

Cities Without Violence Against Women, Safe Cities For All

Program Overview

The Regional Programme “Cities without Violence against Women, Safe Cities for All” is executed by UNIFEM, coordinated at the regional level from the Regional Office for Brazil and the Southern Cone, and supported by the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID). This Programme identifies as a key problem the growing violence and insecurity in Latin American cities. This phenomenon is related to the different forms of violence against women both in public and in private spaces.

Programme’s Main Objective

To contribute to the reduction of public and private forms of violence inflicted upon women in cities through the strengthening of active citizenship in the exercise of their rights and the development of a public and social agenda that generates conditions for a shared coexistence in freedom.

Implementation Strategies

The Programme is being developed through a process of coordination between civil society organizations and governments. The working strategy being prioritized is one that builds on the broad experience of women’s and feminist networks in the region and, at the same time, strengthens these networks. The **Women and Habitat Network of Latin America and the Caribbean** has accumulated a great deal of experience and knowledge on the issues of interest to the Programme, it is the Network that presented the proposal to UNIFEM, and constitutes the principal counterpart of the Programme.

Advances

- Since 2006, model initiatives have been carried out in three cities of the region: Bogotá (Colombia), Rosario (Argentina) and Santiago

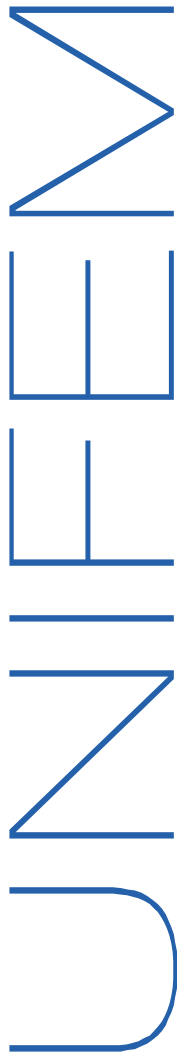
(Chile). The main result of these initiatives has been the strengthening of the role of women’s organizations (WO) in preventing gender-based violence in cities. The programme has promoted the cooperation between WO and governments so as to build a political and territorial agenda based on consensus and a transversal approach to safety and gender issues.

- Actions in Lima (Peru) and in Recife (Brazil) are currently being developed. Initiatives have been carried out in the cities of Guatemala and El Salvador since 2008.
- In 2009, collaboration with the Brazilian National Ministry of Women’s Affairs (SPM) was initiated for the development of a Proposal that will help to ensure the mainstreaming of gender equality policies, as well as the incorporation of women’s perspectives into Public Safety policies.

Strategic Lines of Action and Main Results

1) Awareness Raising and Capacity-Building of Actors:

Education and training components continue to be strengthened and capacity-building among relevant stakeholders related to specific contents of the programme is ongoing. Public debate on the diverse forms of women’s rights in a city free of violence has been fortified while inserting this issue into the formulation of public policies. Likewise, awareness among citizens is being generated regarding the diverse forms of violence that affect women, as well as the need of incorporating this reality into public agendas. Examples of activities carried out include Campaigns, Online Postgraduate Courses, the training of local actors, among others.



2) **Systematization and Generation of Knowledge:**

Systematization of experiences and knowledge on gender-based violence has been carried out. In order to approach gender-based violence in cities it is necessary to advance in the systematization of the perceptions of urban insecurity experienced by women. New knowledge on the subject has been generated with the objective of influencing proposals for public policies. The First International Seminar (August 2006 in Santiago) and the Second International Seminar (July 2008 in Buenos Aires), organized by the programme are instances of this systematization of knowledge.

3) **Strengthening of Networks:**

The alliances between women's networks with other strategic actors continue to be reinforced. Hence, thereby enhancing their capacity to participate in debates/discussions and their influence in social and governmental agendas on local and regional levels with regards to women's safety in the city. The networks affiliated with the Regional Programme work in coordination with the following networks: Women & Cities (Femmes et Villes), the HUAIROU Commission and the gender-related bodies of the Network of Local Governments of Merco-cities (MERCOSUR).

4) **Development of Strategies of Participatory Intervention in Cities:**

The local interventions in territories are the responsibility of the WOMEN AND HABITAT NETWORK and its NGO members. In addition, local governments and women's organizations from the community are involved in this line of action.

In Argentina, CISCOSA is working with the Women's Affairs Department and other

branches of the Government of Rosario city. The territorial initiative is being developed in the Western District (*Distrito Oeste*).

In Chile, SUR is working both within the framework of a national Programme entitled "*Quiero Mi Barrio*" of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINVU) that works in 200 neighbourhoods of Chile, and in collaboration with the National Women's Service (SERNAM). The implementation of the local initiative is being carried out in collaboration with the Municipality of Cerro Navia and with the Municipality of La Pintana in the city of Santiago.

In Colombia, AVP and the National Women's Network of Colombia (the Bogotá Chapter) are working in coordination with the Political Affairs Department on Women and Gender of the Mayor's Office of Bogotá and with the Mayor's Office of Suba.

In Brazil, The Feminist Institute for Democracy¹ (SOS CORPO) is working on enlarging spaces of dialogue and debate for social organizations and the Government in the city of Recife.

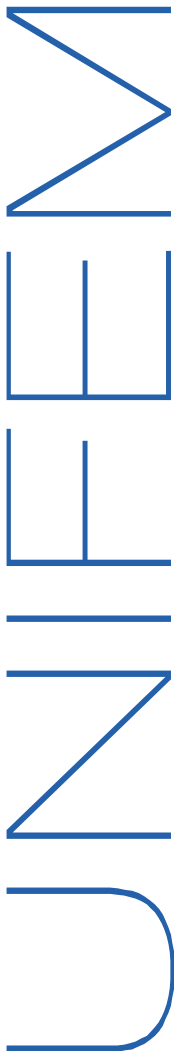
In El Salvador, the Feminist Collective for Local Development is developing its work in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of San Salvador and the Mayor's Office of Santa Tecla and Suchitoto.

In Guatemala, the Guatemala Foundation has initiated joint projects with the Mayor's Offices of the City of Guatemala and Livingston.

In Peru, Flora Tristan has initiated actions related to awareness raising and capacity building in Villa El Salvador in Lima.

Professional Training

- In 2008, the Center of Urban and Regional Studies (CEUR), of Argentina, coordinated the Online Postgraduate Course Urban Violence, Insecurity and Discrimination: Towards a Shared Existence in the City from a



Gender Perspective, which had the objective of strengthening human capacities in the design, execution and monitoring of programmes and projects through the educational formation of public administrators, officials, professionals and technical experts.

Interagency Collaboration

The Programme has established a Collaboration Agreement with the Project América Latina Genera: Managing Knowledge for Gender Equity, an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Regional Programme has an online space as part of the *América Latina Genera* portal:

<http://www.americalatinagenera.org/ciudadaseseguras>. This collaboration will expand in the coming period to include the coordination of new working dynamics of exchange and communication in the pursuit of strengthening interagency links related to the issues addressed by the Programme in the region. The Programme has established a collaborative relation with UN HABITAT Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC). Other joint actions include the organization of the *IV Regional Competition on the Safest Cities for Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2008) and the International Seminar of the Programme in Buenos Aires in July 2008. One of the planned actions for 2009 is to connect with UN HABITAT Nairobi, particularly the Safer Cities Programme, to implement a training proposal in collaboration with expert Networks.

General Information

***Time Frame and date of beginning of project:**
Project Start Date: 2006. Initial Duration: 42 months. In 2008, the Programme was extended until 2011

***Donors:**

Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID).
US National Committee

***Sub-regional Offices Involved ROs Involved**

Sub Regional Office Brazil and Southern Cone, Regional Coordination

Sub Regional Office Andean Region and Colombia Office

Sub Regional Office Mexico and Central America

***Countries involved**

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala y Peru

*** Funds by year total**

2006	2007	2008	2009
AECID			
200.000 euros	350.000 euros	600.000 euros	1.100.000 euros
US National Committee			
		\$35.000 USD	