

Safer Cities Programme

Brief

Collaboration with Canada and City to City Cooperation

September 2006

Background

Since 1996, the Safer Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT has been spearheading the urban crime prevention approach in developing countries, through city projects and normative work. This approach is part of broader human security policies within a human development framework. The Programme supports the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, which acknowledges the responsibility of local authorities in crime prevention. Safer Cities projects/initiatives are ongoing in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, South Africa, Tanzania, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

Since its inception the Programme has worked closely with Canada based organizations, such as the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, in Montreal; *Femmes et Villes* International, based in Ottawa, as well as with several cities (notably Montreal and Toronto) and their various urban safety related departments.

1. Safer Cities has extensively worked with Canadian institutions on issues of urban crime prevention since its inception in 1996. Adaptation of tools, use of expertise, partnership and joint ventures are among the modalities of this interaction (see attached list of partners).
2. The Government of Canada, and the Department of Justice in particular have been instrumental in promoting urban crime prevention internationally, including the UN Guidelines on the Prevention of Crime, which acknowledge UN-HABITAT's role in this matter.
3. Overall the Canadian experiences in urban crime prevention are extremely relevant for the approach promoted by UN-HABITAT and there is a pool of expertise and knowledge in Canada that would enormously benefit cities and other actors interested in developing sound crime prevention strategies.

UN-HABITAT and Urban Safety

The focus of UN-HABITAT has been on local interventions to prevent crime and improve the feeling of security in urban areas. Major focus has been on governance aspects of crime prevention and the development of integrated strategies rooted in analysis of local dimensions and causes of insecurity, identification of gaps and positive practices, and the building of partners' coalitions targeting various dimensions of crime.

In 2006 the Programme was evaluated and received a positive review, complemented by specific recommendations on future focus areas and activities.

In addition, the 2007 Global Report on Human Settlement is focusing on Urban Safety and Security. More recently, urban safety and security had a prominent role in WUF III discussions, with a dialogue event dedicated to the issue, and 12 networking events exploring various dimensions of crime prevention, with different partners, many of them Canadian.

WUF III outcomes on Urban Safety

One key outcome of WUF III is the emergence of urban crime and violence as an urban issue, to be addressed through deliberate urban policies. Participants discussed security as a key urban service, high in the demand of the poor and a growing priority for cities and their development partners. From hip hop artists to government representatives and donors, the emphasis was clear: insecurity is threatening the achievement of MDGs in urban settings. Experiences of prevention from Africa, Latin America and Asia, as well as from Canada, were shared, and participants discussing local crime prevention initiatives strongly demanded holistic, rights-based policies at local level, with an emphasis on inclusion and governance, and more support from national level. The linkages of urban security with livelihood, youth development and community participation and empowerment were stressed. There was a strong call for this debate to continue and for more integration of such issues in the urban agenda.

As pointed out by the Safer Cities evaluation, bringing forward this agenda requires political will and adequate resources, as well as the design of innovative modalities of learning and policy development.

Ongoing work in Urban Safety in collaboration with Canada

The **Africa-Canada Study Exchange** took place from 12-16 June 2006, as a pre-cursor to the Third Session of the World Urban Forum. Structured as a study exchange/city to city cooperation programme, its aim was to support greater understanding among cities that are beneficiaries of UN-HABITAT's technical support on crime prevention, through cooperation around crime prevention and urban safety issues. Building of networks and cooperation (North-South and South-South) was a key component of the exchange that recognized that city to city links with Canadian cities would strengthen the North-South aspect of cooperation and contribute to development of a global network on safer cities.

Building on the city level experience gained by Safer Cities Initiatives in Africa, there is need for the promotion of the exchange of experiences and practices between cities in Africa and Canada, the development of relevant practical tools which take into consideration the local experiences and practices, and thereafter the dissemination of the tools available to all interested municipalities, based on an understanding of local needs.

The Canada-Africa Cooperation network will seek to increase the interaction between cities on crime prevention, through a process of research, consultation and information exchange, documentation of good practices and lessons learnt from crime prevention initiatives being implemented in cities in Africa and Canada. Also, it seeks to promote a mechanism for better understanding the needs of cities and advocating for their reflection in regional strategies and plans of actions.¹

Participating African cities: Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Durban, and Abidjan

Participating Canadian cities: Toronto, Kitchener - Waterloo, Montreal, Ottawa, and Vancouver.

Outputs and Activities of Africa-Canada Study Exchange

The study exchange exposed the participating cities to:

1. Local approaches to crime prevention: the role of local governments and local partnerships;
2. Safer urban design and management of public spaces;
3. Social crime prevention interventions: actions aimed at groups at risk;
4. New forms of policing, justice and conflict resolution;
5. Community participation and empowerment.

The following areas of cooperation were identified:

- **Practical tools for action** (handbooks, manuals, safety audits, training modules, compendium of good practices etc.)
- **Partnership building** (institutions, private sector, civil society, police and justice systems etc.)
- **Capacity building through training** (elected officials, city managers, urban planners, Safer Cities teams etc.)
- **Policy/strategy formulation** (municipal strategic planning, programmes targeting vulnerable groups, urban design, community participation, community policing etc.)
- **Institutionalization** (frameworks for integration in municipal structure, replication to other cities, technical city to city cooperation, international exchanges etc.)

¹ The recently approved UNODC *PROGRAMME OF ACTION 2006-2010 on Crime and Drugs as Impediments to Security and Development in Africa* (Abuja, September 2005) clearly shows the need for a stronger voice of local governments in the regional debate.

Towards City to City Cooperation

The Africa–Canada Study Exchange is the initial step of a broader City to City Cooperation Initiative, which seeks to constitute a forum for municipal international cooperation based on formal, long-term relationship between three or more local governments that would allow municipal partners with similar mandates and goals to share their experiences and work together to find solutions to practical problems and challenges related to urban crime prevention. The City to City cooperation will focus on local government policy, administrative, and operational systems as they relate to community crime prevention programmes delivery and in particular will aim to increase capacity to meet the crime prevention needs within communities.

The City to City Cooperation Initiative represents at this stage the framework that could bring together various actors in Canada and in Africa to advance capacity building and tool development for urban safety.

Next steps and critical issues

Discussions during WUFIII and lately at the IV Africities Summit, highlighted that, in determining a way forward in realizing City to City Cooperation, there is need for:

- Identification of a short list of priorities based on needs and opportunities identified by participating cities;
- Design of a framework/programme for effective networking and technical exchanges within Africa and with other regions of the world;
- Involvement of key development partners, including national and international associations of cities from the South and the North;
- Development of the administrative and operational framework for City to City Cooperation (MoU and formal agreements);
- Mobilization of resources to enable follow up exchange visits, training seminars etc.

Annex 1 – Safer Cities (SC) Partners in Canada

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- **The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), presently under new Department of Public Safety and Disaster Preparedness** NCPC has participated in the Durban Conference on Sustainable Safety (Nov 2003) and in 2006 supported Crime Prevention Workshops at WUF through UN-HABITAT (ongoing project).
- **Department of Justice, International Co-operation Programme.** They support various crime prevention initiatives, particularly in Africa. Safer Cities has collaborated in Mali with their Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency Programme.
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade:** presently developing a policy on cities and human security, has involved SC in discussions on the issue and organized jointly a workshop at WUF III.
- **Industry Canada:** the Sustainable Cities initiative has held discussions on collaboration in Dar es Salaam and Durban with the Safer Cities project and provided information on available expertise relevant for the Programme.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: recent discussions with their international cooperation sector have highlighted interest to develop both bilateral cooperation under the existing Programmes, as well as a joint proposal specifically on urban safety.

CITIES OF MONTREAL, OTTAWA, TORONTO, KITCHENER-WATERLOO, VANCOUVER, CALGARY (WINNIPEG, REGINA, EDMONTON)

Among specific local initiatives, collaboration has been established with:

- The **Committee “Femmes de Montreal” (CRDIM)** a municipal initiative in Women’s Safety.
- **Tandem Montreal**, which is the City of Montreal’s local crime prevention programme that is managed by the community and community, based organisations.
- **Femmes du Monde in Montreal**, works with gender equality and denouncement of the feminisation of poverty.
- **British Columbia Coalition for Safer Communities (BCCSC):** provincial community focused initiative that brings together neighborhoods, community groups, and other stakeholders around urban safety strategies and actions.
- **Police Services in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal:** city/municipal policing services with which SC (Dar es Salaam) has exchanged and learnt from through trainings, study tours, and seminars.

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

- **International Centre For The Prevention Of Crime (ICPC):** International NGO based in Montreal and supported by a number of countries (Canada, France, Belgium, UK, Holland, RSA, etc.) with objective of promoting crime prevention approaches and practices. SC has developed projects in joint venture with them (Johannesburg and Dar first phase) and worked on normative development: Strategy on Youth in Africa; as well as Youth and Governance Paper.
- **Femmes et Villes International** (Formerly: Comite d’action femmes et securite urbaine (CAFSU), Montreal): SC jointly organized 2 International Conferences on Women’s Safety in Cities and the International Award on Women Safety
- **International Centre for Conflict Resolution and Mediation (ICCRM), Ottawa:** work mainly in schools and have collaborated with SC project in Cameroon.