Local Authorities and the Challenge of Urban Violence

DeLoG Webinar in cooperation with VNG International
Thursday, 14 May 2020
## Webinar structure

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**Duration of webinar: 90 minutes**
Control panel

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Type any questions during the webinar into the Questions window and click Send. Questions can only be read by the moderator and the organizers.
Webinar introduction

- The challenge of urban violence
- Different contexts, similar dynamics
- Case studies by local governments
- Thematic networks and global initiatives

Daan Stelder, VNG International
Presenters
– First round of inputs –

**Juma Assiago** – Coordinator for the Safer Cities Programme at UN-HABITAT

**Oscar Escobar** – Mayor of the City of Palmira in Colombia
Urban Violence: The UN Systemwide Approach to Safer Cities

How local authorities can make or break the cycle of violence
Poll question

In a whole-of-government approach to urban violence, is it

local government or national government

that should coordinate prevention strategies of urban violence at the local level?
Safer Cities process

A security diagnosis
- Challenges
- Risk factors
- Community resources

A strategy and action plan
- Establish priorities
- Identify model for practices
- Target actions on risk factors
- Balance short & long term actions

A COALITION
- With leadership
- Assembling all key partners
- Sensitive to age, gender & cultural differences
- Supported by a secretariat
- Engaging citizens
- A communication strategy

Implementation
- Training
- Co-ordination of partners
- Actions

Evaluation & Feedback
- Process evaluation
- Impact evaluation
- Tools development

Regional and (inter)national networks for exchange and replication
How to reduce violent crime by 50% by 2030: What tools have succeeded and what will get successes used?

- Municipal programmes and projects that target the causes rather than address the symptoms of urban violence
- The agreed essentials for successful and sustained use of prevention
- Cities that have already reduced violence by 50%
- What cities need to do to shift to a prevention agenda to save lives & communities by 2030
What it looks like when urban violence is fixed

- Safe and secure environments to live, work and play (New Urban Agenda, Para 39)
- A shift from security to safety conceptions
- Safety addressed as not only the responsibility of the police and the criminal justice system, but includes whole government and whole-society role-players
What it looks like when urban violence is fixed: The co-production of safety for all

- The challenge for urban violence therefore shifts to how to apply a safety lens onto actions that are mandated for reasons other than those of safety and how to measure through that lens.
- This also enables those outside the safety sector to understand and thus maximise their contribution to safety.
Palmira’s Comprehensive Strategy of Violence Prevention

Óscar Escobar
Mayor of Palmira, Colombia
Homicide violence in Palmira

• Violence is geographically concentrated.
• Youth’s are the most affected population.

Fuente: Policía Nacional, Observatorio de Seguridad (Cali), Centro Integrado de Análisis Delictivo (Palmira), DANE
Poll question

Palmira´s strategy expects to reduce youth homicide from 80 to 66. Is this goal realistic?

Yes
No
How does the strategy work?

We bring the institutional offer to the most violent neighborhoods in a coordinated action.

- **Situational Prevention**
- **Wide institutional offer** (education, culture, sports, health and civic participation)
- **Creating legal Life-Projects**
- **Violence interruption**
  - Inspired in Cure Violence

**Safe Environments**

**Prevention**

**Intervention**

**Interruption**

**Inter-agencies coordination**

**Access to Justice**
Our current stage

- The strategy is in our master Municipal Development Plan for the upcoming four years.
- Our goal is to bring the homicide rate from 80 to 66 in four (4) years.
- We have plan investments for 1.5 Million USD for the upcoming four years.
- We will use the strategy as a tool to keep violent indicators low after social distancing.
- We expect to evaluate programs and the strategy as a whole.
First round of inputs

Questions from the audience
Presenters and speakers – Second round of inputs –

Diana Alarcón González – Chief Advisor and Int’l. Affairs Coordinator in the Government of the City of Mexico

Carlos Giménez – Director of the Institute of Human Rights, Democracy, Culture of Peace and Non-Violence (DEMOSPAZ)
Presenters and speakers  
– Second round of inputs –

Amita Gill – Local Governance Specialist in the Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions Team of UNDP’s Crisis Bureau

Pilar Díaz – Deputy Councillor for Int’l. Relations of the Barcelona Provincial Council and Mayoress of Esplugues de Llobregat
Cities and territories of peace

Diana Alarcón González
Chief Advisor and International Affairs Coordinator
Mexico City
Mexico City’s Government Program: 6 strategic actions

- derechos
- ciudad sustentable
- cero agresión y + seguridad
- y mejorar movilidad
- capital cultural de América
- innovación y transparencia
Zero aggression and improved security

- Roots of insecurity in Mexico City: lack of opportunities for personal and community development (mainly youth).
- Constitutional right to a life in peace and
Security and justice: 5 lines of action

1. Attention to the causes of crime (prevention)
2. Professionalization of police and greater presence
3. Intelligence and justice
4. Interinstitutional coordination and citizen’s participation
5. Improved legal framework
Security for women

- Alert System to prevent violence against women
- women lawyers in all police presincts (167 lawyers for women)
- Walk free, walk safe (adequate Street lighting)
- LUNAS (support centers)
Mexico City’s global commitment to build peace

- I & II World Forum on Urban Violences and Education for Peace (Madrid 2017 & 2018)
- The Forum is not an event, it is a process
- Organizing committee: 22 organizations (cities, NGOs, UN system, international cooperation agencies, experts)
The Forum

- Building peace in a context of crisis
- Road to the Forum with activities throughout the year:
  - Activities for youth, academics, policy-makers (cartographies for peace; rap and art contests)
  - Research and capacity building
  - On-line activities (October 5-7)
- Dates of the Forum 2021 to be confirmed
Cartographies of peace

Stories of our cities...
We use the word cartographies to talk about maps and writings related to a specific region or a historical context delimited by space and time.

These questions invite us to think over the ways in which we live and inhabit our cities.

We want to invite people from different parts of the world to share their stories, to create a cartography that reflects the bonds that are woven between each other through our everyday lives.

We want to build maps that reflect the empathy that is the basis of our communities and that allows us to create processes of social cohesion and peace.
There is no sustainable development without peace

There is no peace without sustainable development
THANK YOU!

diana.alarcon@cdmx.gob.mx
DIAGNOSIS OF URBAN VIOLENCE AND CONSTRUCTION OF PEACE
Carlos Giménez

Developed in Madrid, Montevideo, Praia and Sucre with the support of the Madrid City Council, AIPAZ, UNDP-ART

Objectives

- An overall, systematic and transformative vision
- A useful and dynamic and open reference document
- A set of proposals and recommendations

Theoretical Framework

- Direct, Structural, Symbolic Violence in/of City
- Critical Knots (“nudos críticos”: transversal causes)
- Negative and Positive Peace
- Peace Heritage

Driving Group

- Political and technical Coordinators
- Administration (local, regional, national)
- Universities
- Professionals
- Civil Society

Comprehensive and Participatory Methodology

- Quantitative and qualitative information
- Participants as knowledge builders
- Techniques: interviews, individual and collective conversations, workshops, seminars, validation forums, ...

Conclusions and recommendations for local policies

- To suppress violence and critical knots,
- To avoid future risks,
- To conserve the Peace Heritage, and
- To promote opportunities for the construction of Peace.

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Current speaker:
Amita Gill (UNDP)

UNDP’s approach to supporting local governments on urban violence
Current speaker:
Pilar Díaz (Barcelona Provincial Council)

The UCLG Peace Prize and the key role of local governments on social coexistence
Second round of inputs

Questions from the audience
Closing of webinar

Thank you for participating

For questions and to stay in touch:
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The recording of the webinar will be accessible at
www.delog.org
www.vng-international.nl