DIAGNOSIS OF INSECURITY REPORT

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

TOWARDS AN URBAN CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

SAFER CITIES SERIES 4

THE PORT MORESBY INSECURITY DIAGNOSIS REPORT:

TOWARDS AN URBAN CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

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UN-HABITAT P.O. Box 30030, GPO Nairobi 00100, Kenya

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FOREWORD

Internationally, crime and violence are increasingly becoming recognised as a developmental problem, particularly in urban areas. The incidences of crime, violence, robbery, gang violence, as well as domestic violence, undermines economic growth, investment and productivity of a country's development, as well as affecting societal and individual well being. Urban crime and violence are not a spontaneous occurrence, but above all, the product of a society characterised by inequality and social exclusion. Measures that protect urban communities from deprivation, unemployment, homelessness, illiteracy and social disintegration will ultimately also protect them from crime. Therefore, at the urban level, issues of inequality, poverty and exclusion are critical to address.

Crime and violence erodes social capital when it reduces trust and co-operation within formal and informal social organisations. The capacity for community-level organisations to function depends on levels of cohesion and the ability to meet locally; this hinges on personal safety issues. Sustained crime and violence often systematically create fear and reduce trust between neighbours and communities. Fear of crime is usually higher where violent crimes are higher. The response, particularly for women, is frequently to avoid certain places after dark. Fear increases urban fragmentation, resulting in a new urban landscape made up of "fortified fragments, from which the poor and marginalised are excluded.

Safety and security concerns must extend beyond reacting to the effects of crime and must address the root causes of crime, gender violence, vandalism, and other forms of delinquent behaviour. Responses must be found with communities and other key stakeholders building on mechanisms based on local culture as well as the resources and capacities of the various stakeholders. The city should take a pro-active role in leading local efforts in this direction, supplementing the role of the state in ensuring safety for all.

Port Moresby, is now among the top developing world cities notoriously labelled with high crime rates. The necessity to formulate relevant policies and design strategic crime prevention and intervention programs is imminent if the figures presented in this report are of any indication. Manifestations of crime and ever so present criminal elements are encountered daily in the National Capital District. The reality of not being able to afford a more relaxed and decent walk or shopping errand without the nagging concern of being victimised in one way or another affects all citizens.

This is not to say that the average citizen or institutions have taken it for granted and thereby internalized the criminal state of the city as 'the reality', but many are actively getting involved to find pragmatic solutions – even more want to play a role, but are unsure of their role or how they can contribute. Apart from the law enforcing agencies there are concerned and responsible individuals, families and institutions that are trying or have designed and implemented programs to counter criminal activities and negative attitudes in the city. Unfortunately, the efforts have so far been piece-meal and the expected success story has been limited and somewhat short-lived.

Recognising this, the GoPNG has unreservedly placed safety as the highest priority issue to be addressed, and especially to find a way to solve the high crime levels in its capital city: Port Moresby. With funding support from UNDP and technical assistance from UN-HABITAT's global Safer Cities Programme, the Safer Port Moresby Initiative was initiated under the Department of Social Welfare Development's guidance, with the full support of the National Capital District Commission .

This report represents a *diagnosis of local insecurity* which assesses the underlying causes of crime, victim and offender characteristics, to assist partners in identifying strategic areas for intervention through a participatory approach anchored at the community-level. This baseline information was gathered in three main areas: the role of Youth and Crime, Social Crime Mapping, and a review of

responsible institutions. This involved the interviewing of 1500 youths from various parts of the city, conducting focus groups discussion in the Burns Peak settlement, and gathering information on the policies, programmes and projects of institutions involved in the crime and justice system.

The overall diagnosis of insecurity presents the results of the results of the diagnostic phase of the project and is a source of reference for those involved in designing local crime preventions strategies. The diagnosis is also intended to stimulate discussion on how best to understand and address urban crime and violence in the city, sharing an understanding of the priority safety issues and strategic interventions, reacting in a collaborative manner towards crime prevention in Port Moresby. The various members of the Coordinating Committee and other interested groups and individuals are encouraged to suggest and incorporate existing as well as new ideas into the SPMI's proposed best practice approaches towards crime prevention.

Lady Carol Kidu, MP
Minister of Community Development
Papua New Guinea

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2002, the Government of Papua New Guinea with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and technical assistance from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) launched the Safer Port Moresby Initiative with the express aim of addressing the underlying causes of crime that have accompanied the unprecedented urban growth of Port Moresby. The Safer Port Moresby Initiative (SPMI) is a citywide crime prevention initiative that is built on partnerships with public, private and popular (sector) institutions that can contribute towards crime reduction in the city. The initiative is presently being run from the offices of the Department for Community Development, formally known as the Department of Social Welfare and Development and works closely with the City Government (National Capital District Commission – NCDC).

The SPMI is a two-phased programme. This first phase focuses on collecting and analysing baseline information and data on the underlying causes of crime in the city, to better inform the partners on possible courses of action, by sharing such information before reaching a consensus on priority interventions and finally agreeing on a strategic Plan of Action. The second phase focuses on strengthening these partnerships through a "Coalition Against Crime" that implements the agreed upon Plan of Action.

One of the key outputs of the first phase therefore, is a *diagnosis of local insecurity* which assesses the underlying causes of crime, the victim and offender characteristics, to assist the partners in identifying strategic areas for intervention through a participatory approach that is anchored at the community-level. This baseline information was gathered from three main areas: the role of Youth and Crime, Social Crime Mapping, and a review of the responsible, corresponding institutions. This involved the interviewing of 1500 youths from various parts of the city, conducting interviews and

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