

Safe Cities Initiative

Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior

2013-2015

City and State Level Interventions

Rationale:

Urban local bodies (ULB), due to their strategic location at the grassroots level, are most suited to understand and respond to concerns of the most vulnerable and marginalized. Of particular relevance, is its role in improving the safety of community members. Few local governments have undertaken initiatives to address violence against women (VAW) in India. However, lessons from other countries



indicate that to reduce VAW, safety concerns need to be an integral part of planning, management and governance of any city. Better lighting, better signs, and cleaner and more women and child friendly public spaces can reduce VAW. Further, with the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM announced in 2013) –a central scheme to strengthen SHGs and community level institutions administered by the ULBs—, ULBs can play a crucial role in ensuring economic empowerment of community women and thus reduce VAW in the long term. The objective of this intervention is, therefore, to enhance ULB capacity to prevent and respond to VAW.

Intervention:

This intervention will be delivered at the city level in four cities (Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior) and at the state level by the Urban Administration and Development Department (UADD) in Bhopal. Activities under this intervention include:

- *Building partnerships with local organizations and developing local capacity-* UADD and ULBs will work closely with local organizations to deliver project interventions at the local level. This strategy has two advantages-first, it will result in developing local capacity and second, access to state services and programs will be facilitated.
- *Mainstreaming gender concerns in urban planning processes-* lessons learnt from project implementation at the field level, particularly from community safety audits, will serve to inform urban planning processes.
- *Developing capacity of ULB members-* The capacity of ULB members to prevent and respond to VAW will be developed through targetted trainings and awareness raising at the city level. As this is a first initiative of its kind undertaken by ULBs, this activity is crucial.
- *Promoting inter-agency responses-* Inter-agency responses will be promoted through regular interagency meetings to ensure efficient service delivery and responses from the justice system in cases of VAW and to address issues uncovered during project implementation.