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 **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 the pilot phase (2021-2022), the programme launched in two growing secondary cities, where young people and their well-being feature prominently in the national and local agenda. Building on the success of the pilot phase, the programme has remarkably expanded in its second year, with four new cities.
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.
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.

S²Cities Programme

https://shorturl.at/dA058

Contact us 📧 info@s2cities.org
Instagram 🌐 @s2cities
LinkedIn 🌐 S²Cities : Safe and Sound Cities
YouTube 🌐 S²Cities Programme
Team Map 🌐 https://shorturl.at/dA058