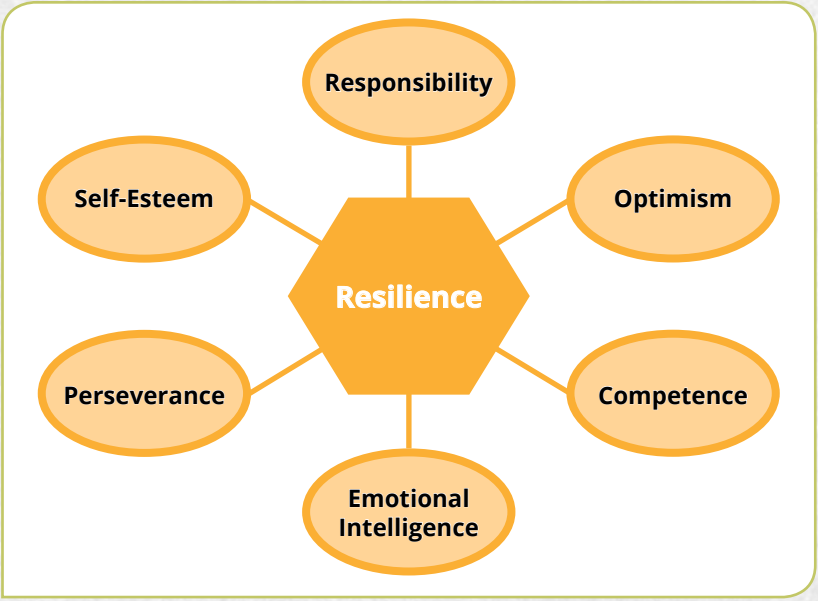
LEARN HOW

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

NATASHA PONI

Natasha Poni grew up in Cape Town, but is originally from Elliott, a small town in Sakhisizwe local municipality, in the Eastern Cape. Natasha works as a Human Development Advisor at the South African Local Government Association (SALGA)'s Eastern Cape office.

LUNGA MINYAYO

Lunga Minyayo is from Motherwell, Port Elizabeth. He is the Eastern Cape Provincial Chairman of the Youth Crime Prevention Desk (YCPD). Lunga also serves as the YCPD Chairman of the Motherwell SAPS Station; Motherwell Cluster and of the Eastern Cape Provincial Youth Board.

The *Toolkit for Participatory Safety Planning* provides participatory tools and methods that are in line with the principles of the 'National Development Plan - Vision 2030'. It aims to support the implementation of the above-mentioned national policy at local level, e.g. through the work of Community Safety Fora and the integration of safety into municipal Integrated Development Planning.
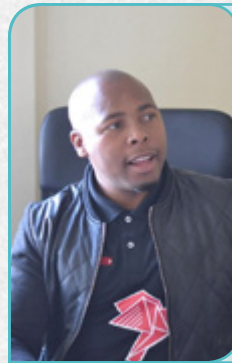
The toolkit guides users in the systemic planning of violence prevention and safety measures at local level. It helps identify risk factors as well as sources of resilience to build on when planning measures and interventions towards promoting community safety. Engaging communities in making their own environments safer can achieve long-term behaviour change in young people and those that influence them directly or indirectly.

The toolkit draws on existing knowledge, research, guidelines and manuals to promote an integrated and holistic way of addressing the multiple risk factors for violence and crime.

SaferSpaces spoke to two safety practitioners – **Lunga Minyayo** and **Natasha Poni** – on their experiences of using the Building Safer Communities Toolkit.

Here is their feedback:

? How helpful is the Toolkit for Building Safer Communities?

Natasha
"The toolkit is very useful as it provides different approaches on how to build safer communities."

Lunga
"It guides us in the implementation of activities to identify crime hotspots within our community and to respond with solutions to prevent crime."

? How does the Toolkit improve your work, in the context of municipal support, regarding safety planning?

Natasha
"The toolkit enhances the work that we do with municipalities, in that it assists us to advocate/ encourage municipalities to take an institutional approach when dealing with safety. The municipalities are made aware of how to mainstream safety planning and enhance sustainable development - this in turn assists in joint planning and funding for safety."

Lunga
'The toolkit has an activity which we conducted, the Transect Walk , an activity to map out our communities and highlight points in need of safety intervention. We included the voice of the community through surveys, interviewing of community members and taking photos for to create a portfolio of evidence. We identified challenges such as broken street lights , unattended open spaces, incomplete municipal buildings, unlicensed alcohol outlets. some of these identified places contribute to crime activities such as robberies, rape , murder and the use of drugs. The feedback is then taken to relevant office bearers in the municipality, Councillors and committees."

? What are the most relevant tools or sections assisting your work?

Natasha
"Book 4 "A TOOLKIT FOR PARTICIPATORY SAFETY PLANNING" this book can be seen as one of Local Governments' pillars, in that we need to encourage public participation in everything we do in order for communities to be part of the collective that comes with solutions to their challenges or addresses their needs."

? How familiar are you with the toolkit in general, especially when it comes to the concepts and approach of violence prevention?

Natasha
"I am very familiar as I utilized it in the capacity building for councillors and officials responsible for Community Safety."

Lunga
'I am familiar with the toolkit, I went through a training and learnt how to use the toolkit to conceptualize, execute and monitor our work."

? What is your understanding of participatory safety planning concepts? Has the toolkit assisted you with a better understanding of safety planning concepts?

Natasha
"My understanding of participatory safety planning concepts, is that they provide one with tools and approaches/ methodologies that support organisations such as municipalities/ communities and other relevant stakeholders in implementing government policies or aligning local plans to national plans / programmes. So in this way, the toolkit has assisted me to better understand safety planning concepts in relation to local government's mandate."

Lunga
"Yes, I have a better understanding of safety planning. I have completed a training and can address crime prevention and facilitate safety planning, and with the help of SaferSpaces online portal it makes things very easy."

? How are some of your colleagues using or receiving the toolkit?

Natasha
"It is received very well, and colleagues will be able to utilize it for the facilitation of strategic planning sessions and in the conducting of capacity building sessions for municipalities."

Lunga
"They appreciate it and it makes it easy to complete their work especially when they work as a team."

? What group do you work with when using the toolkit? Women? Youth? Community Members?

Natasha
"Portfolio councillors and officials responsible for community safety within municipalities."

Lunga
"I mostly work with young people, which includes in most cases more female participants."

? What else would be needed in order to improve the toolkit?

Natasha
"The toolkit must have a simplified version that can be easily understood by illiterate and literate users i.e. picture formats etc."

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.

ONE JUDGE - ONE JAIL CAMPAIGN

Lead Organisation(s)
Detention Justice Forum

Project partner(s)
Sonke Gender Justice, NICRO, Africa Criminal Justice Reform (ACJR)

Location
National (SA)

Timeframe
April 2015 – ongoing

Topic(s)
Criminal justice system, Gender-based violence, Monitoring & evaluation

Sector(s)
NGOs/CBOs

Type(s) of Prevention
Primary prevention, Institutional prevention

Project resources

• One Judge One Jail: A Guide for Inspecting and Reporting on Places of Detention in South Africa (Guide/Manual)

• One Judge One Jail Factsheet (Factsheet)

• Report on Justice Johann van der Westhuizen's Visit to Pollsmoor Correctional Centre on 18 December 2012 (Report/Study)

• Report on Justice Cameron's Visit to Pollsmoor Correctional Centre – Remand Centre and Women's Centre on 23 April 2015 (Report/Study)

▷ Find them on SaferSpaces

Related resources

Correctional Services Act No.111 of 1998 (Policy/Legislation)
27 Nov 1998

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

Why is prison oversight important? (Factsheet)
08 June 2017 | Sonke Gender Justice

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

Why should we care about prisoners? (Factsheet)
29 June 2017 | Sonke Gender Justice

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

In a nutshell

Regular monitoring and reporting acts as a preventative measure against human rights abuses in prisons, including ill treatment and torture. The One Judge One Jail campaign motivates for judges, magistrates and Members of Parliament to conduct annual holistic and consistent prison inspections. This campaign is led by the Detention Justice Forum in partnership with Sonke Gender Justice, NICRO and Africa Criminal Justice Reform.

What we do

South African prisons are fraught with conditions that lead to human rights abuses and high rates of sexual violence, HIV transmission and TB infection. The One Judge One Jail campaign was born of the recognition that prison oversight is vital to the protection of inmates' human rights. In order for prison oversight to be effective, it must be independent and accessible, and should include a number of different functions, including: robust inspection and monitoring, investigation, and reporting.

The Campaign was inspired by the Constitutional Court Prison Visits Programme, which was instituted in 2009 by the judges of the Constitutional Court and took effect from 2010. The Constitutional Court has since developed a commendable programme for prison visits and reporting that has the potential to increase transparency in places of detention, and could be replicated by other courts. This Programme has demonstrated that oversight can provide for the accountability of the executive and administrative branch of government to both the legislature and the public.

How we do it

The aims of the One Judge One Jail campaign are:
• to encourage all judges to undertake one prison visit per year and to report on their visits to the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ);
• to strengthen the working relationship between the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS) and the judiciary so as to ensure that inspections are comprehensive, and address areas identified by JICS as being problematic;
• to encourage civil society involvement in highlighting priority concerns at prisons; and
• to strengthen civil society's role in monitoring prisons and publicising findings.

The importance of judicial visits to prisons has been recognised by the National Operating Committee (NOC) for the OCJ, which took a resolution on 11 April 2015 to *"re-mind the Judiciary of its duty in terms of section 99 of the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998 to conduct prison visits to monitor the conditions of correctional centres."*

It was with this resolution in mind that the Detention Justice Forum developed the One Judge One Jail guide, in the hope that it will provide useful context and guidelines for any person mandated to conduct such prison visits.

What we have learned

Case Study: The Constitutional Court Prison Visits Programme

Currently, JICS and DCS do not report on judicial correctional centre visits, although they do refer to individual visits in their annual reports. However, in 2009, the judges of the Constitutional Court instituted a system of correctional centre visits which took effect from 2010. The Constitutional Court has since developed a commendable programme for prison visits and reporting that has the potential to increase transparency in places of detention, and could be replicated by other courts. The Constitutional Court Prison Visits programme is coordinated by Judge Edwin Cameron. Each year he establishes a schedule of correctional centre visits for the Justices of the Constitutional Court. Judicial officers who undertake correctional centre visits compile reports on their vis-its, which are sent to the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, the National Commissioner for Correctional Services, the Portfolio Committee for Justice and Correctional Services and the Inspecting Judge of JICS. The reports together with responses from the Minister or heads of correctional centres are then published on the Constitutional Court's website, which is easily accessible to the public. In 2015, a report on one of the judges' visits to Pollsmoor Remand Detention Facility was helpful in corroborating the evidence provided by detainees at the facility showing that the conditions were extremely overcrowded and inhumane. This allowed Sonke Gender Justice and Lawyers for Human Rights to successfully challenge these conditions, resulting in a dramatic reduction in overcrowding levels at the facility. A visit to another prison ensured the resumption of provision of ARVs to inmates who had, until then, been unable to access their essential medication, in violation of their constitutional rights to health care and medical services in prison.

*This project profile was compiled by **Ariane Nevin** who works as a National Prisons Specialist at Sonke Gender Justice.*

BLOG

ABOUT DISRUPTIVE CHANGE AND WRESTLING WITH LAWS

27 Jun 2017 | by Jeanne Bodenstein | Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust
Topics: Criminal justice system • Sexual violence

Jeanne Bodenstein discusses how the Rape Survivors' Justice Campaign has engaged with magistrates and Parliament on the legislative framework for sexual offences courts.

I recently read a chapter from a book called *Roots for Radicals: Organise for Power, Action and Justice* by Edward T. Chambers and once again it struck me that change is a strange thing. This book reminded me that at its core change is disruptive, unruly and often quite troublesome. It requires us to do things that disrupt the peace that we all crave. But if we envision a world that looks different from the world that we live in now, one with a criminal justice system that supports survivors, we need to make peace with disruptive change. The Rape Survivors' Justice Campaign (RSJC) constantly works to achieve such change.

"But if we envision a world that looks different from the world that we live in now, one with a criminal justice system that supports survivors, we need to make peace with disruptive change."

In a previous blogpost "Small Victories, Big Change" I spoke about our engagements with Parliament on the legislative framework for sexual offences courts and Parliament's work to define this.

As a result of our first meeting with the parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, we met with the Deputy Minister of Justice and seven Regional Court Presidents (RCPs) representing magistrates on a provincial level. This meeting provided us with the opportunity to hear the very real and practical concerns that magistrates have with the current wording of the legislative framework, which just provides for exclusive sexual offences courts. Most of the concerns they had were about maximising the use of courtrooms and maximising court time because of the large backlog in unheard cases they face and how they want to catch up. We discussed the possibility of exclusive court rolls (meaning that magistrates will exclusively hear sexual offences cases for the duration of the sexual offences court roll) which would address these concerns, but we couldn't reach an agreement.

Although they put a great deal of pressure on us to support the removal of the exclusivity provision. We asked for time to confer and spent an anxious ten minutes in the corridor outside the bathroom debating a compromise in a short, fierce argument that left us in complete agreement. When we returned to the room we explained that we were there to represent and protect the interests of rape survivors and therefore cannot agree to a legislative framework that will inevitably give rise to long delays in rape cases being heard in court or rape cases being heard in courts that lack the necessary personal, services and facilities. These words were greeted by an icy pause, but we stuck to our position, uncomfortable as it was to face such an intimidating group of people; people we needed on our side. At the end of the meeting we were asked to suggest new wording of the legislative framework for consideration by the Department of Justice.

"We are closer than ever to seeing the legislation providing for these courts operationalised with wording that is supported by the Department of Justice and the RCPs."

We had two days to draft new suggested wording for the section of the Bill, which addressed the concerns raised by the RCPs and protected the interests of survivors and the exclusivity of sexual offences courts. This was accepted by the Department of Justice (with minor adjustments) and has been referred to the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces to be passed. Once the President has signed off on this Bill then for the first time ever, sexual offences courts will be defined in legislation. We are closer than ever to seeing the legislation providing for these courts operationalised with wording that is supported by the Department of Justice and the RCPs.

Jeanne Bodenstein is the Advocacy Coordinator of Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust and heads up the Rape Survivors' Justice Campaign.

BE INSPIRED

AFTER-SCHOOL GAME CHANGER

In a nutshell

The After School Game Changer is an after-school programme and one of the Western Cape Government's seven game changer projects. The programme is based on the premise "that regular and consistent participation of learners in after school programmes will improve learner outcomes, reduce school dropout rates and reduce risk taking behaviour".

What we do

Many young people in the Western Cape leave school each day and enter unsafe, violent neighbourhoods and homes, where they often lack adult supervision. Consequently, they are at high risk of engaging in destructive and anti-social behaviour, such as abusing alcohol and drugs, engaging in sexual risk-taking behaviour and becoming involved in gangs. Involvement in these activities threatens their futures and, more often than not, leaves them trapped in a cycle of poverty.

In response, the Western Cape Government initiated the **After School Game Changer** (AS GC) programme. This After School Programme (ASP) is for children from no/low fee schools. The programme aims to provide positive, quality after-school activities and an alternative after-school environment to children living in violent and socio-economically deprived communities in the Western Cape.

After School Game Changer Goal

The measure of success, or Key Performance Indicator, is that at least 20% of no-fee and low-fee learners in the Province - 112 000 learners - regularly and consistently attend quality after school programmes at least twice a week.

Targeted outcomes

- Improved attitude towards learning
- Improved school outcomes
- Improved school retention
- Improved matric results
- Reduction in risk taking behaviour

To achieve the programme goal, the Western Cape Government's AS GC focuses on three key levers of change:

- **Lever 1: To create an enabling environment for ASPs**
  This includes ensuring there is good leadership, information on the available offerings, safe and secure spaces for ASPs, IT access and access to food.
- **Lever 2: To ensure learners in ASPs access quality programming**
  This includes ensuring learners have access to a choice of sport and recreation, arts and culture, life skills and academic support programmes (four pillars). In addition, these programmes must actively engage learners and build learners skills and mastery.
- **Lever 3: To expand the ASP through collaboration and partnerships**
  This focuses on developing mechanisms for harnessing the collective resources of all spheres of government, donors and civil society to expand quality programmes in the Western Cape. Currently, the focus is on developing different collaborative mechanisms at five sites in the province.

How we do it

The AS GC has an inter-departmental and intersectoral approach. The programme is a collaborative effort between the City of Cape Town and five of the Western Cape Government Departments. These departments are the a) Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports (DCAS), b) Department of Community Safety (DOCS), c) Department of the Premier (DotP), d) Department of Social Development, and e) Western Cape Education Department. The AS GC project office is located in the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports. The AS GC works with the City of Cape Town to provide ASPs at recreational hubs and libraries. This work is currently focused on Atlantis and Gunya. The AS GC is hoping to extend this partnership to other municipal areas and NGOs. The AS GC works closely with civil society and in particular NGOs offering ASPs. This work is coordinated via The Learning Trust and Community Chest, both established donors with existing NGO networks, as stakeholders. Programme partners are involved in the following interventions:

MOD Programme

The Mass participation; Opportunity and access; Development and growth (MOD) programme is managed by the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports. It provides an opportunity for children from underprivileged communities to engage in sports, arts, cultural and healthy recreational activities after school in a positive, supervised and safe environment. It operates from around 2pm-6pm at MOD Centres which are usually situated at schools in disadvantaged communities. The programme was initiated in 2010, and there are now 181 MOD Centres providing after school activities to over 40 000 learners.

WCED's ePortal

The WCED's ePortal provides online educational resources for educators, caregivers, learners, school management and school governing bodies (SGBs). Its primary aim is to assist learners to better their educational outcomes.

YearBeyond Programme

The YearBeyond Programme is an initiative of the Western Cape Government in partnership with non-governmental entities including Action Volunteers Africa, IkamvaYouth, Shine, Edunova, and the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Leadership Institute at Stellenbosch University. The programme has a volunteer development and a learner development component. It involves peer educators (volunteers aged 18-25) tutoring primary and high school learners at after school facilities, and is managed together with the MOD programme. Programme objectives for learners include: to assist struggling students with their school work and to improve their overall academic performance; and to reduce the number of learners dropping out of school. The benefits of the programme for peer educators include: volunteer experience; participation in three courses which culminate in receiving a leadership qualification from the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute; participation in the "Innovation Challenge" – an employment readiness skills training initiative; and engagement in self-development activities.

After School Programmes run by NGOs and local authorities

Other ASPs are run by NGOs, CBOs, and local municipal authorities in partnership with the Western Cape Government.

After School Partial Care

In keeping with their mandate under the Children's Act, the Department of Social Development funds numerous NGOs in the province to manage after school programmes at partial care facilities.

What we have achieved

The AS GC has a strong monitoring and evaluation focus, in order to ensure that programme efficacy and impact is maximized.

Achievements include:

- The development of a code of conduct;
- Establishing of a community of practice which meets once a quarter and is managed by **The Learning Trust**;
- The establishment of the Excellence Awards, which are leadership awards for principals;
- The establishment of the NGO award and Sports coach award;
- The creation of an interactive map under Edu-collaborate mapping;
- The development of all ASPs;
- The creation of an auditing tool; and
- Conducting practitioner capacity building and training programmes, including an accredited course.

What we have learned

A significant challenge for the AS GC programme is ensuring the safety of the after-school spaces and ensuring the safety of learners, programme leaders and educators when leaving after the programme. An independent audit of MOD and Partial After Care sites found that between a quarter and one third of the sites experienced some violence impacting on learners' sense of safety and participation in such programmes. These same audits found that about half of the school safety plans included some plan for after school hours and about a quarter had trained after school staff and volunteers in the plans. These audits suggest there is no comprehensive approach for ensuring the safety of learners, educators and programme staff at after-school facilities.

The AS GC has piloted a number of interventions to address these safety challenges, including:

- Overtime for School Resource Officers (SROs) who provide safety support to after-school programmes at ten of the SRO intervention schools.
- Use of Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs) - As part of the NHW pilot intervention at Dr Nelson Mandela High, two NHW members were on duty during Saturday and holiday classes. Additional NHW agreements have been concluded at five other sites/clusters.
- Extension of school safety marshals to include coverage of after school programmes at three schools

While there are pros and cons to each of these interventions, the real challenge is provision of support to all 300 after school programmes in a cost-effective manner.

Lead Organisation(s)

Western Cape Government in collaboration with the City of Cape Town.

Project partner(s)

Civil society organizations and NGOs running after-school programmes, this work is facilitated by The Learning Trust and Community Chest.

Location

Western Cape

Timeframe

January 2016 - December 2019

Topic(s)

Children, School safety, Youth

Sector(s)

Community, Education, Government: local, Government: provincial, NGOs/CBOs, Sport / Recreation

Type(s) of Prevention

Primary prevention, Secondary prevention, Social prevention

Website

www.westerncape.gov.za/after-school-game-changer/

BLOG

CRIME STATS – THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAIL

01 Nov 2017 | by Guy Lamb | Safety and Violence Initiative, University of Cape Town (UCT SaVI)
Topics: Crime & safety statistics • Gangs • Policing • Urban safety

Yesterday the Minister of Police released the 2016/17 crime statistics. As always the 'good news' aspects of reported crime in South Africa were immediately emphasised, namely that the number of cases of reported 'serious crime' had declined by 1.8%. However, 'serious crime' includes 17 sub-categories of crime, and over the past 20 years there have been numerous allegations by crime researchers and analysts of substantial and persistent under-reporting for many of these sub-categories, especially the various forms of robbery, assault, and sexual crimes.

Perception surveys have suggested that this under-reporting has been due to: a lack of trust in the police; the inaccessibility of police stations (particularly in rural areas); adverse notions of the utility of reporting criminal incidents to the SAPS; concerns about being stigmatised by family and/or community members; and fears about being further victimised by the perpetrator of the original crime (especially in the case of domestic violence and rape). Hence, lumping all serious crimes together as an aggregate indicator of criminal offending is unhelpful and misleading.

"Murders in South Africa are typically the outcome of aggressive verbal disagreements between young men in the context of alcohol consumption, or during the perpetration of another crime, such as robbery. In some areas, gang rivalries result in killings."

The aggregate manner in which the crime data and statistics are presented also masks the disproportionate nature of violent crime in South Africa, which for decades has been concentrated in about 20 per cent of police precincts. Most of these high crime precincts are densely populated, infrastructurally marginalised and characterised by elevated levels of poverty. In addition, high crime areas are potentially perilous for those SAPS members that are required to work within them. That is, these spaces are forbidding and difficult to navigate often due to a lack of streets, systematic dwelling numbering systems and lighting. Police have been frequently at risk of being attacked by armed criminals. Community confidence in the police is often severely lacking. Therefore, in seeking to gauge a more informed analysis of crime a focus on high crime precincts provides a more enlightening touchstone for the state of violent crime in South Africa.

Globally murder (or homicide) is widely regarded as one of the most statistically reliable crime categories. The reason for this is that the occurrence of this intentional form of killing is most often linked to a corpse, with such a corpse typically being examined by a medical official who is required to declare the apparent manner of death. This information is then logged in the death registry and a death certificate is issued. This process has commonly been followed in South Africa. Given the problem of reliability of other reported crime categories, murder is used in many countries as a crude measure of the state of violent crime in general.

Drilling down to precinct level, murder data for the high crime areas makes disquieting reading. In many areas traditionally affected by gang violence in the Western Cape, the murder levels increased by more than 20% compared to 2015/16 reporting year. This included Delft (28% increase), Bishop Lavis (26% increase) and Philippi East (23% increase). In Bishop Lavis and Philippi East the annual number of murders has in fact doubled over the past 10 years. In other high crime areas in the Western Cape there were even more dramatic increases in murder, such as Worcester (55% increase) and Paarl East (77% increase).

Similarly, in KwaZulu-Natal there have been alarming escalations in murder cases in Kwaduku-za (50% increase) and Plessislaer (37% increase). Umlazi and Inanda have seen increases in the region of 20% increases, and Chatsworth experienced a 17% increase. In Gauteng there have been between 20% and 30% increases in murder in Evaton, Orange Farms, Rietgat, Booysens and Dobsonville; whilst both Ivory Park and Roodepoort experienced more than a 50% increase in reported murder cases. In the Eastern Cape there were more than 15% increases in murder in Dutywa and Port St Johns, more than 26% increases in Libode and New Brighton.

There were however significant decreases in murder in some traditionally high crime areas, such as Gugulethu (26% reduction), Empangeni (26% reduction), Tembisa (16% reduction), Hillbrow (13% reduction) and Mitchells Plain (13% reduction).

Murders in South Africa are typically the outcome of aggressive verbal disagreements between young men in the context of alcohol consumption, or during the perpetration of another crime, such as robbery. In some areas, gang rivalries result in killings. Research on masculinity and violence suggests that such lethal confrontations have been closely tied to notions of manhood that reveres dominant and aggressive men. Such a type of masculinity encourages bravado, weapon-carrying, excessive drinking of alcohol and dramatically increases the risk of violent confrontations between men and groups of men in public spaces. The link between this form of masculinity and murder is amplified when men at risk of perpetrating violence live in communities where there are generally high levels of interpersonal violence; and where firearms are easily obtainable.

"What is ultimately required is a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to reducing and preventing violent crime."

Consequently, the role of the police in reducing and preventing murder and other violent crime is somewhat limited. Indeed, as the Minister of Police has emphasised, a more professional and service-oriented SAPS is an essential component, combined with police actions that result in the confiscation of illegal firearms, as well as the arrest and successful conviction of perpetrators. However, what is ultimately required is a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to reducing and preventing violent crime. Such an approach is actually included in the recent White Paper on Safety and Security that has been championed by the Civilian Secretariat for Police Services. Therefore, a priority for government should be the full-scale implementation of the recommendations included in this key policy document.

This blog was compiled on **25 October 2017**, *following the release of the* **2016/2017 SAPS National Crime Statistics** *on 24 October 2017.*

Dr Guy Lamb *is the Director of the Safety and Violence Initiative at the University of Cape Town.*

BE INSPIRED

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES THROUGH YOUTH-LED RADIO INITIATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

In a nutshell

'Building safer communities through youth-led radio initiatives in South Africa' is a project of the Children's Radio Foundation (CRF) run in partnership with Gun Free South Africa and local radio stations, and funded by the European Union. The overall objective of the project is to increase awareness and knowledge levels among young people around issues of violence (with a particular focus on gun violence) and crime within 18 individual communities across all nine provinces in South Africa. It also serves to provide platforms for youth to serve as leaders, advocates, and peer educators to reduce and prevent violence and crime and help contribute to safety within their communities. In partnership with Gun Free South Africa, youth and community stories will be used for parliamentary submissions to influence gun control laws coming under review.

What we do

Children's Radio Foundation (CRF) is a partnership-based organization that sees as a core part of its mandate to provide support, capacity building, project management systems, and clear pathways for CBOs, community radio stations included, to increase their impact on youth populations. All partner CBOs are provided with access to these support systems, and ongoing opportunities for organizational advancement.

CRF is building Community Discussion Boards (CDBs) at each site that will serve as community-based coalitions of concerned youth, leaders, citizens, and representatives from civil society. Built into the initiative's curriculum development activities is the creation of open-source materials and training and project management resources that enable sharing of knowledge, best practices, and replication.

Youth have increased participation in governance, account-ability and public policy processes through this project. In partnership with Gun Free South Africa (GFSA), CRF enables youth participation to inform public policy, shape youth-targeted community interventions, and promote local accountability around violence reduction and crime prevention-related initiatives. Radio broadcasts, dialogue events, and outreach activities aim to mobilize a wide cross-section of youth within individual communities to share their experiences and participate in interventions concerning issues of violence reduction and crime prevention. Through creating inter-generational community-based dialogues, youth participation in community structures will be elevated, and create greater account-ability.

How we do it

Activity 1: Project launch event

- A project launch event with project stakeholders (including NGOs, government, CBOs, media, and youth) was held to ensure visibility and buy-in to the initiative, and to share information that was uncovered during the baseline study (hosted by GFSA, with assistance from CRF).
- CRF and GFSA utilized baseline findings to develop a three-week social media strategy for the project launch, targeting national stakeholders and enlisting youth participation at the project sites. CRF works with all radio station partners to ensure that local launches occur through their broadcast and other communication channels. This commenced the community engagement activities for the initiative, and assisted radio stations in growing interest among their listenership (the social media strategy is developed by GFSA, with CRF coordinating with radio station and CBO partners).

Activity 2: Curriculum Development around issues of crime prevention and violence reduction

- 22 radio production guides and 6 outreach discussion guides have been created for young reporters to enable well-informed, nuanced, and ethical reporting and broadcasting on issues related to community safety, crime and violence. These issue-driven production guides are geared towards providing youth reporters with the tools to interrogate how the topic actualizes itself within their community, and provides pathways for tackling the topic through a variety of lenses. The outreach discussion guides also includes tutorials on community organising and activism, and topics related to legislation and policy around crime and violence. All tools are shared on CRF's Learning Room for open source use by other radio stations and organisations (all materials are developed by CRF

with input and topic-specific training from GFSA).

Activity 3: Curriculum development for training workshops

Curriculum manuals and training resources have been developed for 4 CRF Regional Trainer Training of Trainers workshops (RT-ToT), 6 Local Facilitator Training of Trainers workshops (LF-ToT), and 4 youth reporter training workshops. These will also serve as regional and local implementation guides for the larger project, and provide these key resource people with the support systems, methodologies, and tools to engage youth to achieve project objectives. These curriculum manuals and training resources enable 2 RT-ToTs in both year 1 and 2, 3 LF-ToTs in both year 1 and 2, and ongoing youth trainings throughout the two-year cycle. All tools are shared on CRF's Learning Room for open source use by other radio stations and organisations (all materials are developed by CRF with input and topic-specif-

GUN FREE SOUTH AFRICA

CHILDREN'S RADIO FOUNDATION
Amplifying Youth Voices Across Africa
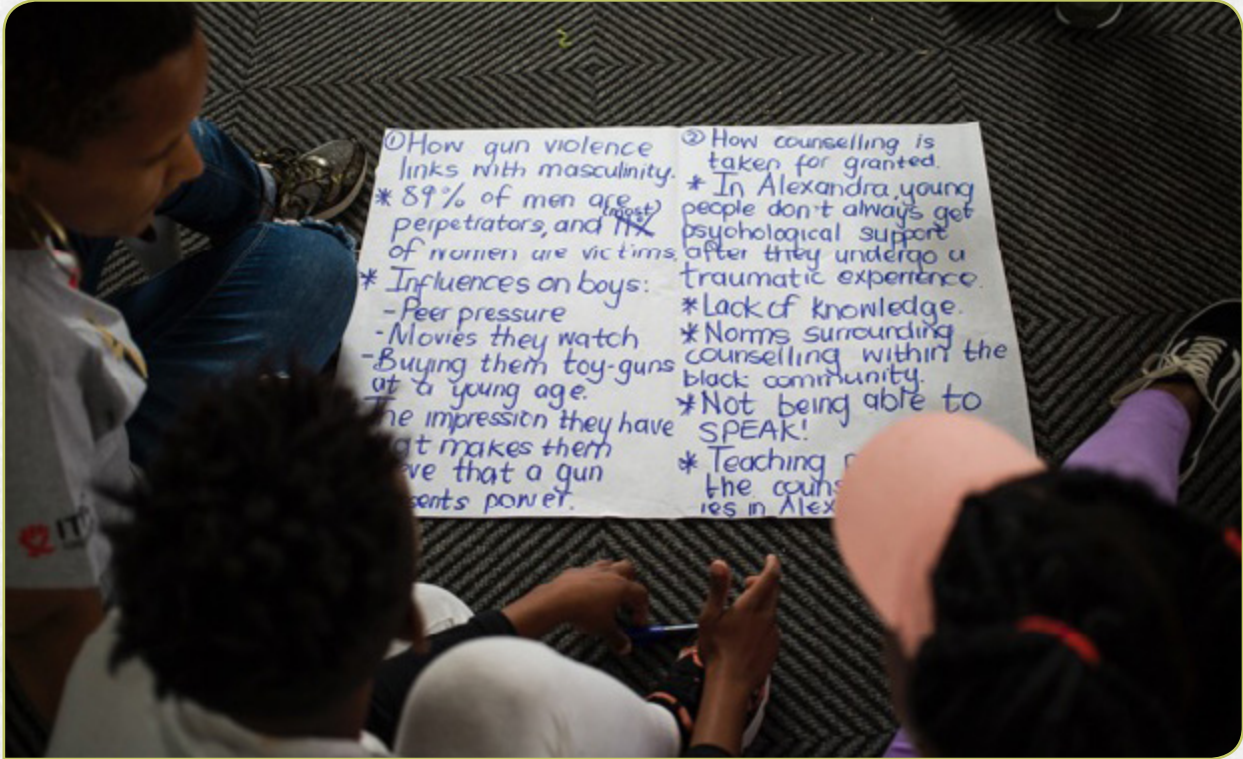
ic training from GFSA, while GFSA is developing all materials around community organising/advocacy and policy).

Activity 4: Youth facilitator training

- 4 training workshops (RT-ToTs) are conducted over 5 days with CRF's five regional trainers over the two-year period. The CRF's five regional trainers carry out training workshops and ongoing capacity building and support for 3-4 of the 18 radio stations within the region in which they are based. These RT-ToTs enable a clear understanding of the project initiatives and the issue-based materials, and allow the regional trainers to provide the appropriate lines of support to the community radio stations and other initiative partners. They enable regional trainers to build community based partnerships, and to assist local radio station youth facilitators in supporting youth reporters. All tools are shared on CRF's Learning Room for open source use by other radio stations and organisations (all materials are developed by CRF with input and topic-specific training from GFSA).
- 6 training workshops (LF-ToTs) will be conducted over 2 days with 24 radio staff youth facilitators over the two-year period. Each of the radio staff youth facilitators will carry out ongoing issue-based workshops and administer support to youth reporters who are tackling the issues of crime prevention and violence reduction in their reporting and broadcasting efforts. Each training is designed to a) add value to project management tools, b) advance issue-based knowledge around a specific theme, and c) provide additional youth participatory media skills. All tools are shared on CRF's Learning Room for open source use by other radio stations and organisations (all materials are developed by CRF with input and topic-specific training from GFSA).

Activity 5: Youth reporter trainings

4 youth reporter training workshops will be conducted over 3 days with 360 young reporters at 18 community radio station sites over the two-year period, in order to ensure that youth reporters are well-versed with the content areas, that their technical radio and broadcast skills are well-developed, and that the project administration systems are in place to support their wide range of reporting, broadcast, and outreach activities. Trainings are designed to foster a clear understanding of the relevant issues and to support the localising of content material to achieve context-sensitive community engagements. CRF's trainings bring together diverse community stakeholders, and skill the youth to engage in community-based and collaborative reporting around the specific topical focus around crime prevention and reducing violence (CRF's RTs will assist LFs to facilitate all youth trainings).

Activity 6: Youth reporters produce and broadcast youth produce radio programmes about violence, crime and community safety

Youth reporters produce radio programmes about violence, crime and community safety twice a month at all 18 sites. CRF's youth reporters have broadcast slots each week on their partner community radio station, and produce shows that resonate with the vast interests and livelihoods of its listenership. CRF's youth reporters dedicate two shows per month to themes of violence reduction, crime prevention, and community safety. Each radio show consists of a collection of youth reporting that was conducted in the preparation period for each show, and is packaged and presented within a live radio format. Youth reporters work in partnership with CBOs and other members of the CDBs to inform the specific topic for each show, and to encourage collaboration and broad participation in reporting and broadcast. Each community radio station facilitates audience participation via SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook, and call-ins to the station, and is able to track listener response. After broadcasting shows, youth reporters incorporate community feedback into their planning for subsequent shows, to ensure responsiveness and consistency from show to show (CRF's RTs will assist LFs to facilitate all youth reporting and broadcast).

Activity 7: Youth reporters conduct 108 outreach dialogue activities

Youth reporters conduct 108 outreach dialogue activities within schools and in partnership with CBOs as part of the CDB activities. These youth-led outreach activities will be shaped around select specifically themed broadcasts on the community radio stations, where they utilize radio productions and other audio material to generate a discussion within the outreach audience. With 54 outreach activities scheduled for each year, these dialogue events are also utilised to facilitate inter-generational conversations, and to ensure adult perspectives and inputs are included within the scope of the larger initiative. Each group compiles a report on their outreach dialogue activities to enable sharing of ideas and best practices from site to site. Hosted by the youth reporters in partnership with the community radio station, the outreach dialogue activities are also structured to promote the youth broadcast and other initiative activities, and to grow the participation in the CDBs (CRF's RTs assist all LFs to facilitate all outreach dialogue activities).

Activity 8: Youth career planning workshop and graduation ceremony

- CRF will host a one-day career planning workshop at each project site, including sessions on visioning and planning for one's future, career guidance and study/employment opportunities, CV writing, and role-playing of job interviews. CRF will involve local organisations, businesses, and educational institutions to facilitate the process, and to share opportunities for youth participants (CRF's RTs will assist LFs to facilitate the career planning workshop).
- Graduation ceremonies will be held at each site to celebrate the achievement of the youth reporters, involving their parents, and other community members. CRF graduates will receive a personalised letter of recommendation along with a certificate of achievement (CRF will facilitate all graduation activities, and will provide letters and certificates).

What we have achieved

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is ongoing. Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and learning systems are conducted by CRF and radio station staff.

- Ongoing M&E relates mainly to attendance, radio, audience and other technical aspects and not directly to measuring impact - but rather quality.
- Ongoing monitoring at a local site level is conducted by the radio station youth facilitator in the form of attendance registers and monthly reports on broadcasts, CDB and outreach activities. This includes radioshow broadcast summaries and records of listeners' feedback through calls, text and social media.
- CRF regional trainers will conduct focus groups with beneficiaries, most significant change story interviews as well as surveys and reports on training workshops during their site visits.
- Surveys are conducted using tablets, which are automatically centralized to a CRF SurveyCTO database. Qualitative data is translated, transcribed and coded using Nvivo softerware. All data is analysed and reported on by CRF's Monitoring and Evaluation (MEL) Officer. Reporting on project activities is done quarterly in the form of a Project Manager Report. Reporting on Outcome level will happen in the baseline, mid-term update, and end of project report.
- CRF's MEL Officer will work in close partnership with GFSA and a panel of experts around the design of the baseline and the measurement of project impact.

What we have learned

CRF has brokered solid relationships with CBOs across all 18 project sites, engaging them as primary partners or associates to the youth radio network. CRF's active drive to enrol CBOs with a view to capitalise on their topic expertise for youth as well as amplify their work, has created value within the local ecosystem. Entities that did not previously work well together now do, as CRF has been able to shift the relationship from a transactional one to one of value, especially with cash-strapped community radio stations. Local authorities in education as well as municipal bodies support CRF's work with youth and communities, having seen the impact on the direct target group most especially. Local leaders are also supportive of CRF's work, especially as youth reporters include elders and traditional authorities in outreach activities and programme generation. Intergenerational dialogues not only include older voices in current conversations but also foster good relations.

*This project profile was compiled by **Nina Callaghan** and **Jacqueline Van Meyggarden** of the Children's Radio Foundation.*

BLOG

HAZARDOUS ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND VIOLENCE – THE IMPORTANCE OF EVIDENCE FOR PREVENTION

05 May 2017 | by Regan Jules-Macquet | Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention
Topics: Alcohol & substance abuse   •   Prevention concepts

Background

The recreational use of alcohol is usually considered harmless, besides an occasional headache. However, the abuse of substances like alcohol and drugs is associated with many negative outcomes, including an increase in violence. While most alcohol drinkers are not violent, much of the crime and violence that is perpetrated in South Africa, and indeed around the world, is enabled and exacerbated by substance abuse. This makes addressing substance use and abuse, an essential component of any violence prevention initiative.

The Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP) is currently running a violence prevention project (the Umhlali project) in Walmer Township, Port Elizabeth. Data from the baseline study conducted prior to the implementation of this project showed that alcohol was by far the most frequently consumed substance in the community (64.6%), compared to marijuana (2.7%) and other drugs which were reported by less than 1% of the sample.[ii] A small study was subsequently conducted to determine how much of the alcohol use was, in fact, hazardous and whether the level of substance abuse was likely to impact on the levels of violence in the community.

Relevance of Alcohol Consumption for Violence Prevention

There is a wealth of evidence linking violence and hazardous alcohol consumption. For example, a study in 2012 found that 65% of social contact crimes, such as murder, attempted murder, rape and assault, occur in the context of alcohol abuse, and to a much lesser extent, abuse of other substances. Alcohol abuse has also been found to directly contribute to intentional and unintentional injuries, the spread of infectious diseases, intimate partner violence, as well as child neglect and abuse.

Alcohol abuse also influences violence indirectly. South Africa has one of the highest Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) rates in the world, with large numbers of mothers consuming alcohol at a hazardous level during their pregnancies. Children affected by FAS have higher rates of adverse developmental outcomes with far-reaching consequences even into adulthood. These include:

Deficits in cognition and executive functioning strongly associated with early onset and lifelong persistent offending trajectories;
1. Hyperactivity;
2. Mental health problems;
3. Difficulties with educational engagement;
4. Poor employment prospects;
5. Inappropriate sexual behaviour;
6. Increased conflict with the law; and
7. Addiction to substances.

Thus, it is not surprising to find higher rates of people affected by FAS in the criminal justice system.

The risks of FAS are much higher in communities characterised by low socio-economic status, low educational attainment, high number of pregnancies and heavy alcohol consumption.

The cost of all this to society is immense, from missed potential to injury and even death. Indeed, the total tangible and intangible costs related to harmful alcohol use has been found to represent 10 -12% of South Africa's 2009 Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Assessing Alcohol Consumption in Walmer Township

The World Health Organisation's Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) was used to measure hazardous alcohol consumption in Walmer.

The AUDIT was developed by the WHO as a screening and brief intervention tool for primary health care practitioners so that they can identify people who require support for reducing or ceasing alcohol consumption. The AUDIT produces a score which is used to refer people to appropriate interventions. The AUDIT has been found to provide an accurate measure of risk across gender, age and cultures.

It showed that high risk (35%) and probable alcohol dependent drinkers (26%) account for more than 60% of the adult population of the township, while low-risk drinkers (20%) and abstainers (19%) account for the remaining 40% of the population. This finding is of vital significance for the project, as it provides evidence that alcohol abuse is a pervasive activity in the community and that if unaddressed, may inhibit the effectiveness of the intervention.
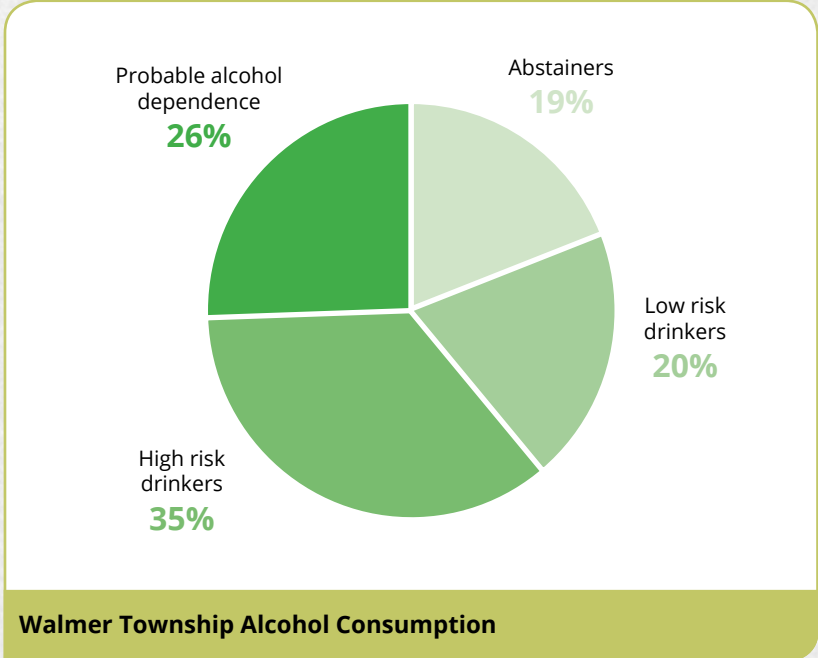
When exploring the gender differences, the study showed that female participants constituted the majority of abstainers (63.5%). Low-risk drinking patterns were equally shared between males (50%) and females (50%). In this sample, a higher percentage of females (52.2%) were present in the high-risk drinkers category than males.

This is unusual, and warrants closer attention when developing hazardous alcohol consumption interventions, as women head up 41.2% of all households in South Africa. This has implications for increased risk of child neglect and possible abuse, as well as FAS. This high score could possibly be attributed to the slightly higher number of females in the sample when compared with the general population of Walmer Township. Males made up the majority of probable alcohol dependence drinkers at 52%.

When analysing the data by age, we found that 82.3% of high-risk drinkers were between the ages of 21 to 40 years. The same age group accounts for 88.3% of probable alcohol dependence drinkers.

From the data, it appears that the at-risk age groups for hazardous alcohol consumption for women are between the ages of 21 to 30. For males, it is 21 to 40 years

Walmer Township Alcohol Consumption

Probable alcohol dependence **26%**
Abstainers **19%**
Low risk drinkers **20%**
High risk drinkers **35%**

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of age. This means that there is a wider spread of hazardous drinkers amongst males than females. This also means that the planned interventions should be age-appropriate for adults. Counter-intuitively, the youth and young adults 20 years and younger had the least hazardous alcohol consumption for both genders.
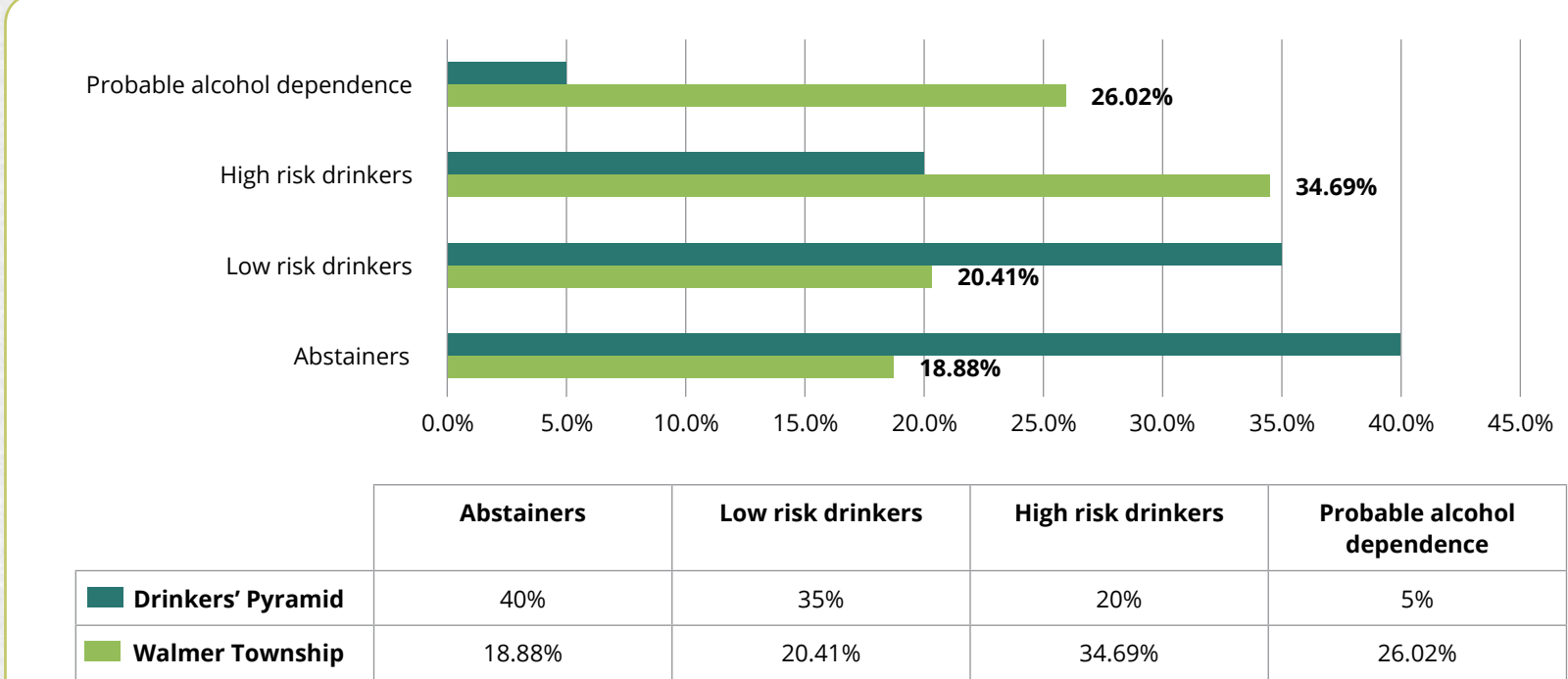
Next, we compared the alcohol consumption patterns to the general Drinkers' Pyramid. The Drinkers' Pyramid is a reference tool used in the AUDIT manual, based on general norms, which need to be adjusted to local alcohol consumption patterns. The alcohol consumption patterns of Walmer Township illustrated drinking patterns that exceeded the normative Drinkers' Pyramid. There are far fewer abstainers and low-risk drinkers in Walmer Township, and far more high risk and probable alcohol dependence drinkers than what is generally considered to be normal.

This data is extremely useful when it comes to developing and implementing a campaign to reduce hazardous alcohol consumption. When we know which groups are most at risk, we can target interventions accordingly. The WHO AUDIT also provides guidance as well as educational materials which can be used for interventions. These can be found in the AUDIT guide.

Recommendations for Implementation

The WHO makes the following multi-level recommendations to address problematic alcohol consumption:▼

	Abstainers	Low risk drinkers	High risk drinkers	Probable alcohol dependence
Drinkers' Pyramid	40%	35%	20%	5%
Walmer Township	18.88%	20.41%	34.69%	26.02%

Comparing Walmer Township to the Drinkers' Pyramid

To these, we add the following recommendations based on the data which emerged from the Walmer AUDIT. We will be implementing these recommendations within the Umhlali project and will be evaluating the impact of this work in 2018.

A. We will be putting in place a structured intervention with targeting licensed and unlicensed taverns in Walmer Township that focuses on:
1. Creating distribution points for people to access information on hazardous alcohol consumption;
2. Education and engagement around the link between violence and hazardous alcohol consumption;

3. Ethical business practice; and
4. Creating a self-driven platform where taverns owners and community members can work together to address issues arising from alcohol consumption and crime.

B. We will also be putting in place targeted interventions aimed at the following vulnerable groups:
1. Females aged 21 to 30 years
2. Males aged 21 to 40 years

C. Given the high rate of hazardous alcohol consumption in Walmer, the following components will be built into the intervention strategy:

1. Prevention activities aimed at encouraging and/or maintaining abstinence aimed at children, youth and adults.
2. Develop intervention material based on the WHO Brief Intervention for Hazardous and Harmful Drinking which will form the basis of prevention activities.
3. Use the self-completed screening tool in group settings within the existing Umhlali programme activities, such as life skills and parenting skills development.
4. Develop appropriate educational leaflets and handouts to leave at local taverns.
5. Implement regular educational workshops on hazardous alcohol consumption.
6. Establish counselling and

monitoring intervention within the existing family service.
7. Establish external referral system to specialists who can conduct diagnostic evaluations and prescribe treatment.
8. Establish a partnership with existing alcohol dependence service providers to render monitoring and counselling services.

Through this targeted and evidence-based approach, we hope to prevent violence in the short and long-term by reducing the amount of hazardous alcohol consumption in Walmer.

For the full list of references used for this article, please refer to its online version on SaferSpaces.

National	Provincial	Community level	Family level	Individual level
• Align interventions with existing policies and legislation such as the National Drug Master Plan 2013-2017 • National control of the production and sale of alcohol • National minimum age of consumption • Marketing and advertising restrictions and product placements • Raising the price of alcohol • Increase taxes on alcohol • Ban below-cost selling or volume discounts • Establish National monitoring systems	• Align interventions with existing policies such as the Eastern Cape Provincial Safety Strategy • Provincial control over the production and sale of alcohol • Restrictions on drinking in public • Restrictions on sales • Addressing illicit production and sales • Limit days or hours of sale • Enhance law enforcement of sale of alcohol to minors	• Regulate alcohol outlet density • Health service responses • Awareness raising activities • Community mobilisation • Regulating the availability of alcohol • Education to increase awareness and create platforms upon which to build further strategies	• Education to increase awareness and create platforms upon which to build further strategies	• Accessible services to address hazardous or harmful alcohol consumption • Use of evidence-based brief interventions and screening tools

BE INSPIRED

SOCIALLY ACTIVATED SPACES IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

In a nutshell

The Emthonjeni project forms part of VPUU's greater mission to upgrade public spaces in informal settlements to reduce violence and inequality and thus improve greater quality of life for residents living in informal settlements. The isiXhosa word Emthonjeni is referring to 'being at the fountain' – a place by the water. Traditionally, communities gather around an Emthonjeni to fetch water, do washing or simply spend time catching up on latest news and chatter. Such a place also exists in informal settlements: public taps.

What we do

Residents in urban-context informal settlements do not have access to running water in their homes. Typically 25-50 households share a public tap. This is the only place people can get water for drinking, washing and cooking. Public spaces play an important role in everyday life – it is seen as a 'breathing' space in between the dense housing setting. The goal of the Emthonjeni project is to drive social cohesion, improve safety and access to specific basic services by optimising the use and functionality of the existing spaces in between the dense houses. While the Emthonjeni can be used as a multi-functional place, in our work it is mostly promoted as a space for Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes and water collection point. Safe walkways link the space to other nodal points, such as ECD centres.

How we do it

Following a participatory approach, the community and the VPUU NPC as project partner identify public spaces at water taps. These spaces are mapped on a spatial map of the overall settlement. Through a participatory discussion and design process specific spaces are prioritised and designed with the
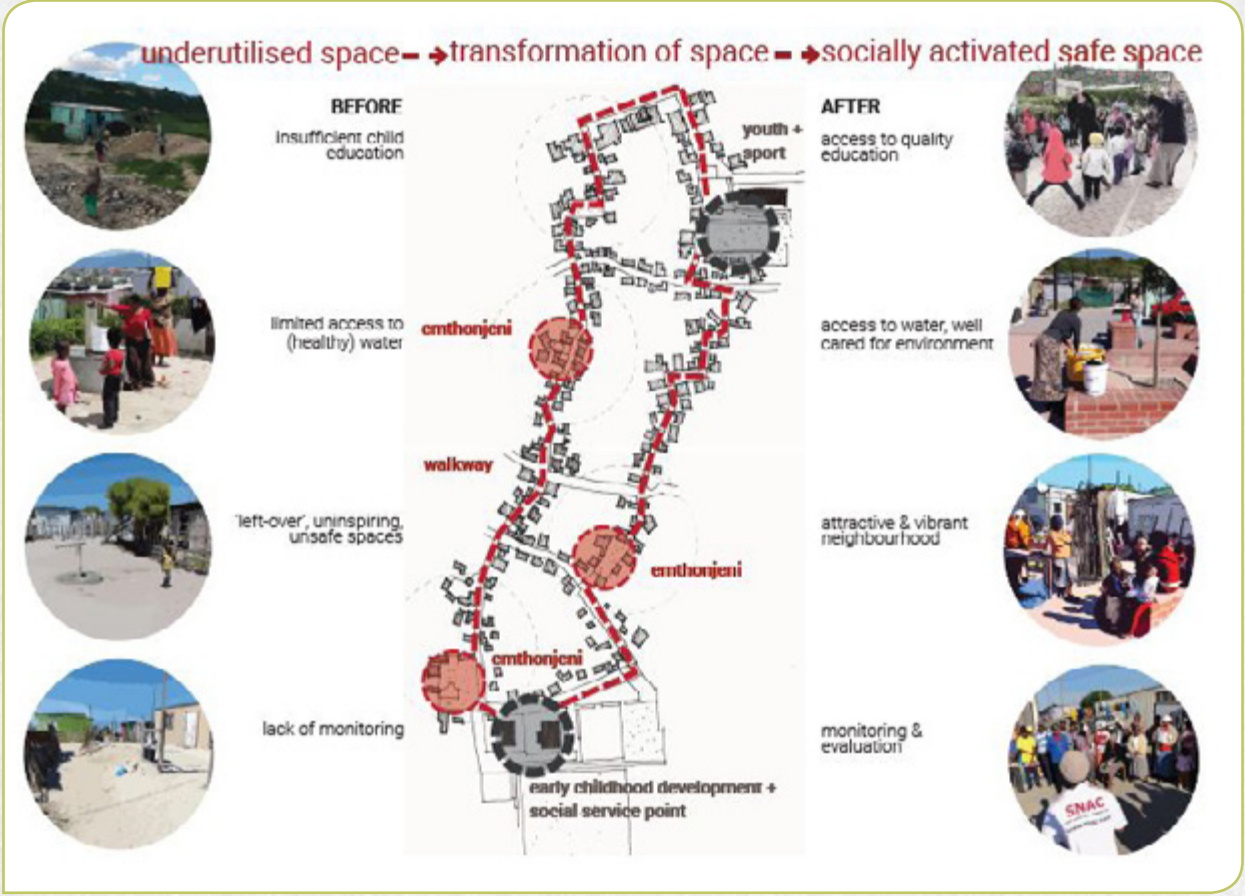
community members to function as Emthonjeni's. Local members construct and landscape the Emthonjeni under professional supervision. Once the Emthonjeni is completed, opportunities for activation are vast: space for vaccinations, health awareness, safety meetings, youth programmes, training ground. We encourage local ECD centres to use it as an outreach space.

What we have achieved

Scale

The Emthonjeni project has taken route in 2 large informal settlements benefitting 30.000 residents. To date more than 20 em-

thonjenis/ public spaces have been implemented in those settlements. The concept has been replicated by a number of organisations and municipalities, primarily as an upgrade of the function of water collection and washing point.

Within the Emthonjeni projects the individual spaces are part of an overall public space system in informal settlements that link key facilities with each other and thereby being part of a systemic approach.

Community Ownership

Participatory conceptualization, design, implementation, operation and maintenance are key success factors that lead to community ownership. A high degree of transparency, integrity, promotion of voluntarism and accountability are factors that have contributed to the high acceptance in the communities we work in. Implementation is measureable and accountable to the funding partners and the community. Employment of local labour whilst at the same time working with local volunteers, who gain access to skills development is important to ensure sustainability and long-term community ownership.

Strategic Partnerships

The complement of local partners, strategic and research partners, combined with an integrated VPUU Team provides a holistic and participative process of design, active decision-making and practical problem solving. Joint learning is intended at all levels of engagement with community, state, partners and VPUU Team. The collaborating partners are the community, specifically, neighbours around the ex-

isting public space, Early Childhood Development (ECD) partners and forums, Neighbourhood Watch representatives, Safe Node Area Committee (local project leadership), Municipal Line Departments and VPUU NPC as the intermediary organisation, funders and interested and strategic stakeholders.

What we have learned

To achieve lasting change in building integrated communities, it is imperative to promote:
- Community Ownership
- Strategic Partnerships
- Implementation at local level to test methodologies, processes and outcomes towards improved quality of life
- Monitoring of Emthonjeni
- Coping strategies for residents are supported through the ECD programmes
- Creation of a public space network in an informal settlement via a safe walkway
- Intermediary facilitation between community and public sector

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Lead Organisation(s)

Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU)

Project partner(s)

German Development Cooperation, Western Cape Government, Ford Foundation, Comic Relief, City of Cape Town, Drakenstein Municipality, Theewaterskloof Municipality, AHT Group AG, IDRC, University of Cape Town, Chrysalis Academy, Grassroot Soccer, Harambee, Proud2Bme, New Orleans Secondary School, MOSAIC, Fundacion Mi Sangre

Location

Western Cape

Timeframe

January 2009 – ongoing

Topic(s)

Children, Crime prevention through environmental design, Family / Parenting, Monitoring & evaluation, Public spaces, Safety planning, Urban safety
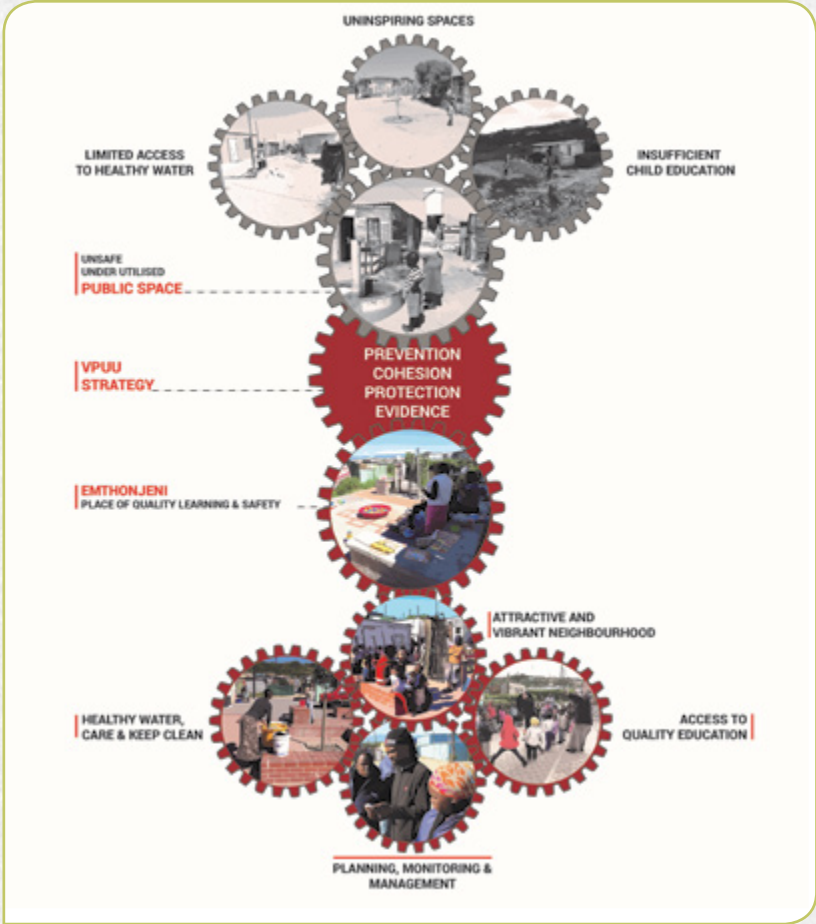
Sector(s)

Community, International / Development cooperation, Government: local, NGOs/CBOs

Type(s) of Prevention

Primary prevention, Secondary prevention, Situational prevention, Social prevention, Institutional prevention

Website

www.vpuu.org.za/

urban safety reference group

BLOG

PRACTICAL RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS: THE WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

18 Apr 2017 | by Gillian Makota and Joanne Phyfer | Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention
Topics: Children • Prevention concepts • School safety

School violence is a huge challenge to universal schooling and the right to education. How it manifests often depends on the context in which the violence arises, such as whether the violence is perpetrated by learners against fellow learners, by educators against learners, by learners against educators or by external persons against both learners and educators.

Similarly, the causes of school violence vary, and can be rooted in social, cultural, historical and economic factors. Due to its multi-faceted nature, the elimination of violence in schools calls for the engagement of all members of the school community.

"Due to its multi-faceted nature, the elimination of violence in schools calls for the engagement of all members of the school community."

The **Whole School Approach** to violence prevention attempts to achieve this, addressing school violence as a collective rather than individual challenge and involving the school community, parents, organisations and the local community.

Integrating school safety plans: The National School Safety Framework

This approach is taken in the National School Safety Framework (NSSF), developed by the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention (CJCP), in partnership with the National Department of Basic Education.

This framework was developed because the school environment is often one where learners fear for their safety and are subject to direct and indirect forms of violence; this certainly does not encourage optimum learning (to find out more, see the National School Violence Study 2012).

Yet, learner safety is not always prioritised in schools, or when it is, emphasis is placed on target hardening approaches to improving safety such as increasing police presence in schools, installation of burglar bars, hiring of security guards, and erecting walls and fences rather than on establishing and enforcing school safety policies, disciplinary procedures and implementing interventions aimed at modifying and managing learner behaviour.

The NSSF advocates for school safety to become part and parcel
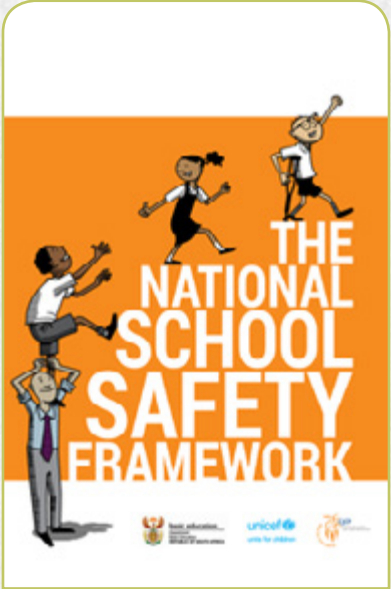
of a school's cultural norm rather than being viewed as an add-on to the school management's responsibilities. It provides school management with the tools to effectively formulate, implement and monitor school safety plans.

This includes having policies and regulations in place, conducting school safety audits and the development of school safety plans with the intention to address issues relating to violence and school security. These basic steps towards school safety are often absent in schools, resulting

in school management feeling totally overwhelmed when a violent incident occurs.

School violence is a community challenge

School violence is not solely a school problem, but instead, is a reflection of family environments and problems in the wider community at large.

The whole school approach strives to take this into account, through recognising the many different actors that make up the school community, such as

- learners,
- educators,
- principals, and school management teams (SMTs),
- school governing bodies (SGBs),
- parents or caregivers,
- and the community.

The approach encourages schools to create a shared understanding of school violence among these actors and to carry out effective needs analyses in order to successfully identify and address any safety-related issue.

In this way, accountability for preventing school violence is shared, and hopefully, more sustainable and targeted prevention strategies can be implemented.

Schools often lack the basic requirements to promote safety, whether it be the essentially policies needed to structure schools' responses to violent incidents or the active engagement of stakeholders in purposefully working towards school safety. This may not be surprising, considering the many responsibilities school staff already have to attend to.

However, it also suggests that violence prevention in schools is possible, if schools are able to take a few simple steps to establish the necessary institutional infrastructure. This includes ensuring that the school has:

- The Policies (e.g. Learner Code of Conduct), Procedures (e.g. Emergency Procedure) and Plans (e.g. School Safety Plan) in place that promote safety and that staff and learners know the content of these documents;
- Good relationships with stakeholders who can support the school's violence prevention efforts, e.g. the police and community leaders; and
- A clear understanding among staff regarding who is responsible for what aspects of safety within the school.
- The wellbeing of a school as a whole, depends on the prevention of violence within it, and can be achieved through the mobilisation of all actors in and around the school.

*This article was compiled by **Gillian Makota** and **Joanne Phyfer** of the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention.*

For the full list of references used for this article, please refer to its online version on SaferSpaces

Implementing the Whole School Approach: Lessons learned

The NSSF is currently being implemented by the CJCP in 40 schools as part of the Sexual Violence Prevention in Schools in South Africa (SeViSSA) project which aims to reduce sexual violence in schools

During implementation of the NSSF many lessons have emerged regarding how best to promote violence prevention in schools.

Stakeholder accountability

While involving a wide range of stakeholders is vital to the prevention of school violence, a lack of accountability among stakeholders is one of the challenges that is deterring many schools' progress in managing school violence and safety incidents.

Most schools do not have structures in place with dedicated office bearers and clear roles and responsibilities for those who manage school safety. It has also emerged that there is a gap between having a policy and actually implementing it. Practices, policies and procedures are not being implemented consistently and with transparent fairness throughout the entire school system.

Furthermore, in many cases, stakeholders do not engage with each other, and work within their dedicated 'silos'. This has highlighted the need for schools to prioritise encouraging all stakeholders, from learners to school management, to take some responsibility for school safety and work together to implement plans and policies.

Even without a dedicated school safety officer, if all members of the school community are accountable, there is the potential that violence prevention in schools can be realised. This need for accountability must also be extended to parents, caregivers and communities so that they are aware of the role they play in instilling positive behaviour changes in learners.

Absence of adequate capacity, support and mentoring of educators

School staff have voiced concern about not having the capacity to manage school violence themselves. It is essential for school management, with support from district and provincial safety officials, to ensure that opportunities for educator capacity development are provided.

"Learners need to be involved in coming up with interventions that address violence and school safety in order to ensure their 'buy-in'"

Critical skills, such as positive disciplining of learners in an appropriate and empowering manner, as well as, training for educators to identify the early warning signs of school violence, are key in creating a non-violent learning and teaching environment.

Restricted learner driven initiatives

A key finding during interactions with schools has been that there are few platforms in schools created for learners to contribute and express their fears, as well as opportunities to showcase their skills and participate meaningfully in school safety initiatives.

Learners need to be involved in coming up with interventions that address violence and school safety in order to ensure their 'buy-in'. Allowing learners to contribute to a school's safety initiatives also provide learners with opportunities to realise some of the consequences associated with their behaviours and to participate in decision-making processes in and around the school.

Implementing and monitoring of the safety action plans

An effective school safety action plan emphasises prevention, intervention, and emergency mechanisms. However, during implementation of this intervention it is emerging that most schools don't have school violence response plans in place. This speaks to the observation that schools often consider safety an additional duty, and so many schools do not find time to dedicate to their safety needs.

Without school violence response plans, it is difficult to measure if a school is making progress in addressing violence. Monitoring mechanisms play a crucial role in informing the schools in a timeous manner of any anomaly that needs to be addressed. As it stands, schools only become alerted of the gravity of situations at a point when it is difficult to respond with their limited capacity.

Conclusion: Violence prevention in schools is possible with a few simple steps

The insights gleaned from our interactions with schools suggest that there are many institutional challenges that prevent the success of violence prevention initiatives in South African schools.

BLOG

LIGHTS, TOILETS, TAXIS – SITUATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION FAILURES IN KHAYELITSHA

15 May 2017 | by Dalli Weyers | Social Justice Coalition
Topics: Crime prevention through environmental design • Urban safety

The Social Justice Coalition (SJC) is a membership-based organisation. Our members are primarily poor working-class people living in Khayelitsha, Kraaifontein, Nyanga, Philippi and other areas across Cape Town. Since our inception our work has had a marked situational crime prevention focus.

One of the SJC's first campaign's focused on the lack of safety experienced by our members and other residents of informal settlements when making use of either shared communal flush toilets, "temporary" chemical toilets (outside of the home) or clearings to relieve themselves. As a result, the SJC has consistently campaigned for a greater budget share to ensure that access to safe and dignified sanitation is progressively realized.

The City of Cape Town (the City) has opposed our sanitation campaign and has dismissed the situational crime prevention argument by insisting that the lack of safety experienced by residents is to be blamed on the South African Police Service (SAPS). The SJC has taken a more nuanced approach highlighting the failures of both the City and the SAPS.

In order to ensure the accountability of the SAPS, the SJC successfully campaigned for the convening of the Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Police Inefficiency and a Breakdown in Relations between SAPS and the

Informal settlements in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, where the SJC has been campaigning for a greater budget share to ensure that access to safe and dignified sanitation is progressively realized. [Photo: No Lands Too Foreign]
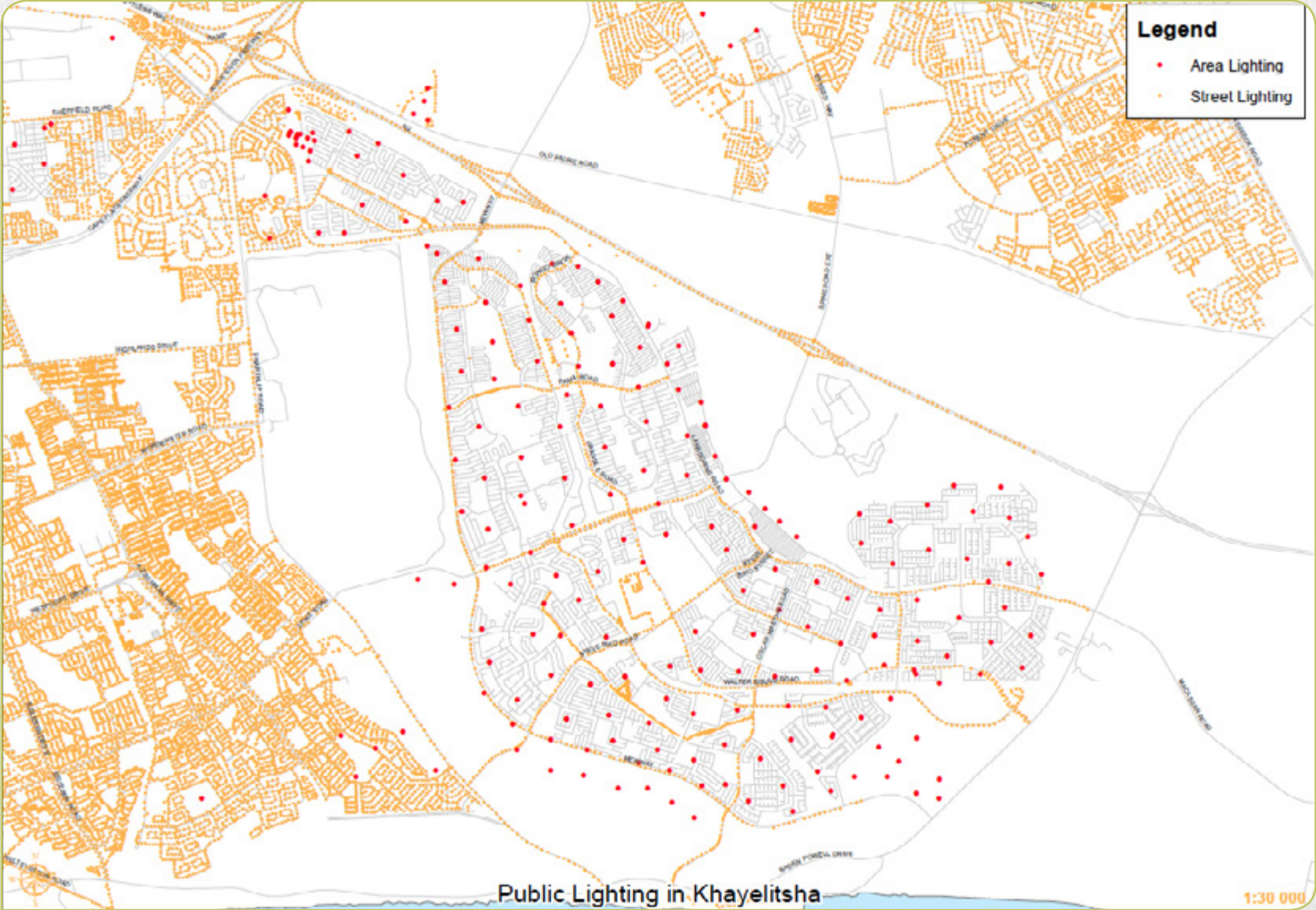
Community of Khayelitsha (the Commission). Even though the terms of reference of the Commission were limited to the work of the SAPS the Commission did speak to the need for situational crime prevention. For one the Commission found that in Khayelitsha "there is no doubt that inadequate lighting is a security issue."

On paper, and in theory, The

City of Cape Town, it would appear, agrees with the statement "inadequate lighting is a security issue." In a document titled Design and Management Guidelines for a Safer City, the City states, "Good lighting is one of the most effective means of increasing levels of safety and deterring crime".

Given the SJC's situational crime prevention work we were

interested to determine the extent of "inadequate lighting" in Khayelitsha and to what extent the City's Guidelines for a Safer City has been met.

Below is a map centred on Khayelitsha that we requested and received from the City of Cape Town's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department.

If one considers that the City's

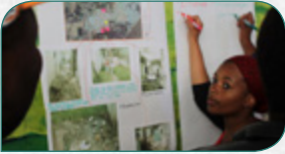Public Lighting in Khayelitsha

1:30 000

Guidelines for a Safer City characterizes "effective public lighting" as lighting on poles approximately 3 meters high and at intervals of 8 to 10 meters, it is clear that Khayelitsha lacks "one of the most effective means of increasing levels of safety and deterring crime". If one considers that the City's guidelines argue that "high-mast spotlights that cast dark shadows" should be avoided, it is clear that Khayelitsha lacks adequate lighting.

The map also makes it clear that the distribution of public lighting between communities is inequitable. The map reveals that historical black African townships, like Khayelitsha, receive mostly high-mast spotlights "that cast dark shadows" and that "effective public lighting" is almost entirely reserved for main roads, thoroughfares and other communities.

"The map also makes it clear that the distribution of public lighting between communities is inequitable."

Chart legend:
- April 2012 to March 2013
- April 2013 to March 2014
- April 2014 to March 2015
- April 2015 to March 2016

In his testimony to the Commission, Executive Director for the City of Cape Town Safety and Security, Richard Bosman, stated that high-mast lights were only provided "where it is not possible to install street lighting, because there are no roads."

However, contrary to this stated approach, the map makes it abundantly clear that both formal and informal areas, areas with roads and without, are predominantly provided with high-mast lights only.

The implications of this are literally life and death.

The primary purpose of public lighting is nighttime visibility for security and safety in public. Now consider the compounding effect of only having access to a toilet in the public realm, at some distance from your home, and having to access that toilet with inadequate lighting. The very real risk to bodily integrity is here only overshadowed by the near constant fear all informal settlement residents in Khayelitsha must live with.
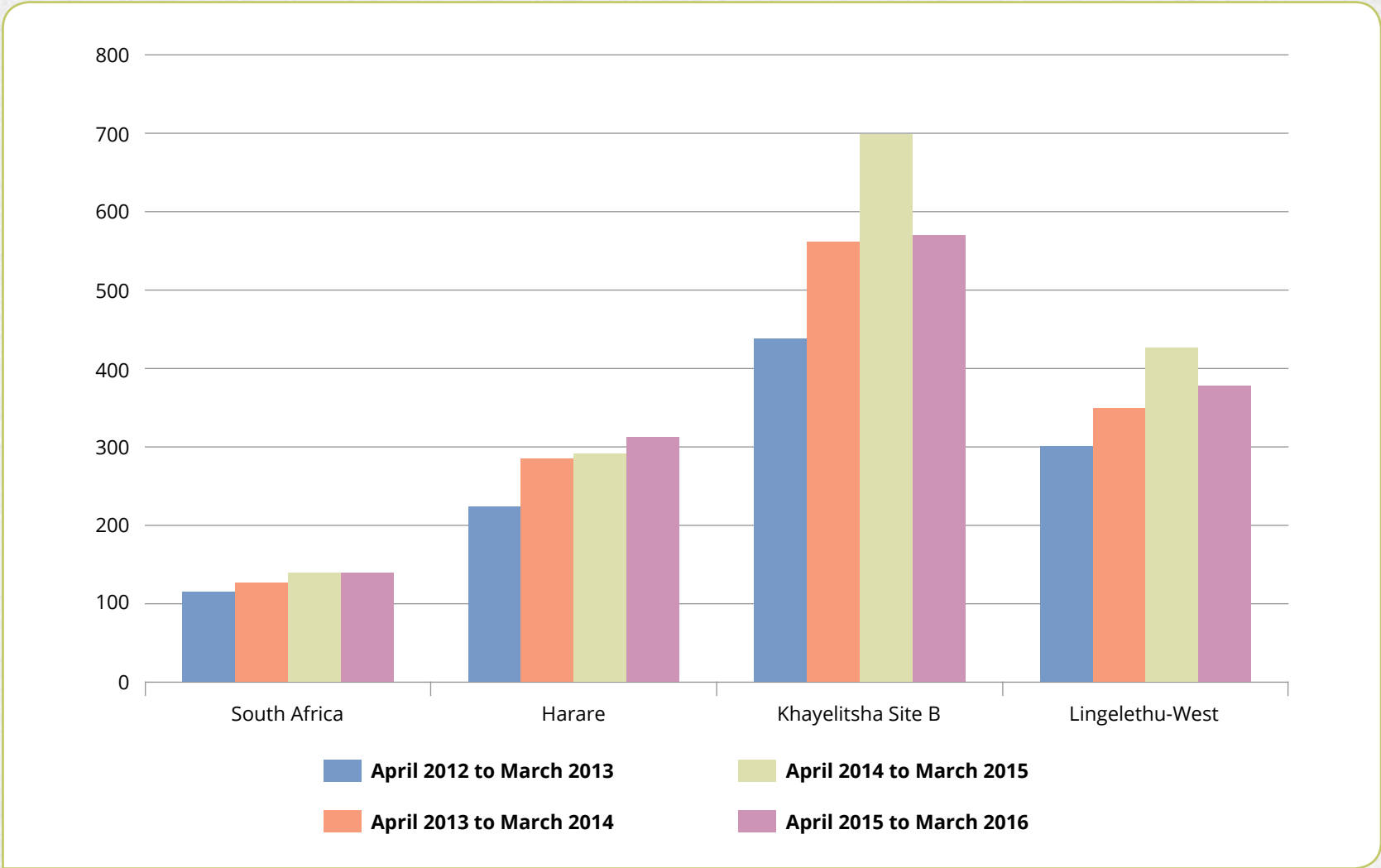
Khayelitsha's public transport users must leave their homes with similar degrees of trepidation.

Given the consequences of apartheid spatial planning, Khayelitsha's position on the urban edge and Cape Town's extreme levels of traffic congestion, the worst in the country, Khayelitsha's public transport users, up to 95% of residents, are often required to leave home before sunrise and often get home after sunset. On 21 June, the shortest day of the year, the sun only rises 10 to 15 minutes before 08:00 and sets 10 to 15 minutes before 18:00.

According to the City of Cape Town's Transport Authority the average direct transport cost for this public transport user group (low and low-medium income groups) is on average 45% of monthly household income. It lists the largest indirect costs as crime and a lack of safety.

The chart above shows the number of street robberies, that had aggravating circumstances and in which a weapon was drawn, per 100 000 people over the past four years. It compares the street robberies per 100 000 people for South Africa (a national average) to the three police precincts in Khayelitsha. The number of street robberies is calculated by subtracting the number of "Sub-categories of aggravated robberies" from the number of "Robbery with aggravating circumstances" included in the SAPS Annual Crime Statistics.

What the chart makes abundantly clear is that Khayelitsha experiences, year in and year out, more than double the number of street robberies than the national average. To make matters worse, according to the National Victims of Crime Survey for 2015/2016, the numbers above may only reflect 55% of street robberies perpetrated.

These statistics make it clear that residents of Khayelitsha are at real risk of being robbed at gunpoint, knifepoint or blunt-point, when walking to the shops, to school, to a neighbour, to catch public transport, to relieve themselves or when heading home. The map of Khayelitsha makes it clear that they are walking with limited visibility. Common sense makes it clear that they are walking in fear.

"These statistics make it clear that residents of Khayelitsha are at real risk of being robbed at gunpoint, knifepoint or blunt-point, when walking to the shops, to school, to a neighbour, to catch public transport, to relieve themselves or when heading home."

The City of Cape Town has promoted both the idea of violence prevention through urban upgrade and the programme Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrade (VPUU). It has articulated its views on the benefit of public lighting. It has articulated what it deems effective. By its own measure, it must concede that the VPUU has delivered hardly any effective public lighting in Khayelitsha. By its own measure, it must concede that as a City it is failing the people of Khayelitsha.

This article was compiled by **Dalli Weyers** *of the Social Justice Coalition.*

RESOURCES

Browse through all resources across the site. Filter them according to your needs and interests. Find resources uploaded by individual projects. As a member, you can upload and promote your own resources.

THE MOST DOWNLOADED RESOURCES, WHICH WERE PUBLISHED IN 2017:

The State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report 2017: A Report of the Urban Safety Reference Group

Type: Report/ Study
Published: 23 Aug 2017
Organisation: South African Cities Network

This is the second annual report on urban safety in South Africa, providing an update on crime and violence in South Africa's major cities. The report provides an overview and analysis of city-level trends with the purpose of enabling "better urban safety planning and strategy development".

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

Victims of Crime Survey 2016/17

Type: Report/ Study
Published: 28 Sep 2017
Organisation: Statistics South Africa

The Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) seeks to provide an overview of the nature and prevalence of crimes in South Africa from the perspective of victims. It also explores individuals' experiences of the criminal justice system.

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

Making South Africa Safe: A Manual for Community-based Crime Prevention

Type: Guide/ Manual
Published: 01 Feb 2017
Organisation: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Government policy and legislation urge local government to take the lead in implementing local level crime prevention programmes. This manual provides concise, user-friendly, practical guidance and outlines a step-by-step process to develop and implement a community-based crime prevention strategy.

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

Violence against Women in South Africa: A Country in Crisis

Type: Research/ Academia
Published: 01 Apr 2017
Organisation: Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR)

Despite the myriad of legal protections and interventions by state and non-state actors, women in South Africa continue to experience extremely high rates of violence.

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

South African Crime Quarterly 59

Type: Research/ Academia
Published: 01 Mar 2017
Organisation: Institute for Security Studies, Centre of Criminology

This issue explores topics related to domestic violence, refusing parole, and mental illness as a defense.

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

School Violence and Bullying: Global Status Report

Type: Report/ Study
Published: 17 Jan 2017
Organisation: UNESCO

The report focuses on violence and bullying in formal educational settings, in particular violence and bullying between students, and on actions that can be taken by the education sector and schools to prevent and respond to the problem.

▷ Read more on SaferSpaces

www.saferspaces.org.za/resources

STATS & FIGURES

SAFERSPACES IN THE LAST YEAR: JANUARY 2017 – DECEMBER 2017 (STATS AS OF 6 FEBRUARY 2018)

By the numbers

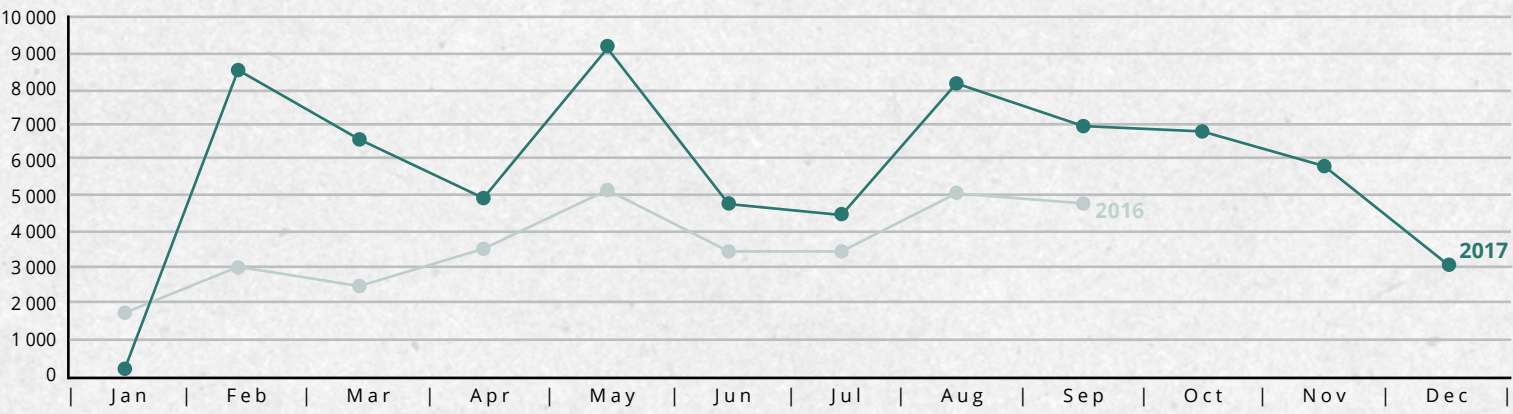**206** Registered members
Last year: 148 (+39%)

102 Registered organisations
Last year: 68 (+50%)

49 Showcased projects
Last year: 37 (+32%)

85 Blog posts
Last year: 58 (+47%)

296 Resources
Last year: 167 (+77%)

68,476 Site users
Last year*: 38,565
*Aug 2015 – Sept 2016

142,978 Pageviews
Last year*: 149,754
*Aug 2015 – Sept 2016

3,565 Resource downloads
Monitored since January 2017

1200 Connect clicks
Clicks on members' emails, website, Facebook or Twitter

Which were the most viewed sections?

Understand 40,248
Last year*: 11,303

Be Inspired 25,286
Last year*: 10,299

Connect 17,386
Last year*: 7,133

Blog 14,603
Last year*: 5,343

Resources 9,334
Last year*: 2,230

Learn How 2,176
Last year*: 1,486

Events 2,279
Last year*: 1,159

*Aug 2015 – Sept 2016

How do users browse through SaferSpaces?

5% Tablet
45% Cell phone
50% Desktop

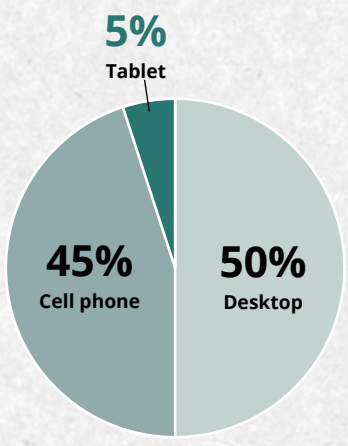### Flow of users per month

2016
2017

Top 10 – Favourite pages

1. Be Inspired | A Safer South Africa for Women and Children
2. Understand | What is violence?
3. Understand | How can we prevent violence?
4. Understand | Gender-based violence in South Africa
5. Understand | What is the situation in South Africa?
6. Organisation People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)
7. Understand | Youth violence
8. Understand | Gun violence and prevention in South Africa
9. Be Inspired | Youth Crime Prevention Desks
10. Understand | Public spaces: More than 'just space'

Top 5 – Resource downloads

1. White Paper on Safety and Security 2016 | Civilian Secretariat for Police Service
2. National Development Plan 2030 (NDP): Our future – make it work | National Planning Commission
3. State of South African Cities Report 2016 | South African Cities Network
4. Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) | Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
5. Making South Africa Safe: A Manual for Community-based Crime Prevention | Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Top 5 – Organisations contacted (website clicks)

1. People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)
2. RAPCAN (Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect)
3. A Safer South Africa for Women and Children
4. Institute for Safety Governance and Criminology (SafGo)
5. Inkwenkwezi Youth Development Sporting Foundation

Facebook

www.facebook.com/saferspaces.sa

Likes: **531**
Last year*: 392

*As of 6 October 2016

Twitter

@safer_spaces

Tweets: **844**
Last year*: 529

Following: **497**
Last year*: 444

Followers: **572**
Last year*: 361

*As of 6 October 2016

Most popular tweet

SaferSpaces @safer_spaces · 16 May 2017
Watch: Safe and Inclusive #PublicSpaces in #Johannesburg - Initiative by @JoburgParksZoo @CityofJoburgZA @giz_gmbh

Safe and Inclusive Public Spaces - Participatory pa...
Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo in collaboration with Johannesburg Development Agency and the Department of Public Safety initiated the upgrading of End Stre...
youtube.com

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMrAHMPvYf4

saferspaces
working together for a safer South Africa
www.saferspaces.org.za

civilian secretariat for police service
Department: Civilian Secretariat for Police Service
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

CONNECT

SaferSpaces is an online knowledge source for practitioners, government officials, academics, journalists and ordinary people that are working towards community safety and violence prevention in South Africa.

As a practitioner, you can register with a few clicks and start sharing your publications, showcasing your organisation and projects and announcing public events. You can also contribute by writing blog posts or developing a thematic page on safety-related topics. Most importantly, SaferSpaces allows you to connect with and learn from other practitioners.

Community of Practitioners

More than 200 practitioners and over 100 organisations from different sectors in government, civil society and academia are currently listed on SaferSpaces.

Are you a practitioner working towards community safety or violence prevention in South Africa, maybe for an NGO, a think tank or government? Then register on SaferSpaces and start sharing your knowledge so that other practitioners can learn from and connect with you.
www.saferspaces.org.za/members/register

Let's share our knowledge & learn from each other!

SaferSpaces helps you make your knowledge, insights and experiences easily accessible to other practitioners.

Why? So that we can learn from each other and be more effective in promoting safer communities throughout South Africa.
www.saferspaces.org.za/connect

Organisations

Over 100 organisations are currently listed on SaferSpaces (as of December 2017) all of which are working in one way or another towards building safer communities and preventing violence. They are sharing many of their publications and project insights via SaferSpaces so that other practitioners can be inspired, learn from or connect with them. If you work in such an organisation, write to us at: contact@saferspaces.org.za

African Centre for Cities International | Western Cape	**African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum** International | Western Cape	**Akonaho Victim Empowerment NPO** Limpopo	**Alternatives to Violence Project** International | National
AMANDLA EduFootball	**Arise Community Development Projects** Western Cape	**Boxgirls South Africa** Western Cape	**Butterfly Art Project** Western Cape
Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID) Western Cape	**CBE International** International | National	**Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria** National | Gauteng	**Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention** National | Western Cape
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) International | Gauteng | Western Cape	**Centre of Criminology (UCT)** Western Cape	**Children of South Africa (CHOSA)** Western Cape	**Children's Radio Foundation (CRF)** National
Chrysalis Academy Western Cape	**City of Johannesburg** Gauteng	**Civilian Secretariat for Police Service** National	**Clowns without Borders South Africa** National
Community Action Towards a Safer Environment (CASE) Western Cape	**Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** National | Gauteng	**Dare to Dream Foundation** Western Cape	**Daughters of Destiny** Western Cape
Diep River Victims of Violence Trauma Room Western Cape	**Durban University of Technology** KwaZulu-Natal	**Equal Education** Eastern Cape | Gauteng | Western Cape	**eThekwini Municipality** KwaZulu-Natal
Fight for Peace's Safer Communities Programme International | Western Cape	**Gauteng Department of Community Safety** Gauteng	**GEMA - Gender Equality Matters** Gauteng	**GenderWorks** Western Cape
GIZ South Africa International | National	**Gun Free South Africa** National	**Human Sciences Research Council** Eastern Cape | Gauteng | KwaZulu-Natal | Western Cape	**IkamvaYouth** Eastern Cape | Gauteng | KwaZulu-Natal | North West | Western Cape
Ikhwezi Women's Support Centre Eastern Cape	**Ilifa Labantwana** Western Cape	**Inkwenwezi Youth Development Sporting Foundation**	**Institute for Safety Governance and Criminology (SafGo)** Western Cape
Institute for Security Studies International | National	**International Centre of Nonviolence (ICON)** KwaZulu-Natal	**International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** International (Canada)	**Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo** Gauteng
Johannesburg Development Agency Gauteng	**Joint Gender Fund**	**Khulisa Social Solutions** National	**Lesedi la Batho** Gauteng
Living Hope Eastern Cape | Western Cape	**Mandela Bay Development Agency** Eastern Cape	**Masifunde** Eastern Cape	**MeMeZa Community Safety** Gauteng
Mhani Gingi Western Cape	**National Prosecuting Authority** National	**New World Foundation** Western Cape	**Niani Victim Empowerment** Limpopo
Nike SA International | National	**Nisaa Institute for Women's Development** Gauteng	**One in Nine Campaign** Gauteng	**Open Streets Cape Town** Western Cape
PeacePlayers International – South Africa KwaZulu-Natal	**Pegasys Institute** International | National	**People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA)** Gauteng	**Philisa Abafazi Bethu SA** Western Cape
Play Africa Gauteng	**Play Handball ZA** National | Western Cape	**Project Empower** KwaZulu-Natal	**Quaker Peace Centre** Western Cape
RAPCAN (Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) Western Cape	**Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust** Western Cape	**Rape Crisis Centre Port Elizabeth** Eastern Cape	**Safety and Violence Initiative (SaVI)** Western Cape
Save the Children South Africa National	**Sedibeng District Municipality** Gauteng	**Seriti Institute** Free State | Gauteng | Mpumalanga | North West	**Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)** International | National
Social Justice Coalition Western Cape	**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
Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation Western Cape	**TEARS Foundation** Gauteng	**The Seven Passes Initiative** Western Cape	**The Sozo Foundation** Western Cape
The Teddy Bear Foundation Gauteng	**The Viva Foundation of South Africa** Gauteng | Western Cape	**Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme** Limpopo	**Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre** Gauteng
UNFPA South Africa International | National	**Urban Futures Centre** National | KwaZulu Natal	**Vhutshilo Mountain School** Limpopo	**Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU NPC)** Western Cape
Waves for Change (W4C) Eastern Cape | Western Cape	**Western Cape Department of Community Safety** Western Cape	**Western Cape Government After School Game Changer** Western Cape	**Western Cape Network for Community Peace and Development** Western Cape