This tool is part of:

Building safer communities through systemic approaches to violence prevention - A toolkit for participatory safety planning

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Figure 2: Transect Walk during safety audit, August 2013, Bekkersdal

Which information is useful and how can you collect it?

In this first phase, you will look for answers to some key questions. In the following table you can find these questions. Of course, you could draft your own questions to complement those already mentioned.

The table also indicates ways you can access information (a. = literature research, b. = interviews, c. = PUA). In the case of the PUA, the number of useful tools is indicated. The PUA tools are described on the following pages.

Which information is useful?	How can it be collected?2		
	a.	b.	C.
Which forms of violence, and specifically youth violence, do we face in this area? (including information on the extent, eg., frequency and severity)	/	/	3b, 8
How can the perpetrators and the victims be described?	/	/	3a, 5
What are the causes of violence in this area? What are the risk factors?	✓	✓	1, to be worked on in analysis phase
Perceptions among the people in the project region on their own victimhood in the face of violence			2b, 5, 6
The situation of youth in your area specifically: which groups exist, what are their needs, interests and positions?	possibly	possibly	5, 7

Which information is useful?	How can it be collected?2		
	a.	b.	c.
What are the consequences of the situation of violence in your community?			6, 8
Are there any major conflicts in the area? Between whom, about what, since when?	possibly	possibly	1,8
Where are places of unsafety (hotspots of violence) and what do they look like?			2b, 6
Important actors: which groups and organisations exist? Which relationships do they maintain? Which existing power relationships have to be considered?	possibly	possibly	3a,b 4
Which resources can we build on?		possibly	2a, 8
A project overview (related to violence prevention), including lessons learned	V	/	
Ideas for what can be done to prevent violence – immediately, in the medium and in the long term.		/	8

Figure 3: Types of Useful Data

Literature research (a): Useful information is often available from state institutions, research and health centres, civil society organisations, and international organisations. They might provide studies, project progress reports or evaluation reports which contain important information. Documented 'lessons learned' of violence prevention from other projects in the area can provide interesting and relevant information, especially for the later discussion of the project design.

Interviews with people with relevant knowledge (b): In order to complement the information you have gathered in the literature research, you can arrange interviews with selected people with relevant knowledge. These can be very different kinds of experts: people doing research on violence and violence prevention in the area, people working in the field of violence prevention (NGOs, GOs,), people working specifically with youth, people living in the area with good knowledge of the social structures, members or ex-members of gangs, etc.

The Participatory Urban Appraisal (c): The PUA can be the first part of a participatory process, as described in Chapter C. It has at least two objectives: one is to collect information and involve those who know their immediate environment best: the local people. The second objective is to start getting people involved as decision-makers in processes that affect their lives.

^{2.} The options are complementary to each other.