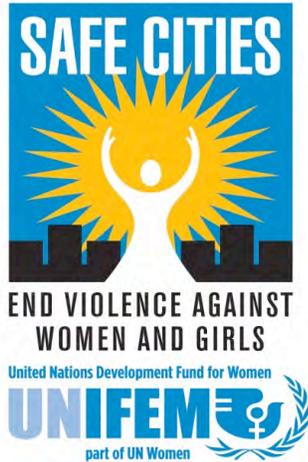


Global Safe Cities Free of Violence for Women and Girls 'SNAPSHOT' of the CITIES



In cities across the world, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in public spaces is a daily occurrence. Five cities are participating in the UNIFEM (part of UN Women) global flagship programme on Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls. These cities have been identified for their governmental commitment, pledges of budgetary and in-kind support, and pioneering spirit in addressing this issue, in partnership with multiple women's, grassroots, youth and other civil society groups; international networks and organizations (Women in Cities International, Red Mujer y Habitat of Latin America and Caribbean, Huairou Commission, the International Center for Research on Women); UN-Habitat and other agencies of the United Nations System.

Cairo: Cases of sexual harassment against women, including foreign women in the country, are reported regularly in daily newspapers, especially following an alarming incident in October 2008 during which several men were arrested for aggressively harassing women and girls on city streets. The Minister of Tourism announced that sexual harassment in public spaces is a major threat for tourism in Egypt, and launched a massive advertising campaign to address it. Also in response to the situation, legislative bills are under consideration by Parliament.

The Safe Cities project is working with the government's National Council for Women, the General Organization for Physical Planning, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, as well as the ministries of Finance and Family Affairs; UN agencies (UNIFEM, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNFPA); NGOs and community-based organizations, and the American University Social Research Center. The initiative will be implemented in five major areas of the Greater Cairo Region.



The project will be launched with the government and all 25 partners on November 22, at the University of Cairo, through a variety of activities including a candlelight vigil, a youth march at the university campus, two music concerts with renowned bands, and photography, documentary and song contests aimed at engaging young people in raising awareness.

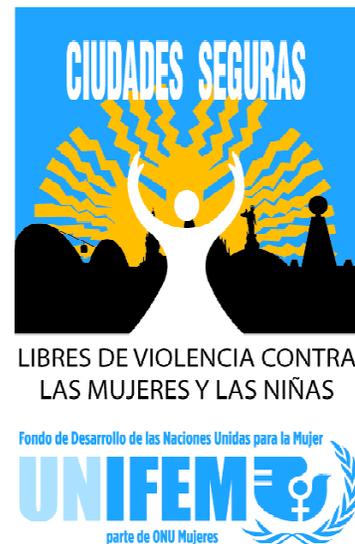
New Delhi: Women living in New Delhi experience high levels of insecurity and harassment in buses, on streets and other public spaces, and ‘eve teasing’ of women and girls is all too common. With an emphasis on creating an overarching strategy to create safer cities for women and girls, the project will focus on needed policy and legislative reforms; urban planning and design of public spaces; civic awareness; improvements in public transport and policing; provision and maintenance of public infrastructure and services; and expanding access by survivors to legal assistance, justice and other supports. Inspired by Jagori’s recent campaign, which includes TV spots such as *Staring Hurts*, the project will develop a multimedia prevention and educational drive for community mobilization. The Department for Women and Child Development, Government of Delhi, UNIFEM, UN-Habitat and Jagori are the main partners. A larger number of stakeholders have already been consulted and more are to be engaged in its development, including the Departments of Education and Transport of the Government of Delhi, the Delhi Police, women’s rights groups and United Nations agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA).

The Safe Cities project is closely interrelated with another innovative effort on *Gender-Inclusive Cities* supported by the United Nations Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence against Women, aimed at pursuing a similar effort at modeling approaches to end violence against women in public spaces. New Delhi is one of four urban centres —along with Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; Petrozavodsk, Russia; and Rosario, Argentina— participating in this endeavor.

Quito: Women, and especially adolescent girls, report sexual harassment on public transportation and fear of being on the streets after dark. Parks, public transportation and isolated “barrios” are settings where sexual violence is common. The project will be implemented with local authorities and human rights promoters in two administrative zones of the city – Quitumbe and Eloy Alfaro – focusing on the most impoverished, socially excluded women and girls, including indigenous and Afro-descendants.

The Quito Safe City Project builds on strong partnerships with local government and grassroots and community organizations. The Mayor of the city has expressed his full support for eradicating violence against women and preventing sexual violence in public spaces. Fundación Patronato San José, a governmental agency that coordinates social projects at the community level with children, adolescents and the elderly population, will be the main implementation partner.

Other partners include Casa Matilde (a crisis and resource centre on violence against women), UNIFEM and UN-Habitat. The Safe Cities project will be launched with the participation of the Mayor and representatives of grassroots, women’s and youth organizations on November 25 with festivities in the main square (Plaza Grande), including video projections; fire jugglers and dance performances; and a march, with torch lighting and releasing of lit balloons—all part of a symbolic statement of ‘bringing light to cities and making them safer for women and girls’.



Kigali: As with other post-conflict countries, levels of violence against women, including sexual violence, remain alarmingly high. Two intervention project sites are identified, in Kicukiro and Nyarugenge districts, both low-income areas with problems of inadequate street lighting and reports of sexual violence in public spaces, on streets and bus terminals, as well as harassment by drivers of motorcycle and taxi services.

Several actions at the local and policy levels include community awareness-raising; working with the police; expanding holistic support for women who have experienced sexual harassment and violence; and training for providers at the 'one-stop' crisis centres for cases of violence, as well as for members of the community Gender-Based Violence Committees, in order to broaden their coverage of violence issues to include sexual harassment. The latter are comprised of citizens' representatives charged with compiling and reporting cases of violence to local authorities and helping to resolve domestic violence situations.

Key governmental partners are the City of Kigali, the Rwandan National Police, the national Gender Monitoring Office, and the International Centre for Research on Women, with the support of UNIFEM and other UN agencies.

Port Moresby: The UN-Habitat Global Report for Human Settlements (2007) indicates that crimes against women and girls, from assault to rape, are endemic in Port Moresby. The Safe Cities project will focus on reducing violence against women and girls in marketplaces, where low-income women work long hours facing sexual harassment and threats of sexual assault. Markets represent a major part of the socio-economic activity in Papua New Guinea. With support from UNIFEM and the involvement of other UN agencies, the National Capital District Commission is the main implementing partner under the leadership of the Governor of Port Moresby, with a central role played by the Women's Desk, and in collaboration with various international and national NGOs.

The project will help increase capacities of municipal authorities across various sectors, as well as market management and women's vendor associations, market security personnel, youth and other organizations, and of local research institutions. The project collaborates with a community-level initiative aimed at expanding support for women affected by violence, the Yumi Lukautim Mosbi Projek (*'You and Me Look Out for Port Moresby'*), which is supported by the Government of Australia.