



WGMG's SDG 11 Webinar: Safer cities for girls

Alana Livesey, Global Programme & Advocacy Manager, Safer Cities for Girls, Plan International (Alana.Livesey@plan-international.org)

SDG 11: Girls in Cities

- For the first time in history, there are more people living in cities than in rural areas. Each month, **5 million** people are added to the cities in developing countries, and it is estimated that **by 2030, approximately 700 million girls will live in urban areas.**
- Girls in cities contend with the duality of **increased risks and increased opportunities.** On the one hand, girls face sexual harassment, exploitation, and insecurity as they navigate the urban environment, while on the other hand, they are more likely to be educated, less likely to be married at an early age, and more likely to participate in politics.
- There is a **gap in research and programming** pertaining to adolescent girls' safety and urban spaces, as girls tend to be ignored in programming aimed at 'youth' or 'women'. For example, many urban safety and crime prevention initiatives target young men, and many women's safety initiatives focus only on adult women and only in the domestic sphere.

PLAN'S RESEARCH FINDINGS



In Kampala, **45%** of girls reported sexual harassment when using public transportation services



In Delhi, **96%** of adolescent girls do not feel safe in the city



In Lima, only **2.2%** of girls reported always feeling safe when walking in public spaces



In Hanoi, **36%** of girls reported that they seldom had access to emergency services – notably the police



In Cairo, **32%** of girls felt that they never could talk to anyone about their safety concerns

SDG 11: Girls in Cities

- **This violence and fear of violence** limits adolescent and young people's capacity to live a free and full life. Plan International recognises that violence in the community and in public spaces **disproportionately affects girls**, and that responses must therefore take the gender-dynamics of such violence into account.
- Plan International is concerned that the rapid rise in urbanisation, coupled with lack of urban planning to meet the growing needs of urban populations has **led to many cities being unsafe spaces** for children, adolescents and youth, especially girls.

SDG 11: Safer Cities for Girls

- The **Safer Cities for Girls** programme is a joint programme developed in partnership between Plan International, UN-HABITAT, and Women in Cities International. The programme **goal** is to build **safe, accountable, and inclusive** cities *with and for* adolescent girls (aged 13-18).

BUILDING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES FOR GIRLS



Focus on:

- Safety and access to public spaces
- Increasing girls' active and meaningful participation
- Safe and autonomous mobility

SAFER CITIES FOR GIRLS APPROACH

The programme works to:



1. Influence governments and policy makers to make laws and city services more receptive and inclusive to girls' safety.



2. Influence families and communities to promote a supportive social environment that promotes girls' safety and inclusion in cities.



3. Engage adolescent girls to be active citizens and agents of change by building capacities, strengthening assets, and creating opportunities for meaningful participation.



WHERE WE WORK

SDG 11: Safer Cities for Girls

- The **Safer Cities for Girls** programme is directly implementing **SDG 11**. Specifically, the programme is focusing on:
 - Increasing girls' access to basic services (education, health, police) in cities (**target 11.1**)
 - Ensuring that transportation systems are safe and accessible to girls (**target 11.2**)
 - Enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and girls' participation in urban development and governance (**target 11.3**)
 - Increasing girls' access to safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces in cities (**target 11.7**)

SDG 5: Safer Cities for Girls

- The **Safer Cities for Girls** programme is directly implementing **SDG 5**. Specifically, the programme is focusing on:
 - Ending all forms of discrimination against all girls and women (target 5.1.)
 - Eliminating all forms of violence against girls and women in public spaces (target 5.2.)
 - Increasing girls' and women's active and meaningful participation in decisions-making processes and ensuring girls and women are active citizens and agents of change (target 5.5.)
 - Utilizing ICT to empower girls and women (target 5.b)
 - Strengthening laws and policies to promote gender equality and make cities safe and inclusive for girls and women (target 5.c.)

SDG 16: Safer Cities for Girls

- The **Safer Cities for Girls** programme is directly implementing **SDG 16**. Specifically, the programme is focusing on:
 - Reduce all forms of violence (target 16.1)
 - End all forms of violence against girls (target 16.2)
 - Develop effective and accountable institutions at national and local levels (target 16.6)
 - Include girls in decision-making processes (target 16.7)
 - Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies that promote gender justice for sustainable development (target 16.b)

SDG 11: Plan International's recommendations

- 1.** Ensuring a **gender-sensitive, child-friendly, and child/youth participation implementation approach** to the SDGs, especially Goal 11, the New Urban Agenda, and the Action Framework for Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (AFINUA).
- 2.** Governments should put in place **effective legislation banning violence against women and girls**. Legislation must be fully implemented and enforced, and survivors of violence must be treated with dignity and respect.

SDG 11: Plan International's recommendations

3. Governments and other development actors **should invest in awareness-raising** about girls as rights holders and about the laws that protect them from violence. They should support **behaviour change** by working with traditional, community and religious leaders as well as parents, teachers, girls, boys and community members, to bring about an end to violence against women and girls.

4. Governments should make specific, **costed commitments** to facilitate implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in line with SDG Goal 11, and publish open, accessible, standardised, gender-sensitive data to track progress.

SDG 11: Plan International's recommendations

- 5.** Governments should **provide and maintain safe and reliable public transport, footpaths, market places and public facilities**, including sanitation facilities with adequate menstrual hygiene management, to support girls' and women's mobility, which can enable them to access education, seek employment and participate more widely in social, economic and political life.

- 6.** Governments should ensure and promote the high quality and effective **participation of girls and young women**, and youth- and women- led civil society organisations in local, national, regional, and global decision-making bodies and processes, including urban programming and governance.