

UN Women

Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls

Global Programme

Glossary and Definitions of Key Terms

Introduction

The Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls Global Programme (SC GP) draws its vocabulary from many disciplines. While some terms will be very familiar to many of those key stakeholders involved in Safe Cities work, they often have different meanings in different geographical settings, different institutions and among different communities of interest. Other terms will be less widely known and there may be uncertainty about their interpretation. Even without the complication of translating or adapting the vocabulary into multiple local working languages, there is plenty of scope for uncertainty and misunderstanding.

This Glossary has been prepared to help all those participating in the SC GP to gain a common understanding. This will be essential for the development of local programmes and evaluations that are faithful to the Programme model (models), for comparative analyses and for meaningful communication between partners. Translation into other working languages is a further challenge, but that is beyond the scope of this document.

Two further points about this Glossary need to be emphasised. First, it is not intended to impose or even suggest 'universally agreed definitions'. This would be impossible because many agencies and organisations, even at the highest international levels, have their own terminology and they are different. Rather, the definitions and interpretations are simply those that are to be used within the SC GP to ensure consistency and comparability. To the extent possible footnotes indicate the source (s) that the definitions are drawn on.

Second, the glossary of terms should be seen as a 'living document' that will be further developed over time in the light of feedback, experience and discussion. Undoubtedly, additional terms will be added and those already included may be further specified. That is one of the main reasons why a Glossary is not being incorporated into every SC GP document, each of which would need updating after any change. Having a single reference resource will make it possible to keep details up to date and the latest version easily accessible.

It will be useful to keep the Glossary on hand until its contents are familiar. To make it user friendly, it is divided into two main sections. The first is concerned with key terminology linked to the SC GP, namely violence against women and girls, such as 'sexual violence' and harassment, etc.

The second section covers concepts related to the SC GP, local SC programmes and their evaluation, such as 'outputs', impacts' and 'theory of change'.

1. Key Terminology of the Global Programme

Adults

Within the context of the SC GP, the category "adults" covers individuals aged from 30-49.

Beneficiaries/Change Agents¹

Primary beneficiaries of the Global Programme are women and girls in poor communities that are actual and potential users of the public spaces where interventions to improve safety will be focused. Potential users are those women and girls who do not make use of such spaces because of concerns about, or risks to, their safety. They will benefit from the outcomes and impacts specified in the Theory of Change. Profiles of beneficiaries in each city will be more precisely specified in individual programme documents. Secondary beneficiaries include:

- family members, partners, friends and neighbours of primary beneficiaries who suffer when women and girls in their lives experience sexual harassment and sexual violence, or the risks thereof, when they leave their home for work, school or leisure;
- local women's organizations, as well as youth, men's, community and neighbourhood associations, that will benefit from strengthened knowledge, organisation, advocacy skills and access to local policy-making circles to promote gender-responsive interventions;
- local government authorities whose policies, programmes and capacities are strengthened to improve the quality of life and safety of residents (and voters), through improved security.

¹ UN Women (March 2011). Global Programme Document. Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls. New York: UN Women.

Duty bearers² (variant style: duty-holder)

In general, an institution or an elected or appointed official in a country that ought to respect, protect and fulfill its human rights legal obligations, as well as international, national and local laws, policies, and strategies. In the specific context of the United Nations Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the States that have ratified the Convention and are thus duty bound to implement its provisions. In the specific context of the SC GP– any institution or elected or appointed official at a country or local level with relevant obligations towards adopting and ensuring appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures towards the full realization of human rights, and most notably in relation to safety, and ensuring a violence-free city environment for women, girls and all other inhabitants, within the realm of their authority.

Elderly/Seniors

Within the context of the SC GP the category “seniors/elderly” covers age group of 50+ .

Girls and boys

Within the context of the SC GP, categories of “girls” and “boys” cover age group from 12-19 with sub-categories of “early teen group” (12-14 years old); and “adolescents” (15-19).

Intervention area

The defined sub-area within a city, may be a district or administrative zone, that has administrative or governance functions, in which the intervention site (or sites) are located.

Intervention site

A specific location within a sub-area within a city, where concrete interventions to improve safety will be delivered and where the primary beneficiaries fulfill their productive and/or reproductive roles. Alternatively, it may be a ‘natural neighbourhood’ with which local people identify, possibly because it is seen as a community or has well-defined physical boundaries.

Intervention site could also refer to a form of public transportation where specific interventions are taking place, in which case it may cross several administrative zones.

A specific location within an intervention area where interventions are implemented.

²Adapted from: http://www.advocate-for-children.org/advocacy/rights_based_approach/rights_holders_duty_bearers

Public spaces

Within the context of the SC GP, this refers to streets and other public neighborhood spaces (i.e. neighborhood squares, alleys, etc.); public spaces of work, both in terms of women's productive and reproductive roles and responsibilities (e.g. markets, water distribution sites, river beds); cemeteries; pedestrian paths between different parts of the district, which go through dark unsettled wooded areas that are unlit; public transportation (e.g. buses, taxis, trains); routes to and from schools and educational institutions; temporary public spaces (e.g. carnivals, festivals, fairs); Internet cafes, public parks and other recreational and sports facilities (soccer fields, including for girls' games); school grounds (essentially large open spaces, unfenced) which potentially could be used for recreation; and other public recreational spaces, such as key public facilities and infrastructure (e.g. public sanitation areas – toilets, washrooms, etc.).

Rights holders³

In the specific context of the SC GP, women and girls and men and boys in the cities where a programme is being implemented, and who are entitled to rights derived from various local, national and international policies and agreements, and appropriate legislative, administrative, or other measures adopted by a state or relevant local authority towards the full realization of human rights. For example, a woman who lives in a state which has ratified the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and therefore is entitled to its protection or a woman who lives in a city which adopted an anti-harassment policy on a public transport and consequently is entitled to be protected by its implementation.

Sexual harassment

It includes unwelcome sexual comments, attention, actions, or gestures. As is the case for other forms of sexual violence, a key component to sexual harassment is that someone does these actions without the consent, permission, or agreement of the person or persons they are targeting.

³ Adapted from http://www.advocate-for-children.org/advocacy/rights_based_approach/rights_holders_duty_bearers

Sexual harassment includes non-contact forms, like: sexual comments about a person's body parts or appearance⁴, whistling while a woman or a girl is passing-by⁵, demands for sexual favors, sexually suggestive staring⁶ following, stalking, exposing one's sexual organs at someone.

Sexual harassment also includes physical contact forms, like someone purposely brushing up against someone else on the street or public transportation, grabbing, pinching, slapping, or rubbing against another person in a sexual way.

Some elements of sexual harassment may be covered within criminal law, however, may elements may require civic remedies, educational and administrative responses.

Sexual violence

Any sexual act committed against the will of the other person, either in the case when the victim does not give the consent or when consent cannot be given because the person is a child, has a mental disability, or is severely intoxicated or unconscious as a result of alcohol or drugs. It encompasses both sexual harassment and other forms of sexual assault such as attempted rape, and rape. It includes acts such as genital mutilation/cutting, forced sexual initiation, forced prostitution, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and other sexually motivated forms of violence.⁷

Youth

Within the context of the SC GP, the category "youth" covers age group from 15-29 with sub-categories "adolescents"(15-19) and "young adults" (20-29).

Violence against women⁸

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:

a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, intimate partner violence, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;

⁴ In English associated common harassment practices sometimes are called "cat-calling"

⁵ So called "wolf-whistling"

⁶ India, Pakistan and Bangladesh this widely spread form of sexual harassment is commonly known as "eve teasing".

⁷ UN Secretary General (2006). In-depth study on all forms of violence against women. New York, USA: United Nations.

⁸ Articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations General Assembly. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In: 85th Plenary Meeting. December 20, 1993. Geneva, Switzerland; 1993. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>

b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment in public spaces and sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;

c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.

2. Concepts related to the Safe City Programme, Local SC Initiatives, and their Evaluation

Activities

Actions taken or work performed through which inputs such as funds, technical assistance and other types of resources are mobilised/utilised to produce specific outputs.

Base-line study⁹

An analysis describing the situation prior to an intervention, against which progress can be assessed or comparisons made.

Impacts

Defined as long-term outcomes. These are the higher-order objectives to which interventions are intended to contribute. Impacts are not within direct control of the programme.

Indicator

A quantitative or qualitative variable that provides a simple measure of inputs, outputs or outcomes. An indicator can be used to define targets to be achieved, the situation at a given point in time and to measure change, which together enable achievement to be assessed.

Inputs

Inputs refer to the resources invested in the delivery of a program. Sample inputs include funding, human resources (both paid and volunteer), equipment, programme materials, transportation costs, services, etc.

Monitoring¹⁰

A continuing function that uses systematic collection of data on specified indicators to provide management and the main stakeholders of an ongoing intervention with indications of the extent of progress and achievement of objectives and progress in the use of allocated inputs.

Outcomes

⁹ Adapted from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, (2002)

¹⁰ Adapted from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, (2002).

Defined as a statement of a desired, specific, realistic, and measurable programme result that must be attained in order to accomplish a particular programme goal.

Immediate Outcome: An outcome that is directly attributable to a programme's outputs. In terms of time frame and level, these are short-term outcomes and are often at the level of an increase in awareness of a target population

Intermediate Outcome: An outcome that is expected to occur once one or more immediate outcomes have been achieved. In terms of time frame and level, these are medium term outcomes and are often at the change of behaviour level among a target population and are not within direct control of the programme.

Outputs

Generally refers to the products, services and capacities resulting from completion of activities. Outputs are within direct control of the programme.

Results chain

A depiction of the causal logic, causal chain or logical relationships between inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts of a given policy, programme, or initiative.

Theory of Change¹¹

A tool for developing solutions to complex social problems. A basic TOC explains how a group of programme's activities produces early and intermediate accomplishments which sets the stage for producing long-range results. A more complete TOC articulates the context and reasons for the interventions, assumptions about the process through which change will occur and specifies the ways in which all of the required early and intermediate outcomes related to achieving the desired long-term change will be brought about and documented as they occur.

¹¹ Adapted from Anderson, A. (2005). The community builder's approach to theory of change: A practical guide to theory and development. New York: The Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change.