



## Safer Cities Programme Survey

# *Help us make cities safer*

preliminary results of strategy review survey

The Safer Cities Programme was launched by UN-HABITAT in 1996, at the request of African mayors who wanted to address urban violence by developing prevention strategies at city level. The main objective of the Safer Cities Programme is to create a culture of prevention and a safe environment for all urban inhabitants by helping local authorities, the criminal justice system, the private sector and civil society partners to address urban safety and reduce delinquency and insecurity. Up to the end of 2004, the global activities of the Programme were carried out under a global project *Safer Cities for Better Governance*

In 2006, a strategic review of the Safer Cities Programme was undertaken to assess the performance of the project and its standing with partners and collaborators, and identify the impact of the project on country-level activities. The review made recommendations on the design, implementation, co-ordination and human resource management of the project, as well as on resource mobilisation for the programme.

To ensure that partners' views are integrated into the revamped programme strategy, this survey was undertaken in March 2007 to solicit views from partners on what they consider as the priority problems and issues on urban safety.

UN-HABITAT contacted over 5,000 partners from governments, local authorities, civil society, academia, the private sector, foundations and United Nations agencies. As of 16 April, some 228 partners had responded. Here is a snapshot of the most important findings:

- o **geographical representation:** 62 countries of which 50% were from sub-Saharan Africa and 20.2% from Europe.
- o **gender representation:** 59.6% male, 40.4% female
- o **partner types:** 20.2% civil society; 19.7% academia; 18.4% from the United Nations, etc.
- o **crimes considered serious:** safety in slums and abandoned open spaces and streets; theft and robbery; violence against women and children
- o **victims most vulnerable to crime:** women, youth, children, and the poor
- o **how to integrate safety into urban development** into urban planning and governance
- o **crucial action areas:** job creation, governance of safety, youth empowerment
- o **support at local level:** preventive strategies for vulnerable groups, integrating crime prevention into municipal policy
- o **important knowledge sharing tools:** best practices, lessons learnt, innovative approaches
- o **advocacy:** tools and guidelines on crime prevention
- o **Key partners:** local governments; UNDP, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), European Forum on Urban Safety, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), Interpol, the World Bank
- o **Proposed UN-HABITAT scale-up strategy:** decentralise operational work to regional partner institutions



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# Safer Cities Programme Survey

## 1. Introduction

The Safer Cities Programme was launched by UN-HABITAT in 1996, at the request of African mayors who wanted to address urban violence by developing prevention strategies at city level. The main objective of the Safer Cities Programme is to create a culture of prevention and a safe environment for all urban inhabitants by helping local authorities, the criminal justice system, the private sector and civil society partners to address urban safety and reduce delinquency and insecurity. Up to end 2004, the global activities of the Programme were carried out under a global project "*Safer Cities for Better Governance*".

In 2006, a strategic review of the Safer Cities Programme was undertaken to assess the performance of the project and its standing with partners and collaborators, and identify the impact of the project on country-level activities. The review made recommendations on the design, implementation, co-ordination and human resource management of the project, as well as on resource mobilisation for the programme. Recommendations included development of a strategic focused plan to ensure that the safer cities programme is more integrated within UN-HABITAT, more visible externally, and that it works closely with partners to mobilize political and financial support, and concerted action to achieve maximum impact at global, regional and country level in the promotion of urban safety.

Further to the strategic review, the *Help us make cities safer* survey was undertaken to solicit views from UN-HABITAT's key partners to ensure that their views are incorporated into a revamped strategic plan.

## 2. Methodology and participation

In mid-March 2007, UN-HABITAT set up an online survey on its website [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org). The questions of the survey, derived from the strategic review, sought to identify the priority urban safety problems that need to be addressed, the groups that were most affected by these problems and gather partners' views on what action to take globally and locally to improve urban safety.

UN-HABITAT then contacted over 5,000 partners from government, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, foundations, academic institutions, and United Nations agencies and asked them to complete the survey. By mid-April, some 228 people had completed the survey whose results are presented in this report.

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## 3. Findings

### 3.1 Participation by gender, age group, partner type and region

Out of the 228 respondents, 136 or 59.6% were male, and 92 or 40.4% female. The distribution by age group, partner type and region is shown in figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 below.

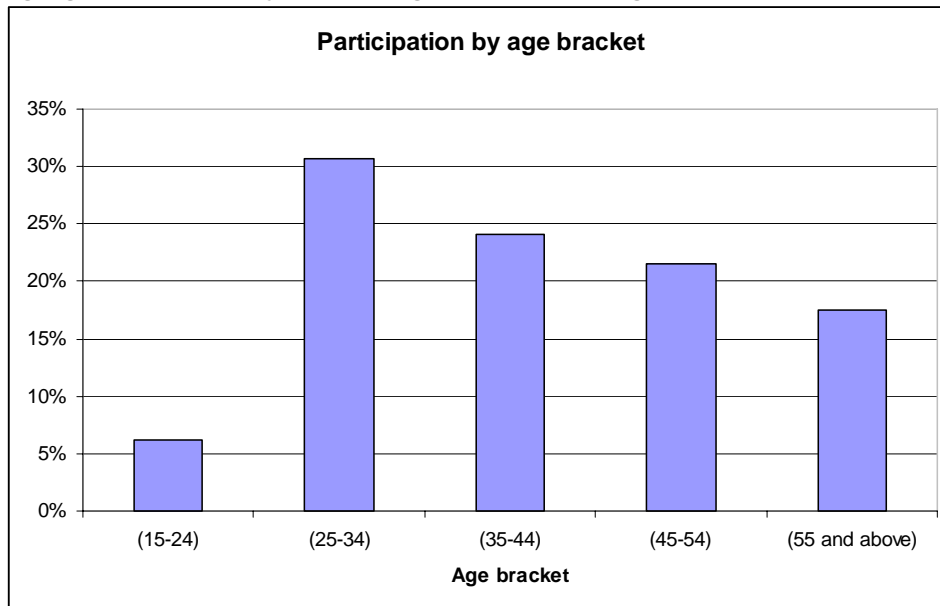


Figure 1: Participation by age bracket

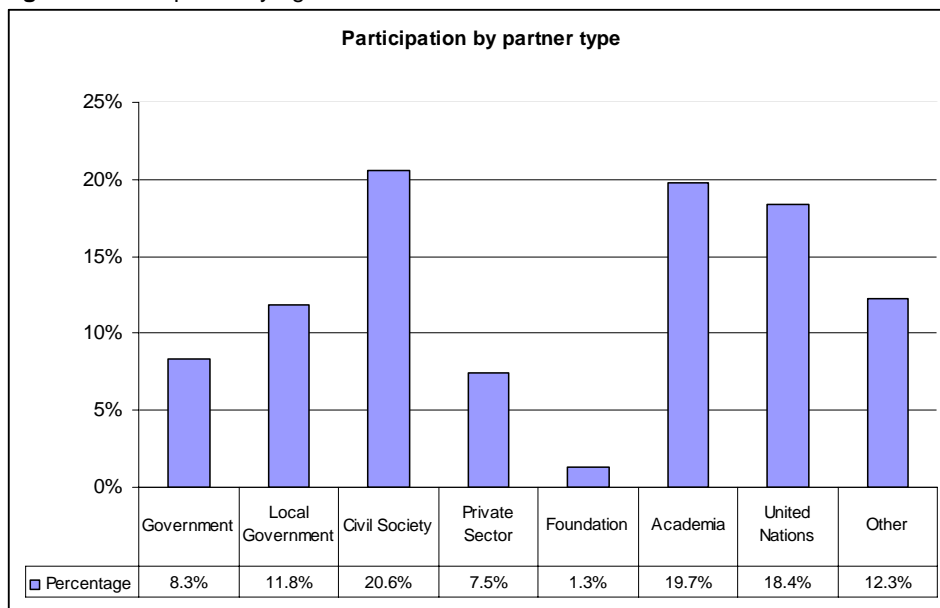
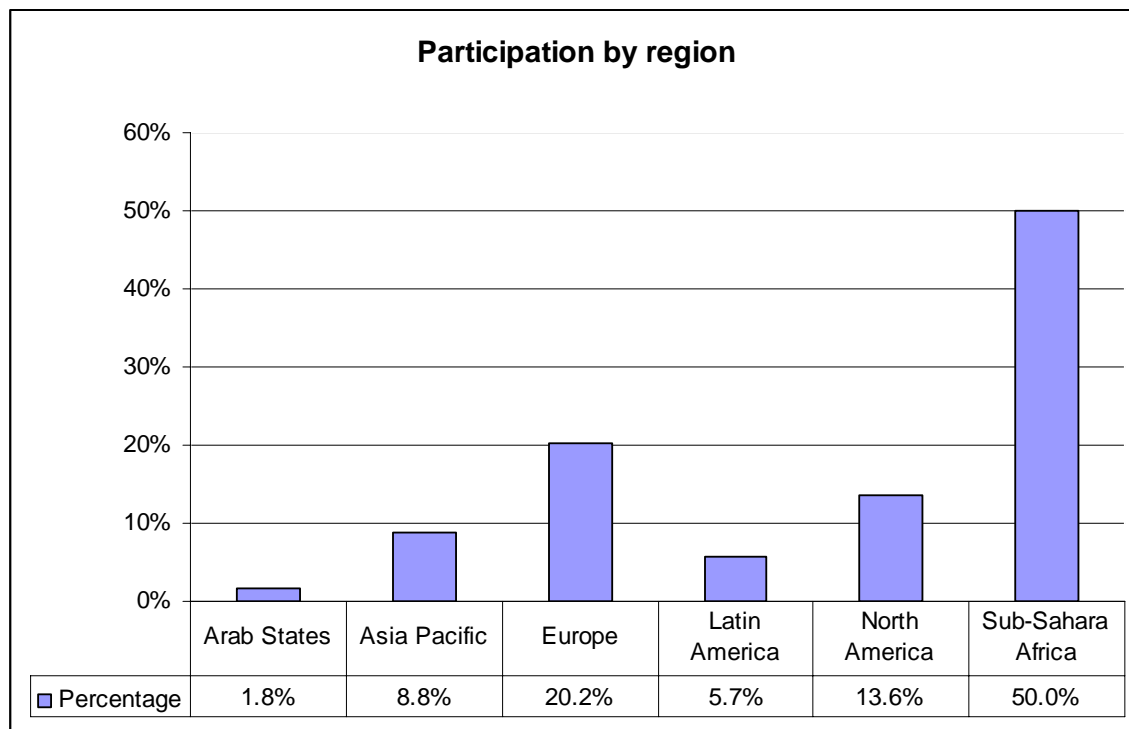


Figure 2: Participation by partner type

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**Figure 3:** Participation by region

Country	Number
Kenya	19.3%
Canada	7.9%
United States Of America	5.7%
France	4.8%
Cameroon	4.4%
South Africa	3.5%
United Republic of Tanzania	3.5%
United Kingdom Of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3.1%
Burundi	2.6%
Switzerland	2.6%

**Figure 4** Top ten participating countries

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### 3.2 Familiarity and usefulness of the Safer Cities programme

Partners were asked whether they knew about the Safer Cities Programme and if so, their views on the relevance of the programme. Out of the 228 respondents, 81.1% had heard of the programme and 37.7% had been actively involved with the programme at some time. Of those who knew of the programme, their views on how important the contribution of this programme to sustainable urbanization are given below:

Contribution to sustainable urbanization	Percentage
Crucial	33.3%
Extremely useful	40.8%
Somewhat useful	11.4%
Not useful	0.9%

Figure 5: Contribution of Safer Cities programme to sustainable urbanization

### 3.3 Priority areas of concern

As a way of identifying the key problem areas to guide the focus of the Safer Cities programme, partners were asked to rate the seriousness of particular crimes. The results are presented in the Figures 5 to 9. In addition to the crimes, 76.8% and 69.7% of respondents thought *governance of safety* and *policing* were very serious or serious problems respectively.

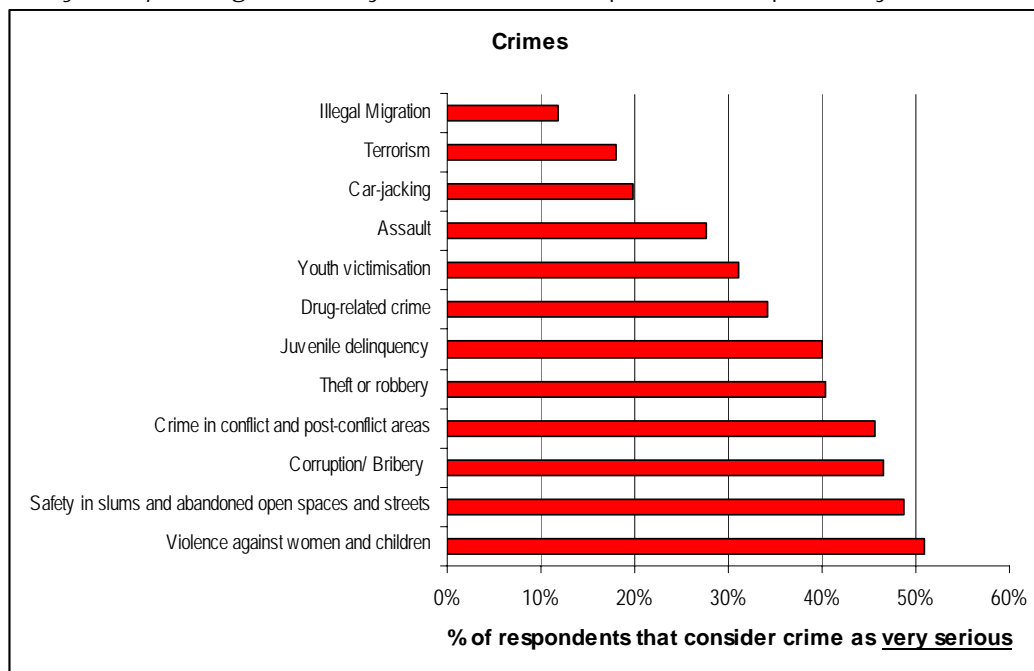


Figure 6: Ranking by percentage of respondents that consider crime as very serious

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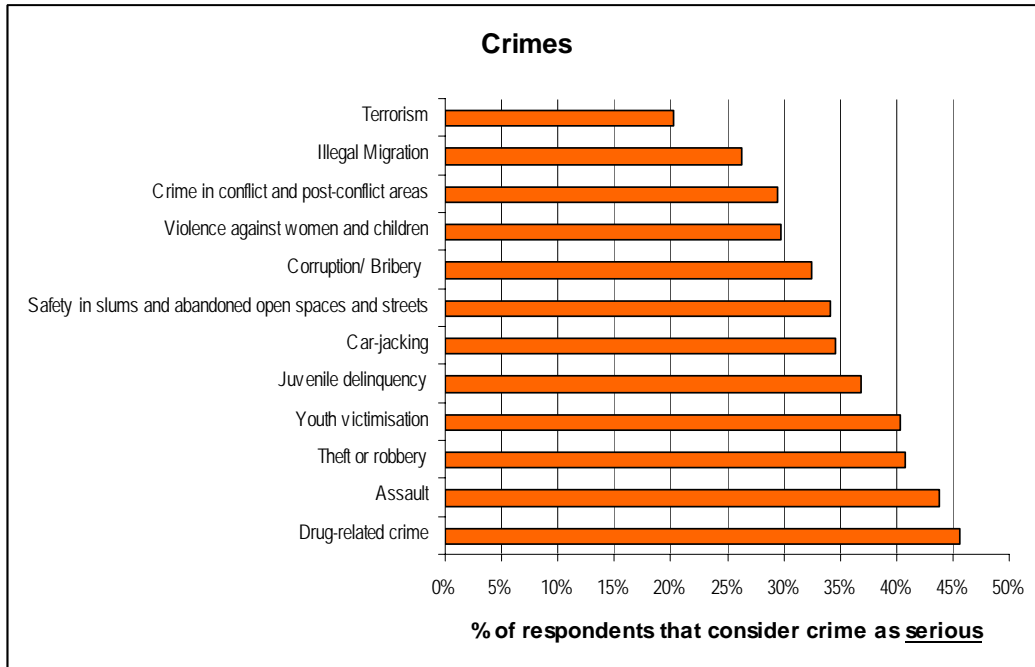


Figure 7: Ranking by percentage of respondents that consider crime as serious

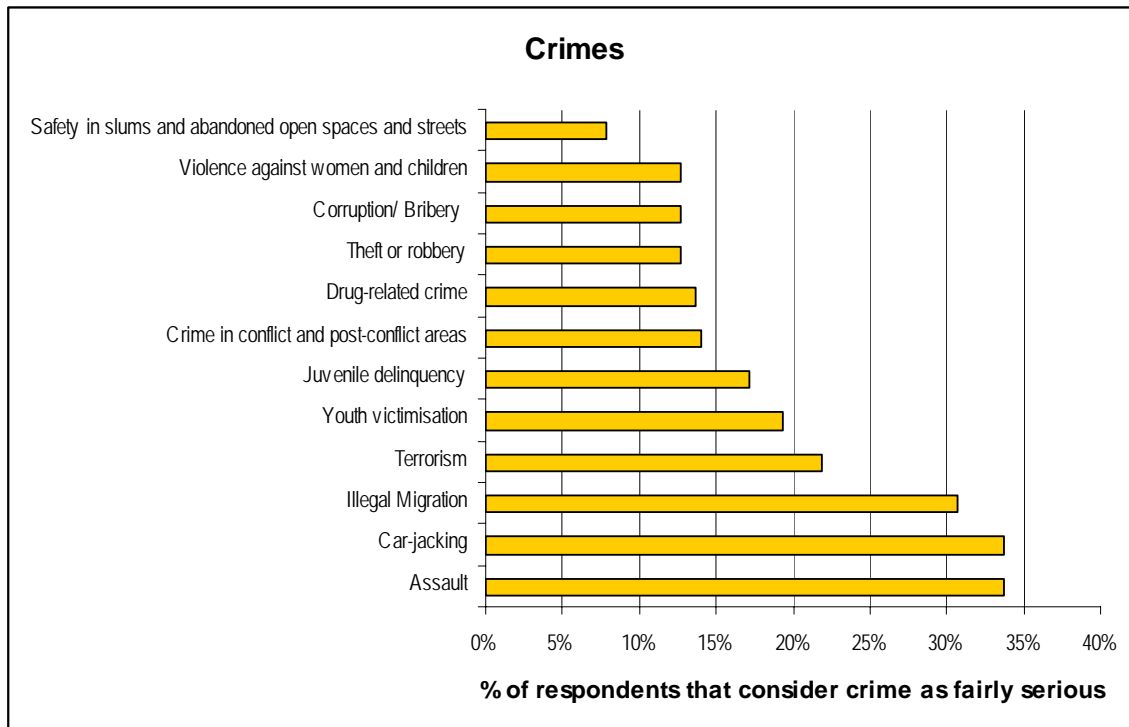
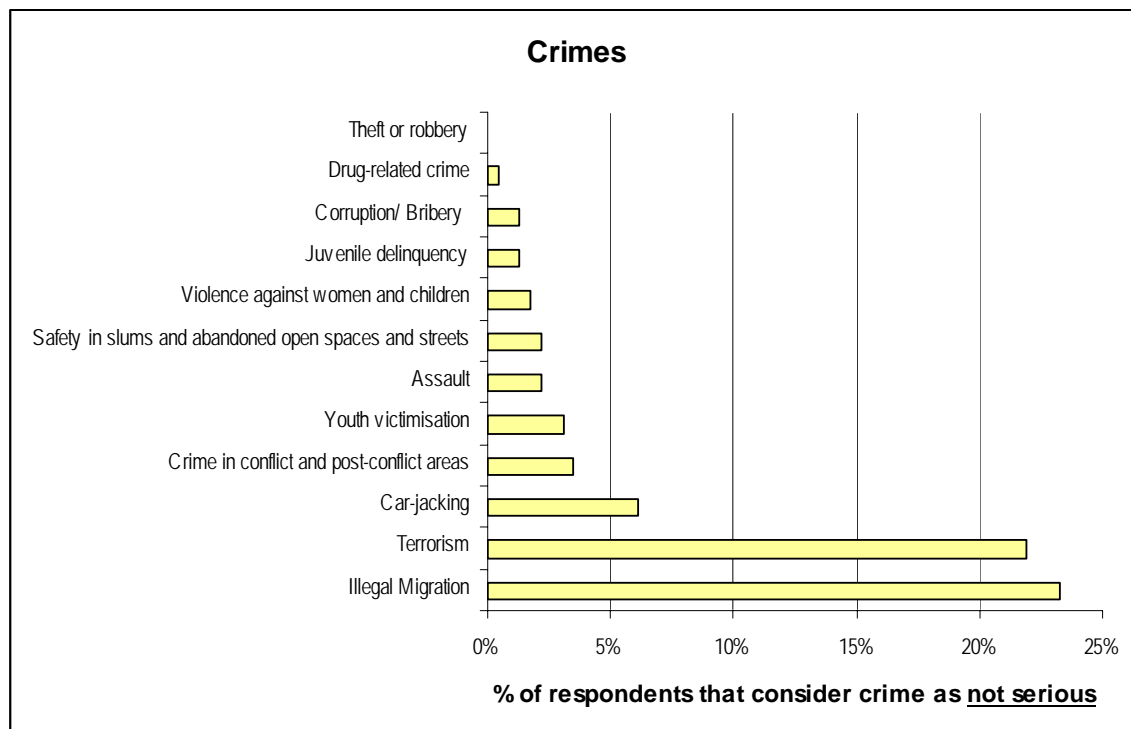


Figure 8: Ranking by percentage of respondents that consider crime as fairly serious

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**Figure 9:** Ranking by percentage of respondents that consider crime as not serious

The overall ranking of the crimes considered to be very serious or serious is given below with safety in slums and abandoned open spaces and streets being as the most serious crime.

### Overall ranking

- Safety in slums and abandoned open spaces and streets
- Theft or robbery
- Violence against women and children
- Drug related crime
- Corruption / bribery
- Juvenile delinquency
- Crime in conflict and post-conflict areas
- Youth Victimisation - Assault
- Terrorism - Illegal migration
- Car-jacking

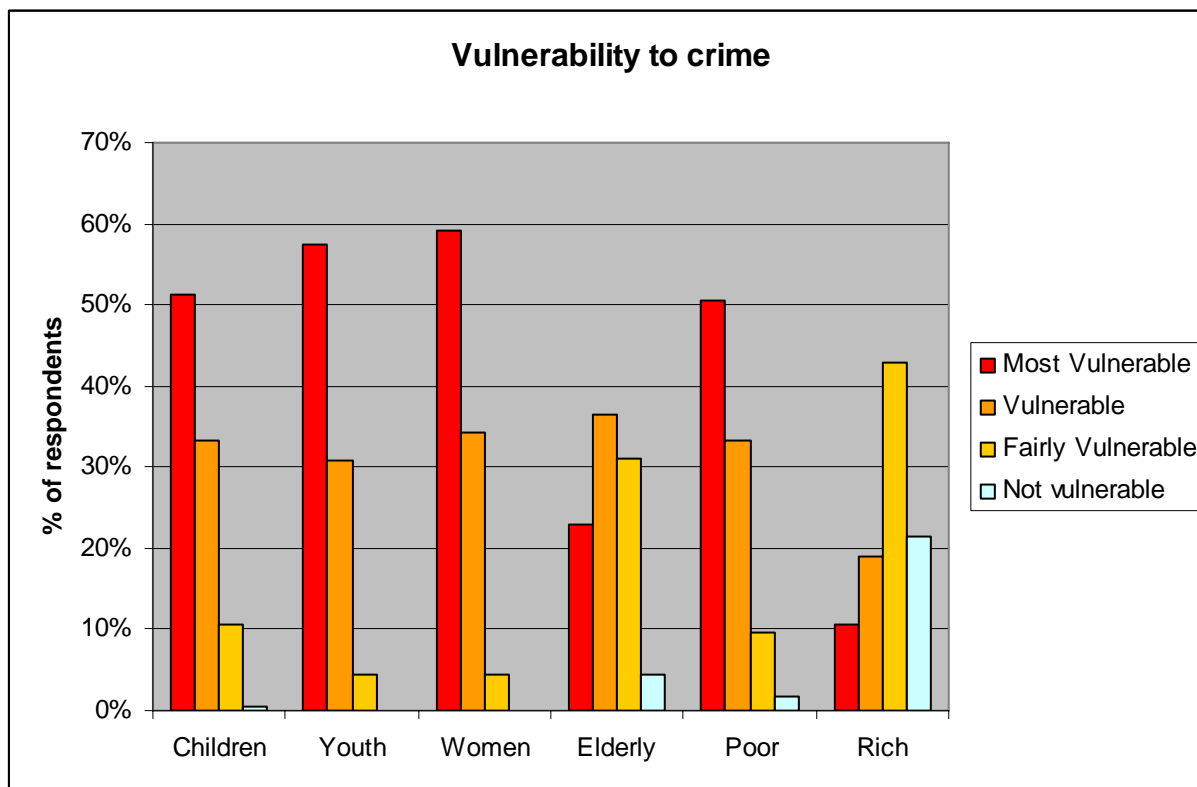
**Figure 10:** Crimes considered very serious or serious

### 3.4 Victims of crime

The survey asked participants to indicate which groups they felt were most vulnerable to crime so that these groups can be considered for special focus by the revised strategy of the Safer Cities programme. The overall ranking of the vulnerability of the groups is: women, youth, children, poor, elderly and rich. While there is an overlap in the categories e.g. poor women – the survey gives a good indication which groups are considered most vulnerable.



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**Figure 11:** Perceived vulnerability of groups

**Vulnerability** – overall ranking of groups with most vulnerable first.

Women	93.4%
Youth	88.2%
Children	84.6%
Poor	83.8%
Elderly	59.2%
Rich	29.4%

**Figure 12:** Percentage of respondents who consider groups as very vulnerable or vulnerable

### 3.5 Strategies for improving urban safety

The survey also sought partners' views on strategies for improving urban safety. It asked for key action areas and the type of action needed at local and global levels to address crime and improve urban safety. In addition to the results presented in Figures 12 to 21 below, respondents mentioned that urban planning strategies should be: inclusive, integrated, youth and community focused, promoting good governance, education, employment creation, and effective policing and law enforcement.

#### Integration of safety issues in urban development

Respondents were asked to rank the areas where urban issues needed to be integrated for sustainable urban development. The following table shows the results according to the percentage of people that ranked the areas as number one or number two.

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Integration of urban safety into urban development	Percentage
Safety integrated in urban planning and governance	78.1%
Urban safety promoted through education	69.3%
Safety integrated in pro-poor land and housing strategies	67.1%
Safety planned for in financing human settlement	64.5%
Safety integrated in provision of basic services	61.8%
Safety aspects in environmental planning	59.2%

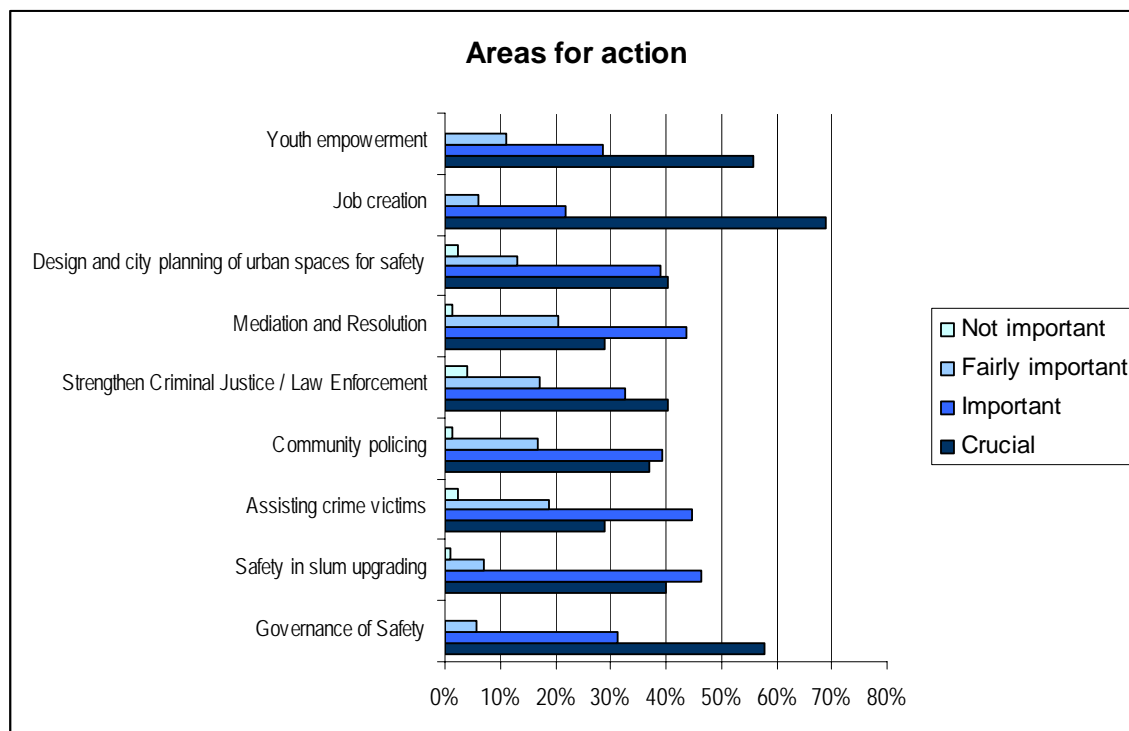
**Figure 13:** Embedding urban safety into urban development

### Areas for action

On areas where action, whether economic, social, technical, or political, that must be taken to prevent and eliminate crime and achieve urban safety, *crucial* areas were job creation, governance, and youth empowerment (Figure 15).

Area for action	Percentage
Job creation	90.8%
Governance of Safety	89.0%
Safety in slum upgrading	86.4%
Youth empowerment	84.2%
Design and city planning of urban spaces for safety	79.4%
Community policing	76.3%
Assisting crime victims	73.7%
Strengthen Criminal Justice / Law Enforcement	72.8%
Mediation and Resolution	72.8%

**Figure 14:** Areas considered crucial or important for action



**Figure 15:** Areas for action

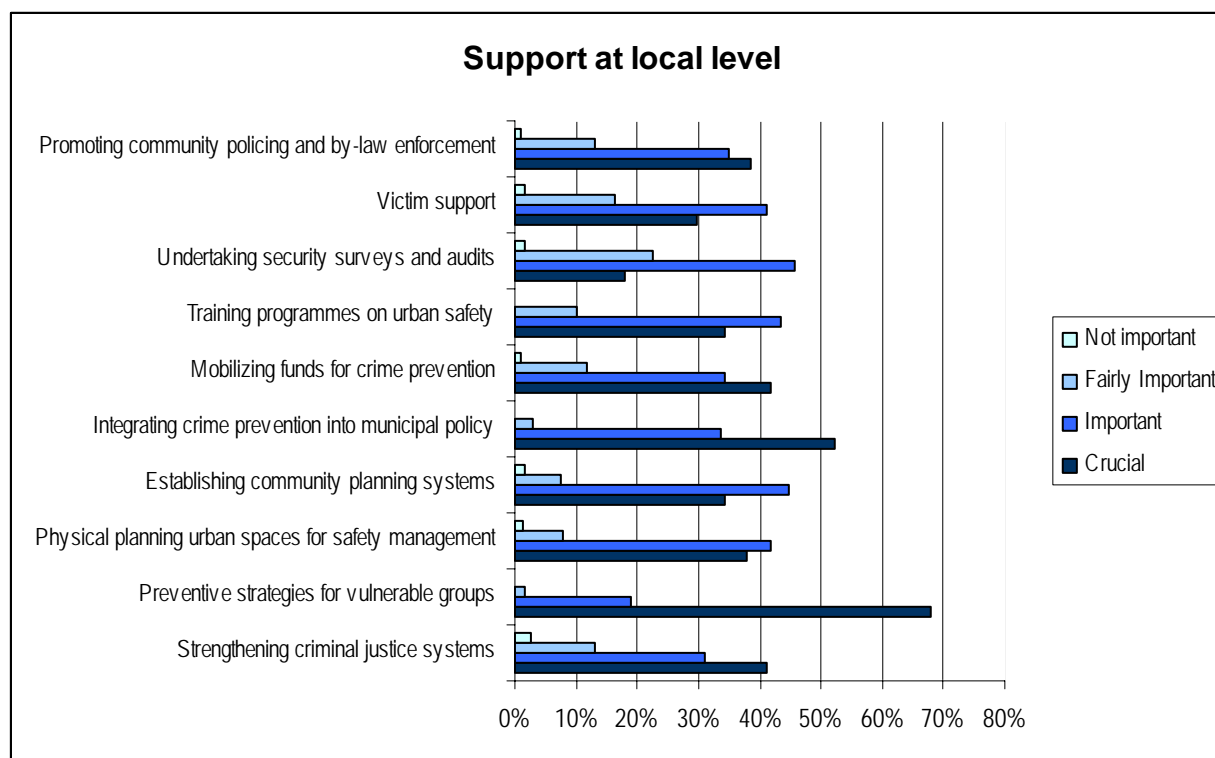
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### Support at local level

Strategies for vulnerable groups, integrating crime prevention into municipal policy and strengthening criminal justice systems were highlighted as crucial areas that needed support at local level.

Support at local level	Crucial or important
Preventive strategies for vulnerable groups (youth and women)	87%
Integrating crime prevention into municipal policy	86%
Physical planning urban spaces for safety management	79%
Establishing community planning systems	79%
Training programmes on urban safety	78%
Mobilizing funds for crime prevention	76%
Promoting community policing and by-law enforcement	74%
Strengthening criminal justice systems	72%
Victim support	71%
Undertaking security surveys and audits	64%

**Figure 16:** Ranking for support at local level considered crucial or important



**Figure 17:** Support at local level

### Knowledge sharing

In the area of knowledge sharing, the survey asked participants the tools they found most useful in their work to improve urban safety. Knowledge bases on best practices, lessons learnt and innovative approaches as well as formal education, theatre and audio-visual tools were identified as important tools. (Figure 19)

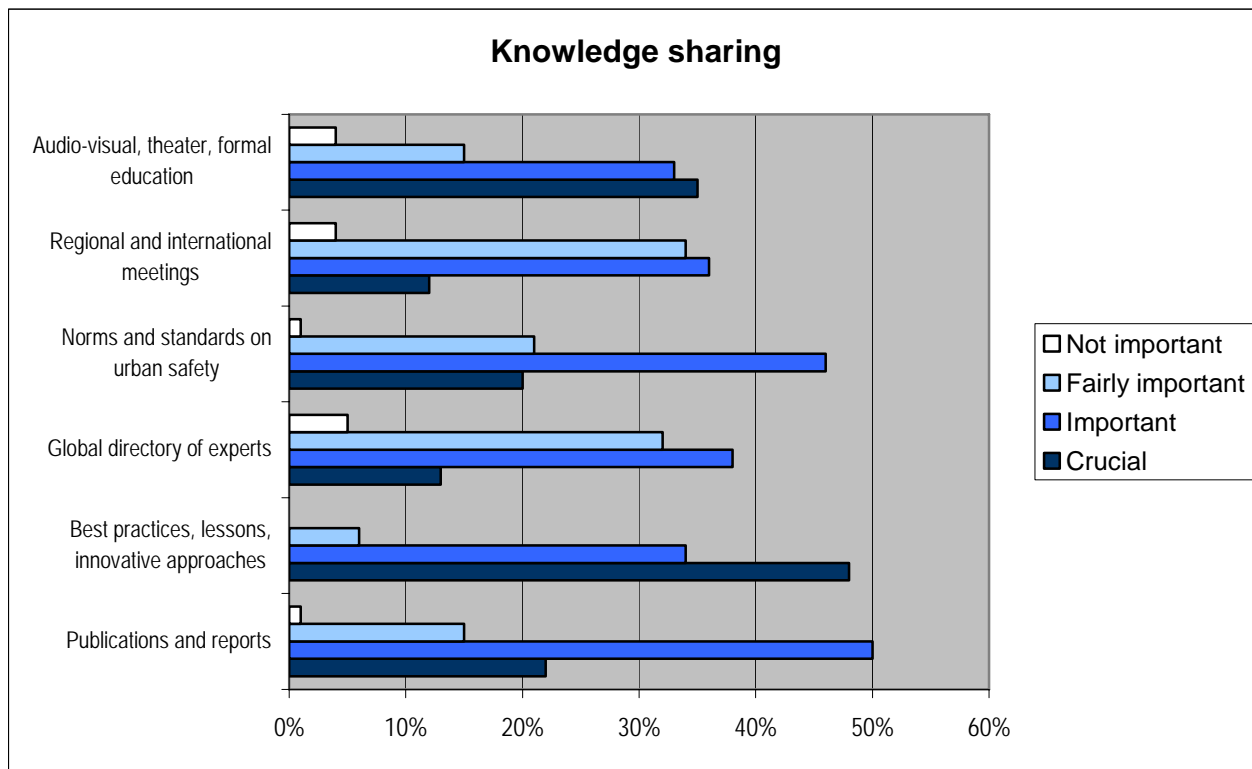
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## Global advocacy and visibility

To raise the profile of urban safety issues and increase support for these issues globally, respondents identified the development of tools and guidelines on crime prevention as crucial (Figure 20). Below is the ranking of advocacy tools considered crucial or important:

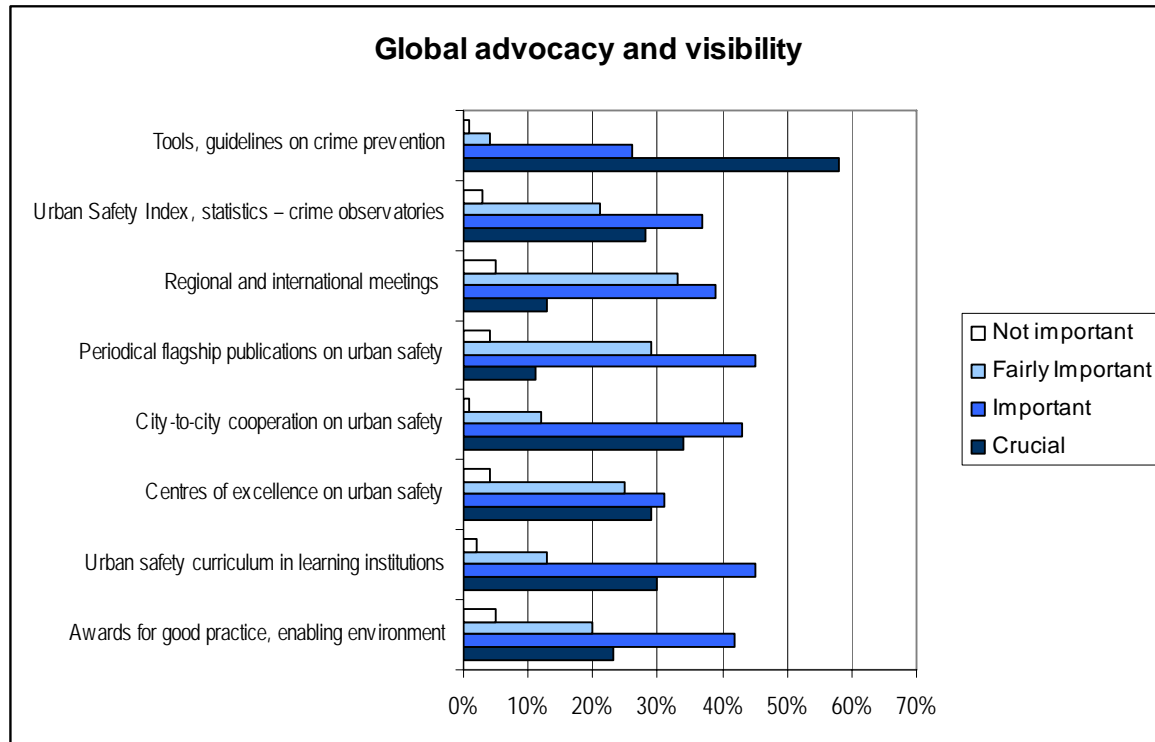
Advocacy and visibility tools	Crucial or important
Tools and guidelines on crime prevention	84%
City-to-city cooperation on urban safety	77%
Urban safety curriculum in learning institutions	75%
Awards for good practice, enabling environment	65%
Urban Safety Index, statistics – crime observatories	65%
Centres of excellence on urban safety	60%
Periodical flagship publications on urban safety	56%
Regional and international meetings	52%

**Figure 18:** Crucial or important tools for advocacy and visibility



**Figure 19:** Knowledge sharing

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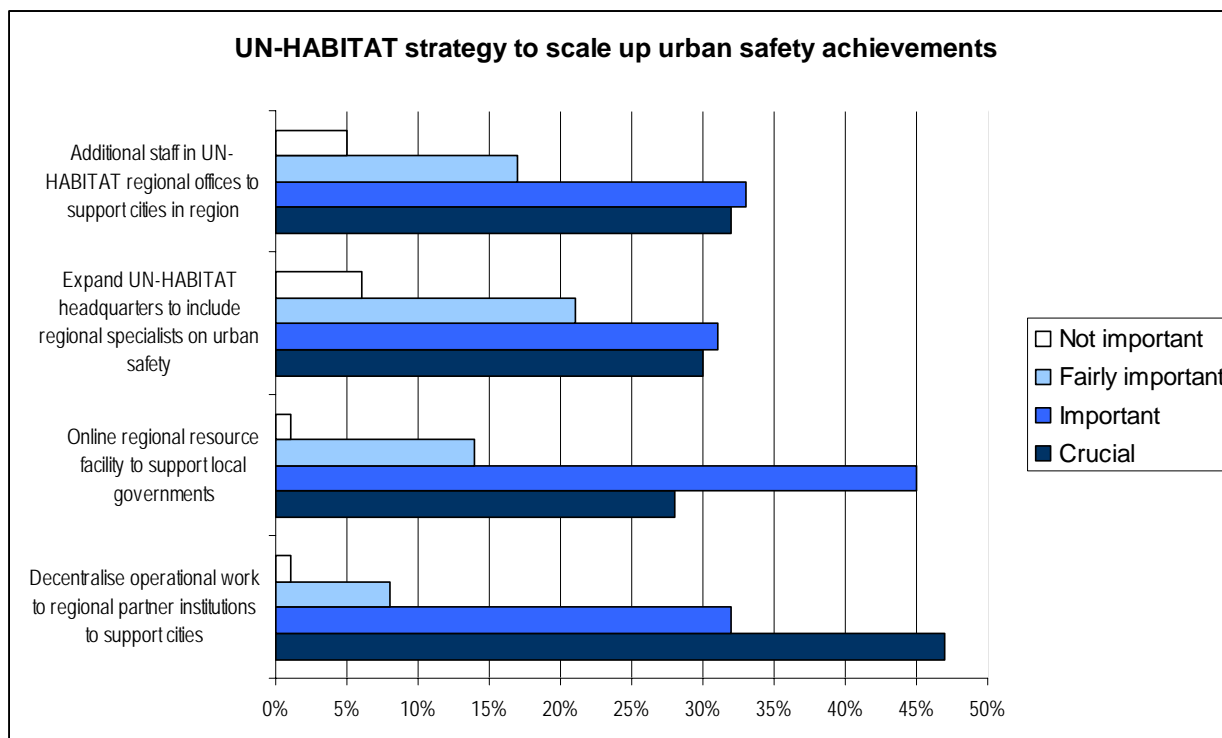


**Figure 20:** Global advocacy and visibility

### Scaling up urban safety interventions

UN-HABITAT asked what partners considered as the most effective strategies for the agency to support the replication and scaling up of urban safety achievements globally. From the results, below, it can be seen that decentralisation of operational work to regional partner institutions and the establishment of an online regional facility to support local governments are highlighted. This initial analysis does not separate the views of UN-HABITAT respondents from those of external partners so further analysis is needed to see if partners' views differ from those of the agency.

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**Figure 21:** Scaling up and replicating urban safety achievements

### 3.6 Partnerships

An effective strategy relies on strategic partnerships. Respondents were asked whom they considered as key partners for addressing urban safety issues at local and global levels. As shown in Figure 22, at the national and local levels, city and local authorities stand out clearly as the most important partners to advance urban safety.

At the global level, various United Nations agencies (Figure 23) particularly UN-HABITAT, UNDP, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), were mentioned. In addition, respondents mentioned the European Forum for Urban Safety, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Bank.

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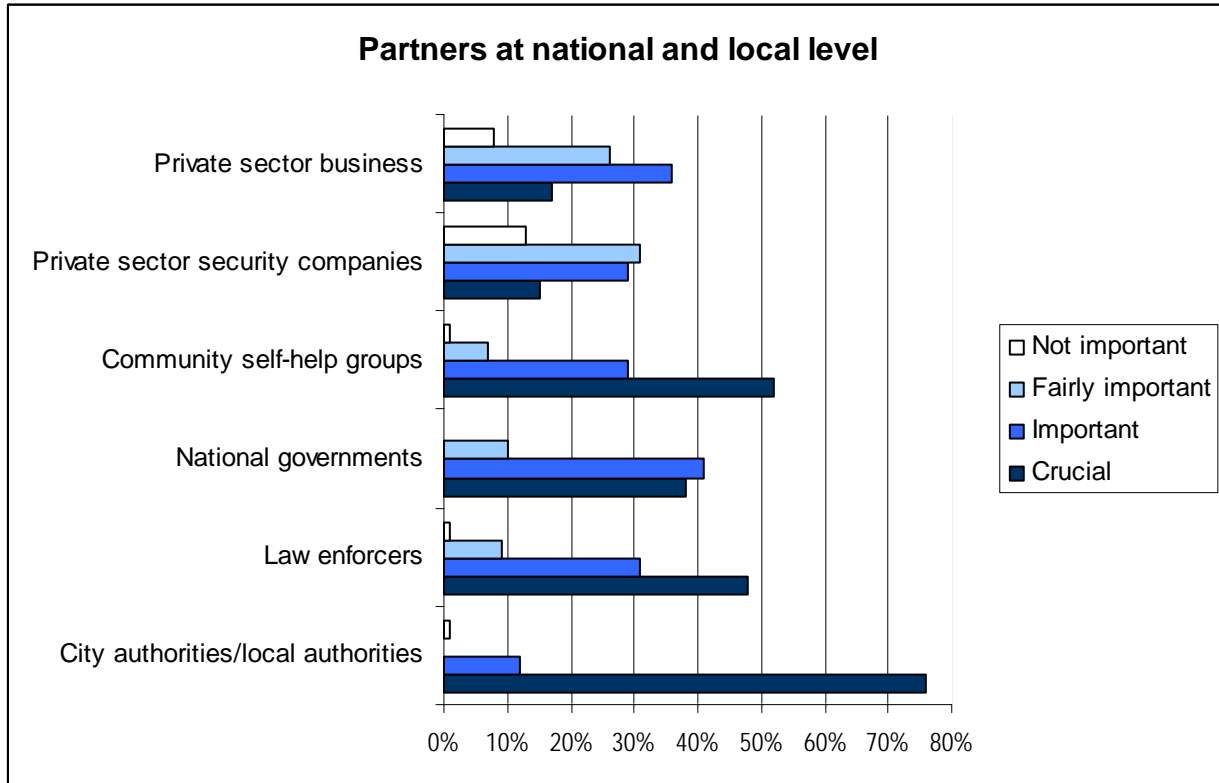


Figure 22: Partners at the national and local levels

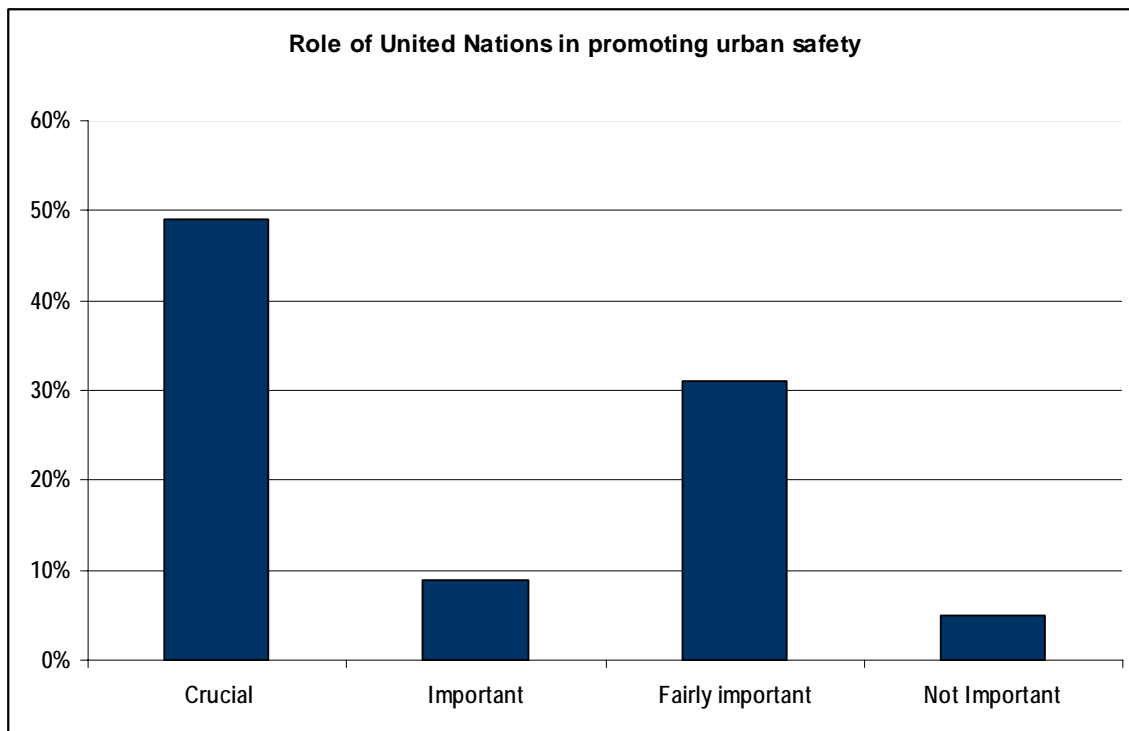


Figure 23: United Nations' role in promoting urban safety