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**

The S²Cities Programme (Safe and Sound Cities Programme) aims to improve **young people’s safety and wellbeing** in urban environments.

Focusing on young people between ages **15 and 24**, the programme will engage **local governments, institutions, the private sector, community actors, and young people.**

Together, we will create platforms for **meaningful youth engagement** in ideating and implementing solutions to safety and inclusivity 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 (2021-22), the programme launched in **two growing secondary cities** where young people and their wellbeing feature prominently in the national and local agenda.

Following the pilot phase, we aim to expand our multi-year programme to **ten secondary cities across the Global South**, seeking co-funding to scale its implementation.
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.