Re-imagining Public Spaces from a Safety Perspective

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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

Terence Smith
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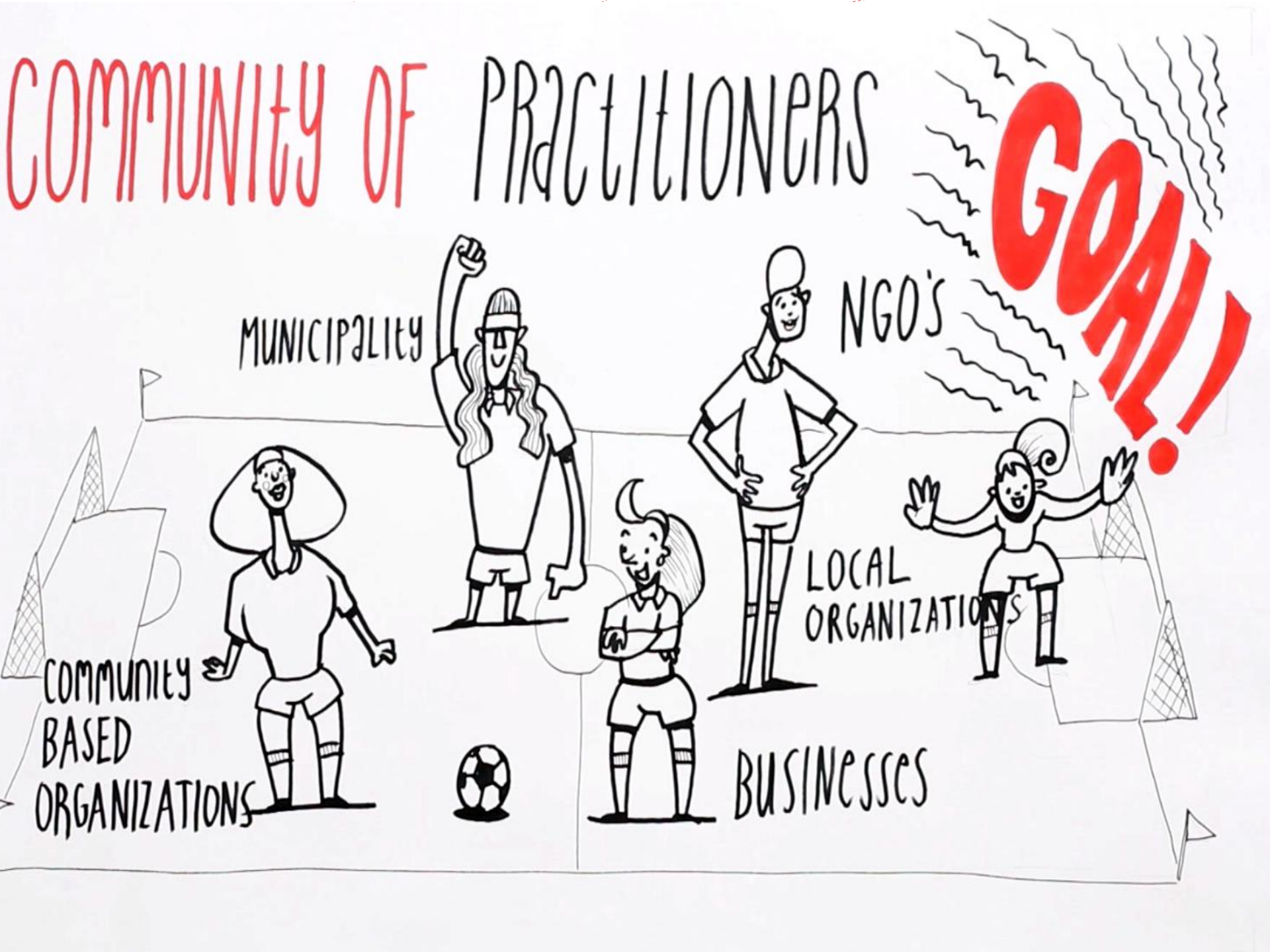
THE INCLUSIVE VIOLENCE AND CRIME PREVENTION FOR SAFE PUBLIC SPACES PROGRAMME


COMMUNITY OF PRACTITIONERS
GOAL!
MUNICIPALITY
NGO'S
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS
BUSINESSES

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PUBLIC (OPEN) SPACES

parks

streets

squares

pavements

playgrounds

vacant lots

sports fields

natural areas

transport hubs

community gardens

FEAR

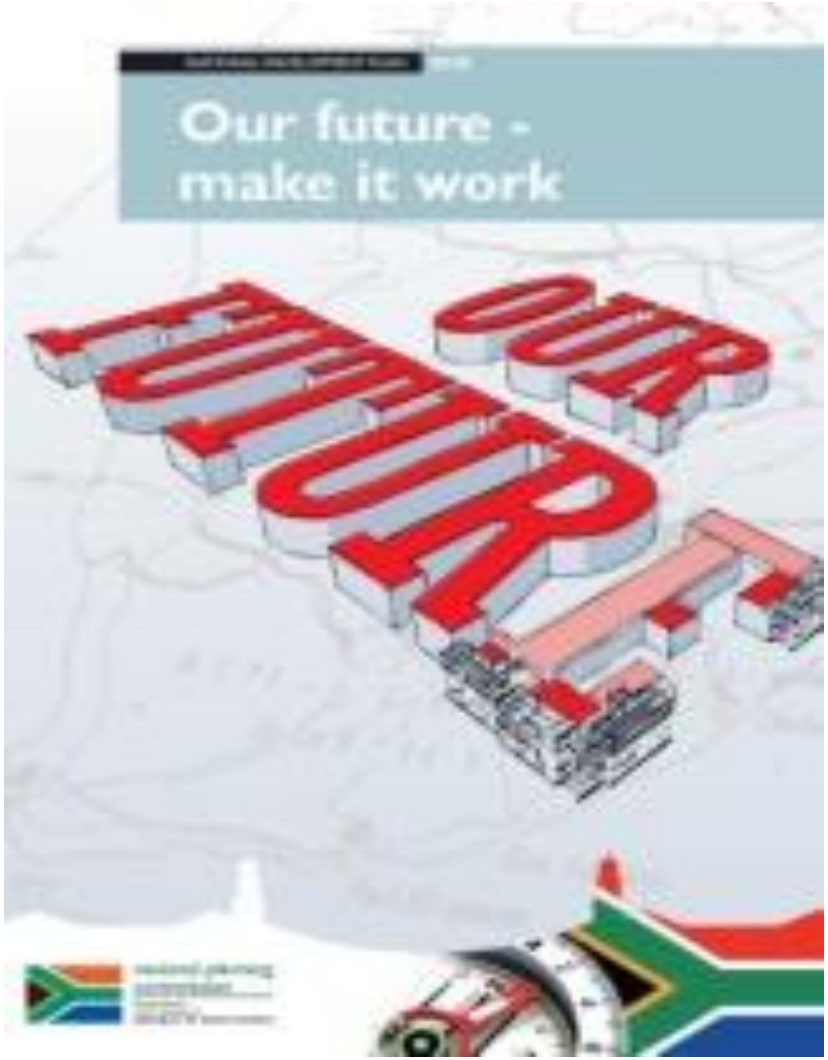
FEAR

=

don’t enjoy full benefit of public spaces

=

- social, economic, cultural, spatial impacts



Vision 2030

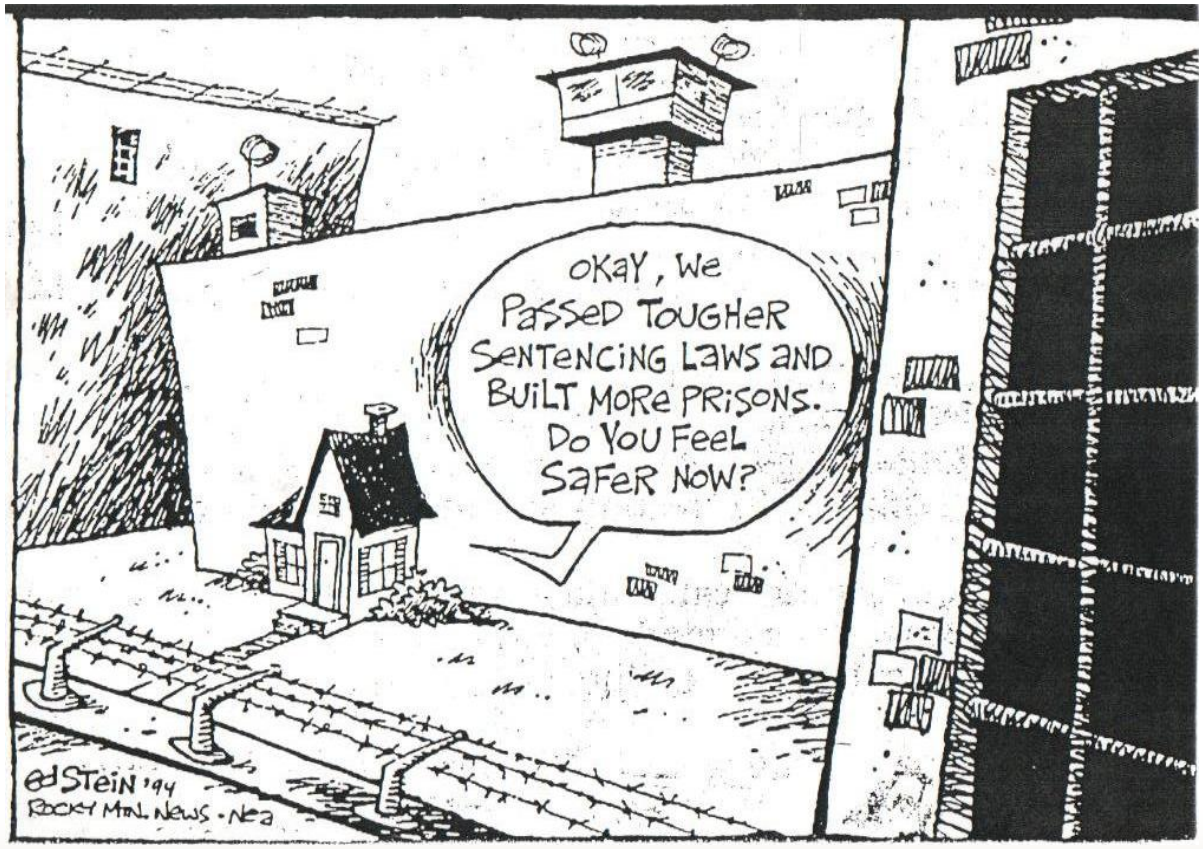
"In 2030, people living in South Africa feel safe at home, at school and at work, and they enjoy a community life free of fear. Women walk freely in the streets and children play safely outside..."

NDP, 2012, p. 387

WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SAFETY AND PUBLIC SPACE

10 PROPOSITIONS

1: Safety is a fundamental attribute of quality public spaces



Safety

Live without threat or fear

Security

Protection against a known or perceived threat.

2: Public spaces can be designed and managed in ways that reduce the likelihood of crime or violence occurring within them

→Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

e.g. Lighting, passive surveillance etc

→ Rules

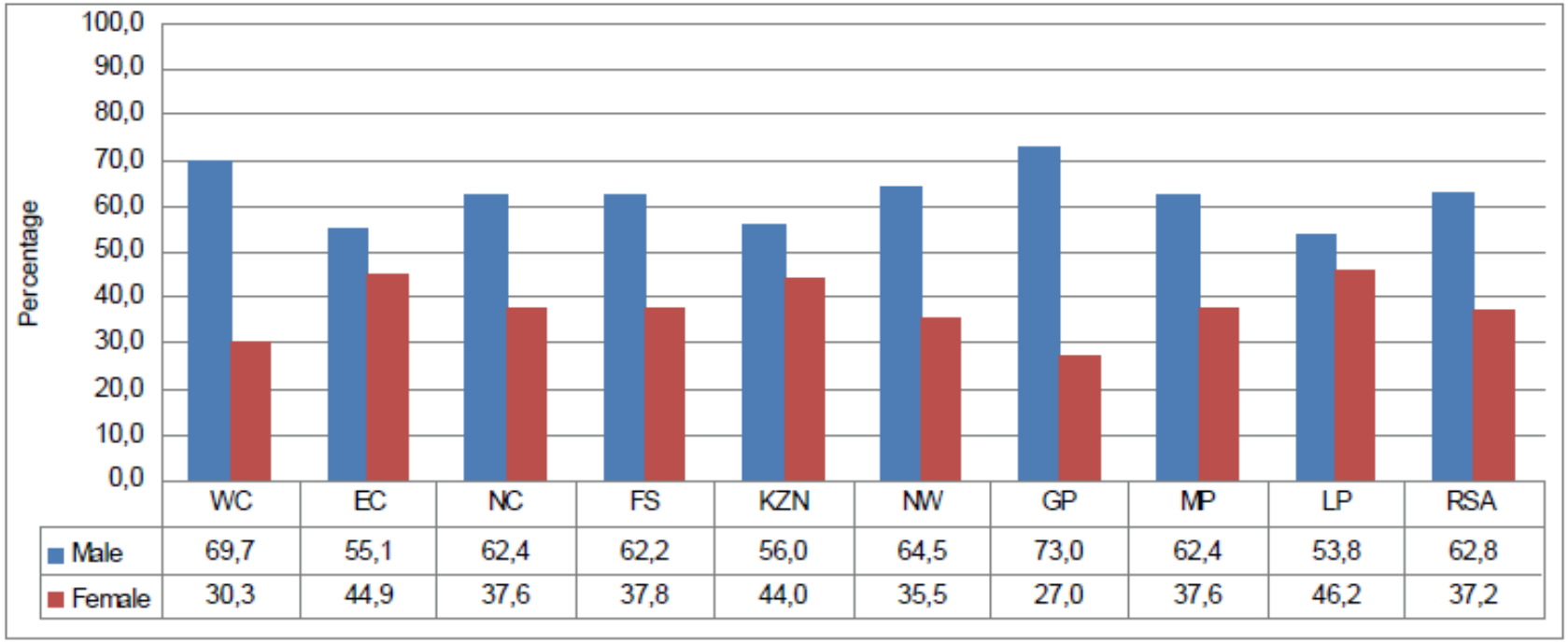
e.g. Restrictions on alcohol, gun-free zones etc

→ Active surveillance/law enforcement

e.g. police, private security, CCTV

3: Perceptions about safety in public spaces are as significant as the reality

Figure 8: Percentage of households who feel safe walking alone in their area during the day by gender of the head of the household and province, 2011



	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
Male	69,7	55,1	62,4	62,2	56,0	64,5	73,0	62,4	53,8	62,8
Female	30,3	44,9	37,6	37,8	44,0	35,5	27,0	37,6	46,2	37,2

In 2011, more than **a third of households (35,1%) avoided going to open spaces** unaccompanied because of their fear of crime, followed by 23,2% of households who would not allow their children to move around unsupervised or play freely in their area. A further 15,7% of households would not permit their children to walk to school alone.

Murder: Relationships & motives

Relationships

Perpetrators known to victims	Perpetrators as relatives, friends, etc	Relatives as perpetrators
80%	60%	20%
Att murder - 60% Rape - 75% Assault - 90%		

Motives/Conditions

Social behaviour (E.g. domestic conflict such as arguments, jealousy, alcohol & drug abuse, etc)	Criminal behaviour (E.g. resulting from other crime such as robbery, etc)	Group behaviour (E.g. gang & taxi violence, vigilantism, etc)	Other (E.g. retaliation, self-defence, police actions, etc)
65%	16%	7%	12%

Source: Gareth Newham, 06.11.2013

4: Different users of public space experience safety differently and may be vulnerable in different ways

- → Women
- → Children
- → Older persons
- → People with disabilities

PLANNING, DESIGN & MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES

5: Levels of safety in public spaces are a reflection of the community and society in which they are located

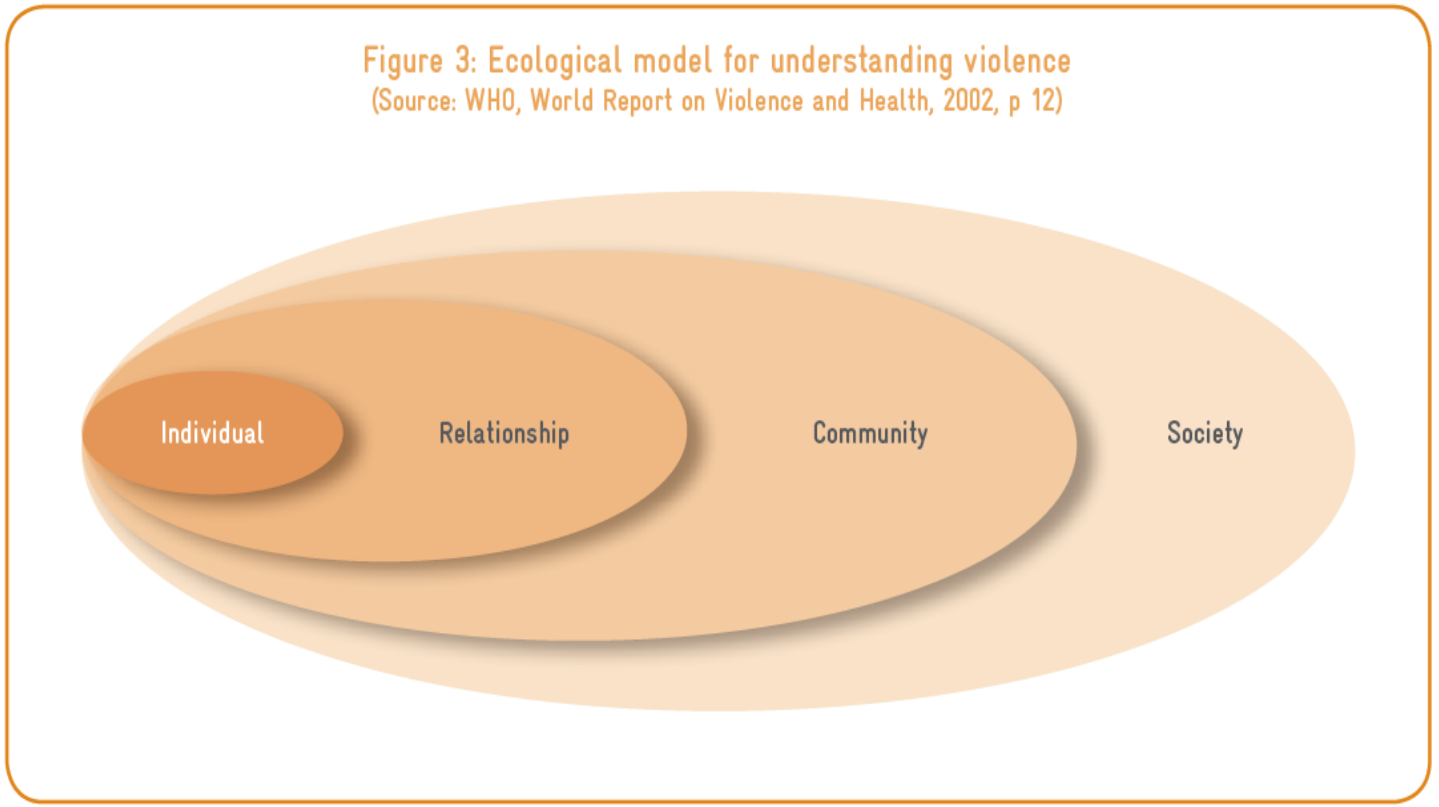
CATEGORY	Number
Murder	16 259
Total Sexual Crimes	66 387
Attempted murder	16 363
Common robbery	53 540
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	105 888
Burglary at non-residential premises	73 630
Burglary at residential premises	262 113
Theft out of or from motor vehicle	139 658
Commercial crime	91 569
Carjacking	9 990
Truck hijacking	943
Robbery at residential premises	17 950
Robbery at non-residential premises	16 377
Public violence	1 783
Kidnapping	4 333

Murder:

31.1 / 100.000

4 X higher than global average

Need to look deeper into drivers of violence & crime...

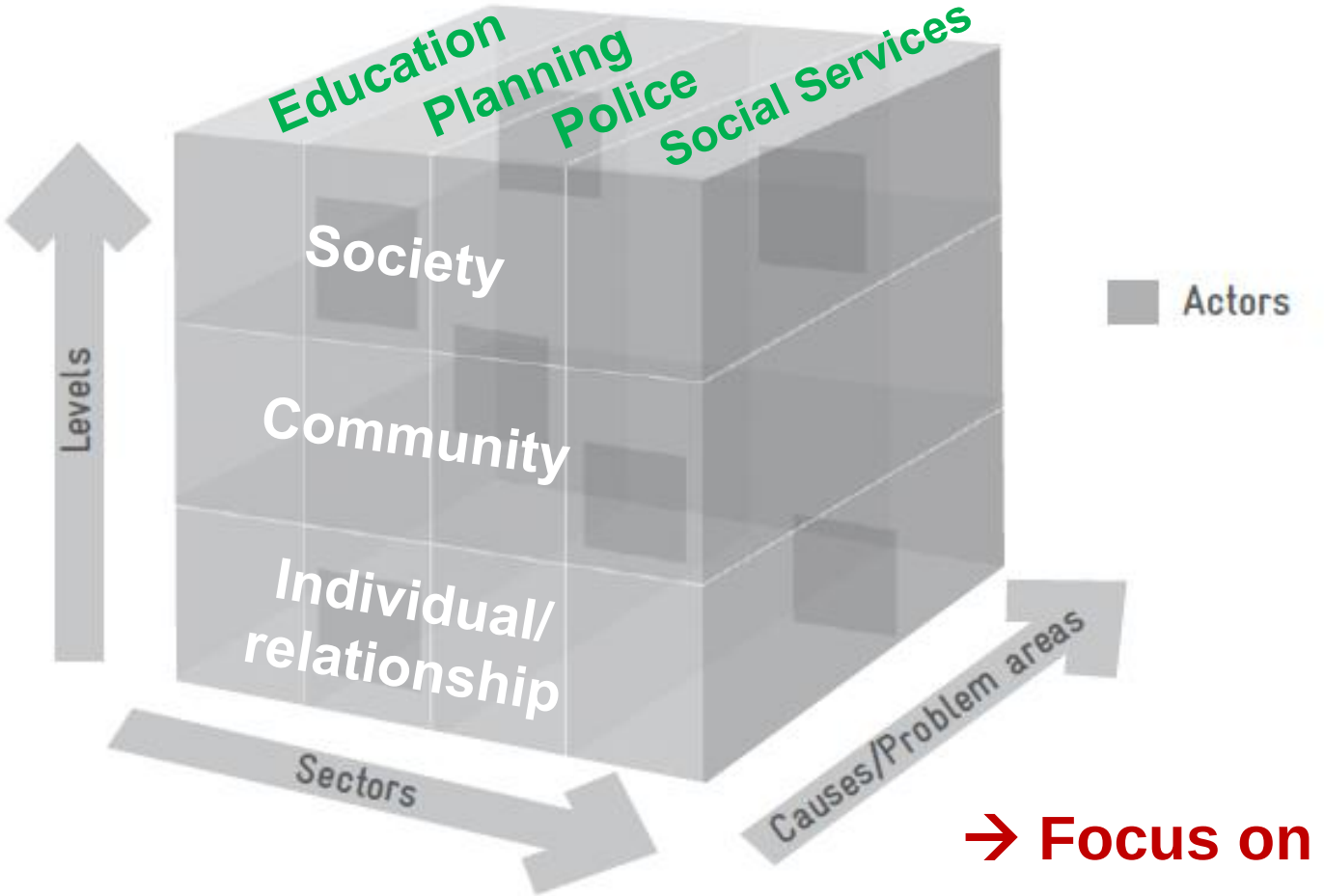


WHO ecological model: location of risk & protective factors

Level	Risk factors	Protective factors
Individual	Exposure to violence in the family, early involvement with drugs and alcohol	Self esteem, higher education,
Relationship	Low parental involvement in children's activities Parental substance abuse or criminality	Connectedness to family or adults outside the family Positive role models
Community	Socially disorganized neighborhoods, low level of social cohesion, low levels of community participation, gangs	Social networks in place and presence of social workers, Active community structures
Societal	Rapid urbanisation Poverty and high income inequality	Social protection system, comprehensive national violence prevention strategy

12.000 social workers vs. 170.000 police officers + 400.000 private security

Designing and planning comprehensive violence prevention measures



→ Focus on young people

6: Public spaces play a particularly important function for young people

- → Learn
- → Socialise
- → Be creative
- → Express themselves
- → Have fun

7: Quality public spaces contribute to safety in the wider community and society

→Functions public spaces play in communities... Safety as an OUTCOME

→hubs radiating safety

8: Active public spaces are safer public spaces

unsafe space

safe space

9: Ensuring public spaces are safe is a collective responsibility

→ Lessons in how to involve local communities

e.g. participation processes & collaboration mechanisms

"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

10: Safety in public spaces is a RIGHT

10. Human dignity.—Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected.

11. Life.—Everyone has the right to life.

12. Freedom and security of the person.—(1) Everyone has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right—

(*a*) not to be deprived of freedom arbitrarily or without just cause;

(*b*) not to be detained without trial;

(*c*) to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources;

(*d*) not to be tortured in any way; and

(*e*) not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way.

(2) Everyone has the right to bodily and psychological integrity, which includes the right—

(*a*) to make decisions concerning reproduction;

(*b*) to security in and control over their body; and

VCP's contribution...

South African CitiesNetwork

Reference Group on Urban Safety

- **peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing** amongst practitioners on urban safety;
- **regular interaction and networking** between city practitioners and national departments
- **lobbying**

saferspaces

working together for a safer South Africa

Understand

Learn about risk factors that contribute to violence and crime in South Africa. Enhance your understanding of key concepts for the prevention of violence and crime. Get an overview of South African policy frameworks and strategies for promoting community safety.

Be Inspired

Discover existing projects and initiatives that are promoting safer communities across the country. Get inspired by their actions on the ground. Learn from their approaches and experiences. Showcase and advocate for your project as a good practice.

Learn How

Find tools and practical assistance for planning, implementing and evaluating community safety initiatives. Browse through manuals and guidelines linked to issues such as youth resilience, urban crime prevention, school safety or community-based violence prevention.

Connect

Sign up for free and become part of the SaferSpaces community. Connect with & learn from other practitioners. Share your knowledge and get involved as a topic expert. Manage your own user, project and organisational profiles.

www.saferspaces.org.za

Toolkit for participatory planning of systemic violence prevention interventions

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Thank you for your attention!

Contact:

terence.smith@giz.de

012 423 6375