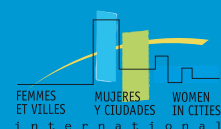


UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Safer Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT
P.O. Box 30030-00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254-20-7623706
Fax: +254-20-7624263
E-mail: safer.cities@unhabitat.org
www.unhabitat.org



Women in Cities International
6465 Avenue Durocher, suite 309
Montréal (Québec)
Canada, H2V 3Z1
Tel : 514.861.6123
Email : info@femmesetvilles.org

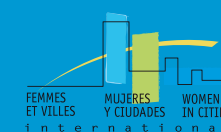


Sida's main office
Valhallavägen 199
105 25 Stockholm
Switchboard: + 46 8 698 50 00
Fax: +46 8 20 88 64
E-mail: sida@sida.se



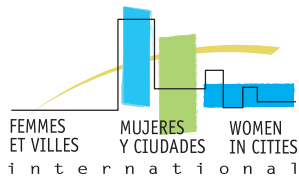
WOMEN'S SAFETY AUDITS: What Works and Where?

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Safer Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT
P.O. Box 30030-00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254-20-7623706
Fax: +254-20-7624263
E-mail: safer.cities@unhabitat.org
www.unhabitat.org

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Author: Women in Cities International
Researched and written by: Melanie Lambrick and Kathryn Travers
Under the direction of: Marisa Canuto, Executive Director, Women in Cities International
With the participation of Women in Cities International Board members: Caroline Andrew, Fran Klodawsky, Margaret Shaw and Carolyn Whitzman
Editor: Roman Rollnick
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FOREWORD



In many cities women and girls face violence not only in their homes and in relationships, but also in public spaces due to poor urban design and poor management of public spaces. Whether it is due to threats, intimidation, harassment, sexual attacks or rape, all aggression seriously

inhibits women from moving around the city because they feel unsafe. Women and girls are often targets of violence due to their vulnerability, and this vulnerability perpetuates their position in society.

One of the ways in which women can feel safer and fully benefit from the services and resources cities can offer is to actively seek changes in their physical environment by working together with municipal authorities and other community institutions and groups. The Women's Safety Audit is a tool that enables a critical evaluation of the urban environment. The Women's Safety Audit tool was first developed in Canada following the recommendations of the 1989 report on violence against women and has further been developed by UN-HABITAT in the cities of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Dar es Salaam, Abidjan, Nairobi and Warsaw.

Women's Safety Audit is a tool that increases awareness of violence against vulnerable groups and helps users and decision-makers understand how men and women experience the urban environment in different manners. It gives legitimacy to women's concerns and is an effective tool for building community safety. However, in order to replicate this model, careful attention must be given to the cultural and social context in which it will be implemented. The place of

women, not only in the city and public areas, but also at the heart of society, needs to be considered.

The Women's Safety Audit tool can lead to modification of the design, planning and management of public spaces in order to contribute to reducing the feelings of insecurity and victimisation. It can be instrumental in making public spaces safer and more accessible for women and girls. Frequent safety audits followed by progressive action to implement the findings should be routine in city crime prevention policies.

Preliminary results from the 2007 Global Assessment on Women's Safety found that the most frequently used international tool is the women's safety audit. Therefore, Women in Cities International, in partnership with UN-HABITAT, undertook this comparative evaluation study of women's safety audits. The aim was to identify what works, in what contexts and what kinds of concrete outcomes might be expected from the use of safety audits. The evaluation looked at considerations of design changes to suit context and the strengthening of women's involvement in local planning and governance.

The results of this evaluation study provide vital information that are relevant to the implementation of safety audits in cities throughout the world and in the eventual development of guidelines for local authorities on implementing women's safety audits.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Anna Tibaijuka'.

Anna Tibaijuka,
Under-Secretary General of the United Nations
Executive Director of UN-HABITAT

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Women in Cities International acknowledges the funding provided by UN-HABITAT Safer Cities Programme, which made this important international comparative assessment a reality. We would also like to thank them for their valuable feedback and for publishing this report.

WICI would like to express its gratitude to the *Délégation interministerielle de la Ville* (DIV) in France for undertaking the translation of this assessment into French, which will allow information to reach a broader audience.

In addition, WICI would like to express its immense gratitude to those who took the time out of their busy schedules to complete the survey questionnaire we developed for this assessment on women's safety audit: Elizaveta Bozhkova (Information Centre of the independent Women's Forum, Moscow, Russia), Wendy Davis (Women's Design Service, United Kingdom), Cookie Edwards (KZN Network on Violence against Women, Durban, South Africa), Anna Mtani (Safer Cities Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania), Shilpa Phadke (Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research (PUKAR), Mumbai, India), Kalpana Viswanath (JAGORI, Delhi, India), Anne Michaud (International Expert and consultant, Montreal, Canada), Lise Aubin (Ville de Lévis, Québec, Canada), Przemyslaw Bobak (UN Habitat Warsaw Office, Warsaw, Poland), Marisol Dalmazzo (Asociación para la Vivienda Popular, Women & Habitat Network Colombia), Terri Dame (Cowichan Safer Futures, Cowichan, Canada), Elijah Agevi (Safer

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WICI would also like to thank all of its Board Members for their invaluable contributions to this assessment and for their unrelenting support and dedication. The many hours of volunteer time they continue to give allows WICI to benefit from their vast collective experience, knowledge, leadership and insight, bringing the organization to new heights.

Finally, WICI extends its thanks to its various partners, including the Huairou Commission, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, Red Mujer y Habitat and UN-HABITAT for their assistance in networking and knowledge-dissemination.

ABSTRACT

Preliminary results from a 2007 global survey of 163 local government-community partnerships on women's safety found that the assessment and action tool most often used is the women's safety audit. The women's safety audit tool is used to assess sense of safety by identifying the factors that make women feel safe and unsafe in the public domain. Based on these results, recommendations are made for increasing women's sense of safety and use of public space, by firstly, improving various elements of the built environment and secondly, changing community behaviours and local government policies. The women's safety audit tool also seeks to increase civic participation in local governance. Safety concerns are identified from the perspective of groups that are most vulnerable to experiencing violence, such as women, seniors (including elderly women), children and people with disabilities. Safety audits can be used to evaluate many different environments, including neighbourhoods, parking garages, public transit, and parks.

Women's Safety Audits: What Works and Where? is an international comparative assessment that provides relevant information for the implementation of future safety audits, and aims to fill a current void. Results are also intended to influence the development of a set of guidelines for local authorities to refer to when considering the use of the women's safety audit tool. This report examines best practices, local adaptations, positive and negative outcomes and suggestions for future use of the women's safety audit tool based on a review of the literature as well as surveys and interviews with organizations around the world that have used the tool.

SEARCH TERMS

women's safety audit / women's safety audit tool / safety audit / exploratory walk / safety survey / crime prevention / city planning / personal security / evaluation / assessment women / safety / transit safety / campus safety / urban renewal / urban regeneration / community safety / citizen participation

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

ACDP - Association Congolaise des droits de la personne Humaine

BCCSC – British Columbia Coalition for Safer Communities

CAFSU – Comité d’action femmes et sécurité urbaine

CISCSA - Centro de Intercambio y Servicios Cono Sur Argentina

CVRD – Cowichan Valley Regional District

EFUS – European Forum on Urban Safety

FCM – Federation of Canadian Municipalities

ICIWF – Information Centre of the Independent Women’s Forum

IWPR – Institute for Women’s Policy Research

METRAC – Metropolitan Toronto Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children

MSP – Making Safer Places

PUKAR – Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research

RTPI – Royal Town Planning Institute

Sida – Swedish International Development Corporation

TTC – Toronto Transit Commission

UN-HABITAT – United Nations Human Settlement Programme

UNIFEM – United Nations Development Fund for Women

WACAV – Women’s Action Centre Against Violence (Now known as WISE)

WDS – Women’s Design Service

WICI – Women in Cities International

WISE – Women’s Initiatives for Safer Environments (Formerly WACAV)

Women IANSA – Women’s International Network on Small Arms

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