

Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces

GLOBAL RESULTS REPORT



SAFE CITIES
AND SAFE
PUBLIC SPACES

UN WOMEN GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME





UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



UN Women works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls.

FOREWORD

When women and girls are not safe walking on city streets, selling their goods or shopping in marketplaces, commuting on public transport or simply using community toilets, it has a massive impact on their lives. Both the threat and the experience of violence affect their access to social activities, education, employment and leadership opportunities.

Sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces are present in every country, in rural areas as well as cities, and even in online spaces. We know from a study in Rabat, Morocco that 92 per cent of women had experienced some form of sexual harassment in their lifetime. In Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, more than half the women vendors had experienced some form of violence in the local markets; and similarly in Kigali, Rwanda, a baseline study showed that 55 per cent of women were concerned about their safety when going to educational institutions after dark.

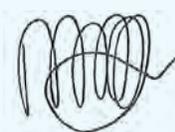
Quantifying these issues and understanding the nature of gender-based violence puts into perspective the urgency of providing effective, comprehensive solutions. UN Women's Global Flagship Programme Initiative Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, supported by over 15 donors from public and private sectors, is helping to increase the number of cities and public settings that have safe and empowering spaces for women and girls. The Initiative currently spans 27 cities from developed and developing countries. It focuses on the development of locally-owned human-rights and evidence-based initiatives ending violence against women and girls, and supporting women's political participation and economic empowerment.

This inaugural global report presents results across the initiative's "champion" cities – from Cairo to Kigali, Winnipeg to Quito, and New Delhi to Sakai. It stresses the need for comprehensive laws and policies that prevent and respond to sexual violence in public spaces, and highlights some of the encouraging initiatives that are already yielding results. For example, champion cities Dublin and Quito recognized the need to revamp their urban design to make public spaces inclusive, secure, and responsive to the needs of women and men, while Port Moresby and Kigali prioritized women market vendors' safety through

improvements in infrastructure and the creation of safe spaces in which women could sell their goods. Quezon City harnessed the power of technology with a "hackathon" to encourage the development of mobile technology solutions to map sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces, and in Marrakech, more than 1,500 bus drivers were trained to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women and girls.

Efforts like these are helping cities to tackle the normalization of sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence, especially for women and girls living in the poorest neighborhoods, or who are targeted because of their race, ethnicity, age, disability or sexual orientation. As the New Urban Agenda proposes, we need to see action from multiple stakeholders and partners, including first responders like police forces, and to connect our shared vision across cities with a common framework that can be adapted to the local context. This is critical to delivering on our mandate to champion the rights of all women and girls, as well as on the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – in particular, Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

By providing specific examples of solutions from cities around the world, I hope that this report will continue to advance the international knowledge base on the prevention of violence against women, challenge the normalization of such violence, and inspire action from many more communities to ensure safe, empowering, sustainable cities for all.



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

*UN Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director of UN Women*

MAKING CITIES AND PUBLIC SPACES SAFE FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

All around the world, women and girls face sexual harassment and other forms of violence in public spaces. In many cities, a large majority of women and girls have experienced some form of violation, ranging from unwanted sexual remarks or groping to rape and gender-related killings.



These occur in any of a number of places – on buses and trains, in streets, at markets and parks, and many others. They are common in developing and developed countries, in urban and rural areas.

As a result, many women and girls do not enjoy the right to freedom of movement. Opportunities for work and education suffer. Access to services and enjoyment of culture and recreation are constrained. Poor women and girls as well as those belonging to socially stigmatized groups are among the most vulnerable to risk.

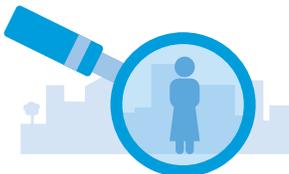
In private domains, such as homes, violence against women and girls is now widely recognized as a human rights violation. But violence in public spaces, especially sexual harassment, is still largely tolerated and perceived as a “normal” part of social life. This reflects discriminatory attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate gender stereotypes and inequality. They

ABOVE: Global momentum has grown from transforming public spaces in 27 “champion” cities, including here in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

impede the recognition, prevention and adequate response to sexual violence against women and girls.

Through its Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces global flagship initiative, UN Women since November 2010 has galvanized global and local partners to transform public spaces in 27 “champion” cities. Global momentum has steadily grown since. In 2013, the UN Commission on the Status of Women identified sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces as a distinct area of concern, and called on governments to take preventive measures. This call was further affirmed in the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Cities participating in UN Women’s global flagship initiative commit to ensuring that women and girls are socially, economically and politically empowered in public spaces that are free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence. Data, policies, investments and advocacy are essential components of comprehensive strategies to prevent and respond to sexual violence against women. Strategies include four closely integrated categories of interventions implemented by local and national authorities, grassroots women/women’s organizations and other community partners.



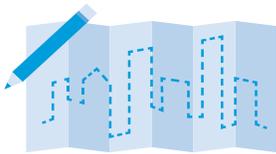
**KEY OUTCOME 1:
GENERATE EVIDENCE,
BUILD PARTNERSHIPS
FOR CHANGE**

Initial scoping studies provide specific and often unique data to ensure a deep understanding of sexual harassment and violence in public spaces. Key stakeholders reflect on the findings, which become the basis for further action.



**KEY OUTCOME 2:
DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT
COMPREHENSIVE
LAWS AND POLICIES**

These must be specifically oriented around preventing and responding to sexual violence in public spaces. Capacity-building and awareness-raising help local authorities, women’s groups and community partners advocate legislation and monitor application, including through the dedication of adequate resources.



**KEY OUTCOME 3:
INVEST IN THE
SAFETY AND
ECONOMIC VIABILITY
OF PUBLIC SPACES**

A gender approach to urban planning means systematically accounting for the different needs of women and men. Greater safety for women and girls may come through specific investments in public infrastructure, such as for safe water and better lighting. Economic development strategies expand opportunities for women.



**KEY OUTCOME 4:
TRANSFORM
SOCIAL NORMS**

Transformative activities in schools, communities and other settings raise awareness of gender equality and promote respectful gender relationships and safety in public spaces.

Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces is one of the core partnership initiatives in action used by UN Women to achieve its 2018-2021 strategic plan objective of more cities and other settings having safe and empowering public spaces for women and girls. The following presents achievements to date from around the world. It places particular emphasis on the results achieved in the four outcome areas above. Common to all programmes is that the issue of sexual harassment and its impact on women’s safety in public spaces, is more visible, with comprehensive approaches being put into action.



GENERATE EVIDENCE, BUILD PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

HO CHI MINH, VIET NAM

Like a number of other cities across the world, Ho Chi Minh, the largest city in Viet Nam, has started to break the longstanding silence on sexual harassment and violence in public spaces. Engaging with diverse stakeholders is an initial step in gaining a deeper understanding of the phenomenon.

A police officer described a particular strategy used by perpetrators: “When groups of female friends hang out with each other in public spaces, two or three men will pretend to chase each other and accidentally bump into them (women), touching them in inappropriate ways.”

Women often fear violence when moving around the city. A manager at a university said: “Girls are afraid to go out and travel through public spaces, thus limiting their access to services and learning. Sexual harassment and violence have a major mental

“Girls are afraid to go out and travel through public spaces, thus limiting their access to services and learning. Sexual harassment and violence have a major mental and emotional impact on survivors.”

—MANAGER AT A UNIVERSITY

and emotional impact on survivors. Sometimes girls might not have experienced it but just hearing of experiences shared by their peers, or cases in newspapers, makes them fearful. I don’t dare allow my 13-year-old daughter to go out at night. I have to constantly tell her to be careful.”

While all women can experience sexual harassment and violence in public spaces, women with disabilities often face additional risks. One woman shared how she has seen a woman with a disability who sells lottery tickets on the street, and is often sexually harassed by her boss. “He distributes lottery tickets to all other people in time, but doesn’t give her any, keeping them in the drawer, locked up,” she recounts. “When everyone leaves, he then grabs her.”

Sexual harassment and violence are fast-growing problems even in virtual spaces. A female student in Ho Chi Minh City described receiving social media invitations to sex chats, requiring her to block them.

These are just some of the stories about sexual harassment and violence reported as part of a scoping study conducted in 2016. It provides evidence for identifying gender-responsive interventions under the “Ho Chi Minh Safe and Friendly City and Public Spaces for Women, Youth and Children Programme.” The programme involves a partnership between UN Women and the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, and is informed by the voices of diverse stakeholders.

Focus group discussions and key informant interviews for the scoping study revealed the extent and nature of



The Ho Chi Minh Safe City programme has now been designated a key component of the city action plan to implement the National Thematic Project on Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response (2016-2020).

sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces in Ho Chi Minh City. They happen in many different public spaces, including streets, and on buses and other modes of public transportation. Occurrences are also common at swimming pools, public toilets, universities, schools, beer clubs, movie halls, gym centres and bars.

Most people ignore sexual harassment against women and girls, and as a result don't report or respond to it. Many see it as inevitable; it is often normalized by men and women, a tendency exacerbated by the lack of legal sanction. Patriarchal norms viewing women's domain as within the home and reinforcing male privilege are consistent drivers of violations.

A series of interactive workshops deliberated on the findings of the study and helped to begin defining priority interventions. The Ho Chi Minh Safe City programme has now been designated a key component of the city action plan to implement the National Thematic Project on Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response (2016-2020). Programme partners will now conduct a baseline study that will include indicators linked to Interventions in order to track results over time.

ABOVE: Through scoping studies, city partners have a better understanding to what extent is sexual harassment a problem in a particular area of a city, where does it occur, and what can be done to end it.



CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town has adapted the Global Framework of the Flagship Initiative in the pilot community of Atlantis, bringing together community partners to work on issues of crime and violence. Local authorities have conducted a scoping study on sexual harassment and violence against women, including an environmental safety assessment and a stakeholder analysis, and engaged women's groups and urban planners in two innovative programme design workshops. Using public space design thinking, the workshops built a shared understanding of issues faced by women and girls, and partners helped to inform the city's action plans on safe commuting.

DUBLIN, IRELAND

In Dublin, a scoping study showed that sexual harassment is a frequent and distressing occurrence for women and girls. Urban design problems were identified as a major reason for women's fear in accessing public spaces. These include areas that are

unkempt, dirty and unwelcoming, and with walls that obstruct people from view in public space.

RABAT, MOROCCO

A study to inform Rabat's Safe City Programme found that 92 per cent of women had experienced some form of sexual harassment in their lifetime. The majority of men said they had at least once in their lifetime sexually harassed women in public spaces. Among other measures, the programme has led to the establishment of an Equity, Equal Opportunities and Gender Approach Entity, a local mechanism to ensure gender considerations are integrated across city decision-making.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

In Mexico City, the Colegio de México conducted a scoping study in collaboration with UN Women, authorities and other partners. It found that the majority of women participants had experienced some form of sexual violence in their daily commute.

In Mexico City, a focus group found that the majority of women participants had experienced some form of sexual violence in their daily commute. Three new support centres in the metro and metrobus systems now help survivors report incidents of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence and seek justice. A mobile phone app facilitates reporting.

Three-quarters of women who travel daily in the city use public transport, relying on it more than men, and making many more trips a day to harmonize different activities. “I have been touched, they have taken photos of me, they have said so many things,” says a young woman, aged 17, who participated in a focus group discussion.

The Mexico City government has increased access to 125 “women only” Atenea buses. Three new support centres in the metro and metrobus systems help survivors report incidents of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence, provide them with emotional and psychological support, and assist them in seeking justice. A mobile phone app, Vive Segura, facilitates the reporting of incidents. Inspired by the experience in Mexico City, Puebla in central Mexico and Torreón in the northern State of Coahuila recently launched their own Safe City programmes in collaboration with UN Women and other partners. Both have allocated resources from their own budgets to ensure women’s safety in public spaces.



WINNIPEG, CANADA

In Canada, Winnipeg was the first city to participate in the Global Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Flagship Initiative. Under the leadership of the Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat and the City of Winnipeg, a variety of partners are collaborating on the initiative – including from health and law enforcement, civil society, and institutions committed to women’s rights. A scoping study informed a first set of interventions, such as Canada’s first indigenous-led programme for survivors of sexual violence. New transportation safety initiatives are in place, and law enforcement agencies have established stronger data collection mechanisms to examine offences on the continuum of violence, and work with city partners to increase reporting of sexual harassment. Workshops to raise awareness among men and boys have been part of a drive for public education and information sharing.

ABOVE: In Cape Town, design thinking helped build a shared understanding of the issues women and girls face, which in turn shaped action plans for safe commuting.

FACING PAGE: Fifty women-only buses were inaugurated in Mexico City as part of the city’s focus on safe public transportation on International Women’s Day 2016.



DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE LAWS AND POLICIES



QUITO, ECUADOR

Quito was one of five founding city programmes of the Global Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Flagship Initiative. After an initial scoping study in 2011 found that 68 per cent of women had experienced some form of sexual violence in public spaces over the previous year, and pinpointed gaps in legislation and policy on prevention and response, a comprehensive programme was launched.

As a first step, the city amended a local ordinance to strengthen action against sexual harassment in public spaces. The new legislation, combined with evidence from the scoping study, helped to inform development of the Quito Safe City for Women and Girls Plan in 2013.

Since 84 per cent of women in the scoping study identified public transportation as unsafe, given the threat and experience of sexual violence, the plan emphasized public transportation free from sexual harassment. It also sought to strengthen municipal services for prevention and response; create safe

Quito declared the Safe City Programme an “emblematic, special category project,” requiring formal implementation backed by a municipal budget allocation.



neighbourhoods for women, youth and children; and eradicate sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in other public spaces.

A newly introduced gender approach to municipal transportation has included remodeling 43 out of 44 trolley stops in line with new safety criteria, including through the construction of transparent glass corridors that provide secure transfer and waiting areas. At the Metropolitan Passenger Transport Company, 600 staff members have been trained to assist survivors of harassment and other forms of sexual violence, including through applying protocols that uphold consistent standards of response.

Care services in five of the main metropolitan transportation stations, known as “Bájale al acoso,” increase reporting of sexual harassment, and provide support to survivors. A mobile app means women can safely and immediately report cases of sexual harassment via text message. Hundreds of cases have been received, with a number referred for action within the court system.

In 2016, Quito declared the Safe City Programme an “emblematic, special category project,” requiring the municipality to formally adopt and implement its strategies, backed by a municipal budget allocation. The municipal crime observatory, which monitors crime and violence trends in the city, was expanded to routinely collect data on sexual violence and other forms of violence in public spaces, and monitor the progress of interventions. A communications campaign and school-based prevention initiatives are ongoing.

The Quito Safe City Programme is inspiring other cities in Ecuador to launch programmes, for example in Cuenca which has committed resources from the city’s municipal budget to their programme.

ABOVE: Young women and men conducted safety audits in Quito to identify spaces for safety improvements.

FACING PAGE: On the 2014 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the district of Eloy Alfaro in Ecuador sponsored exploratory walks and other activities to raise awareness of the prevention of violence.

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

In Quezon City, the largest municipality in Metro Manila, grass-roots women, girls, researchers, and other partners have been supported to collect data on sexual harassment and advocate for measures to enhance the rule of law. As a result, groundbreaking local legislation was passed in 2015 establishing penalties for sexual harassment in public spaces. A process of strengthening the capacities of women's and community groups, local government and security officials has advanced implementation of the new law, including through specialized training for over 120 gender focal points from across the municipal administration.

Quezon City has been actively consulted as part of national legislative reforms, and led a drive to encourage measures similar to its 2015 law in 16 municipalities within Metro Manila. Says Mayor Herbert Bautista,

“Quezon City is a gender fair city. I am very thankful to be a member of Safe Cities. As President of the League of Cities of the Philippines I encourage other cities to be part of this global movement.”

Technology is now expanding the popular reach of the programme in Quezon City. A hackathon – a computer programming challenge – mobilized 56 seasoned and emerging hackers to deploy “their powers for good” in a 24-hour hacking session. It was aimed at producing novel mobile technology solutions to sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in public spaces. The professional category prize went to the DLock app, which features one-click buttons to send a message or make a phone call to an emergency contact. It also lists contacts for police and fire stations, and hospitals. The ScAFE app won the students’ prize. It shows the safest places in an area, and can send a message to alert police or family and friends.





CAIRO, EGYPT

An expert planning workshop on the prevention and response to gender-based violence in Cairo provided a platform to discuss challenges, including the lack of legislation on sexual harassment. Case studies from across the Arab world enhanced understanding of strategic approaches. New legislation followed, establishing the first-ever punishments for sexual harassment. In tandem, UN Women helped the National Council for Women develop the National Strategy on Combating All Forms of Violence Against Women.

ABOVE: Concerned by snowballing social media discussions on sexual harassment, a group of independent activists in Egypt took the conversation offline, forming the country's first public "human chain" against sexual harassment.

FACING PAGE: Quezon City's groundbreaking 2015 local legislation established penalties for sexual harassment in public spaces.

GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA

In Guatemala City, the Safe City programme has supported implementation of key legislation such as the Law against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence against Women and the Law against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons. A recently adopted Municipal Policy on Women's Development includes measures to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls in public spaces.

“Quezon City is a gender fair city. I am very thankful to be a member of Safe Cities. As President of the League of Cities of the Philippines I encourage other cities to be part of this global movement.”

—MAYOR HERBERT BAUTISTA



INVEST IN THE SAFETY AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF PUBLIC SPACES

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Papua New Guinea, 80 per cent of the vendors in the markets of the capital, Port Moresby, are women. Many are heavily reliant on income from the garden produce they sell. In the course of their working day, however, they are often sexually harassed, fear violence and face multiple forms of violence.

Serah Thomas, President of the Gordons Market Mini-Goods Vendors Association, explains the challenges many women vendors face: “Without the markets, I would have no way of feeding my children. Yet we have all experienced a lot of violence. We are scared and worry that the next day something will happen to us. It is very stressful.”

“Women went through all kind of violence, but who is going to help them? They kept it in them until Safe City came out...What Safe City is doing is really touching the heart of women. We are making a breakthrough.”

—KAY KAUGLA, gender focal point for the National Capital District Commission, Port Moresby

Through the Port Moresby Safe City Programme, new measures are improving women’s safety and ability to make a living. These started with the formation of women vendors’ associations, which have been instrumental in first identifying threats through the use of women’s safety audits, and then developing measures to reduce these risks. Taking on leadership roles has empowered women to voice their needs – and to ensure that interventions are gender responsive.

Gerehu Market in Port Moresby was selected as the first market to pioneer the Safe City Programme, after a scoping study identified it as a priority, given challenges with sexual and other forms of violence against women. The programme has since renovated market stalls, provided clean drinking water, improved sanitation and the design of toilets, and built a playground for the young children who accompany many women vendors. Lighting has improved, and fences that isolated areas of the market, rendering them unsafe, have been torn down. New police posts have been coupled with training for police, market controllers and security guards on preventing and responding to violence against women.

A cashless method for vendors to pay their market fees through their mobile phones cuts illegal requests for payments, with funds applied to maintain market infrastructure and services. The recent introduction of training adds another support, helping women run their businesses more efficiently, and access loans and credit.

The changes have built on the joint efforts of the National Capital District Commission, grass-roots women, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Success can be seen in improved perceptions and experiences of the safety of women in markets, and a reduction of violence in Gerehu market.

“Women went through all kind of violence, but who is going to help them? They kept it in them until Safe City came out,” said Kay Kaugla, the gender focal point for the National Capital District Commission. “What Safe City is doing is really touching the heart of women. We are making a breakthrough.”

Work is currently underway in other priority markets, and a city-wide behaviour change campaign was launched in 2016 to ensure a comprehensive approach to ending sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces. Programme achievements have also helped to inform a regional initiative in the Pacific, “Markets for Change,” focused on strengthening women’s economic empowerment in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

BELOW: Gerehu Market pioneered the Safe City Programme in Port Moresby. New police posts and the cashless payment of market fees are among the improvements.



KIGALI, RWANDA

In Kigali, the Safe Mini-Market for Women is a place where 60 female street hawkers can finally safely sell their goods. Many hawkers cannot afford to set up a formal business, and are often at a high risk of sexual harassment, violence and theft while selling their goods in the street. The new market includes a day-care centre and space for breastfeeding mothers. It features refuse collection, a sanitary and stor-

Kigali's Safe Mini-Market for Women is a place where 60 female street hawkers can finally safely sell their goods.

age facility, running water, exterior fencing and a car park for clients. From the start, women vendors took part in the design of the market, building awareness and ensuring an inclusive space. With around 5,000 women working as street vendors in Kigali, Safe City partners would like to set up more mini-markets, improve financial literacy, and provide access to training and financing so that more women can make their living free from gender-related discrimination and violence.

DELHI, INDIA

The Delhi Safe City Programme established a committee of partners from multiple sectors. It holds regular meetings to improve coordination across key government departments, which has yielded several results. Lights were installed in poorly lit areas, and improvements were made in ensuring a visible police presence in public spaces. A partner-



Meri Seit Bus

Vehicle Donated by the Governor
Hon. Powes Parkop & NCD



ship with the Delhi Transport Corporation helped over 1,200 bus marshals learn how to prevent sexual harassment. Over 100 women’s safety audits have informed guidelines for infrastructure and road improvement projects.

SAKAI, JAPAN

Sakai became the first city in Japan to participate in the Global Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Flagship Initiative in 2015. Based on an initial scoping study, it is improving safety in public spaces by working with municipal housing, parks and sanitation officials on incorporating women’s safety and the prevention of violence within their functions. The city has installed CCTV cameras in city spaces, improved lighting on streets, and trained and mobilized community members to participate in violence prevention initiatives, including through volunteer crime prevention patrols.

ABOVE: To encourage behaviour change in Port Moresby, a range of community members are speaking out, breaking longstanding silence around sexual harassment and other forms of violence in city spaces.

FACING PAGE: In Port Moresby, the “Meri Seif Bus” exclusively serves women and children, providing a safe space for them to move around the city.

Sakai has installed CCTV cameras in city spaces and improved lighting on streets, and trained and mobilized volunteer crime prevention patrols.



TRANSFORM SOCIAL NORMS

CAIRO, EGYPT

The children, having played a face-painting game that left them with brightly coloured cheeks and foreheads, stand and clap and sing. “No one has the right to touch our bodies!” they say, over and over, the sound carrying through the offices of a local NGO in Cairo. Boys and girls, they are learning what they need to do to prevent sexual harassment and other forms of violence, now and throughout their lives.

The session is run by a young volunteer and arts student, Marina, who conducts sessions for children and adolescents as part of Cairo’s Safe City Free of Violence against Women and Girls Programme. “We work to raise awareness about sexual harassment and

its prevention,” she says. “We help them to say no! and encourage them to report any harassment. With children, we rely more on games and music to engage and transmit important messages. With youth, we encourage them to express themselves.”

As part of a comprehensive prevention approach, the Safe City programme has mobilized Egyptian NGOs in awareness campaigns reaching over 20,000 community members. Most live in three impoverished settlements on the outskirts of the city where the programme is based, and where sexual harassment and other forms of; gender-based violence are highly prevalent. The campaigns have used art, theatre, photography and music, among other means, to promote women’s rights to use public spaces free from fear and violence, and increase knowledge about the causes of sexual harassment and violence – and their impacts on women, girls and the community.

Youth volunteers have been on the vanguard of the campaigns. UN Women-supported training has equipped more than 180 young men and women to organize activities in schools and other settings to promote respectful relationships, gender equality and safety in public spaces.

One group of volunteers, known as “Out of the Box,” has become renowned for its skill in performing interactive theatre in the sprawling slum of Manshiet Nasser. In 2016, the National Council for Women partnered with the Egyptian Organization for Integrated Development to capitalize on their talents by sending them on a tour. They performed in 17 primary and

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—MARINA, volunteer and arts student who conducts violence prevention sessions for children and adolescents



secondary schools across Greater Cairo and Upper Egypt, reaching more than 1,500 students.

The Safe City programme has also been highly successful in reaching TukTuk drivers, a group of men often stigmatized and labelled as drug addicts and delinquents. They are typically among the groups hardest to reach, including on sensitive issues related to sexual violence against women and girls. But they are responsible for the most commonly used public transportation within Cairo's poorer outlying areas. Making TukTuks safe for women is essential.

The programme first engaged with the drivers by inviting them to join sports activities and tournaments. With entertainment as an entry point, concepts related to sexual harassment were introduced. Interactive games and "role reversal" exercises helped men start to understand what it means to be harassed. Those who showed consistent interest were invited to art therapy workshops, where they learned new methods to deal with anger, such as sketching and crafting sculptures.

Gender sensitization followed, helping to rethink attitudes towards violence. A final step entailed training the drivers on advocacy skills that they now use to teach other drivers and community members about the damaging consequences of sexual harassment and how it can be prevented. Stickers are posted prominently in the TukTuks of drivers willing to join the effort, proclaiming "My TukTuk is Safe." Many drivers have gone on to volunteer for community mobilization actions such as theatre performances and sports events.

In 2016, UN Women and partner NGOs began establishing district-level coalitions to expand and sustain collaborative action on preventing violence against women. Forty organizations are now involved in measures related to safety for women and girls in public spaces.

ABOVE: In Cairo, art therapy, music and drama have become powerful tools for teaching children and community members about the value of their bodies and how to prevent sexual violence.

KIGALI, RWANDA

In Kigali, the Gender Monitoring Office collaborated with public transport cooperatives and companies and diverse other partners to raise awareness and enhance the capacities of public transport workers to prevent sexual harassment in public spaces. A city-wide campaign to prevent sexual harassment on public transportation reaches thousands of passengers on buses and “taximotos.” On a major commercial bus line, screens alert riders that sexual harassment is prohibited, and urge them to report problems to trained drivers and conductors or call a special hotline.

As part of the community mobilization strategy in the Kigali Safe City Programme, a city-wide song competition for young singers and songwriters, “Sing YES to a City Free of Violence against Women and Girls,” was launched. Young women and men artists developed original songs devoted to the themes “Un-Do Sexual Harassment” and “Do Create a Safe City Free of Violence against Women and Girls.” An awards ceremony

for the competition winners drew over 3,000 participants, while widespread television and radio coverage further boosted public awareness.

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

In Marrakech, a partnership with Autobuses ALSA, S.A. has trained over 1,500 bus drivers on preventing and responding to sexual harassment against women and girls. As driver Abdellah Lambarki notes, “We, as bus drivers, are often the first to witness sexual harassment against women in public transport and on streets. Before the training, we didn’t know how to react in these situations. Now we have knowledge and skills to ensure that all on our buses are safe.”

BELOW: Women use theatre as a way to share concerns about women’s safety in public spaces, as part of the Delhi Safe City Programme.

FACING PAGE: A safety audit walk observes a neighbourhood in Marrakech.



DELHI, INDIA

A partnership with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation generated awareness and promoted the safety of women through public service announcements in two high-traffic metro lines. Messages on ending violence reached more than 200,000 people. Additional impetus has come through community organizations, which organize dialogues with women, girls, men and boys to emphasize their roles as agents of change, and encourage them to design their own initiatives to stop violence against women.

QUITO, ECUADOR

In Quito, local research made clear how gender stereotypes generate inequality between men and women, and are reproduced through education. The main implementing partner in the Quito Safe City programme, a municipal unit called Patronato San José, and UN Women collaborated with the Secretary of Education of the Municipality of Quito to develop materials on prevention that could be piloted in five schools. A booklet for students and a teacher's guide address difficult topics such as gender discrimination and stereotypes in a child-friendly manner, using games and role plays. So far 1,600

children and more than 140 teachers have used the prevention materials, with 84 per cent of the latter reporting success in transmitting key messages about preventing sexual violence in city spaces.

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

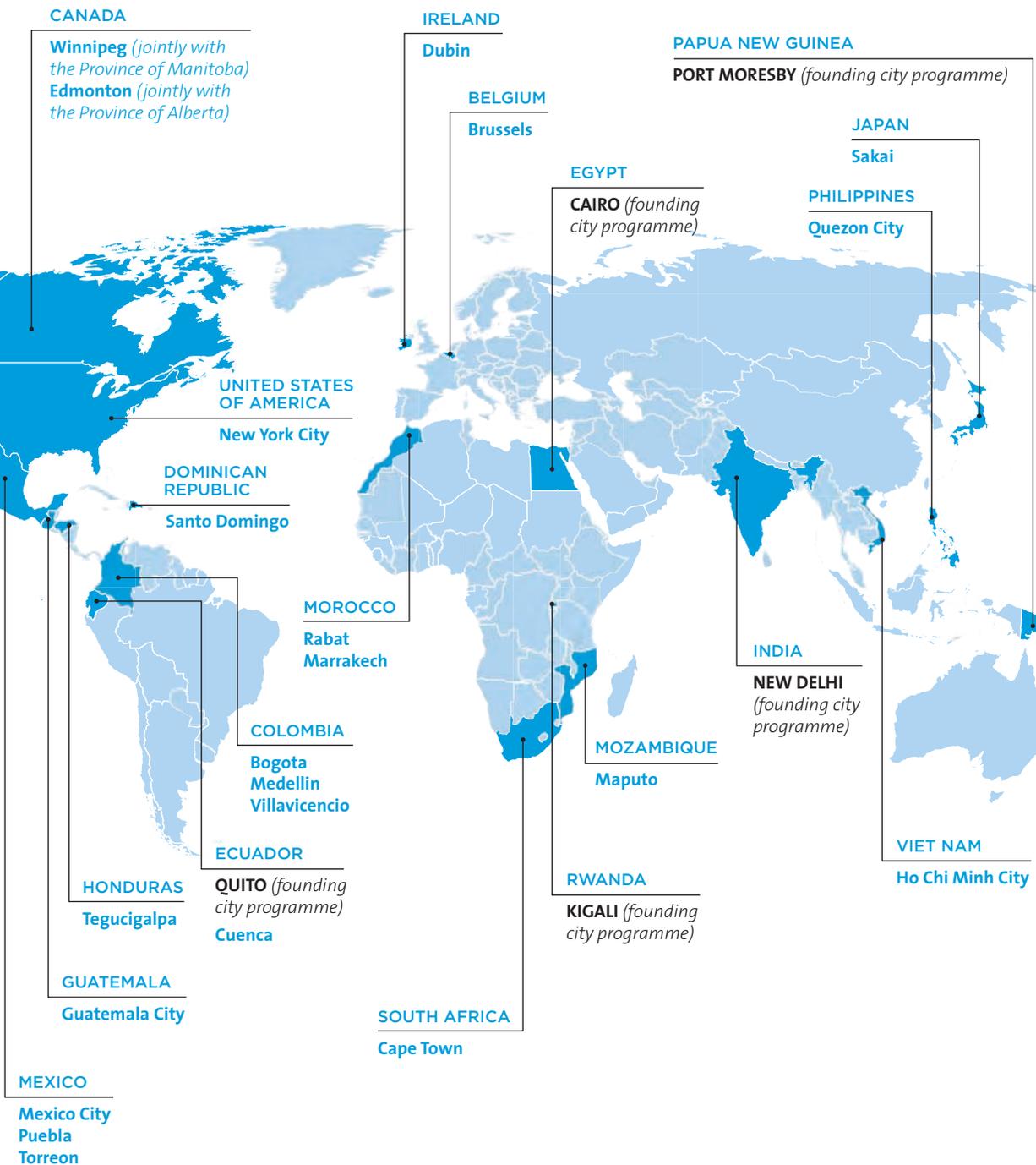
In the Philippines, Safe City communication strategies have reached over 2.5 million people on social media, and through print, online and broadcast media reports. In Quezon City, the locus of the programme, two community-based youth theatre advocacy groups comprising 30 youth perform plays that address victim-blaming attitudes, promote active bystander behaviour, and encourage women and girls to claim their rights.

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

For Port Moresby's International Women's Day celebration on 8 March 2017, 85,000 people joined city officials, NGOs, UN agencies and other partners in a Walk for Peace. The Sanap Wantaim Campaign, calling specifically on men and boys to halt violence against women and girls in public spaces, has reached 50,000 people through radio and TV talk shows, social media, activities in public spaces, and special sessions in schools and churches.



A GROWING LIST OF CHAMPION CITIES



RESOURCES

Since implementation of the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Programme Initiative began, a range of public and private donors have contributed to it. From 2011 to 2017, a total of US \$25.8 million has been mobilized at both the global and national levels. Over time, authorities in many cities have also committed in-kind and financial resources as part of local ownership and sustainability.

DONORS INCLUDE:

Founding donor partner: the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

The Governments of Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Netherlands

United States Agency for International Development

The European Union

Unilever

Australia National Committee for UN Women

UNHATE Foundation

Iceland National Committee for UN Women

Ford Foundation

Microsoft

Singapore National Committee for UN Women

Swarovski A.G.

New Zealand National Committee for UN Women

Donor partner contributions have helped to grow the initiative beyond the initial 5 founding city programmes. Today, it includes support for an additional 16 cities in developing countries. Cities have received seed funding to develop comprehensive evidence- and human rights-based programmes to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. A global package of tools can be adapted to local contexts. Technical accompaniment is provided throughout the programmes.

Support has helped successfully leverage additional funds for multisectoral gender-responsive interventions. For example, in 2011, AECID provided US \$350,000 in seed funds to the Port Moresby Safe City Free of Violence against Women and Girls Programme in Papua New Guinea. After two years, over US \$12 million was raised to create safe and inclusive markets and public transportation, including from other donors and with a contribution by local government. Since 2013, cities in developed countries have also started to participate in the global flagship programme initiative, building on existing initiatives to end violence against women and girls.

PARTNERS

The Global Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Flagship Initiative includes an array of multisectoral partners.

PARTNERS INCLUDE:

Authorities from a range of sectors and ministries (economic development, urban planning, transportation planning, community development, women's machineries, justice, police, education, health)

Grass-roots women's, men's and youth groups

Faith-based and other organizations

United Nations entities

Regional human rights and women's rights mechanisms

Research and educational institutions

Private sector and the media

PARTNERS IN GLOBAL POLICY ADVOCACY INCLUDE:

United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Jagori

Women in Cities International

Women and Habitat Network of Latin America and the Caribbean

Huairou Commission

This report on UN Women's Global Flagship Programme Initiative Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces shares achievements gleaned from various participating city programmes in Africa, Latin America, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, North America and Europe.

A series of stories illustrate what authorities, grass-roots women, women's organizations and other community partners can do as part of a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. Many of their initiatives have successfully enhanced safety, including through a focus on the most impoverished urban areas.

The report places particular emphasis on chronicling interventions in the four outcome areas of the global flagship programme initiative.

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This report was published in October 2017.

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Technical inputs: Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Coordination and National Teams



This report was produced with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of UN Women, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

Front Cover:

Quezon City in the Philippines is one of 27 municipalities globally where UN Women works with local governments to make public spaces safe. This includes preventing sexual harassment on public transport.

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