TOOL**ONE**

IMAGINARY WALK
Creating a Common Vision for a Safe Community

What should be in place before you can use this tool:

Before developing a common vision, the analysis phase should have been finalized and the participants should be familiar with the concept of community safety.

Objective:

To develop a shared vision.

To begin to shift participants' focus from crime control to community safety

To formulate indicators.

By the end of the activity, participants would have discussed what they want their community to look like or to be in 5 years, specifically with regard to community safety. They would also have offered their diverse perspectives on what community safety means.

Material needed:

Big brown paper, moderation cards or A4-sized paper in different colours, scissors, glue, tape, markers, wax crayons. Many other items can be helpful like beans, little sticks or small stones, cardboard, any kind of fibre, leaves, etc.

Preparation:

Provide enough of the above mentioned material, the more, the better. Have a piece of paper prepared for yourself with the text under 'task 1', which you will read later on.

Procedure:

Explain that the idea for the next block is to create a common vision of community safety in participants' neighbourhood/community. Explain that you will ask the participants to join you on an imaginary walk through their community, which will be a safe community at the time of the walk. Explain that the exercise works better if eyes are closed. If somebody doesn´t feel comfortable about closing his or her eyes, it´s completely acceptable to keep them open. Then ask the participants to close their eyes and read the following text in calm voice.

PARTICIPATION

INFO COLLECTION

DATA ANALYSIS

PLANNING

IMPLEMENTATION

The entire toolkit is available on: www.saferspaces.org.za

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Task 1 (in plenary):

"Close your eyes for a minute or two. You are in a place which is completely safe. There is no threat, and you feel completely safe everywhere. This is your community in 5 years time. Imagine how it looks – imagine: you are walking through the streets. You meet different people, men and women, old and young. You are feeling safe and you know that everybody else is feeling safe as well. You look at the children and older people, and the young people. You look at the houses. You take a footpath and see more houses and other built-up areas. You are feeling completely safe. Take some time to have a closer look. Look around. What do you see? Put the thingu see in your safe community, one by one, in a small imaginary memory box that you hold in your hands. Take your time and fill the box. When you´re done, come slowly back to this room again and open your eyes."

When everybody is back again, ask the participants to keep in mind what they have put in their box, because they will need it in the following group work. The task for the working groups will be to create a vision of their safe community.

Task 2 (for the working groups):

Ask the group: How would your community look, or be like? What would be the main characteristics? What is your vision?

Say to the group: "Develop a picture of your safe community and use any material you like". Mention that groups can use drawings, illustration or words arranged in a certain way to convey their image of the desired 'safe community'.

Then divide the groups and provide the material. For this group work, we again recommend forming one separate youth group (if there are enough young people participating), as well as a purely female and a purely male group. Composing the working groups in this manner will provide important insights. The visions produced will be much richer than those of mixed groups. If we form the groups in this way, specific interests and perceptions will be made more visible.

Allocate 45 minutes for the group work, but depending on the processes, you might need less or more time.

Every group then presents its results in a plenary session. In the discussion you can see which the common elements are and which elements are raised only by specific groups.

Every group presents its "safe community" and explains the different elements of the presentation. As facilitator, you summarise on a flipchart the issues mentioned by the groups. If well-formulated, the most important elements (3-4), on which everybody agrees, may later serve as impact indicators.

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Figure 1: Development of Vision of the Community, GIZ/SERITI CWP Workshop, 30./31.10.13, Randfontein

Figure 2: Development of Vision of the Community, GIZ/SERITI CWP Workshop on 30./31.10.13, Randfontein

Observations: (Additional notes for the facilitator)

It is possible to start the exercise without the imaginary walk. This depends on your skill as a facilitator in assessing whether participants are willing to do the imaginary walk.

The idea of this exercise is to forget for a moment all the "buts" and open the participants' minds. The question in this moment is not what is feasible. The question rather is: "hat how can we set an inspiring direction or beacon to guide the common actions still to be planned?" We want to open space for creativity. It often happens that we exclude valuable ideas too early because we think that we cannot realise them. When we include them, we can come up with other, more concrete ideas for feasible actions.

If possible, take photos of the visions for documentation. The flipcharts will also be needed later on.

End Product:

The objectives set for the use of this exercise will have been met. Through the process of achieving the objectives, participants will also have generated the following outputs:

✓ One or several complementary visions (visualised) describing a community in which everybody feels safe.

✓ Additional group-specific elements of a vision.

✓ Impact indicators.

2hr