

## **Illustrative theory of change from the Global Programme: Safe Cities Free of Violence Against Women and Girls**

The programme is a flagship initiative of UNIFEM (2009-2014) that aims to develop a model for worldwide replication and upscaling by local authorities, building on existing pioneer initiatives, including UNIFEM's work in Latin America. The model's effectiveness will be tested and proven through rigorous impact evaluation in 5 cities in different regions of the world.

Specifically, its focus is on **reducing sexual harassment and sexual violence in public spaces in urban settings -- universal, daily occurrences** affecting millions of women and girls around the world, everyday, as they go about their daily chores, to school and work, walk their streets, neighborhoods, or take public transportation. Despite the widespread phenomenon, these forms of violence are neglected by laws, policies and society at large.

### **Programme's Theory of Change and Expected Results**

The programme's premise is that through a process of community women's empowerment, community organization and mobilization for social change, and partnership with and capacity development of local government authorities, practical measures for improving women's safety in urban spaces can lead to significant reductions in the prevalence of gender-based violence against women and girls within a five-year time frame. This section provides the programme's theory of change and accompanying results-based framework for envisioned short, medium and longer-term effects, applicable across the various local/city project sites involved. In each project site, the expected results will be further refined and specified with corresponding indicators, but what follows provides a cross-regional overview of the 'common' and 'core' results that all project sites will pursue.

#### ***Theory of Change and Programme Hypothesis:***

*"Through a process of partnership-building with and capacity development of local government authorities and community-based organizations, and of women's empowerment and community mobilization for social change, investment in practical measures for improving women's safety in urban spaces can lead to reduced prevalence of gender-based violence against women and girls within a three-to-five year time-frame, expanding women's exercise of their rights to enjoy public spaces and freedom of mobility. The approach can also lead to personal security for all community members; as well as to potentially advancing women's rights and gender equality across a wider spectrum of socio-economic dimensions."*

As the theory of change above reflects, this programme will focus on measuring *impact-level results*, that is, on the overall quality of life *goal of reducing violence against*

*women*. The lead gauge of the programme's impact will be measured by its success in achievement of the following results by year 5 onward:

- Violence against women and girls in public spaces is reduced, specifically sexual harassment and sexual assault in the areas of intervention (measured by changes in prevalence).
- Prevention and punishment for sexual harassment and sexual assault in public spaces has been institutionalized in local authorities' policies, laws and budgets (progress on 'ending impunity' is achieved).
- Changes achieved during programme implementation in terms of improved gender-responsive infrastructure and policy environment are sustained with adequate resources integrated into the public sector budgets (local and/or national, and tracked by public sector).
- Women and girls report increased use of public spaces in areas of intervention, and quality data is available pointing to their increased and improved access to recreational, educational, employment and/or other opportunities.
- Participatory, periodic monitoring and accountability mechanisms comprising the key stakeholders (local authorities, community and women's groups representatives) are in place and operational to identify and introduce on an ongoing basis remedial measures and improvements, and to help sustain and expand the Safe Cities interventions.

This theory of Change is reflected in the illustrative Logic Model (please see attached), which will be further refined based on city project designs, monitoring and assessment of progress and perspectives of direct beneficiaries and stakeholders in the areas of intervention.