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**

We aim to expand our multi-year programme to several other secondary cities across the Global South, seeking co-funding to scale implementation.

- Year 1 (Pilot Phase), 2 cities, June 2021
- Year 2, 4 cities, 2022

**Indonesia**
- Bandung

**Philippines**
- Baguio
- Naga

**Colombia**
- Envigado

**Ecuador**
- Cuenca
- Ambato
S²Cities is an open and iterative programme: local partners design their own 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**

**Building Capacities**
Fosters long-term sustainable change
- Connecting actors and building networks
- Creating inclusive structures for decision making
- Developing capacities of youth and public and private actors to sustain change.

**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 4**

**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

Safer cities created for and with young people
S²Cities is an initiative proudly led by **Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation**, in partnership with **ICLEI**, hosted by **Swiss Philanthropy Foundation**, with the support of **Fondation Botnar**.

To explore how you can join the programme and invest in our scaleup, contact us at info@s2cities.org. To learn more about our programme, visit our website: [www.s2cities.org](http://www.s2cities.org).

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Kumu Map