

## **A Focus on Public Safety through Convergent Action for Girls and Women**

The 3D Program for Girls and Women advances gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment by facilitating convergent action across stakeholders and sectors to increase economic opportunities for girls and women and address their health, education and safety needs. The 3D Program works with partners in Pune City and rural Pune District, Maharashtra to provide cross-sectoral, coordinated solutions to meet the multiple, intersecting needs of girls and women.

For the 3D Program, convergent action involves linking the scale and sustainability of government programs with the resources and innovations of civil society and the private sector and breaking down the barriers between thematic sectors such as health, education, rural and urban development, public safety and others. We believe that girls and women are best served when these traditional boundaries are crossed and the barriers of siloes are broken so that stakeholders – including girls and women themselves - can come together to maximize their ideas and resources for greater impact.

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a universal, catastrophic and multi-faceted problem. It is an extreme manifestation of gender inequality and a gross violation of human rights. A global epidemic that endangers the health, wellbeing and life options of girls and women and girls in multiple ways, VAWG has a wide range of physical, psychological, social and economic consequences for girls and women, their children, families, communities and countries. It requires coordinated, cross-sectoral responses and solutions.

VAWG in public spaces now routinely receives news coverage, particularly the most extreme and horrific incidents. This has led to surges of advocacy and subsequent policy changes, such as quicker trials and harsher penalties for perpetrators. However, there is still no widespread understanding of the range of violations that girls and women face in public spaces, many of which continue to be normalized and minimized. Use of euphemisms, such as “eve teasing,” minimizes the real and perceived risks that girls and women face from unacceptable behavior by men in public places. Inaction by bystanders and officials create an environment in which girls and women are reluctant or unable to take action and have perpetrators apprehended.

Finally, because these incidents happen in public spaces, where clear lines of accountability remain undefined, there are missed opportunities for public institutions, communities and individuals to prevent and respond to VAWG. Increased awareness has led to VAWG becoming everyone's and yet no one's problem. In some ways, we have all become by-standers, assuming someone else will respond.

Through convergent action, the 3D Program seeks to:

- Build on the work of women's and human rights movements and the expertise of urban planners and public institutions to apply evidence on what works to address VAWG in public spaces to 3D Program initiatives
- Map the everyday journeys of girls and women through public spaces to identify hotspots and who is accountable for safety in each space
- Leverage our partnerships with government agencies, the private sector and civil society to conduct advocacy, identify and fill gaps in services, introduce innovations, and strengthen accountability to enhance the public safety of girls and women

## Violence Against Women and Girls and the SDGs: Local Action Within a Global Framework

In 2015, the 193-member states of the United Nations, including India, unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - 17 goals with 169 targets aimed at transforming the world. Two SDGs directly address VAWG and others have targets that directly or indirectly address VAWG in both public and private spaces.

SDG	Targets related to violence against girls and women
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning	4.7 Ensure all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
	4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.2 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.2 Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all	8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms
	8.8 Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11.1 Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
	11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
	11.7 Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children