

# SAFER CITIES FOR GIRLS



## THE PROBLEM: ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN CITIES

For the first time in history, there are more people living in cities than in rural areas. Each month, 5 million people move to cities in developing countries.

*Girls in cities contend with the duality of increased risks and opportunities.* On the one hand, girls face sexual harassment, exploitation, and insecurity as they navigate the urban environment, while on the other hand they are more likely to be educated and politically active and less likely to be married at an early age.

*By 2030, 60% of the global population will live in cities.<sup>1</sup>*

## WHAT DOES RESEARCH TELL US?

Based on research conducted by Plan, we found that adolescent girls seldom feel safe in cities, they experience physical and sexual violence, and they are often excluded from decisionmaking processes that impact their safety.

We also found that there is a *major gap in programming and research pertaining to adolescent girls' safety and inclusion in cities.* For example, many urban safety and crime prevention initiatives target young men, and many women's safety initiatives focus only on adult women. With rising levels of gender-based violence and urban insecurity around the world, the programme is being implemented at a crucial time.

## BUILDING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES FOR GIRLS



Focus on:

- Safety and access to public spaces
- Increasing girls' active and meaningful participation
- Safe and autonomous mobility



**“WE ARE ALWAYS SCARED TO WALK IN PUBLIC SPACES ALONE, BECAUSE OF WHICH WE AVOID GOING OUT MOST OF THE TIME.”**

Adolescent girl, Delhi, India

## PLAN'S RESEARCH FINDINGS



Photo: Plan



In Kampala, **45% of girls** reported sexual harassment when using public transportation services



In Delhi, **96% of adolescent girls** do not feel safe in the city



In Lima, only **2.2% of girls** reported always feeling safe when walking in public spaces



In Hanoi, **36% of girls** reported that they seldom had access to emergency services – notably the police



In Cairo, **32% of girls** felt that they never could talk to anyone about their safety concerns

## SAFER CITIES FOR GIRLS - BENEFICIARIES REACHED (2014-2017)

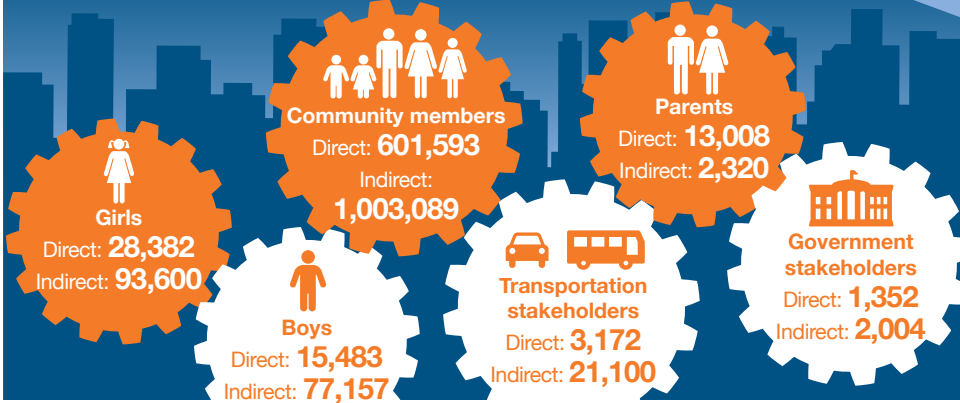


Photo: Plan International / Heba Khalifa

## OUR SOLUTION

The *Safer Cities for Girls* programme is a joint programme developed in partnership between Plan International, UN-HABITAT, and Women in Cities International. The programme goal is to build safe, accountable, and inclusive cities with and for adolescent girls (aged 13-18). Safer Cities for Girls seeks to close existing gaps between urban programming targeting either 'youth' or 'women' by focusing on adolescent girls who are often the most excluded and marginalised populations in a city.

This initiative is a globally united and locally implemented programme that brings partners together for achieving a common goal: *putting adolescent girls at the centre of transforming cities into places of inclusion, tolerance, and opportunity for everyone.*

## SAFER CITIES FOR GIRLS APPROACH

The programme works to:



## "I WANT TO GIVE MY OPINION TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE FUTURE"

Adolescent girl, Cairo, Egypt

## SAFER CITIES FOR GIRLS POTENTIAL:

### Scalable Model

We are introducing and implementing new innovative and participatory methodologies and resources, and gender transformative approaches for working in urban contexts. These include girl-led safety walks and scorecards to assess local city services. The programme has been created to be replicated in other cities and countries around the world. The activities and resources developed are easily adapted to fit different contexts.



## WHY IS SAFER CITIES FOR GIRLS INNOVATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE?

Safer Cities for Girls is a long-term gender transformative programme, working to tackle unequal power relations and challenge harmful social norms that perpetuate insecurity and exclusion of girls in cities. The programme works across three levels of change: (1) with governments and institutions; (2) with families and communities; and (3) with girls and boys. By working to confront social and cultural norms that allow for the manifestation of unequal gender power relations across these three levels, girls' and women's lives in cities will be transformed, reflected in a fundamental shift of their social positions.

In addition, Safer Cities for Girls uses innovative engagement modalities,

gender transformative approaches, and unique feedback and participatory research tools that include training curricula for girls, boys, community, government, and transportation stakeholders, community scorecards, policy reviews, and awareness raising campaigns.

## WHY INVEST IN GIRLS SAFETY?

Adolescent girls are too often under-represented in current safety policies and excluded from urban development and governance processes. Their voices must be strengthened in order to build safe cities that are inclusive and respond to the needs and priorities of girls. Investing in the creation of safe and inclusive cities for adolescent girls by bringing relevant actors together contributes to *sustainable economic, social, and institutional change within societies that will benefit all citizens.*

**Cities for Girls = Cities for All**

## WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED OR CONTRIBUTE? CONTACT US DIRECTLY!

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