

Summary brief:

# SAFE AND INCLUSIVE CITIES PROGRAMME



**SAFE &  
INCLUSIVE  
CITIES**

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*“The SAIC teams have bridged the gap between government and the youth. People now know what the government is doing, and the government can reach out to communities. For the Youth Fund, without somebody else filling the gap, there is no capacity to reach everyone. SAIC have invited us to these communities where you would feel that it is very difficult to reach. Like if you go deep down into Mathare, I do not think out of my own volition say, “okay I am going to Kiamaiiko.” But with them on the ground, they invite and we feel even more secure.”*

– Government fund official, Kenya

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### KEY RESULTS:



### OUTCOMES:

URBAN VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT AFFECTING YOUNG WOMEN AND MEN HAS DECLINED

### INTERVENTIONS:

SAFETY IN COMMUNITIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

### ACTIVITIES:



VULNERABLE AND EXCLUDED YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY YOUNG WOMEN, WORKING IN THE URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR ARE ENABLED TO ENGAGE IN DECENT WORK

DECENT WORK AND YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



THROUGH STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, YOUNG WOMEN AND MEN ARE INFLUENCING URBAN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING ON SAFETY AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH GOVERNANCE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION



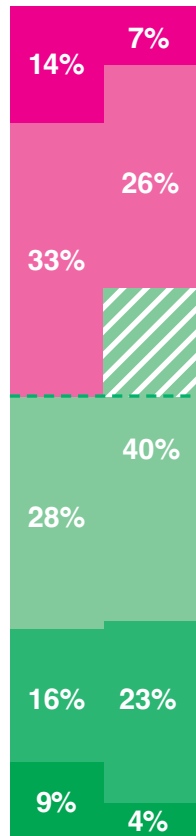
# INCREASED SAFETY IN COMMUNITIES

## Increased safety feeling

among all young women and men in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Ethiopia

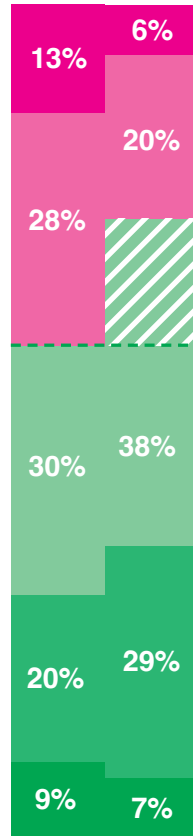


### Extent you feel safe:



### KEY RESULT

**14%**  
INCREASE IN SAFETY FEELING AMONG GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN



### KEY RESULT

**15%**  
INCREASE IN SAFETY FEELING AMONG BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

*"I was a drug addict and a recruiter of fellow young people in gang groups. We spent most of our time chewing marijuana and harassing people in the community because we felt big and untouchable under the influence of drugs. Prior to my involvement in the project activities, I used to be a member of a robbery gang that broke into people's houses late in the night; I was always participating in violence. As a young man I used to do everything violently and I loved violence very much, to the extent that I could force violence to happen even when it was not meant to."*

– Young man, Uganda

*"I have been empowered as a young woman as I now know my rights and can defend as well as protect myself in case of harassment. So I am safer and relatively free to express myself."*

– Young woman, Uganda

At community level, the young people are more productive and hopeful about their future, which has reduced crime and violence in their community. They are united to achieve a common purpose to make their urban community a better place for young people.



Safety walk →

## SAIC has been successful in improving the feeling of safety among young women and men

Young people across SAIC implementation countries define a safe space as one unaffected by theft, drugs, violence, sexual harassment, and abuse. The programme's impact is visible particularly within the communities SAIC participants live in. The programme has achieved this in several ways.

SAIC made youth aware of their rights, and of different forms of violence and risk. SAIC enabled young people to engage in safety initiatives. SAIC built capacity among youth-led community based organisations on safety skills, data collection and community validation on local safety issues. This included safety toolkit training for the young people to generate safety maps which identify violence hotspots in their communities. Using these safety maps, the young women and men carried out community safety initiatives such as neighbourhood policing, sports and cultural activities promoting positive values, dialogue with perpetrators, installation of solar lights at violence hotspots, and door-to-door campaigns on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.

The programme has contributed to strengthening awareness on safe urban transport by building the capacity of the Matatu and Bodaboda drivers and conductors on gender sensitive and protective transport. Youth safety ambassadors have run campaigns for safe urban mobility, specifically focusing on gender-based violence, harassment and abuse of girls and women using public transportation (bodabodas, matatus and special hire) and involving multiple stakeholders (incl. local government, law enforcement agencies and transport sector organisations).

Civil society organisations have been mobilised around city-level campaigns targeting actors in the public transport sectors (including drivers, conductors, operators of pirate taxis) on gender sensitivity and promoting gender champions; passengers on solidarity and reporting; the law enforcement/ justice sector on improved accountability.

↑ Mapping risk and protective factors

# INCREASED REPORTING OF VIOLENCE

## Reporting mechanisms among participants compared to baseline

among people who have been exposed to violence or witnessed violence



"There is a change in actual usage of reporting channels since Plan International and ACTogether taught us how we can report and many of us did not know, but now we learned and we can't see someone being harassed and keep quiet."

– Young man, Uganda

"We have community dialogues in our communities where community members, local leaders and police are sensitised on how to reduce violence and harassment... that is why there is a big change since local leaders and the police started listening to us when we report."

– Young woman, Uganda

However, young women and men still face challenges in reporting harassment and violence to existing reporting mechanisms due to a number key reasons:

- perceived ineffectiveness of the reporting channel to address such cases
- corruption by law enforcement and its partners, such as the provincial administration
- fear of victimisation by the police or provincial administration
- fear of revenge by the perpetrator
- collusion between victim's family and perpetrator
- lack of awareness of existing reporting channels

## Young women and men changed practice and addressed urban violence constructively through increased use of reporting mechanisms

Important contributors to this result was the mobilisation of young women and men to sensitise them on different forms of violence and their rights, reporting mechanisms, understanding the constitution in addressing violence and harassment, and enhancing relations and coordination with stakeholders.

The programme emphasised how youth can protect themselves and report violence when it occurs. SAIC

also contributed to empowering youth economically. This meant that youth were less likely to resort to violence. The programme also improved relationships with local stakeholders, such as law enforcement, making it easier for youth to report incidents of violence. Yet, more young men reported incidents of violence compared to young women. This may be due to the sensitive nature of crimes and local leadership still being predominantly male. More young men also perceived local authorities to be more responsive as a result of SAIC.



↑ Young people presenting the crime hotspot map to stakeholders

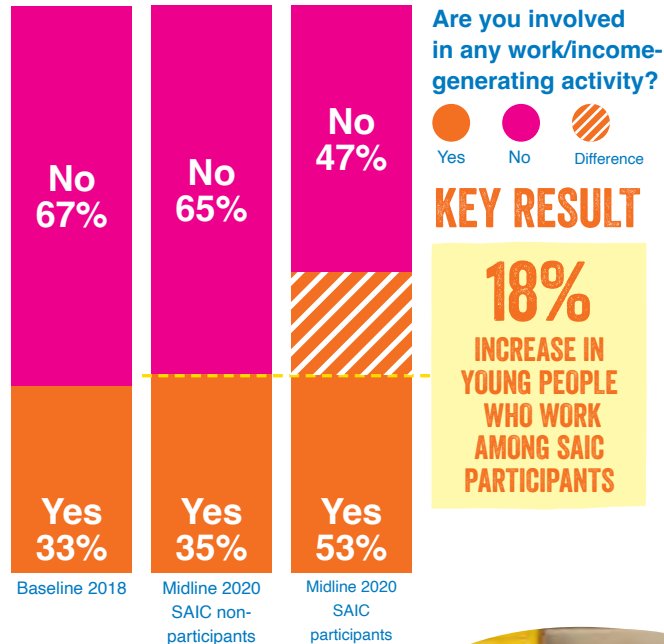


→ A police officer and young person discussing issues at one risky area in the community

# INCREASED YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

## Access to decent work

among all young women and men in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Ethiopia



Are you involved in any work/income-generating activity?



*"My involvement in project activities gave me a platform to acquire practical survival skills in various disciplines including: business management, savings, advocacy and governance, human rights and social ethics. I now proudly own a shop where I work as an attendant providing great customer service, and considering work ethics that in return increase my daily income."*

– Young man, Uganda

**Before engaging in the SAIC programme:** "I dropped out of school in senior two because my parents could not afford school fees. Three months later, I was fully oriented into sex work. To cope with the demands of sex work, I started using all types of drugs including alcohol, marijuana, and cigarette smoking. The more I stayed in the sex work, the less I minded about using condoms – it was up to the client. I was raped on many occasions, had multiple abortions and suffered many ailments. I was tired and fed up of that kind of life!"

**After engaging in the SAIC programme:** "Currently, I run my own tailoring workshop as well as act as a peer champion. My dream is to employ and train young girls that are sexually exploited. I now earn a regular monthly income and am able to meet my basic needs without having to engage in sex work."

*I am now a changed business woman and an advocate for young peoples' rights, I also train people who wish to learn tailoring. I am so proud to have left sex work and gained trust from family and friends once again.*

*My involvement in the project activities was a turning point in my life and I have never looked back. It exposed me to a better world of opportunities with hands-on skills like tailoring, saving and financial literacy, advocacy and governance. This has built my self-confidence, self-esteem, social capital and strengthened my relationship with my parents. I am now fully involved in advocating for the rights of girls and fight against all forms of sex exploitation."*

– Young woman, Uganda

## The programme helped young women and men become more self-reliant. SAIC did this by enhancing access to decent work or other income generating activities

Youth-led groups must register their business before applying for government or bank funds. To do this, SAIC partners in each of the target countries helped youth gain useful skills, including the skills needed to open and manage their own business. The programme also helped youth identify and secure financing opportunities.

The programme trained young women in vocational skills and business knowledge, and increased the capacity of young informal workers to ensure more sustainable, safe and decent income opportunities for themselves and their fellow informal sector workers. This has reduced young women's reliance on sex work and limited their exposure to violence.

The programme also strengthened young women and men's decent work in the informal sector by forming and mobilising sector-specific youth saving groups. These are groups of street hawkers, domestic workers and food vendors who were trained on life skills, selected vocational and business skills, financial literacy, market understanding, entrepreneurship, and mentoring.

The young people were supported to carry out youth-led market surveys on decent work conditions in certain informal sectors.

The programme also helped to create linkages to Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs), enabling young informal workers to apply for loans to strengthen their business/livelihood.

## Decent work:

A decent workplace is safe, physically appropriate and offers a fair income. There are equal opportunities for women and men. Youth can express any concerns without fear and know their work-related rights. Here, young people can make decisions on their own work situation.



↑ Young man in his business selling mobile credit, photocopying and movies

→ Young woman at her shop knitting sweaters

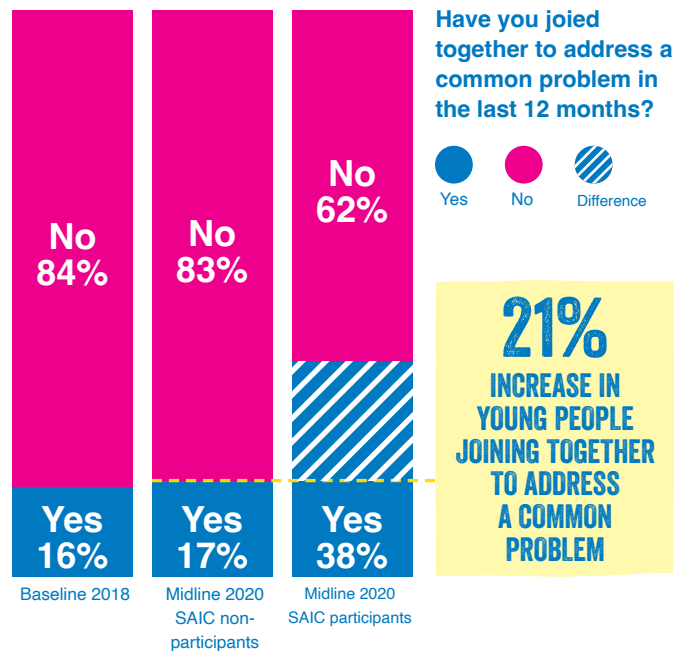
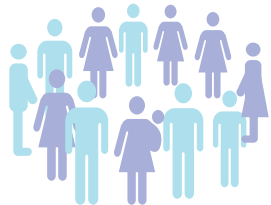


← Youth training

# YOUTH GOVERNANCE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

## Collective action – Joining together to address a common problem

among all young women and men in Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe

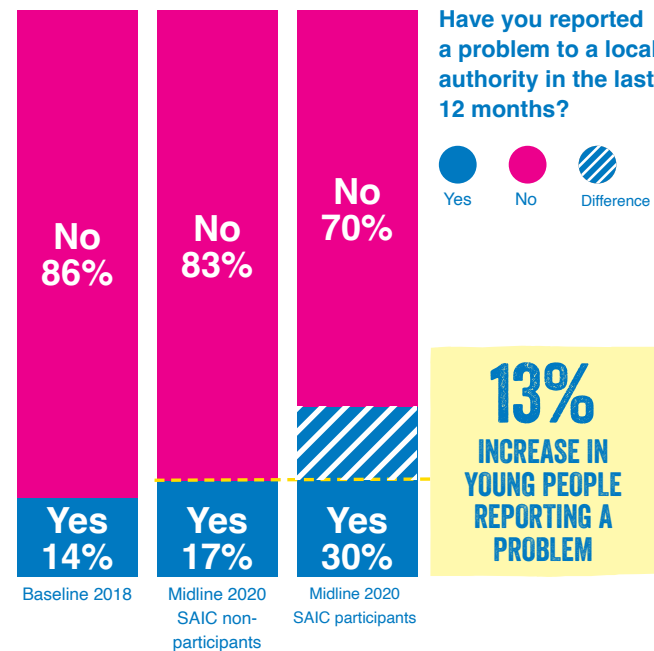


*“Violence has been addressed by bring youth together through mobilisation, training and awareness sensitisation on rights and violence, engagements with existing policies, exposure visits, and through building relationships with relevant stakeholders in as far as reporting channels are concerned.”*

– Civil society organisation, Programs office, Zimbabwe

## Improved engagement between young people and local authorities

among all young women and men in Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe

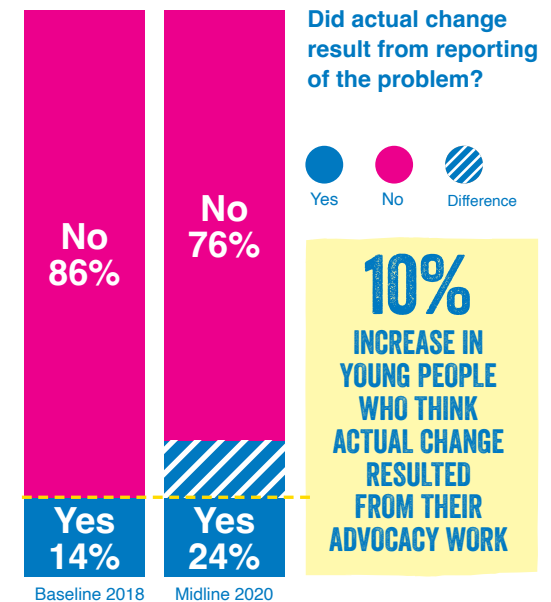
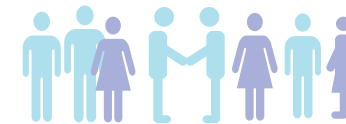


*“in fact, the SAIC programme has targeted the ones who are normally known to start violence, they are brought together and sensitisation is done so that after they’ve got the information, they go back to their bases to inform others and by so doing, it has reduced a lot of violence within the area.”*

– Official, Provincial administration, Kenya

## Responsiveness by local authorities to youth advocacy – Young people who think actual change resulted from their advocacy work

among all young women and men in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia



*“The programme is involved in contributing to availability of decent work for youth through offering financial support to groups of young people in business and providing them with equipment to boost their businesses. It offered soft-skills trainings and also other trainings like record keeping, developing business plans, marketing strategies to mention just but a few.”*

– Microfinance institution, Manager, Zimbabwe

**SAIC supported young women and men in targeted informal settlements in coming together. By doing this, youth focused on resolving common issues in their communities**

This way, the programme contributed to strengthen youth participatory governance by building the capacity of youth-led community based organisations and youth savings networks on action-oriented civic education, social accountability processes and policy and advocacy engagements. This enabled young women and men to carry out community scorecards on safety, as well as participate in country budgeting processes with government authorities.

SAIC civil society organisation partners supported the capacity building of community based organisations on information literacy (rights, laws and policies), data collection and analysis (e.g. participatory urban assessment), social accountability (e.g. scorecard and social audits), constructive engagement advocacy (e.g. diplomacy and dialogue skills) and internal governance (with a focus on inclusion of women).

Furthermore, the programme contributed to strengthening city-level advocacy, building on policy recommendations from the processes done in the informal settlements, enabling young women and men to advocate for law enforcement and access to justice and youth economic opportunities with the County Commissioners.

**Young people exercise citizenship**

when they engage in cooperation and advocacy with local government. This means being part of a community group, or seeking and receiving advice and support from local groups. Importantly, to do this youth must feel a sense of trust and belonging to the local community.

*“Ever since I got involved in the project activities, my character changed. I use the advocacy and governance skills to engage rights holders and duty bearers in dialogue debates on safety in our community. I also work as a safety champion in liaison with several stakeholders like police and local leadership to address community safety concerns.”*

– Young man, Uganda

*“To a greater extent youth are involved in youth groups and there are youth groups in the society, everyone can join and leadership is highly inclusive regardless of where you come from, your wealth status etc.”*

– Young man, Zimbabwe

*“The involvement in project activities has empowered me with multifaceted skills like advocacy and governance, self-esteem, public speaking, body confidence and networking which has helped me to strengthen my leadership ability and represent my fellow young people in dialogue forums.”*

– Young man, Uganda

*“Local authorities in my community are very supportive, once any matter is reported, they respond with urgency. This is because the SAIC consortium trained all local authorities on their roles and responsibilities and what the community should expect from them. But ever since they were trained, there is a very big difference in their engagement and response to community matters.”*

– Young man, Uganda

*“My involvement in project activities influenced my entire lifestyle. It has really helped me to earn respect and be considered for opportunities and benefits within the community. It also helped me to build community trust and increased my self-esteem that triggered me to be considered as a youth representative on the local leadership structure.”*

– Young man, Uganda

From community safety champion to community leader ↓



**Youth groups present an effective form of youth governance**

They allow young men and women to work and stand together. Groups also help foster youth leaders and allow youth to be represented in various fora. Wherever groups work with community-based organisations, links to civil society are stronger. Some youth groups become such organisations themselves or work with NGOs. In these cases, youth groups can work with local authorities to mobilise and manage resources at community level. This creates sustainable and lasting change.



↑ Engagement with public transit operators

← Young women had gone to ZBC, the national Zimbabwean broadcaster, to showcase the Safe and Inclusive Cities programme

# ABOUT THE SAIC PROGRAMME

### Development objective

Diverse and strong civil societies in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe influence urban governance and development processes and contribute to making cities safe and inclusive for young women and men.

### Outcomes:

Urban violence and conflict affecting young women and men has declined

Vulnerable and excluded young people, especially young women, working in the urban informal sector are enabled to engage in decent work

Through strong civil society organisations, young women and men are influencing urban governance and planning on safety and economic opportunities

### Theory of change

The programme is based on the key assumption that the drivers of urban fragility in informal settlements are unsafety, unemployment, and limited participation in decision-making, while simultaneously, urban youth-led community based organisations and youth savings networks as well as relevant civil society partners, government authorities, and private sector actors have capacity and creative resources to build on. By strengthening young peoples' capacity to collectively address all of the drivers of fragility the programme will contribute to making cities safer, more economically dynamic and more inclusive for young people.

### The target group

Young women and men aged 15-25 years living in fragile urban settlements, including the most vulnerable and excluded segments of the youth population; young men and women making their living in the informal sector, and young women subjected to violence and abuse in public spaces and transport, unemployed young people, factory workers, commercial sex workers, and substance abusers; and young women and men that have been resettled due to extensive urban renewal processes.

## CONTEXT IN THE TARGETED SAIC PROGRAMME AREAS:

- **High and increasing rates of urban violence including sexual and gender-based violence;** this is a serious security, public health and development issue leading to erosion of social cohesion, trauma, broken families, injuries, deaths and loss of property
- **High unemployment rates and lack of work opportunities**  
→ marginalisation and exclusion
- **Gender inequality**  
→ marginalisation and exclusion
- **Duty bearers are unable to provide even the most basic social services** required for the safety and well-being of their residents, such as healthcare, education, as well as access to water, sanitation and hygiene
- **Restricted civic space**  
– low representation of young people in decision-making processes  
→ marginalisation and exclusion

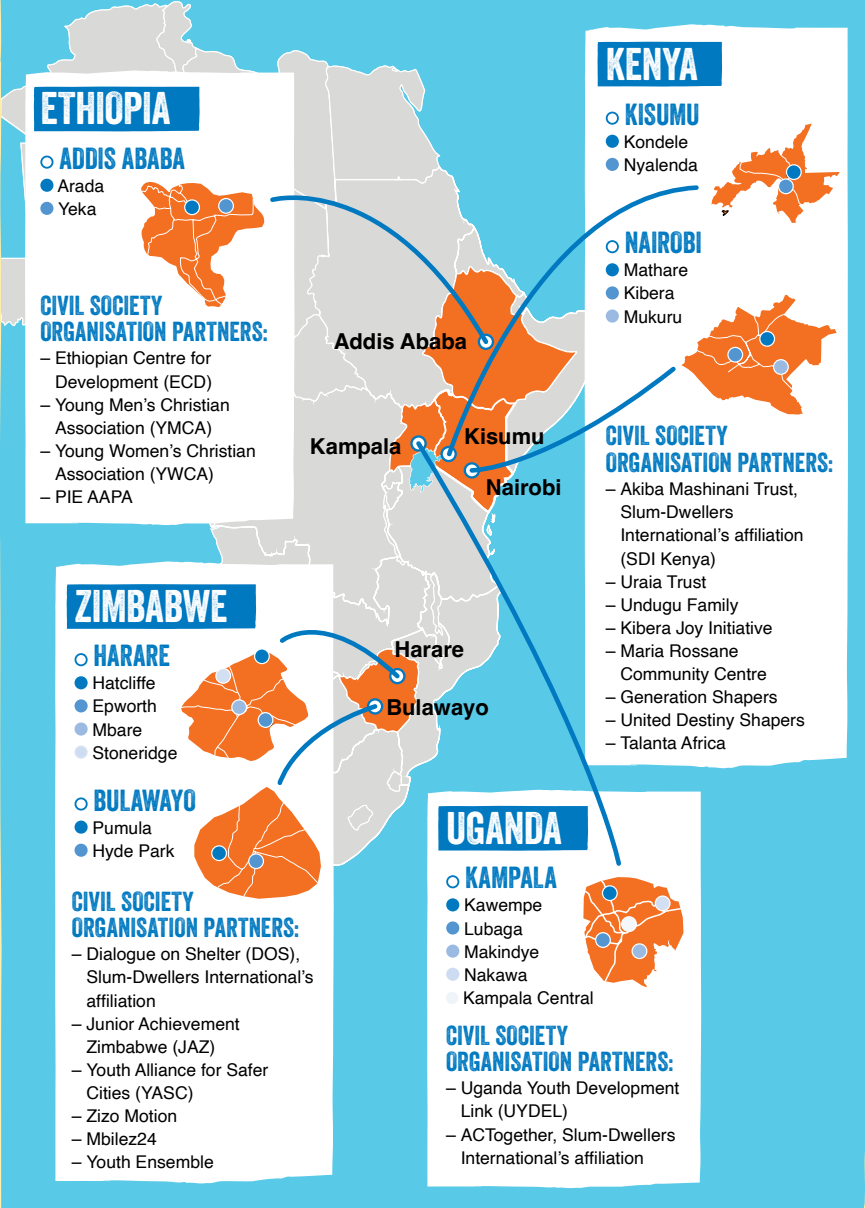
The programme is part of our strategic partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

### SAIC civil society organisation partners

We work in partnership with 16 different local civil society organisations in the four SAIC countries who have substantial experience in working with youth-led interventions.

In addition, the programme supports a range of civil society organisations, from community to city level, who implement a range of initiatives to strengthen young people's safety and protection, economic opportunities, and opportunities to be involved in development and decision-making processes.

## WHERE SAIC WORKS





# WHAT WE DID TO ACHIEVE CHANGE – SAIC MAIN ACTIVITIES 2020

## Safety in communities and public transportation interventions

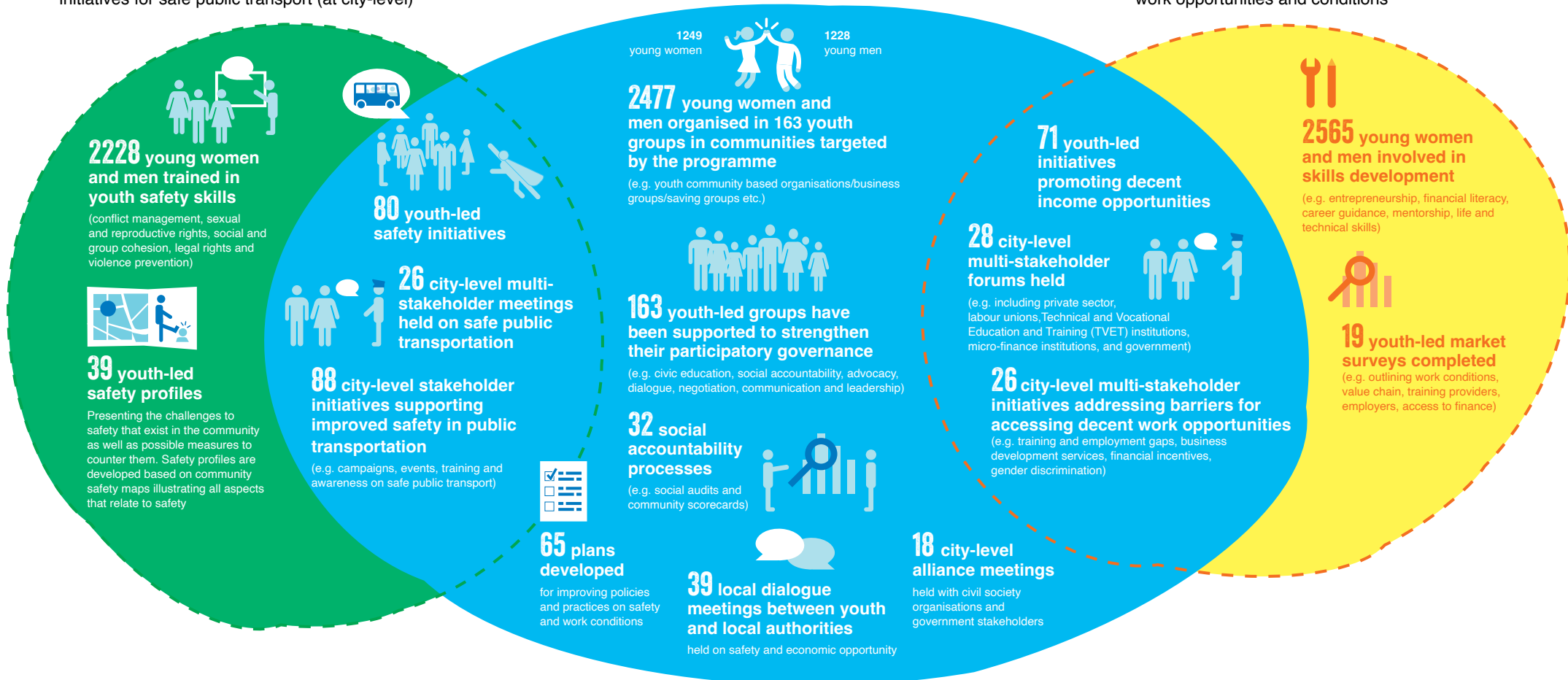
- Develop and strengthen youth-led safety initiatives (at community level)
- Develop and strengthen multi-stakeholder initiatives for safe public transport (at city-level)

## Youth governance and active participation interventions

- Strengthen youth-led groups' participatory governance (youth community based organisations, savings and business groups)
- Establish and strengthen alliances between city-level authorities and civil society on improved safety and economic opportunities

## Decent work and youth economic empowerment interventions

- Empower young women and men to access decent employment (and self-employment) opportunities
- Develop multi-stakeholder initiatives for decent work opportunities and conditions



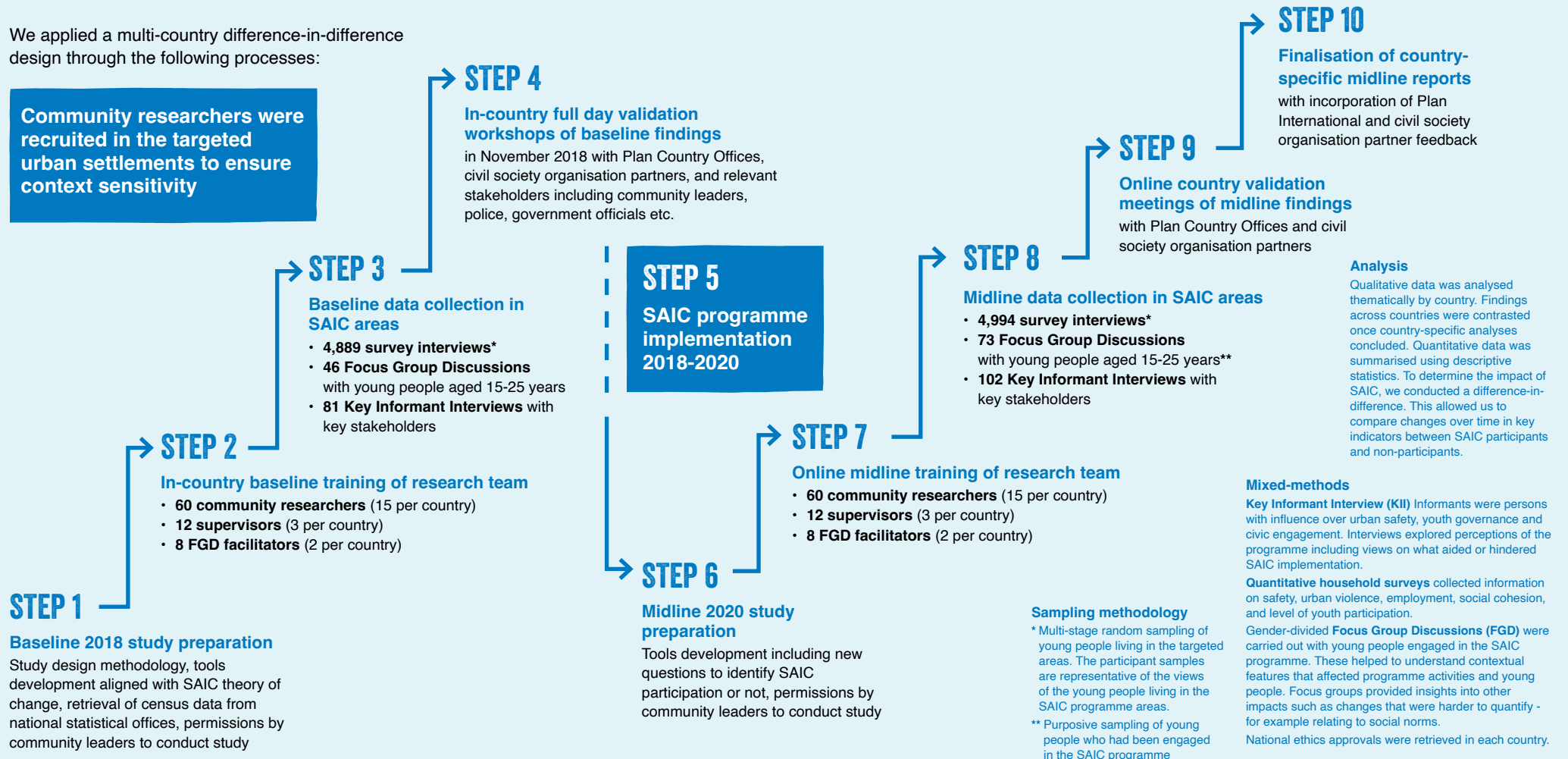
Urban violence and conflict affecting young women and men has declined

Through strong civil society organisations, young women and men are influencing urban governance and planning on safety and economic opportunities

Vulnerable and excluded young people, especially young women, working in the urban informal sector are enabled to engage in decent work

# THE PATHWAY OF MEASURING CHANGE

We applied a multi-country difference-in-difference design through the following processes:



↑ Baseline training in Ethiopia: pre-test of quantitative tool



↑ Baseline validation workshop in Uganda 2018



# BASED ON SAIC LEARNINGS – WE RECOMMEND

- City governance authorities establish open fora for communication with young people. Challenges relating to safety and violence, as well as youth employment, could be discussed here. Law enforcement involvement in these fora is especially vital.
- Civil society and city-level authorities involve young people in safety initiatives in their communities and for public transport.
- Civil society and city-level authorities raise awareness on decent employment conditions and on how self-employment could be pursued. This includes guidance on how to apply for funds and register businesses.
- For cases where young people lodge complaints, law enforcement officials put in place communication mechanisms for updating young people on the status of said complaints. Campaigns to show the responsiveness of law enforcement to complaints could also strengthen trust in police.



Metro Focus Group making →  
dishwashing product in Hatcliffe  
(through the Covid Relief Fund)



← Safety initiative:  
streetlights