S²Cities

Safe and Sound Cities

The **S²Cities Programme** (Safe and Sound Cities Programme) aims to improve **young people's safety and wellbeing** in urban environments.

For young people to thrive, urban environments need to be **just, inclusive, and safe.**

WHAT

S²Cities (Safe and Sound Cities) is a global programme aimed to **improve young people's safety and well-being in urban environments.**

The programme focuses on young people between **ages 15 and 24** and targets secondary cities of low and middle-income **countries in the Global South.**

We engage local governments, institutions, private sector, community actors, and young people, to together **ideate and implement solutions to safety challenges.**

WHY

• By 2030, 60% of urban populations is expected to be under the age of 18 (UNFPA, 2012).
• Young people are particularly vulnerable to risks of rapid urbanisation. They often lack safe spaces and the opportunities, capacities, and structures to exercise their right to safety.
• Public and private actors have a responsibility to involve young people in decision-making processes and to realize their right to safety.

WHERE AND WHEN

In Phase I (2021-2024), the programme was implemented in six growing secondary cities, where young people and their wellbeing feature prominently in the national and local agenda. While continuing activities in most of the Phase I cities, the programme will build on the success of Phase I and expand to new cities in Phase II (2024-2029).

COLOMBIA
-Envigado

Phase I (2021 - 2024)
6 cities

ECUADOR
-Cuenca
-Ambato

PHILIPPINES
-Baguio
-Naga

INDONESIA
-Bandung

S²Cities is an **open and iterative** programme: local partners apply a localised methodology according to their expertise and the city's needs.

DRIVING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

STEP 1

Understanding Systems
Reveals tactical triggers for change

- Looking at safety from young people's perspective.
- Examining the interrelations of safety issues which affect young people.
- Analysing the root causes of safety issue.

STEP 2

Strengthening Capacities
Fosters long-term sustainable change

- Connecting actors and building networks.
- Creating inclusive structures for decision-making.
- Developing capacities of a youth and public and private sector actors to sustain change.

Safer cities created for and with young people

STEP 3

Catalysing Innovation
Challenges the status quo

- Applying design thinking methodology.
- Framing new mindsets to tackle complex safety issues.
- Harnessing young people's creativity to solve local challenges.

STEP 5

Scaling Systems
Generates widespread change

- Adapting and improving methods to fit local contexts.
- Scaling the learnings to other cities.
- Changing the system on a personal, societal, and environmental level.

STEP 4

Enabling Implementation
Supports funding & partnerships

- Launching initiatives and securing implementation partners.
- Developing plans with youth and gaining stakeholder support.
- Boosting fundraising and ongoing support for one year.

Safe & Sound Cities

S²Cities is an initiative proudly led by **Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation**, hosted by **Swiss Philanthropy Foundation**, with the support of **Fondation Botnar**.

INVEST IN OUR SCALE-UP

Invest in our programme to support the next generation of leaders and innovators, and join us in promoting safer cities for young people. Contact us at **info@s2cities.org**. to explore how you can help young people around the world become active agents of change. Your support will help us to continue to empower them in creating positive change in their communities, cities and beyond.

Contact us ✉ info@s2cities.org
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