



Recommendations
Regional Workshop on
Safety for the Urban Poor in Asia and the Pacific
June 15-17, 2010 in Metro Manila, Philippines

Hosted by: City of Marikina

Any initiative to improve safety for the urban poor should be driven by a demand from the poor communities themselves. Safety should be seen as a service and it is everyone's right in the city to be safe.

Role of Government (National and Local):

- There is need to build a critical mass of political support/champions in Asia promoting urban safety. We call for the creation of a movement of Mayors and recognise their efforts on promoting urban safety in partnership with poor communities.
- We are committed to identifying champion cities on different aspects of urban safety
- There is a need to review policy and legislation dealing with urban safety to ensure focus on the urban poor communities. National and local government has a key role to play in policy formulation, implementation, and resource mobilization.
- There is need to develop a common understanding on providing safety for the poor. To support this, a comprehensive overall framework should be adopted where all sectors work together in providing safety.
- Ensure the initiatives to improve safety builds and involves existing structures and elements within the city and the communities, but ensuring co-ordination between key players and key actors. Every sector has a role to play in providing safety for the inhabitants and specifically the poor.
- Government should not prescribe a specific model, but develop an approach/modality that is suited for a specific context and locality. Political and governance frameworks are different in different contexts and therefore safety initiatives need to be adapted. Successes are context specific and are dependent upon building upon strengths and what works.
- Sensitisation and awareness-raising is key in ensuring that the urban safety is brought forth. There is need for intensive lobbying to ensure that safety is included in the government's agendas.

Partnership building:

- Key for successful implementation of safety is the consolidation of partnerships, ensuring the inclusion of all partners and embracing a people-centred approach to safety, building on the needs of the community.
- To ensure meaningful stakeholder participation there is need to bring all stakeholders together for dialogue and exchange, both on local and regional level, ensuring the participation of marginalised groups and people with disability.
- Focusing on groups at risk requires interventions which aim at changing behaviour and which are more socially-oriented. These interventions are more long-term and require continuous sensitization.

Benchmarking and Monitoring:

- We need to ensure bench-marking by assessing risk in cities so as to ensure that interventions on urban safety address the needs of the poor and also to be able to monitor progress.
- Diagnosing the local situation is the corner-stone of being able to develop an integrated, city-wide framework/strategy to ensure safety initiatives are relevant.
- We are committed to the development and testing of a safe city “index/checklist”. The “index/checklist” should not be focused on the gathering of official statistics, but be more innovative and dynamic by taking into account the perceptions of insecurity.

Training and capacity building:

- We are committed to ensuring that components on urban safety are, where possible, mainstreamed in local and regional training programmes, as well as organising a series of trainings on various safety themes, inviting not only professionals, but also local elected bodies to engage and change mindsets.
- We are committed to the development of a set of urban safety tools and accompanying training modules and to make these easily accessible to all stakeholders.
- Where possible, we will include urban safety in the urban planning curricula

City-to-city co-operation and exchanges:

- We are committed to fostering exchanges between cities within the region and with other regions and promoting city-to-city co-operation and sharing good practices. CITYNET will take the lead with the support of UN-HABITAT and UNESCAP.
- We will identify resource cities to support other cities in the region on urban safety
- We are committed to identifying a date in celebration of safety (either a day or week) in the Asia Pacific region.