

STUDY TOUR AFRICA-CANADA
CITY TO CITY COOPERATION

ABIDJAN DISTRICT PARTICIPATION REPORT

As part of both the preparation of the World Urban Forum III and the capacity building initiative towards Safer Cities project managers in Africa, M. Serge Armand YAPO, PASU local coordinator in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, visited the Canadian cities of Montreal and Ottawa from June 12th to 16th 2006.

1. Mission Objectives

This study tour aimed at promoting and developing the exchange of experiences as regards the implementation of the Safer Cities Programme approach between the municipalities of Abidjan District and the cities of Montreal and Ottawa on the one hand, and developing collaboration mechanisms of crime prevention between different local coordinations on the other hand.

The concrete objective of the mission was to identify partnership opportunities between the coordination team, the municipalities of Abidjan District and the Canadian cities.

2. Implementation background of the Safer Abidjan Programme

In Côte d'Ivoire, the Safer Cities Programme is implemented through the Project of Support to Urban Safety (PASU). This Project from the Ivoirian Government receives financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat.

The project targets two main objectives:

- Build municipalities' capacities in elaborating and implementing safety policies
- Tackle insecurity in urban neighbourhoods and the residents' feeling of insecurity.

Coordination teams are located in the 13 municipalities of Abidjan District and work together on achieving these objectives. Their mission, supervised by the Mayor, is to implement prevention actions in consultation with residents and their local organisations.

Although the project teams are working in a context of military social and political crisis, they achieved many results, among them:

- ◆ 13 safety diagnosis at the Abidjan District level
- ◆ 13 local safety committees operational
- ◆ 13 violence and crime prevention action plans updated
- ◆ project control and monitoring indicators formulated
- ◆ constant capacity building in safety issues for about 20 coordinators
- ◆ training and sensitisation on Safer Cities Programme philosophy for local stakeholders
- ◆ many micro-projects financed

The financed micro-projects cover the 4 usual intervention areas of prevention:

- ✓ Actions towards groups at risk or social prevention (income-generating activities, provision of goods and services, leisure facilities...)
- ✓ Environment rehabilitation or security design (lighting, space safety improvements, rehabilitation of areas and buildings, garbage collection...)
- ✓ Sensitisation, consultation and local governance (building capacity for local actors, support to neighbourhood management committees and to local leaders, campaign on social cohesion or violence at school...)
- ✓ Institutional development, regulation and law enforcement

At this stage of implementation of activities, this study tour in Canada was more than welcome. Its target was to discover the Canadian crime prevention experiences and to identify areas of interventions for a possible partnership between Abidjan and the cities visited.

3. Activities and Results

Our stay in Montreal and Ottawa first gave us the opportunity to visit organisations and structures working in the field of social prevention and targeting youth and women. We visited shelter houses for homeless young people and women victims of domestic violence. We met organisations dealing with issues of street gangs, violence at school and connections with alcohol-drug-prostitution.

We then observed spatial prevention practices through design and management of gardens and parks. The urban space occupation by the police with the system of community policing and the use of sophisticated means such as video surveillance were of particular interest for us.

We also participated in two public events in Ottawa. The first one took place in the City Hall and was about "Urban safety in developing municipalities: experiences from England and Wales". The second one was about sharing prevention experiences in 6 countries and took place in the University of Ottawa.

The lessons learnt from this visit are both theoretical and practical. From the theoretical point of view, we will particularly remember that:

- Many projects developed in the Canadian cities visited coincide with the reality in Abidjan: issues of street children, of violence at school, of fight against drug, domestic violence...
- Their manifestation and the answers brought to these realities are however different: Montreal offers shelter and food to young homeless people while Abidjan let the latter roam because of a lack of financial resources, and their number keeps increasing; Ottawa uses video camera in narrow streets while Abidjan is not able to light its streets.
- The solutions given to crime are firmly rooted in a strong local partnership, where convictions and tasks are shared.
- The implementation of prevention actions is left to trained experts.

From a practical point of view, several areas for a possible partnership between Abidjan district and the Canadian cities have been listed. These focal points are mainly to address youth and women issues, to mobilise resources, and to reinforce public-private partnerships.

4. Follow up Action

The study tour in Montreal and Ottawa has taught many lessons. Ways for co-operation have appeared. However no agreement could be formalised between the representative of Abidjan and those of the Canadian cities as it was beyond the Ivoirian delegation's competence.

The entry point for this partnership is thus to pursue exchanges with the Ivoirian Forum for Urban Safety, within which safety and crime issues are discussed. Such exchanges should lead to more detailed shared visions and refined areas of intervention.

LIST OF CONTACTS – MONTREAL & OTTAWA

CANADIAN CITIES	STRUCTURES VISITED	CONTACTS
MONTREAL	City of Montréal	Marcel CAJELAIT Community Development Advisor Social Development Management Email : mcajelait@ville.montréal.qc.ca
	Prevention Programme "Tandem"	Claudie MOMPOINT, Advisor Email : cmompoint@ville.montreal.qc.ca
	YMCA City Center	Helen ANGELOPOULOS, Director Tel. : (514) 849 8393 poste 773 Fax. : (514) 849 2411
	Street Spectrum	spectrederue@videotron.ca
	Mission Old Brewery	René LACROIX, Director
	Police of the City of Montréal	
	School Meeting Point	Ms Lepage
	Seniors Consultation Table	Ms Girard, President
OTTAWA	Women's shelter	Anne HODGE, Coordinator Email : anne.hodge@rogers.com
	Ottawa Police Service : Partnership and Community Policing	Martin CHAMPOUX, Strategic Support Coordinator, Office of the Chief Email : champouxm@ottawapolice.ca
	City of Ottawa Security	Bob GAUVREAU, Administrator Email : bob.gauvreau@ottawa.ca
	Youth Center	Gabriel RAMSAY Luc GENDRON
	Crime Prevention Ottawa	Nancy WORSFOLD, Executive Director Email : nancy.worsfold@ottawa.ca
	National Crime Prevention Centre	Lucie LEONARD, Tel. : 613 957 6362
	University of Ottawa	Irwin WALLER, Professor of criminology Irvin.Waller@uottawa.ca

Youth Services Bureau

Dan PARE, Executive Director
Email : dpare@ysb.on.ca