

2020

Safer Nairobi Initiative; Over Time



Nairobi City County
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background - The ‘Safer Cities’ Approach

The Safer Cities approach underlies the great role that local governments play in the delivery of safety at the local level. It is anchored upon developing partnerships, coalition building, and community wide approach. Following a request for technical assistance, UNHABTAT’s Safer Cities Programme established the Safer Nairobi Initiative, implemented by formerly City Council of Nairobi, now Nairobi City County which focused on the development and implementation of a citywide crime prevention strategy and a local coalition.

1.2 The Safer Nairobi Initiative

The Safer Nairobi Initiative (SNI) has supported efforts towards the institutionalization processes of the urban safety strategy. A Programme Coordinating Office (PCO) was set up within the City Council in 2006 has continued to act as a link between the Council and other actors. From the onset the Safer Nairobi Initiative’s aim has been to develop a city-wide community-based strategy for the prevention of crime in Nairobi. Consequently, the then City Council of Nairobi adopted in February 2005 a strategy on Crime Prevention and Urban Safety and established the inter-departmental Committee on Urban Safety chaired by then the Deputy Town Clerk¹.

The key pillars of the Strategy included;

- Social oriented measures towards groups at risk;
- Urban design and physical improvement;
- Improved law enforcement and
- Community empowerment and good governance.

Progressively, the city safety strategy adopted in February 2005 has shifted its main concern from reducing measurements of either crime or violence to improving the quality of life where a **holistic notion of “safety”** has been emphasized and public space interventions have set a suitable scenario to realize its practical aspirations and implications. SNI has offered an incomparable opportunity to provide urban safety in Nairobi particularly for the poor, women and youth. The Initiative has been active in making a case for Safer City Programme approach to safety. It has also popularized

¹ The committee was initially very active but over time has become inactive. This has been partly due to departure of original members who were never replaced by their respective nominating departments. The other reason is lack of mainstreaming and institutionalization of the SNI.

the concept of crime prevention and the role of the youth in crime prevention in schools, neighbourhoods and at city level. The issues of safety and security through planning and design are currently gaining currency in the county and country at large.

2.0 MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Overview

Following a request for technical assistance by then City Council of Nairobi, a comprehensive citywide diagnosis of crime was conducted in 2001 that informed the development of the citywide Crime Prevention and Urban Safety Strategy. This diagnosis was complimented by two studies on violence against women and youth offenders.

2.2 Key Phases of the Initiative

2.2.1 Phase One (2001-2):- Diagnosis

The first phase of the Safer Cities Nairobi project (2001–2002) involved conducting a victimization survey and diagnosis of insecurity in the city, the findings of which were used as a source of reference for the strategy development. The crime survey revealed that a significant proportion of people in Nairobi believed there was ‘nothing’ they can do to help reduce crime in the city.

In view of the above, the then City Council of Nairobi and UN-HABITAT agreed that a crime prevention strategy needs to be elaborated for the city of Nairobi with the aim of progressively developing a culture of prevention. It was understood that building a culture of prevention requires time and a threefold consensus as outlined below:

- Firstly, the inhabitants need to be convinced of the possibility of reducing crime and diminishing its causes through a robust crime prevention policy.
- Secondly, the feelings of insecurity need to be overcome, because they have a paralyzing effect on society and they drive the public to focus solely on repression or to take justice into their own hands.
- Finally, the urban stakeholders need to be organized to adequately address crime, its causes and effects.

2.2.2 Phase Two (2003-7):- Formulation of Crime Prevention and Urban Safety Strategy

The second phase of the Nairobi project (2003-2007) involved developing the Nairobi Crime Prevention and Urban Safety Strategy and 2 year action plan based on the 3 main areas identified from the survey.

2. 2. 3 Third Phase (2008-11): Demonstration Actions on Crime Prevention Pillars

The third phase of the Safer Nairobi Initiative (2008- 2011) has involved demonstration actions using various safety tools and models, piloted in the Central Business District, and the informal settlements of Kibera and Korogocho. , these were undertaken through;

i. Crime prevention through environmental design

Some of the interventions under this include:

- Street lighting in different informal settlements and 90% of the Central Business District, street naming, pedestrianization of the streets as part of its efforts under urban design and environment to enhance safety in various parts of Nairobi
- Environmental improvements and urban regeneration aimed at cleaning up the Central Business district through landscaping and tree planting and relocation of street vendors to a specially constructed market at Muthurwa
- Revitalization and rehabilitation of public spaces within the CBD focusing on Jeevanjee Gardens and commissioning of the Sunken Car Park as a space within the City Centre for use by youth and families for skating through the City County's Public Placemaking Programme

ii. Empowerment of communities

In this specific moment, the City Department of Education is working alongside UN-HABITAT in piloting three safety tools at one of its schools in Ngunyumu Primary School, Korogocho - under the Good School, Good Neighbourhood Initiative, with the hope that this technical pilot could be replicated across the County, securing the uptake and integration of the safety lens within the upgrading of schools. The school is the focal point for urban safety interventions and the centre of a safer community with a focus on school design, physical improvement, community empowerment and good governance of school spaces.

iii. Support to groups at risk

The City has placed a high premium on youth and gender issues and has done so through:

- Partnering with the Sotokoto Safari Half Marathon under renowned former World Championship Gold medalist Douglas Wakiihuri to host the Pre-trial run of the Sotokoto Safari Half Marathon along the Government Square and the Sunken Car Park and Sotokoto Safari Half Marathon
- Youth focused activities such as peace campaigns including sports, targeted at youth in informal settlements in the run-up to the Elections, hosting the inaugural Nairobi City County Youth Week and the Nairobi Street Youth Carnival with plans to institutionalize this event in the city's calendar as an Annual Week.
- Nairobi is one of 8 pilot cities around the world for the Safe and Friendly Cities For All (SAFCA) with special emphasis on women and girls
- Empowerment of youth as agents of change through promotion of urban sports, arts and culture as drivers of social innovation
- Public health interventions to improve the capacity of the City County to address issues of gender related violence through an upgrade of the existing facilities & establishment of gender violence recovery centres and safe spaces for women and young girls.
- Conversion of public spaces in the Central Business District into multi-use recreational facilities on Sundays for use by the youth and handicraft traders.

2.3. Post 2010, Re-Launch of SNI & Nairobi Integrated Urban Plan (NIUPLAN)

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 brought in new opportunities for the Safer Nairobi Initiative. Some of the obvious opportunities include devolution, the desire to actualize the Vision 2030, Nairobi Metro 2030 and finally NUIPLAN. It is against this background that SNI was subjected to a fresh and critical review of its key roles and functions. This was juxtaposed against various organs that would aid the Initiative achieve its goal and objectives of making the neighbourhoods, streets and open spaces safe for all at all times.

Consequently and as part of the continuation of the work done by the Safer Nairobi Initiative, His Excellency the Governor of Nairobi, Dr. Evans Kidero, presided over its re-launch on 25th June 2013 at Charter Hall, Nairobi during a Media Breakfast that brought together national government, the business community and other

stakeholders. The Governor launched a **‘people-centered’** citizen driven platform to engage Nairobians in creating a safer Nairobi, dubbed **‘Jiji Salama, Maisha Poa: (Better City Better Life) I’m a City Changer’**. The occasion also marked the ascendancy of the City of Nairobi as a City Partner of the World Urban Campaign, spearheaded by UN-Habitat. Some of dignitaries at the function are shown in pictures below



The new ambitious city master plan Nairobi Integrated Urban (NIUPLAN) Development Plan – a guiding city development framework – seeks to integrate sustainability into development in the city by 2030. Among NIUPLAN’s key objectives is the revitalization of all public spaces in the city. This vision is articulated in the open spaces masterplan that earmarked open spaces for upgrading.

Besides, SNI has put in efforts to integrate the city county safety strategy into the city planning portfolio. This has now led to the acceptance that urban planning is not only a technical matter, but one related to local governance. This was evidenced through the master planning consultative process, with marked sensitivity to engage vulnerable groups in their specific spaces to express their input - that was otherwise not considered before. Similar efforts are also now being directed towards urban renewal where conversations with the communities are being undertaken.



3.0 MAINSTREAMING THE SAFER NAIROBI INITIATIVE IN THE WIDER CITY COUNTY PROCESSES

3.1 Overview

City County's **Safer Nairobi Initiative** (SNI) has over the past decade served as a framework for supporting efforts towards a safer Nairobi. It aims to develop a community-based strategy for the prevention of crime in Nairobi as well as build national capacity and frameworks to support local crime prevention initiatives in collaboration with other national processes and programmes. Progress is therefore being made. We are however far from getting to the end.



There are still many challenges to be overcome particularly with regard to institutional mainstreaming of the Safer Cities approach. Some of the general institutional challenges that have negatively affected the strategy

implementation include among others the following:

1. The project has not fully been formalized within County processes. Where the County has not anchored the initiative and this has also hindered and reduced level of support, participation, and ownership of Safer Nairobi strategy formulation and implementation processes.
2. Lack of a well structured coordination mechanism at the city level. Coalition of actors has been established but efforts have not been sustained.
3. Weak follow-up and weak systems to share and exchange experiences and lessons learnt from officers who have benefited from both local and international processes.
4. The past image and poor perception of City Hall based on poor performance and delivery of services has hindered genuine participation of other actors.
5. Lack of resource to support implementation at the local level.
6. At the community level, pilot activities have also faced a number of setbacks partly due to limited follow through from the County and other stakeholders

7. Slow implementation and institutionalization process of the strategy due to lack of commitment and political goodwill. This is partly due to misplaced notion of the role of local authorities in safety and security governance.
8. Weak linkages between the City County's broader mandate and its city safety/security mandate
9. The transition and settling down by the new County administration has slowed down the project.

3.2 Proposed Next Steps

Efforts to integrate the city county safety strategy into *the wider City County processes can be undertaken as follows;*

1. Undertaking of another citywide Victimization survey to enable the city to review its Crime Prevention strategy.
2. Documentation of the programme and its impact since inception.
3. Establishing successful neighbourhood crime prevention initiatives – replication.
4. Establish the necessary mechanisms to facilitate the institutionalization of SNI with clearly defined roles. These are critical in furtherance of safety and security in our towns and cities. These include the following:

- Establishment of SNI Unit for programme implementation at Nairobi City County
- Safer Cities Technical Inter-Ministerial/Departmental Committee domiciled at NCCG
- External Consultative Group



4.0 INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

4.1 County Safer Nairobi Initiative - Project Coordinating Office

This unit as the technical unit guide and coordinate the Inter-Departmental Committee on safety as well as support the external Urban Safety Advisory Committee providing guidance to the initiative. Under the supervision of the City County of Nairobi (and UN-HABITAT), including the various key stakeholders in the city, the Unit will be responsible for among other the following;

1. **Support and facilitate** the mainstreaming and implementation of the Safer Cities approach in Nairobi, metro area and the county at large.
2. Participate in the formulation of the **institutionalization mechanisms** for the sustainability of the Safer Cities Programme approach
3. Provide **general supervision and backstopping** as well as general oversight of implementation.
4. **Building capacity** of county government agencies and CCN departments in support of local crime prevention initiatives, which include **identifying the capacity building needs** at the local level with regard to methodology, approach, communication and management skills, knowledge of institutions and understanding of social integration, groups at risk, gender violence, family violence and youth delinquency.
5. Provide **training at the local level**, in particular on practical tools and methodologies for the day-to-day work, project management, report writing, and on specialised areas, such as urban development, urban governance, social re-integration and crime prevention among other assignments that may be assigned.
6. **Documentation of good practices** on safety and crime prevention initiatives at the local level.
7. Facilitate and formalize the establishment of **Local Partnership** involving key stakeholders that have a role to play in the implementation of the Local Crime Prevention Strategy.
8. Assist neighbouring counties/municipalities/towns in synchronizing the implementation of crime prevention strategies and action plans.
9. Support the **mobilization of resources** to support the local level crime prevention, peace building and other activities
10. **Monitor and assess the development** and quality of the implementation of the Municipal Safer Cities initiatives, linking closely with the Nyumba Kumi and Peace Committees.

4.2 Safer Cities Technical Inter-Ministerial/Departmental Committee

. The committee will be guided by the following roles and functions:

The main functions of the Technical Committee will include to:

- (i) Provide Technical Inputs and coordination to the implementation of the Safer Nairobi Initiative
- (ii) Create linkage with other ongoing programmes within and outside NCC for information / lessons sharing and management of the Programme
- (iii) Prepare agenda, keep technical reports and records for the Committee and similar other fora

The tasks of Technical Committee will include:

- (i) Development of joint annual work plans on safety and crime prevention.
- (ii) Reviewing and providing technical advice to the Inter-Ministerial/Departmental Committee and similar fora.
- (iii) Review local initiatives in need of financial and technical support from local or donor funds.
- (iv) To review public awareness materials before publication/dissemination.
- (v) Identifying related programmes and facilitating linkages by proposing networking modalities in order to optimize resource use and avoid overlapping and fatigue.
- (vi) To review related ongoing initiatives and create continuity and sustainability
- (vii) To identify different partners for purpose of resource mobilization to implement the national programme.
- (viii) To prepare technical reports from related field for discussion with and replication by the County Executive.
- (ix) Make presentations of various technical reports and best practices to the Inter-Ministerial/Departmental Committees, other stakeholders in local and international fora.
- (x) To provide necessary advice for project implementation where necessary.
- (xi) Provide guidance for preparation of county reports regarding implementation of the Initiative.
- (xii) Monitor consolidation of county's activities to ensure availability of knowledge and information for sharing/exchange/dissemination with other counties

4.3 External Advisory Committee

The main aim of the Committee is creating linkages with other Initiatives for information / lessons sharing, resources mobilisation and providing guidance to the implementation of the Safer Nairobi Initiative. The proposed membership and main functions of the External Advisory Committee are outlined below:

Membership:

Chair: NCCG

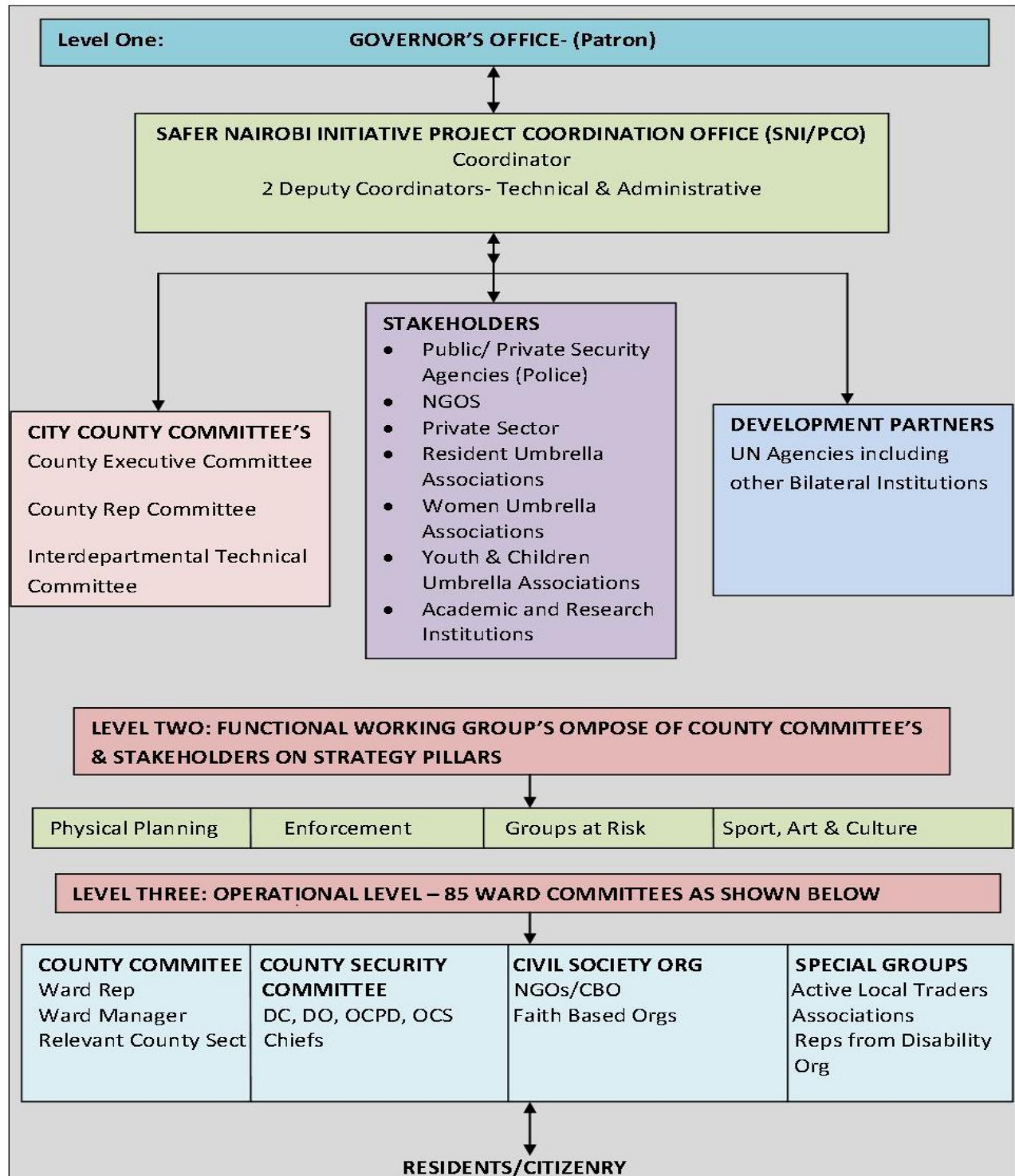
Secretariat: Urban Safety Unit Potential Members:

1. National Government
2. National Police Service (County Commander)
3. Local Administration (Regional Coordinator/County Commissioner)
4. Office of the Attorney General (AG)
5. Office of the Chief Justice
6. National Independent Commissions
7. Academic and Research Institutions
8. Private cum Business Community – KEPSSA, KAM, NCBDA
9. Community/Residents Associations
10. Local and International NGOs
11. Development Partners

Main tasks of the group include:

- 1 Review local initiatives in need of financial support from local or international donor support.
- 2 Facilitate linkage with other programmes by identifying related programmes and propose networking modalities in order to optimize resource use and avoid overlapping and duplications.
- 3 Facilitate information and experience sharing to create efficiency and a pool of readily accessible knowledge base.
- 4 To identify different partners for purpose of resource mobilization to implement the initiative
- 5 Provide necessary advice for project implementation where necessary

OFFICE ORGANOGRAM



5.0 CONCLUSION

The long-term objective is to improve local governance through reducing crime and causes of crime in the city of Nairobi through a multi-sectoral and partnership crime prevention strategy. In this regard, the county government remains a key actor in delivering a vision of a safe city not only as a value add of the NIUPLAN but also to foster economic growth and development that is inclusive.

