

# 4 What is ABVPI?

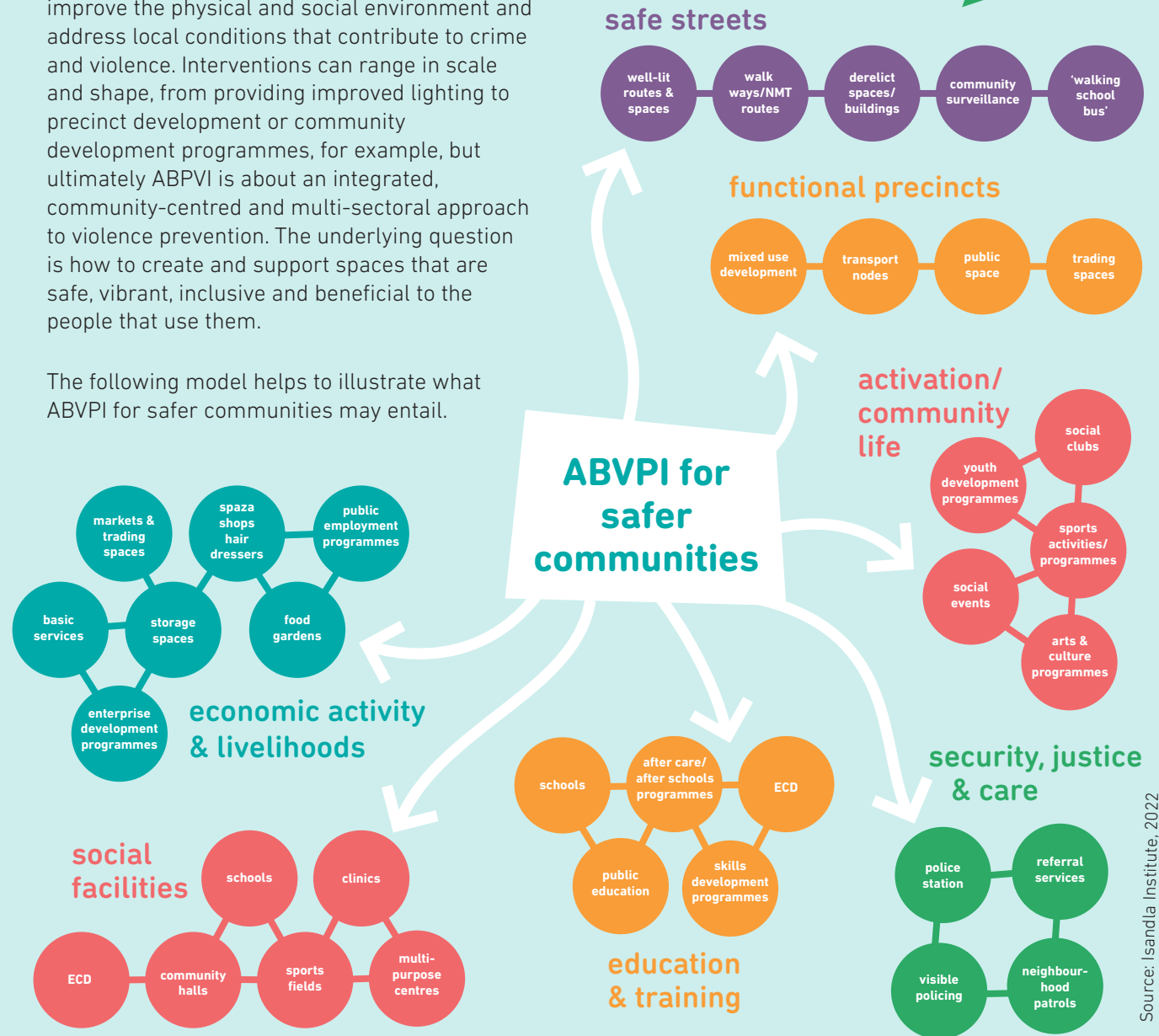


ABVPI are targeted approaches within a specific geographic area, designed to reduce crime and violence and address the root causes by using a combination of spatial, social and institutional interventions. Interventions need to either reduce or remove the factors that increase risk or susceptibility (risk factors) and/or increase or introduce the factors that encourage improved health and safety outcomes (protective factors). The form of these interventions will be different depending on the context in which they are implemented. This is because each context is unique and subsequently has its own risks and protective factors. If we do not take into consideration the unique context in which these interventions happen, the interventions will likely fail. Subsequently, one of the most critical components of ABVPI is that it is evidence-led and co-produced with communities and other relevant stakeholders.

An ABVPI approach addresses factors that put people at risk of violence and/or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence, primarily as these factors manifest at the level of the community/neighbourhood (see The socio-ecological model: A framework for violence prevention). The built environment plays a particularly important role in crime prevention and perpetuation. Issues such as inadequate lighting, poor visibility, lack of community surveillance, and unused and unmanaged public spaces and buildings all create opportunities for crime to thrive. Adapting the environment to reduce or stop crime is commonly known as crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)<sup>1</sup> and is part of ABVPI.

As such, ABVPI includes strategies that seek to improve the physical and social environment and address local conditions that contribute to crime and violence. Interventions can range in scale and shape, from providing improved lighting to precinct development or community development programmes, for example, but ultimately ABVPI is about an integrated, community-centred and multi-sectoral approach to violence prevention. The underlying question is how to create and support spaces that are safe, vibrant, inclusive and beneficial to the people that use them.

The following model helps to illustrate what ABVPI for safer communities may entail.



ABVPI is context specific and so the form the intervention takes need to be responsive to the needs, desires and capacities of that particular neighbourhood, precinct or street. To enable this, alignment needs to come from ways of working and guiding principles, rather than pre-determined inputs and outputs. In this way, one would argue that ABVPI is best undertaken through an outcomes-based approach. Having a multi-sectoral approach between different stakeholders including government, civil society organisations and communities and sharing learnings around implementation and practice to increase understanding and awareness are two methods to ensure greater impact. Involving the local community concerned is critical in ensuring that the interventions are appropriate, effective and sustainable. Some key ingredients for implementing ABVPI are listed here:

1

**Adopt a community-centred approach that puts people first.**

2

**Assemble the various stakeholders and partners who will be crucial to the intervention.**

3

**Use the critical emerging information to develop a joint vision for the intervention.**

**SPRINT 8 key ingredients for ABVPI**



8

**Have a flexible and adaptive monitoring, evaluation and learning system.**

4

**Assign roles and responsibilities to stakeholders and partners.**

5

**Have an evidence-based, community-informed approach.**

7

**Develop a budget and allocate sufficient resources.**

6

**Prioritise the issues of activation, maintenance and management throughout the project life.**



## Notes

1. Kruger, T. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). Pretoria: SaferSpaces

This SPRINT resource note was produced as part of a series in the Safer Places: Resilient Institutions and Neighbourhoods Together (SPRINT) Project. Titles in the series include:

- 1 About SPRINT
- 2 Why safety needs to be at the centre of development
- 3 The socio-ecological model: A framework for violence prevention
- 4 What is ABVPI?

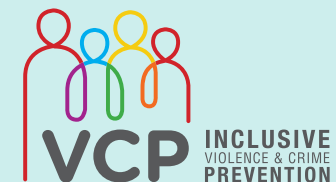
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SAFER PLACES:  
RESILIENT INSTITUTIONS AND  
NEIGHBOURHOODS TOGETHER

# SPRINT

The SPRINT Project is a joint initiative of the South African-German Development Cooperation with the support of the Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP) Programme, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) as the commissioning party and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) as co-financing partner. The SPRINT Project is implemented by Isandla Institute and Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU). The primary objective of the SPRINT Project is to institutionalise area-based violence prevention intervention (ABVPI) approaches in public policy, programmes and practices in order to upscale them and have a sustainable impact.