



**Reporting Format for Partners**  
(Networking Events, Side Events, Training Events, City Changer Room, One UN Room, Urban Library, and Agora Room)

**VIOLENCE PREVENTION THROUGH URBAN UPGRADING  
City Changer Room A**

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| <b>Name of Reporter:</b>  | Dr Kathryn Ewing   |
| <b>Event title/number:</b>  | Safer Cities through Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading |
| <b>Date:</b>  | 11 April 2014  |
| <b>Venue:</b>   | City Changer Room A  |
| <b>Time:</b>  | 14h45 – 15h45  |
| <b>Name of Organizing Institution(s):</b>                         | Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU) NPC           |
| <b>Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:</b> | South Africa / Cape Town   |
| <b>Approximate number of participants:</b>                        | 50   |

**Summary of the Event (max: 300 words):**

- *Brief background of the event, including overall objectives and purposes*

The session presented examples of the Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU) Programme in Cape Town, South Africa through a strategy:

1. **PREVENTION (Life Cycle approach):** Research and evidence-led interventions for people from Early Childhood age through to young adulthood including interventions incorporating local knowledge were presented.
2. **COHESION (Community participation, joint planning & community ownership):** Implementation stage examples provided case studies on how integrated participatory planning, budgeting and implementation can be achieved between multiple partners.
3. **PROTECTION (Interdepartmental cooperation in safety planning for the public domain):** Operation and management case studies on financial sustainability and Community Delivery of Services and Safety Plans in low income areas were explored.
4. **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (measuring effectiveness of interventions):** monitoring and evaluation based in a Centre of Excellence and in close alliance with UN Habitat Safer Cities & Global Network on Safer Cities was explained.

**The 3 key objectives of the event were to:**

- To illustrate that Quality of Life improvement is at the core of the cases presented by the VPUU NPC (Not-for-Profit Company), as the intermediary of the Programme. The notion of citizenship within low income areas is a key concept.
- To describe how public spaces can be designed, implemented and managed using concepts of Community Delivery of Services to ensure that public spaces remain a public good. Government bodies struggle to keep up with financial demands to upkeep the public realm; the examples illustrated seek to follow 'communalisation of spaces' rather than privatisation. This can only be achieved in conjunction with communities as 'drivers of development'.
- To demonstrate the question of replication, scalability and knowledge management to broaden the impact. This was discussed by the City of Cape Town in terms of 'lessons learnt' and Western Cape Government to explain the process of application of the methodology to regional scale.





- *Relevant Focus Areas (Refer to below: UN-Habitat's thematic areas) and cross-cutting issues*

**Relevant Focus Areas linked to UN Habitat's thematic areas:**

- **Urban Planning and Design:** this is a core theme to the VPUU Programme
- **Urban Economy:** financial sustainability is a grounding aspect for the implementation projects in VPUU. Combined with this is training, mentoring and leadership development.
- **Urban Basic Services:** working hand-in-hand with the urban design, the idea of community delivery of services is crucial to the VPUU Programme
- **Housing and Slum Upgrading:** VPUU works in 3 informal settlements as part of a metropolitan in-situ upgrading project within the City of Cape Town
- **Research Capacity and Development:** VPUU is in the process of developing a Centre of Excellence supported by UN Habitat GNSC. Key aspects to the CoE are: Resilience; Safety; & Inclusion.

**Summary of the Discussion (max: total 500 words):**

**1. Outline of the discussion/debates**

**The following questions were raised by the audience:**

- **What is the Technical Component of the VPUU Team?** *The VPUU NPC Team responded:*

The VPUU NPC is the implementing agent (or intermediary) of the programme, working as an integrated and transversal team: including Project Management, Community Participation, Spatial Planning and Urban Design, Social Crime Prevention and Institutional set-up and Knowledge Management. The overall role of Intermediary is to:

1. Administer, design and oversee the construction and implementation of areas and provide a variety of community spaces and facilities in a safe environment
2. Provide supporting measures, including social crime prevention programmes to help reduce crime, improve safety, care for victims and meet the needs of vulnerable groups
3. Supervise operation and maintenance, where the design of the SNA is developed around the concept of financially self-sustainable environments
4. Monitor and evaluate the implemented projects with local service providers
5. Capacitate government officials, practitioners and residents, initially 'on-the-job' and later via the Centre of Excellence, on skills required to implement similar programmes
6. Build partnerships with strategic role-players

- **What is Planning led budgeting?** *The Western Cape Government & CoCT responded:*

The VPUU Western Cape Programme is a transversal and inter-governmental programme in the Western Cape which will drive socio-economic development in targeted areas based on the principles of the Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF), regional planning as well as social inclusion. Central to the roll out to regional towns is the application of the VPUU methodology with the PSDF. The PSDF will be used to guide and plan coordinated multi-sector spending through planning-led budgeting i.e. funding will be guided to projects based on socio-spatial location and community needs decided on through community participation.

- **Expand on the public spaces – why are there no trees?** *The VPUU NPC responded:*

VPUU NPC principal urban design focus is the **upgrade of public space** within Safe Node Areas (SNA's). The VPUU approach is based on three hypotheses: 1) reclaiming the public domain and positively occupying dangerously labelled space will reduce the opportunities for crime; 2) the improvement and management of public spaces will have a positive impact on the perception of these spaces and the pride of the residents; and 3) involving residents in management of spaces will ensure a sense of citizenship, which in return will improve community cohesion and reduce the risks of violence and crime. Monwabisi Park Informal Settlement is proposed for incremental *in-situ* upgrade. The community in Monwabisi Park refers to such public spaces as **Emthonjeni**; a multifunctional place with the provision of selected utilities (a water point). Emthonjeni are practical solutions to implement and address crime prevention in the quest for an improved quality of life. The implementation strategy is based on an 8 step 'Emthonjeni Road Map' where a local working group is guided through co-design of utilisation, security and maintenance in terms of a 'Community Contract'. Monwabisi Park is a harsh environment for trees to grow, but there has been some success in planting and nurturing of the trees in some Emthonjeni.





## 2. Major emerging issues and position documents/declarations towards:

- *Habitat III*

International Policies: The programme is aligned to UN-Habitat approach to informal settlements involving 1) safety as public good; 2) resilience; and 3) provision of security of tenure and inclusion; and Goal 7, Target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) in order to achieve **lasting change**. A **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** will provide knowledge and insight in relation to such goals and targets at an international level, in particular across Africa. This will form a practical think tank with a focus practical and creative problem solving based on the theme **Safety as a Public Good**. The CoE has been nominated by UN-Habitat (GNSC). It is in the process of 'start-up' phase.

- *POST2015*

*As above – building on the Centre of Excellence*

- *A New Urban Agenda*

The lasting change of the VPUU programme is to build integrated communities in order to **improve the quality of life at an area-based community development scale that results in safe urban environments**, deepening a sense of pride and citizenship where:

1. Communities will be involved in the planning, implementation, operation and maintenance aspects to ensure buy-in and sustainability;
2. Programmatic approach rather than project based approach, which intends to change the mindset of conventional attitudes to informal settlements in South Africa;
3. Implementation at site level to test methodologies, processes and outcomes, which can be monitored through Quality of Life (QoL) indicators;
4. Informal settlements are intended to be managed as part of the municipality's core business with increased emphasis on public participation, co-ordination and monitoring;
5. The coping strategies of residents are supported through socio-cultural, economic and legal interventions.

## 3. Recommendations made during the discussion

*(e.g. policy direction, good/best practices, resource mobilization, innovative funding mechanism, etc.)*

The VPUU complement of local partners and strategic and research partners, combined with an integrated VPUU Team was supported. It was recommended that the VPUU approach provides a holistic and participative process of design, allowing for active decision-making and practical problem solving within low-income settlements in Cape Town and the Western Cape. It was acknowledged that the current VPUU workstream set-up has proven success, albeit with challenges from both state and community areas towards a sustainable development approach.

## 4. Building partnerships, network and synergies with UN-Habitat

*(e.g. agreements or Memorandum of Understanding committed/signed, amounts and number of pledged contributions and partnerships/networks, etc.)*

- Promotion and canvassing for knowledge management efforts via Centre of Excellence for safe and sustainable neighbourhoods was achieved. There were numerous meetings with UN-Habitat (GNSC) representative regarding the Centre of Excellence.
- Other networks were developed with Medellin Institutional Organisations (Urbam) and other Colombian groups.
- Discussions took place with key academic institutions, DPU (UCL) & link to ASF; EAFIT; Ntnu; Globas; and various academics from international organisations.
- Discussions took places with current key funders: Ford Foundation, Comic Relief.
- A discussion took place with UN-Habitat, regarding VPUU being part of the Global Public Space Program (Sustainable Urban Development through Access to Public Spaces).



- **Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:**



|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Full name (Mr/Ms):        | Dr Kathryn Ewing                                   |
| Nationality:              | South African                                      |
| Organization/Institution: | VPUU NPC   |
| Time:                     | 15h00  |
| Position:                 | Director (Urban Designer, Architect, Town Planner) |
| Contact address (Email):  | kathryn@sundevelopment.co.za                       |

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|---------------------------|--|
| Full name (Mr/Ms): Mr     | Mr Michael Krause                      |
| Nationality:              | German                                 |
| Organization/Institution: | VPUU NPC                               |
| Time:                     | 14h45                                  |
| Position:                 | Director (Team Leader, Urban Designer) |
| Contact address (Email):  | michael@sundevelopment.co.za           |

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Full name (Mr/Ms):        | Mr Alastair Graham              |
| Nationality:              | South African                   |
| Organization/Institution: | City of Cape Town (CoCT)        |
| Time:                     | 15h15                           |
| Position:                 | Manager of VPUU, CoCT           |
| Contact address (Email):  | Alastair.Graham@capetown.gov.za |

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Full name (Mr/Ms):        | Mr Francois Wust                 |
| Nationality:              | South African                    |
| Organization/Institution: | Western Cape Government (WCG)    |
| Time:                     | 15h25                            |
| Position:                 | Chief Town and Regional Planner  |
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