CHILD IN NEED INSTITUTE (CINI)

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G-SAFE+ PROJECT

YOUTH-LED URBAN SAFETY AUDIT

Report on Youth led Safety Audit

Building Safer, Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Neighbourhoods for All

PARTICIPATORY | INCLUSIVE | SAFE | YOUTH-LED

Creating Child and Gender Friendly Cities

Where everyone can live, move, participate and access opportunities safely and with dignity.

KOLKATA | RANCHI | BHUBANESWAR

TABLE Of CONTENTS

Background	3
Rationale	4
Urban Youth Led Safety Toolkit	5
Purpose of Safety Audit toolkit	6
Principle Followed for Conducting the Safety Audit	6
Methodology Followed	7
Process Flow for Safety Audit	7
Findings from the Safety Audit	10
Consolidated Findings and youth led mitigation strategies	22
From Audit to Action (A 2 A)	24
Conclusion from Youth Led Findings to Tangible Community Change	25
Photo Gallery & Annexure	27-29

BACKGROUND

Child in Need Institute (CINI) is a leading development organisation with decades of experience in advancing child rights, gender equity, public health, and community well-being across India. Over the years, CINI has developed strong expertise in participatory research, community engagement, and evidence-based programming, particularly within marginalised and underserved urban and rural communities. Its approach emphasises empowering communities, especially children, adolescents, women, and vulnerable groups, to identify their own challenges and co-create sustainable and locally relevant solutions. Building upon this legacy, the G-SAFE+ Project (Gender-sensitive, inclusive and safe East Indian neighbourhoods for all communities, including LGBTQIA+) has been conceptualised as a transformative initiative to promote safer, more inclusive, and equitable urban environments. The project recognises that cities are not experienced equally by all residents. Access to and use of public spaces are often shaped by gender, age, socio-economic conditions, disability, and identity. Consequently, marginalised populations—particularly women, children, adolescents, and LGBTQIA+ individuals frequently face heightened risks of exclusion, discrimination, violence, and restricted access to essential urban services and opportunities. The project is being implemented across three major cities in Eastern India: Kolkata, Ranchi, and Bhubaneswar. Each of these cities presents distinct urban realities and socio-cultural contexts. Kolkata, with its dense population, informal settlements, and ageing infrastructure, reflects challenges related to urban poverty, overcrowding, and unequal access to safe public spaces. Ranchi, as a rapidly expanding urban centre with significant migrant and tribal populations, faces issues linked to uneven urban development, social exclusion, and limited gender-responsive infrastructure. Bhubaneswar, despite being recognised as a planned smart city, continues to grapple with concerns around inclusive urban mobility, safety of women and children in public spaces, and accessibility for vulnerable communities amidst rapid urban expansion. Together, these cities illustrate the complex intersections of urbanisation, socio-economic disparities, patriarchal norms, and social marginalisation that shape experiences of safety and inclusion. The G-SAFE+ Project is rooted in the broader vision of creating Child and Gender Friendly Cities: urban spaces where every individual, regardless of gender identity, age, ability, or socio-economic background, can live, move, participate, and access opportunities with dignity, safety, and equality. This concept aligns with global urban development frameworks that emphasise inclusive planning, participatory governance, and rights-based approaches to city development. A Child and Gender Friendly City prioritise safe public infrastructure, equitable access to services, meaningful participation of children/youth and marginalised communities in decision-making, and urban systems that are responsive to the needs of all residents. A major strength of the project lies in its integration of research, community participation, and youth leadership. Through structured research studies and community-based assessments, the project generates critical evidence on issues related to safety, inclusion, mobility, and access within urban public spaces. However, the initiative moves beyond conventional research approaches by actively involving community members—particularly adolescents and young adults identified as “Champions of Change” in data collection, analysis, advocacy, and local action processes.

This participatory approach ensures that:

1. Communities are not merely subjects of research, but active co-creators of knowledge and solutions;
2. Local voices, lived experiences, and community priorities directly shape interventions and advocacy efforts;
3. Youth leadership and civic participation are strengthened as catalysts for sustainable social transformation.

Within this framework, tools such as Safety Audits serve as powerful participatory mechanisms through which communities can systematically examine their surrounding environments, identify risks and barriers, and advocate for safer, more accessible, and more inclusive public spaces. By combining technical expertise with grassroots participation, the G-SAFE+ Project seeks to contribute toward building Gender and Child Friendly Cities where all individuals—especially women, children, adolescents, and LGBTQIA+ persons—can exercise their rights to the city freely, safely, and with equal opportunity.

RATIONALE

The need for conducting Safety Audits under the G-SAFE+ Project emerges directly from the evidence generated through the baseline study conducted by Child in Need Institute (CINI). The study highlights that urban spaces in Kolkata, Ranchi, and Bhubaneswar are deeply shaped by structural inequalities, gender norms, and social exclusion, which significantly impact the safety, mobility, and dignity of marginalised populations. Under the G-SAFE+ initiative, a baseline study titled "Report on Gender-Based Discriminatory Practices and Violence Faced by Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Women, including LGBTQIA+ Individuals" was conducted among 1,000 families across three cities, i.e. Kolkata, Ranchi and Bhubaneswar. The findings highlight that safety is not merely a physical condition, but a deeply social and gendered experience shaped by discrimination, exclusion, and unequal power relations:

1) **Restricted Mobility of Girls:** Only 44% of girls reported freedom to move outside their communities, with extremely high restrictions in Kolkata. Mobility is controlled through fear, social norms, and perceived risks in public spaces, indicating that urban environments are not equally accessible to all.
2) **Normalisation of Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Over half of respondents reported witnessing domestic violence, and a significant proportion justified it under certain conditions. This normalisation extends into public spaces, where harassment, fear, and silence shape everyday experiences.
3) **Gap Between Awareness and Action:** While 71% of youth are aware of help-seeking mechanisms, only 27% reported actual instances of help-seeking. This gap reflects a lack of safe, accessible, and trusted public and institutional spaces.
4) **Exclusion of LGBTQIA+ Individuals:** Despite increasing attitudinal acceptance, gender-diverse individuals continue to face violence, harassment, and economic exclusion, especially in public spaces such as toilets, streets, and workplaces. Fear of discrimination limits their visibility and access.
5) **Interlinkages Between Safety, Substance Use, and Violence:** The study highlights strong connections between unsafe environments, substance abuse, and domestic violence, reinforcing cycles of insecurity within both private and public domains.

These findings clearly indicate that urban safety challenges are not isolated incidents but systemic issues embedded in infrastructure, social norms, and governance gaps.

The Safety Audit will serve as a critical bridge between research and Participatory learning action by:

a) Translating abstract data into localised, visible evidence

b) Identifying specific risk points in public spaces (e.g., poor lighting, unsafe routes, lack of gender-inclusive facilities)
c) Capturing lived experiences of safety and fear across different groups

Unlike traditional assessments, Safety Audits adopt a participatory and rights-based approach, ensuring that those most affected—especially adolescents, youth, and marginalised communities—become central to the process of identifying and addressing risks.

URBAN YOUTH LED SAFETY AUDIT TOOLKIT

Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) with urban youths is a powerful approach that places young people at the center of community analysis and decision-making. By engaging them in tools such as safety audits, mobility mapping, and vulnerability assessments, PLA nurtures their agency—the ability to recognize risks, articulate concerns, and propose solutions. This participatory process builds empowerment, as youths gain confidence in expressing their voices, challenging harmful norms, and influencing duty-bearers. At the same time, PLA strengthens advocacy, enabling young people to transform lived experiences into evidence that informs policies and programs. In urban contexts, where governance is often fragmented and children's perspectives overlooked, PLA ensures that adolescents and youths are not passive beneficiaries but active co-creators of safer, more inclusive, and child-friendly systems.

The Safety Audit tool is a participatory process that ensures adolescents and youths are not just consulted but actively engaged in shaping their own environments. Through the transect walk by passing their schools, neighbourhood, and public spaces to identify safe and unsafe areas, young people directly contribute to community knowledge and decision-making. This process enhances participation by creating structured opportunities for children to express their lived experiences, highlight risks, and propose solutions. It validates their voices, builds confidence, and fosters collective dialogue between youths, families, and duty-bearers. Importantly, the audit transforms youth from passive recipients of protection into active stakeholders, ensuring that interventions are grounded in their realities and that community safety nets are strengthened through

their involvement. In this way, participation becomes meaningful, empowering, and central to building child-friendly systems.

The toolkit uses Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) methods adapted to urban youth realities and communication styles.

PRINCIPLE FOLLOWED FOR CONDUCTING THE SAFETY AUDIT PROCESS

METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED

The Safety Audit has been conducted using a **Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) methodology**, ensuring meaningful participation of adolescents and youth as active assessors of safety in their own communities. **Youth Champions of Change** were oriented on concepts of urban safety, rights, social assets, public services, and vulnerability, enabling them to lead the assessment process. The audit initiated through **group-based participatory sessions** at Inclusive Learning Centres, where youths collectively planned the audit, identified focus areas, and prepared mapping materials.

Transect walks were undertaken by youth groups across different sections of the ward to systematically observe and document:

1. Public infrastructure and services
2. Social assets and community spaces
3. Safety risks, barriers, and exclusion points

Urban Safety Mapping has been carried out using ward maps, symbols, and visual markers to spatially represent:

1. Existing infrastructure and services
2. Vulnerable households and populations
3. Safe, unsafe, stressful, and fear-inducing locations

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in the urban safety mapping exercises to capture lived experiences of safety, fear, accessibility, and inclusion, with specific attention to differences based on gender, age, and identity.

Mobility Mapping has been used to analyse safety risks associated with daily travel for education, work, coaching, and recreation, identifying route-based and time-based risks. A **gender and inclusion lens** was applied throughout the audit to examine differentiated experiences of girls, boys, and gender-diverse youths in public and private spaces. Identified unsafe locations and routes are prioritised through **Hotspot Ranking Exercises**, using participatory voting to assess severity and urgency.

Findings from the Safety Audit were collectively analysed and documented by youth groups, generating community-owned evidence on key safety concerns and priority action areas.

PROCESS FLOW FOR SAFETY AUDIT

Urban Safety Mapping Tool

1) **Initiation and Orientation**: Adolescents and youths convened at the Inclusive Learning Centres to formally initiate the Safety Audit process. The purpose, scope, and participatory nature of the audit were explained to all participants by the ILC Facilitators & community mobiliser.
2) **Preparation of Materials**: Youth groups collectively arranged required materials, including city- and ward-level maps, chart papers, markers, notebooks, sticky notes, coloured stickers, and emoticons for mapping and analysis.

3) **Capacity Building by Champions of Change**: The Champions of Change were oriented on key concepts such as community resources, social assets, existing services, and their accessibility from a rights-based and inclusion lens.
4) **Formation of Transect Walk Teams:** Youth participants were divided into four groups, each assigned to conduct transect walks in one direction of the ward (east, west, north, and south) for comprehensive urban safety mapping.
5) **Conduct of Transect Walks:** During the transect walks, youths systematically identified and documented social assets, public infrastructure, and existing government and non-government services, recording observations in notebooks.
6) **Development of Ward-Level Resource Map**: Based on transect walk findings, Champions of Change located identified resources and services spatially in the ward map.
7) **Symbol-Based Mapping of Infrastructure**: The social resource map was completed by marking existing infrastructure using agreed symbols among youth groups.
8) **Safety Perception Mapping through FGDs**: Post symbol based social resource mapping, youths assessed and mapped infrastructures using emoticons reflecting safety and accessibility perceptions through Focus Group Discussions:

i) ⚠ Stress

ii) ☹ Fear

iii) ☺ Safe/happy

9) **Focus Group Discussions facilitation**: The entire urban safety mapping exercise has been supported by structured FGDs to capture lived experiences of safety, fear, access, and exclusion.

FGD Questionnaire for Urban safety mapping

1) Which places and routes do youths use most in this ward during the day and night?
2) What key government and community facilities exist here, and how easy are they to access for girls, boys, and gender-diverse youths?
3) During the transect walk, which locations felt unsafe, stressful, or uncomfortable, and at what time of day?
4) Which vulnerabilities are commonly seen in this ward (drop-out, child labour, child marriage risk, unsafe migration, violence, lack of sanitation, missing IDs), and where are they concentrated?
5) Which places feel safe and positive (☺), and which create fear (☹) or stress (⚠)? Why?
6) Do different groups (girls, boys, gender-diverse youths) experience safety differently in public and private spaces?
7) What immediate changes are needed to improve safety in this ward, and how can youths contribute?

Mobility Mapping Tool

10) **Initiation of Mobility Mapping**: Following urban safety mapping, youths conducted mobility mapping to assess risks during daily travel for education, work, coaching, and recreation.
11) **Preparation for Route Mapping:** Champions of Change were regrouped with route maps, markers, sticky notes, and other materials required for mobility analysis.
12) **Identification of Risk Areas:** Champions of change will mark travel-related risk points on maps, such as dark streets, crowded buses, harassment locations, gang-dominated areas, and unsafe crossings.
13) **Application of Gender and Inclusion Lens:** Mobility mapping explicitly examined gendered experiences—for example, whether girls change routes or timings due to fear, or whether boys face pressure to use risky routes

FGD Questionnaire for Mobility Mapping

1) For education, work, coaching, and recreation, which routes do youths commonly use in this ward?
2) While travelling, which places or points feel risky (for example dark streets, crowded buses, harassment spots, gang areas, unsafe crossings)?
3) How does safety change by time—what feels safe during the day but unsafe after dark or during rush hours?
4) Are there specific routes or transport modes that youths avoid? Why?
5) Do girls change their routes, timing, or travel methods due to fear or restrictions?
6) Are boys pressured to pass through risky areas or engage in unsafe travel behaviours?
7) What changes or actions can make daily travel safer for all youths in this ward?

14) **Emoticon-Based Route Safety Mapping**: Identified routes were marked using emoticons to indicate perceived safety levels:
    a) ⚠ Stress
    b) 😟 Fear
    c) 😊 Safe/happy

Hotspot Ranking Exercise

A participatory hotspot ranking exercise has been conducted to identify the most critical safety concerns affecting youths.

1) **Documentation of Key Findings:** Findings from urban safety and mobility mapping has been consolidated into a list of unsafe and inaccessible infrastructures, locations, and routes through hotspot ranking exercise
2) **Severity-Based Classification**: Identified issues ranked under categories such as severe, moderate, or safe to use.
3) **Youth-Led Voting Process**: Youth participants have prioritised issues through a democratic voting process.
4) **Discussion on Mitigation Strategies**: Champions of Change collectively discussed feasible mitigation strategies for prioritised issues.

5) **Use of Mitigation Planning Proforma**: A structured proforma used to document issues, responsible duty bearers, and proposed actions.

15) **Formulation of Youth-Led Mitigation Plan (Community Plan of Action):** Finalised pointers on infrastructure gaps, unsafe routes, and priority concerns has been documented which will be informed in the CDP meeting.

FINDINGS FROM THE SAFETY AUDIT

FINDINGS FROM KOLKATA (Ward 26)

The youth-led safety audit in Rambagan (Ward 26) revealed multiple interlinked safety, environmental, and governance challenges that significantly affect the everyday mobility and well-being of adolescents and youth, particularly girls and younger children.

1. One of the most prominent concerns identified was the **presence of street dogs in the Lohapatty area**, which creates fear and restricts free movement, especially during early mornings and late evenings. Youth participants highlighted that this issue disproportionately affects girls, elderly residents, and children who avoid certain routes due to safety concerns.
2. **Inadequate street lighting** emerged as a critical infrastructure gap in areas such as **Dayal Mitra Lane and Ramesh Dutta Street**. Poor illumination increases the perception of fear, limits evening mobility, and heightens the risk of harassment and accidents. Youths reported altering their routes or timing of movement due to dark stretches, particularly after sunset.
3. The audit also documented **substance abuse issues & lack of youth safe spaces** including **Company Bagan, KMC School, and Dabtala Gali**. These locations, which should function as safe and positive spaces, were instead perceived as stressful and unsafe due to the presence of intoxicated individuals, verbal abuse, and antisocial behaviour.
4. Another major concern was **insufficient police patrolling and security monitoring near the red-light area**, which was identified as a high-risk zone. Youth participants expressed that the lack of visible law enforcement officers increases vulnerability to exploitation, violence, and unsafe interactions, especially for adolescents passing through or living nearby.
5. Additionally, **improper waste management and lack of adequate dustbins** in areas such as **Lohapatty, Vivekananda Pally, and Manicktala Lane** were found to contribute to unhygienic conditions, foul odour, and mosquito breeding. Youths linked these environmental issues to health risks and reduced dignity in public spaces.

Overall, the findings from Kolkata highlight how **infrastructure gaps, weak service delivery, and social vulnerabilities intersect to restrict safe access to public spaces**, reinforcing exclusion and fear among young residents.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth

Kolkata – Rambagan (Ward 26)

1) Based on the hotspot ranking exercise, youth in Rambagan proposed a set of practical and rights-based mitigation strategies to address the safety concerns identified in Ward 26. To address the fear and restricted mobility caused by the presence of street dogs in the Lohapatty area, youth recommended coordinated sterilisation and vaccination drives through the KMC

Veterinary Department, along with the identification of designated feeding zones away from major pedestrian routes. Youth also emphasised the importance of community sensitisation to promote humane coexistence while ensuring safer movement for children, girls, and elderly residents during early mornings and late evenings.

2) To respond to the issue of inadequate street lighting in Dayal Mitra Lane and Ramesh Dutta Street, youth suggested the installation of new streetlights and the immediate repair of non-functional lights in identified dark stretches. They highlighted the need for active engagement with the KMC Lighting Department and the ward councillor, supported by community monitoring to ensure regular maintenance. Improved lighting was identified as critical to reducing fear, preventing harassment, and enabling safer evening mobility, particularly for adolescent girls and young women.
3) In locations such as Company Bagan, KMC School premises, and Dabtala Gali, where substance abuse and antisocial behaviour were reported, youth proposed a combination of awareness-building and space reclamation measures. These included conducting substance abuse awareness sessions, counselling for adolescents and youth, and structured youth engagement activities to reclaim these areas as positive and safe community spaces. Youth stressed that transforming these locations into active, youth-friendly spaces would help reduce antisocial behaviour and restore their intended function as safe public areas.
4) The lack of visible police patrolling and security monitoring near the red-light area was identified as a major safety concern. To mitigate this risk, youth recommended increasing the frequency of police patrolling, particularly during evening and night hours, and strengthening coordination between the local police, ward office, and community members. Youth-led community watch groups were also proposed as a complementary measure to enhance vigilance, deter unsafe activities, and build trust between residents and law enforcement agencies.
5) To address the problem of improper waste management and the absence of adequate dustbins in Lohapatty, Vivekananda Pally, and Manicktala Lane, youth suggested the installation of additional dustbins at key locations and the strengthening of regular waste collection services through the KMC Sanitation Department. Youth-led cleanliness drives and awareness initiatives on proper waste disposal were also proposed to promote shared responsibility. These actions were seen as essential for improving hygiene, reducing health risks, and restoring dignity and safety in public spaces.

Overall, youth in Rambagan emphasised that improving basic infrastructure, strengthening service delivery, and reclaiming public spaces through community participation would significantly enhance safety and inclusion for adolescents and young people in the ward.

FINDINGS FROM KOLKATA (Ward 18)

Kolkata – Sonagachi (Ward 18)

1. Accumulation of garbage at Immam Box Lane emerged as a major concern. Irregular waste collection and improper disposal have resulted in unhygienic conditions, foul odour, and increased health risks, particularly for children and elderly residents living in the area.
2. Inadequate lighting near Ramjoy Seal School and non-functional streetlights at Fakir Chakrabarti Lane were reported to create unsafe conditions during early morning and evening hours. This lack of illumination heightens fear and restricts safe mobility, particularly for girls and school-going children. Given that the area falls within a core red-light zone, residents and pedestrians are often reluctant to enter these spaces, and streetlights are frequently found to be deliberately damaged by clients accessing the area, further aggravating safety risks.

3. Poor road conditions combined with a large garbage heap at Madhugali & Nilmoni Mitra Street were identified as the most critical concern. These conditions increase the risk of accidents, waterlogging, and environmental degradation, severely affecting accessibility and public safety.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth

Sonagachi (Ward 18)

i. The accumulation of garbage at Immam Box Lane was identified by youth as a serious public health and safety concern requiring immediate and sustained action. As a mitigation measure, youth proposed regular coordination with the municipal sanitation department to ensure consistent waste collection and timely clearance of accumulated garbage. They emphasized the need for placing designated waste bins at strategic points and conducting community awareness sessions on proper waste disposal and segregation. Youth volunteers also suggested forming small monitoring groups to track sanitation services and report irregularities, along with organizing periodic community cleanliness drives to promote shared responsibility and improve hygiene conditions, particularly for children and elderly residents.

ii. Inadequate lighting near Ramjoy Seal School and non-functional streetlights at Fakir Chakrabarti Lane were highlighted as major safety risks, especially for girls and school-going children during early morning and evening hours. To mitigate this, youth proposed advocating for immediate repair and replacement of damaged streetlights through formal complaints to KMC Lighting department and electricity authorities. Given the area's sensitivity, they recommended installing more durable or protected lighting infrastructure and exploring solar lighting options to reduce repeated damage. Youth also suggested strengthening community vigilance through coordinated monitoring with local leaders and residents, alongside awareness efforts to underline the importance of functional lighting for safe mobility and community safety.

iii. Poor road conditions coupled with large garbage heaps at Madhugali and Nilmoni Mitra Street were identified as the most critical issue affecting accessibility, safety, and environmental health. Youth proposed submitting joint representations to relevant municipal departments demanding urgent road repairs, garbage removal, and drain cleaning. As interim measures, they suggested community-supported actions such as clearing blocked drains and minor pothole filling to reduce accident risks and waterlogging, especially during the monsoon. Continuous follow-up with authorities, supported by photographic documentation and collective advocacy, was emphasized as essential to ensure long-term infrastructure improvement and safer public spaces.

FINDINGS FROM KOLKATA (Ward 32)

Bidhannagar (Ward 32)

1. Poor maintenance and irregular cleaning of community ponds near Khudiram Pally emerged as a major environmental and public health concern. Accumulated waste and stagnant water have created unhygienic conditions, increasing the risk of disease and accidents, especially for children and nearby households.
2. In Subhas Pally, inadequate lighting in and around community bathroom facilities was identified as a serious safety and accessibility issue. Poor illumination limits safe usage during early morning and evening hours and compromises the dignity and security of women, girls, and children.

3. At Dhopar Math, incidents and risks of sexual harassment affecting children were highlighted as a critical protection concern. The absence of strong awareness, reporting mechanisms, and active community monitoring has increased children's vulnerability, underscoring the need for strengthened child protection systems.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth

Bidhannagar (Ward 32)

1. To address poor maintenance of community ponds, youth proposed organizing regular pond-cleaning drives, removing waste and stagnant materials, installing awareness signage, and establishing a routine maintenance schedule in coordination with the **Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)**, ward representatives, and community members.
2. To mitigate safety risks linked to inadequate lighting in bathroom facilities, youth recommended immediate installation and repair of lighting systems, regular maintenance checks, and ensuring safe access routes through coordination with KMC and local representatives.
3. To address risks of sexual harassment affecting children, youth emphasized strengthening child protection mechanisms through awareness and sensitization sessions on child rights and safety, formation of community vigilance groups, and promotion of accessible reporting and referral systems in collaboration with child protection committees, schools, police, and community leaders

FINDINGS FROM KOLKATA (Ward 58)

Dhapa Bhibi (Ward 58)

1) **Child Marriage**: Incidences and risks of child marriage continue to persist in the Mallikpara area, adversely impacting children's education, health, and long-term life opportunities.
2) **Child Labour**: The engagement of children in various forms of labour was identified as a major concern in the Dhapa Dhipi area. This practice limits access to education and exposes children to exploitative and unsafe working conditions.
3) **Eve-Teasing and Girls' Safety Concerns:** Adolescent girls reported frequent incidents of eve-teasing in the area behind the ITC premises. Due to fear and safety concerns, many girls avoid this route, leading to restricted mobility and reduced access to public spaces.
4) **Poor Solid Waste Management:** Accumulation of garbage along several roads and lanes, particularly in the Mallikpara area, has resulted in unhygienic conditions, increasing environmental and public health risks.
5) **Garbage Dumping Near Community Water Points:** In Dhapa Dhipi, areas surrounding community water taps—especially where water supply is irregular—have become informal garbage dumping sites. This has led to unsanitary conditions and heightened health risks for residents using these facilities

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth

Dhapa Bhibi (Ward 58)

1) **Child Marriage (Mallikpara):** Youth proposed community awareness sessions on the legal and harmful impacts of child marriage, engagement with parents and community leaders, and strengthening community vigilance to identify and report at-risk children. Linking vulnerable families

with education and social welfare schemes was also emphasized. They also suggested to bring this issue in front of the WLCPC Meetings for speedy redressal.

2) Child Labour (Dhapa Dhipi): Youth recommended identification and referral of child labour cases to local PS.

3) Eve-Teasing and Girls' Safety (Behind ITC Premises): To improve safety, youth suggested installation and repair of street lights, increased police patrolling, and formation of community vigilance groups. Gender-sensitization activities and safety awareness sessions for adolescents were also proposed.

4) Poor Solid Waste Management (Mallikpara): Youth proposed regular waste collection, installation of dustbins at key locations by coordinating with Municipalties, community cleanliness drives, and awareness activities to promote proper waste disposal, along with follow-up with municipal authorities.

5) Garbage Dumping Near Community Water Points (Dhapa Dhipi): Youth recommended regular cleaning around water taps, placement of waste bins, hygiene awareness sessions, and community monitoring to prevent dumping and ensure safe access to water.

FINDINGS FROM BHUBANESWAR (Ward 14)

Bhubaneswar – Somnath Slum (Ward 14)

The youth-led safety audit in Somnath Slum (Ward 14) brought forth critical insights into systemic lacuna of basic services and its impact on safety, dignity, and inclusion within the settlement.

1. A major structural concern identified was the **absence of a proper drainage system**, leading to waterlogging, unhygienic conditions, and increased health risks. Youths reported that stagnant water creates unsafe walking conditions, particularly during the monsoon, and limits children's mobility.
2. The audit also highlighted the **complete absence of green zones or tree cover** within the slum. Youth participants linked this lack of greenery to heat stress, absence of safe recreational spaces, and reduced environmental quality, further limiting positive community interaction.
3. Social safety concerns were raised regarding the **open use of slang and inappropriate language in public spaces**, which contributes to an unsafe and uncomfortable environment, especially for girls and younger adolescents. Youths noted that such behaviour normalises verbal harassment and discourages free participation in community life.
4. Another significant finding was the **absence of barricades at slum entry and exit points**, despite the presence of a busy main road in front of the settlement. This poses serious risks of road accidents, particularly for children, elderly residents, and persons with disabilities.
5. The **poorly lit area near the Kanyashram temple** was identified as a high-risk zone. Due to inadequate lighting, children are restricted from accessing these areas after evening hours, limiting their participation in educational, cultural, and religious activities.
6. Youth participants also expressed concerns about **suspected unethical or illegal activities in isolated pockets of the settlement**, which creates fear and restricts movement during certain times of the day. These locations were consistently marked as unsafe during safety perception mapping.

7. Finally, the **lack of lighting in nearby construction areas** was identified as a safety hazard for both residents and workers, increasing the risk of accidents and misuse of space after dark.

The findings from Bhubaneswar underlined how **deficiencies in basic urban infrastructure, combined with social risks, directly impact the safety and inclusion of adolescents and youth**, particularly in informal settlements.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth

Bhubaneswar – Somnath Slum (Ward 14)

1) In Somnath Slum, the youth-led hotspot ranking exercise resulted in a comprehensive set of mitigation strategies addressing both infrastructure gaps and social safety risks. To tackle the absence of a proper drainage system, youth proposed the construction of a planned drainage network covering the entire settlement, along with regular cleaning and maintenance to prevent waterlogging. Youth highlighted that improved drainage would reduce health risks, improve hygiene, and ensure safer walking conditions, particularly during the monsoon season when children and adolescents face heightened mobility challenges.

2) Addressing the lack of green zones and tree cover, youth recommended the creation of green spaces through plantation drives within the settlement. They proposed planting shade-giving trees along internal lanes and open areas and involving youth groups in the maintenance of these spaces. Youth linked the presence of greenery to reduced heat stress, improved environmental quality, and the creation of safe recreational spaces that encourage positive community interaction.

3) To address social safety concerns related to the open use of slang and inappropriate language in public spaces, youth suggested conducting awareness sessions focused on respectful communication, gender sensitivity, and social values. Youth-led campaigns and engagement with community leaders were proposed to reinforce positive behavioural norms. These measures were identified as essential for creating a safer and more inclusive social environment, particularly for girls and younger adolescents.

4) The absence of barricades at the entry and exit points of the slum, despite its proximity to a busy main road, was identified as a serious safety hazard. Youth proposed the installation of barricades, safety railings, and appropriate signage, in coordination with traffic police and Bhubaneswar municipal authorities. These interventions were prioritised to reduce the risk of road accidents involving children, elderly residents, and persons with disabilities.

5) In the poorly lit area near the Kanyashram temple, youth recommended the installation of new streetlights and the repair of existing ones to ensure adequate illumination with active cooperation from BMC. Improved lighting in this area was seen as crucial to enabling safe access to educational, cultural, and religious spaces after evening hours, particularly for children and adolescent girls.

6) Concerns regarding suspected unethical or illegal activities in isolated pockets of the settlement led youth to propose increased community vigilance through youth-led watch groups, regular coordination with local police, and improved lighting in these areas. These measures were expected to deter unsafe activities, reduce fear, and restore a sense of safety within the settlement. They suggested to have half yearly interaction/ meetings if possible quarterly with the duty bearers to ensure patrolling in the dark sites.

7) Finally, to address safety risks associated with poorly lit construction areas near the settlement, youth suggested the installation of adequate lighting in and around construction

zones and the enforcement of safety compliance by that particular building developers and contractors. These actions were aimed at reducing accidents, preventing misuse of space after dark, and ensuring the safety of both residents and workers.

In conclusion, the mitigation strategies proposed by youth in Somnath Slum demonstrate a strong emphasis on restoring basic services, enhancing environmental and social safety, and strengthening community-led monitoring mechanisms. These youth-driven solutions provide a clear pathway for translating safety audit findings into tangible improvements in safety, dignity, and inclusion within the settlements.

FINDINGS FROM BHUBANESWAR (Ward 02)

Bhubaneswar- Jalimunda Sahi (Ward 02)

1. **Rising school dropout rates** emerged as a critical concern. Youths observed that children dropping out of formal education are increasingly exposed to child labour and exploitative work environments. Economic stress within households, lack of parental awareness about the long-term benefits of education, and weak follow-up mechanisms were identified as key contributing factors.

2. **Open dumping of garbage** due to the absence of a structured waste management system was identified as a major environmental and health hazard. Youths reported that uncollected waste leads to foul odour, breeding of mosquitoes, and frequent illness among children. Poor hygiene and sanitation practices, compounded by limited community awareness, further aggravate health risks and create unsafe living conditions.

3. A serious social safety issue highlighted during the audit **was the preparation and sale of local liquor (Handia) within the community.** Youth participants noted that this activity attracts outsiders who often use abusive language, create fear, and sometimes misbehave with women, children, and adolescents. The situation was also linked to increased incidents of domestic violence, directly affecting the physical safety, emotional well-being, and mental health of women and children in the settlement.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth

JaliMunda Sahi (Ward 02)

1. **Preventing school dropouts and child labour**: To counter rising dropout rates, youth proposed regular counselling sessions with parents and caregivers to emphasise the importance of enrolling children in formal schooling and ensuring their continued attendance. Youth groups suggested supporting linkages with schools, teachers, and child protection services to track at-risk children and prevent their engagement in child labour. Youths suggested to highlight this issue in Child Protection committee meetings as a method of community ownership in order to resolve this matter of concerns.

2. **Addressing open dumping and poor waste management:** Youth recommended structured dialogue with the local administration, corporate entities, companies, and the Zonal Deputy Commissioner of the North Zone to facilitate the provision of large community garbage bins and ensure regular waste collection at the slum entry points. Awareness sessions on waste segregation, hygiene, and sanitation were also proposed to promote responsible community practices and reduce health risks.

3. **Enhancing safety and protection of women and children:** In response to safety concerns linked to the preparation and sale of liquor within the settlement, youth proposed coordinated and sustained engagement with the Mayor's Office, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and local police authorities to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure the safety and protection of children and adolescents. Youth also emphasised the need for enhanced community vigilance, focused awareness initiatives on domestic violence, and improved access to support and referral mechanisms for women and children affected by such incidents. Given the extreme sensitivity of this issue, youth further recommended that it be formally represented through a Charter of Demands, seeking direct oversight and supervision by the Mayor to ensure timely action, accountability, and sustained safeguards

FINDINGS FROM BHUBANESWAR (Ward 62)

Bhubaneswar- Kargil Basti (Ward 62)

1. The CINI-run Inclusive Learning Centre (ILC) operates from a shared community space that was renovated using TDH funds with a bare minimum cost. However, despite this support, the space continues to face significant challenges, including inadequate ventilation, insufficient lighting, and lack of exhaust facilities. During summer months, the room becomes extremely hot and suffocating, and the partially grilled and partially cemented structure creates difficulties during the monsoon season. As a result, the space remains less child-friendly and requires further structural renovation to ensure a safe, comfortable, and conducive learning environment for children.
2. The internal lanes lack adequate street lighting, raising safety concerns for children and community members. Furthermore, the nearby park is not child-friendly as the gates are broken and the space remains unrenovated.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth

Kargil Basti (Ward 62)

I. Youth proposed further structural renovation of the Inclusive Learning Centre (ILC) to improve ventilation, natural airflow, Floor renovation and lighting by coordinating with Mahasangha Slum committee and community leaders.

II. Youth recommended the installation and repair of street lights with active coordination with BMC in internal lanes to enhance safety and visibility, particularly during evening hours. They also proposed the renovation of the community park, including repairing broken gates, ensuring regular maintenance, and making the space safe and accessible for children and adolescents. Youth further suggested engaging community members and ward-level authorities through collective meetings and representations to expedite these infrastructure improvements.

FINDINGS FROM RANCHI (Ward 02)

Ranchi – Misirgonda (Ward 02)

The youth-led safety audit in Misirgonda (Ward 2) identified multiple safety, social, and environmental challenges that affect the everyday mobility and well-being of children, adolescents, and women, particularly girls. These challenges highlight how unsafe public spaces, inadequate infrastructure, and weak community monitoring contribute to fear and restricted access to common areas.

1. Inadequate street lighting at locations such as Milan Chowk and Yamaha Showroom Road emerged as a major concern. Poorly lit and isolated stretches increase fear and incidents of eve teasing, leading girls and young women to avoid these areas after dark.
2. Substance use, gambling, and antisocial activities were reported around the Pahad School area and Kharkocha Maidan. These spaces were perceived as unsafe for children and adolescents due to the presence of intoxicated individuals and disruptive behaviour.
3. Youth also highlighted frequent gatherings of boys, substance use, and harassment of girls at Lohara Kucha Chowk. The absence of monitoring has normalised unsafe behaviour, making girls feel vulnerable while accessing public spaces.
4. An unsafe environment near the Upar Tola Government School area was identified due to unnecessary gatherings of boys, affecting the safety of girls and younger children, particularly during school hours.
5. Environmental risks such as open drains, waterlogging, and garbage accumulation were also documented. These conditions contribute to health hazards, accidents, and reduced dignity in public spaces.

Overall, the findings from Misirgonda demonstrate how infrastructure gaps, substance abuse, and environmental neglect intersect to limit safe access to public spaces for children, adolescents, and women.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth

Misirgonda (Ward 02)

Based on hotspot ranking, youth in Misirgonda proposed practical and preventive strategies to address the identified concerns.

1. To improve safety in poorly lit areas, youth recommended installation and repair of streetlights through the Municipal Corporation and Ward Councillor, supported by regular follow-up and community monitoring in Milan Chowk and Yamaha Showroom Road.
2. To address substance use and antisocial behaviour near Pahad School and Kharkocha Maidan, youth proposed to report concerns to relevant authorities, conducting substance abuse awareness programmes, and promoting positive recreational activities.
3. To reduce harassment at Lohara Kucha Chowk, youth suggested gender-sensitisation sessions and regular engagement of youth groups, community members, and local leaders in monitoring public spaces.
4. To improve safety near the Upar Tola Government School area, youth recommended coordination with school authorities and community leaders to discourage unsafe gatherings.
5. To address environmental hazards, youth proposed regular cleaning and maintenance of drains, installation of protective coverings, and community awareness on proper waste disposal along with submission of complaints to Municipal authorities and continuing periodic follow up of the process.

FINDINGS FROM RANCHI (Ward 05)

Ranchi Lem Bargain (Ward 05)

The hotspot mapping exercise conducted in Ward 5 identified multiple infrastructure, environmental, and protection-related vulnerabilities that affect the safety and well-being of children, adolescents, and the wider community. The findings highlight how inadequate basic services, environmental hazards, and unsafe activities in public spaces create risks, particularly for children.

1. A major concern identified was the lack of adequate street lighting in several locations across the ward. Poor illumination reduces visibility, increases fear, and restricts safe movement during evening and early morning hours, especially for children and women.
2. The presence of open drains was identified as a significant environmental and safety hazard. Youth and community members reported waterlogging, foul odour, and increased risk of accidents and health issues due to uncovered and poorly maintained drainage systems.
3. Chimney-related pollution and smoke from nearby establishments were reported as a concern, contributing to poor air quality and respiratory discomfort for residents, particularly children and elderly community members.
4. Unsafe and unregulated activities around the football ground were identified as a safety risk. These activities were perceived as creating an insecure environment for children and adolescents who use the space for recreation.
5. An unsafe environment near school premises was highlighted as a critical child protection concern. Community members expressed that the lack of monitoring around schools increases vulnerability and compromises the safety of children during school hours.
6. Substance abuse was reported as a cross-cutting issue affecting multiple locations within the ward. Youth participants linked substance use to unsafe behaviour, reduced use of public spaces, and increased risks for children and adolescents.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youths

Lem Bargain Ward 05

Based on the hotspot identification exercise, community members proposed a set of practical and preventive mitigation strategies to address the vulnerabilities identified in Ward 5.

1. To address inadequate street lighting, youths recommended submitting written complaints to the Municipal Corporation and the Ward Councillor for installation of new streetlights and regular maintenance of existing ones.
2. To mitigate risks posed by open drains, it was proposed to submit complaints to the Municipal Corporation and concerned authorities for covering, repair, and routine maintenance of drainage systems to prevent accidents and health hazards.
3. To address chimney-related pollution and smoke, community members suggested reporting the issue to the concerned departments and local administration for appropriate regulatory action.
4. In response to unsafe activities around the football ground, community members proposed submitting complaints to the police and seeking support from local authorities to regulate activities and ensure safer use of the space.

5. To improve safety near school premises, it was recommended to report concerns to the District Education Officer (DEO) and other relevant authorities to strengthen monitoring and child protection measures.

6. To address substance abuse, youths proposed conducting awareness activities at the community level and reporting incidents to concerned authorities and child protection mechanisms for timely intervention.

FINDINGS FROM RANCHI (Ward 28)

Ranchi Madhukam (Ward 28)

1. One of the most prominent concerns identified is the presence of dark and poorly lit areas, particularly the corner of Murga Maidan and stretches along Madhukam Talab Road. These locations were reported as unsafe for girls, with incidents of eve teasing and harassment restricting free movement during evening hours.

2. Gambling and substance use near Murga Maidan emerged as major safety concerns. Youth and community members reported that the presence of intoxicated individuals contributes to an unsafe environment and discourages children and adolescents from using public spaces.

3. Illegal alcohol production and sale in parts of Madhukam Slum were identified as serious protection and public health concerns. Youths highlighted that such activities increase violence, unsafe behaviour, and exposure of children to harmful environments.

4. The gathering of intoxicated individuals near the Akhada was reported as creating persistent harassment and unsafe conditions, particularly during evening and night hours, limiting safe access to surrounding areas.

5. Substance use and unsafe gatherings near Sarna Masna during evening hours were also identified as a concern, with youth noting the lack of lighting and monitoring as key contributing factors.

6. Environmental issues such as garbage accumulation near Madhukam Talab Road and Murga Maidan, along with blocked drains caused by waste dumping, were reported to create unhygienic conditions, health risks, and accident hazards for residents.

Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth and Community

Madhukam (Ward 28)

Based on the hotspot identification and ranking exercise, youth and community members proposed a set of practical, preventive, and rights-based mitigation strategies to address the safety concerns identified in Ward 28.

1. To address dark and unsafe areas such as Murga Maidan and Madhukam Talab Road, youths recommended submitting written complaints to the Municipal Corporation and the Ward Councillor for installation and regular maintenance of streetlights. Strengthening community vigilance and coordination with local police for regular patrolling were also proposed, alongside awareness activities on women's and girls' safety.

2. To mitigate gambling and substance use near Murga Maidan, youth proposed reporting the issue to local authorities and police for necessary action, combined with community

awareness programmes on the harmful effects of gambling and substance abuse and strengthened community monitoring.

3. To address illegal alcohol production and sale in Madhukam Slum, youths recommended reporting the issue to the Excise Department and local administration for verification and appropriate action, along with community awareness on the risks associated with illegal alcohol production and consumption.
4. In response to harassment and unsafe conditions near the Akhada, youth proposed improving lighting, strengthening community monitoring, and coordinating with local authorities and police for regular surveillance and preventive measures.
5. To improve safety near Sarna Masna, youth recommended installing adequate lighting, strengthening community vigilance, organising awareness sessions for adolescents and youth, and coordinating with local authorities for regular monitoring during evening hours.
6. To address environmental and sanitation concerns, community members suggested submitting complaints to the Municipal Corporation for regular waste collection and sanitation services, conducting cleanliness drives, and promoting awareness on proper waste disposal. Regular cleaning, repair, and maintenance of drains were also proposed to prevent blockages and health risks.

Consolidated Findings & Youth led Mitigation Strategies (Ward Wise in 10 Wards)

City / Location	Ward No. & Area	Key Findings Identified by Youth	Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth
Kolkata	**Ward 26 – Rambagan**	1. Fear and restricted mobility due to street dogs in Lohapatty 2. Inadequate street lighting in Dayal Mitra Lane & Ramesh Dutta Street 3. Substance abuse and antisocial behaviour near Company Bagan, KMC School & Dabtala Gali 4. Insufficient police patrolling near red-light area 5. Poor waste management in Lohapatty, Vivekananda Pally & Manicktala Lane	1. Coordinate sterilisation and vaccination of street dogs with KMC Veterinary Dept. and create designated feeding zones 2. Install and repair streetlights with KMC Lighting Dept. and ensure community monitoring 3. Conduct substance-abuse awareness, counselling and reclaim unsafe spaces through structured youth activities 4. Increase police patrolling and form youth-led community watch groups & informing the issue in WLCPC meetings 5. Coordinating with KMC officials to install dustbins, strengthen waste collection and conduct youth-led cleanliness drives and probing KMC Sanitation department for regularised waste collection from the slum
Kolkata	**Ward 18 – Sonagachi**	1. Garbage accumulation at Immam Box Lane 2. Non-functional and damaged streetlights near Ramjoy Seal School & Fakir Chakrabarti Lane	1. Coordinating with municipal authorities for installation of dustbins 2. Repair/replace streetlights; explore durable or solar lighting with community vigilance

City / Location	Ward No. & Area	Key Findings Identified by Youth	Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth
		3. Poor roads and garbage heaps at Madhugali & Nilmoni Mitra Street	3. Joint representations for road repair, drain cleaning and garbage removal to KMC;
Kolkata	**Ward 32 – Bidhannagar**	1. Poor maintenance of community ponds near Khudiram Pally 2. Inadequate lighting in community bathroom areas at Subhas Pally 3. Risks of eve teasing of children & adolescents at Dhopar Math	1. Organise regular pond-cleaning drives and routine maintenance with KMC and ward representatives 2. Install and maintain lighting in and around bathroom facilities with help of local youth clubs 3. Strengthen child protection through awareness on child rights, vigilance groups and referral mechanisms to the nearby youth clubs, PS
Kolkata	**Ward 58 – Dhapa Bhibi**	1. Persistent risk of child marriage in Mallikpara 2. Child labour prone area in Dhapa Dhipi 3. Eve-teasing and unsafe routes behind ITC premises 4. Poor solid waste management and garbage dumping near water points	1. Conduct community awareness on child marriage laws; strengthen vigilance and link families with welfare schemes; escalate cases to WLCPC 2. Identify and refer child labour cases to police and child protection systems 3. Improve lighting, increase police patrolling and form community vigilance groups 4. Regular waste collection, dustbin installation, hygiene awareness and monitoring around water points through KMC sanitation department
Bhubaneswar	**Ward 14 – Somnath Slum**	1. Absence of proper drainage causing waterlogging and health risks 2. Lack of green spaces and recreational areas 3. No barricades at slum entry/exit near busy road 4. Poor lighting near Kanyashram Temple, construction zones and isolated pockets	1. Advocate for construction and regular maintenance of drainage systems with BMC 2. Organise plantation drives and youth-managed green spaces 3. Install barricades, railings and safety signage with help from traffic authorities 4. Install/repair streetlights; strengthen police coordination and youth-led watch groups
Bhubaneswar	**Ward 02 – Jalimunda Sahi**	1. School dropouts leading to child labour and exploitation. 2. Open garbage dumping causing health and sanitation risks. 3. Local liquor (Handia) preparation creating safety risks and domestic violence	1. Parental counselling, school linkage, child tracking through CPCs. 2. Coordinate with authorities like corporate entities, companies, and the Zonal Deputy Commissioner of the North Zon for dustbins installation, regular waste collection and hygiene awareness. 3. Engage Mayor's Office, CWC and police; strengthen community vigilance and referrals.

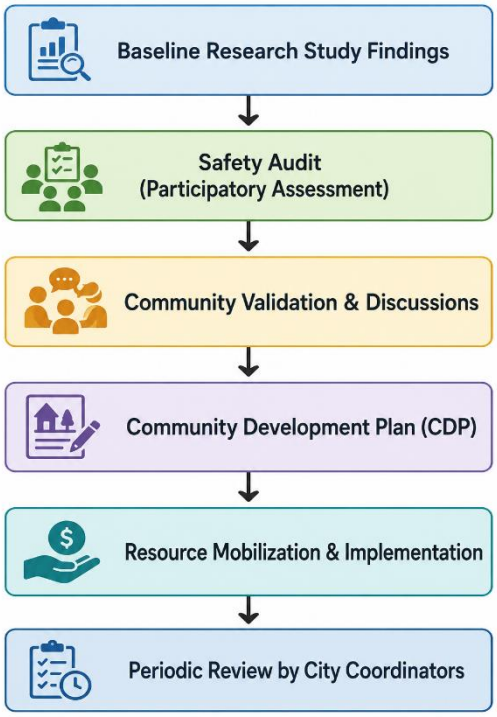
City / Location	Ward No. & Area	Key Findings Identified by Youth	Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth
Bhubaneswar	**Ward 62 – Kargil Basti**	1. The ILC at Kargil basti has been renovated with a minimum cost from the Renovation fund of the project however the centre still requires renovation especially for summer and monsoon season to make it more ventilated, adequately lit, proper flooring in order to make it comfortable and child-friendly. 2. 2. Inadequate street lighting in internal lanes and an unrenovated park with broken gates pose safety risks for children and community members.	1. Initiate dialogue with the Mahasangha Slum Committee for further renovation of the Inclusive Learning Centre (ILC), enabling its use as a sustainable community safe space beyond project closure. 2. Coordinate with BMC for the repair of streetlights and renovation of the community park to improve safety and accessibility for children and residents
Ranchi	**Ward 02 – Misirgonda**	1. Poor lighting at Milan Chowk & Yamaha Showroom Road 2. Substance use and antisocial activities near Pahad School & Kharkocha Maidan 3. Harassment of girls at Lohara Kucha Chowk 4. Unsafe environment near Upar Tola Government School 5. Open drains, waterlogging and garbage accumulation	1. Install and repair streetlights with municipal authorities and ensure follow-up 2. Conduct substance-abuse awareness and promote positive recreational activities 3. Organise gender-sensitisation and community monitoring at hotspots 4. Coordinate with school authorities to discourage unsafe gatherings 5. Clean and cover drains, improve waste management and conduct community awareness with active support from Municipal authorities
Ranchi	**Ward 05 – Lem Bargain**	1. Inadequate street lighting across the ward 2. Open drains causing health and accident risks 3. Chimney-related pollution and smoke 4. Unsafe activities near football ground 5. Weak monitoring near schools 6. Substance abuse as a cross-cutting issue	1. Submit complaints for new and repaired streetlights 2. Advocate covering and maintenance of drains to municipal authorities 3. Report pollution issues to concerned departments 4. Seek police support to regulate activities near football ground 5. Strengthen school-area monitoring via education authorities 6. Conduct substance-abuse awareness and referrals
Ranchi	**Ward 28 – Madhukam**	1. Dark and unsafe areas near Murga Maidan & Madhukam Talab Road 2. Gambling and substance use in public spaces 3. Illegal alcohol production and sale	1. Install and maintain streetlights with help from Municipalities; increase police patrolling and community vigilance 2. Report gambling and substance use to PS & ensure regularised monitoring by the duty bearers

City / Location	Ward No. & Area	Key Findings Identified by Youth	Mitigation Strategies Proposed by Youth
		4. Harassment near Akhada and Sarna Masna 5. Garbage accumulation and blocked drains	3. Report illegal alcohol activities to Excise Dept. and local administration 4. Improve lighting and monitoring near Akhada and Sarna Masna 5. Ensure regular waste collection, cleanliness drives and drain maintenance with help from Ranchi Municipal department

FROM AUDIT TO ACTION (A 2 A)

Based on the validated findings, Community Development Plans (CDPs) has been developed as actionable roadmaps for improving safety and inclusion in public spaces. This CDPs will involve joint planning with community members and stakeholders and discussions will focus on translating identified issues into practical solutions by guiding resource mobilization and implementation efforts, enabling communities and stakeholders to take forward prioritized actions.

The Safety Audit undertaken in the G-SAFE+ Project is embedded within a larger evidence-to-action framework, ensuring that research findings are systematically translated into community-led planning and tangible improvements in public spaces. The process follows a structured flow that connects research, assessment, validation, and action.



CONCLUSION FROM YOUTH-LED FINDINGS TO TANGIBLE COMMUNITY CHANGE

The Youth-Led Urban Safety Audit has demonstrated that **adolescents and youth are not only capable of identifying safety risks but are also critical agents of change within their communities**. By applying

Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) tools, the audit transformed lived experiences into structured, evidence-based findings that reflect real safety challenges at the ward level.

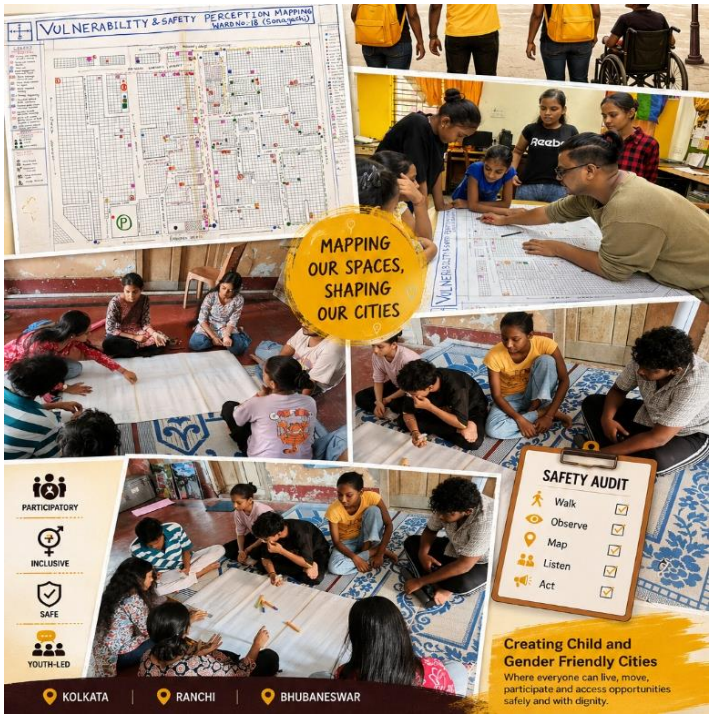
The **Youth-Led Community Action Plans**, developed through hotspot ranking and mitigation planning, serve as **practical roadmaps for action**. These plans clearly link identified issues with responsible duty bearers such as municipal authorities, police departments, ward offices, and community institutions, ensuring accountability and feasibility.

By embedding the findings into **Community Development Plans (CDPs)** and planned engagements with local governance structures, the audit ensures that youth voices directly inform urban planning and service delivery. The process strengthens collaboration between communities and authorities, enabling targeted improvements such as enhanced lighting, better waste management, improved policing, and safer public spaces.

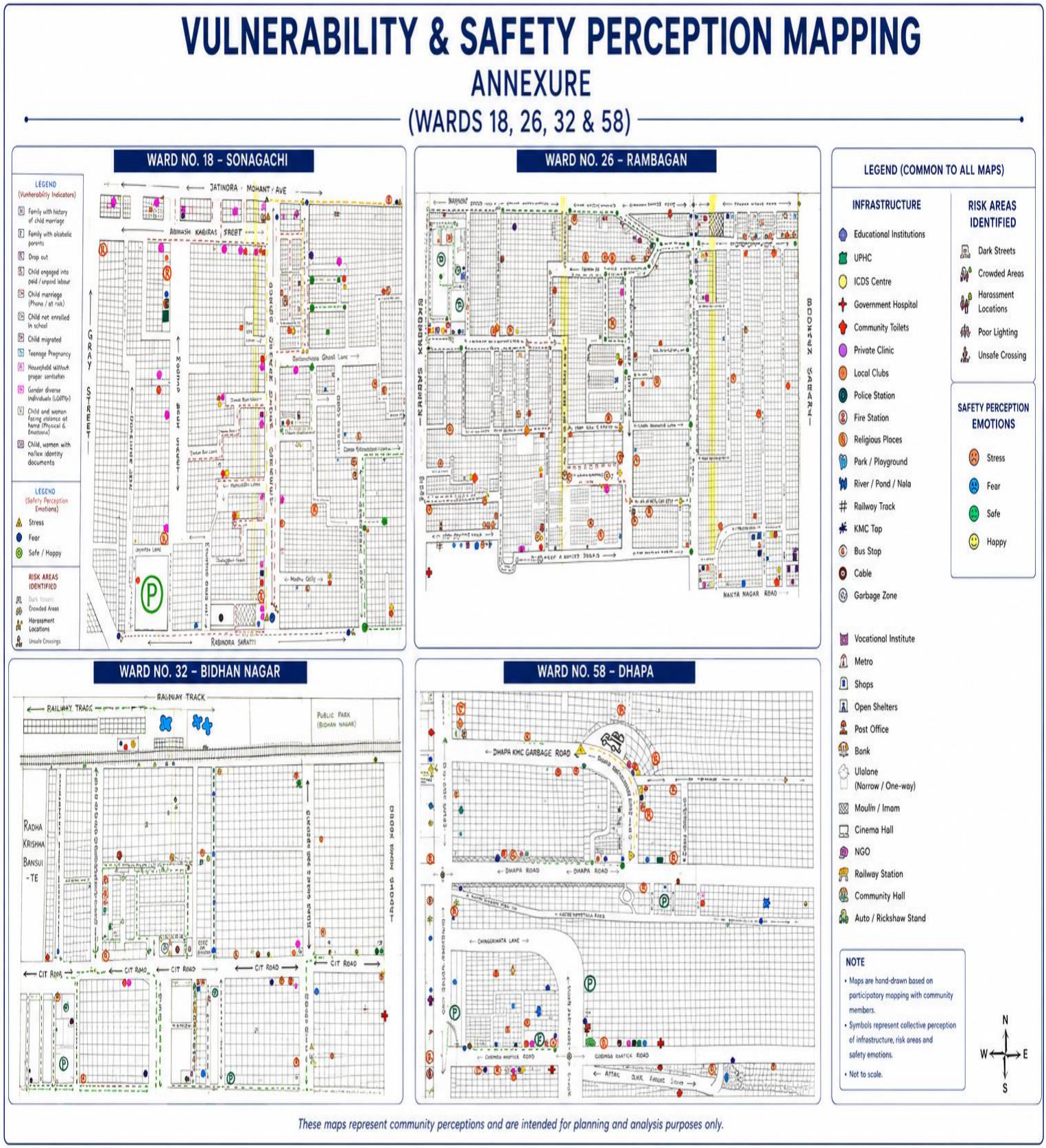
Importantly, this approach fosters **long-term behavioural and systemic change**. Youth participation builds ownership, increases civic awareness, and promotes sustained community vigilance beyond the project lifecycle. As a result, the audit does not remain a one-time assessment but becomes a **continuous evidence-to-action mechanism**.

In conclusion, the Youth-Led Community Action Plans generated through this safety audit have strong potential to bring **tangible, measurable improvements in safety, accessibility, and inclusion**, while empowering young people as partners in building safer, more equitable urban communities.

PHOTO GALLERY



Annexures


VULNERABILITY & SAFETY PERCEPTION MAPPING
ANNEXURE
(WARDS 18, 26, 32 & 58)
WARD NO. 18 - SONAGACHI
WARD NO. 26 - RAMBAGAN
WARD NO. 32 - BIDHAN NAGAR
WARD NO. 58 - DHAPA
LEGEND (COMMON TO ALL MAPS)
INFRASTRUCTURE
Educational Institutions
UPHC
ICDS Centre
Government Hospital
Community Toilets
Private Clinic
Local Clubs
Police Station
Fire Station
Religious Places
Park / Playground
River / Pond / Nala
Railway Track
KMC Tap
Bus Stop
Cable
Garbage Zone
Vocational Institute
Metro
Shops
Open Shelters
Post Office
Bank
Ulalane (Narrow / One-way)
Moulin / Imam
Cinema Hall
NGO
Railway Station
Community Hall
Auto / Rickshaw Stand
RISK AREAS IDENTIFIED
Dark Streets
Crowded Areas
Harassment Locations
Poor Lighting
Unsafe Crossing
SAFETY PERCEPTION EMOTIONS
Stress
Fear
Safe
Happy
NOTE
• Maps are hand-drawn based on participatory mapping with community members.
• Symbols represent collective perception of infrastructure, risk areas and safety emotions.
• Not to scale.
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These maps represent community perceptions and are intended for planning and analysis purposes only.

VULNERABILITY & SAFETY PERCEPTION MAPPING

ANNEXURE

BHUBANESWAR

MAP 1

JALIMUNDA SAHI

(WARD NO. - 02, BHUBANESWAR)

LEGEND

- HOUSE HOLD
- BMC TAP
- ILC (CINI)
- PARK / OPEN SPACE
- STORE / SHOP
- TOILET
- WATER POINT (WELL)
- HANDIA MAKING SPOT
- TEMPLE
- CHURCH
- SCHOOL
- DUMPING SPOT
- SLUM ENTRY / EXIT

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

1. Rising school dropout rates leading to child labour and exploitation.
2. Open dumping of garbage causing health and sanitation risks.
3. Preparation and sale of local liquor (Handia) creating safety risks and domestic violence.

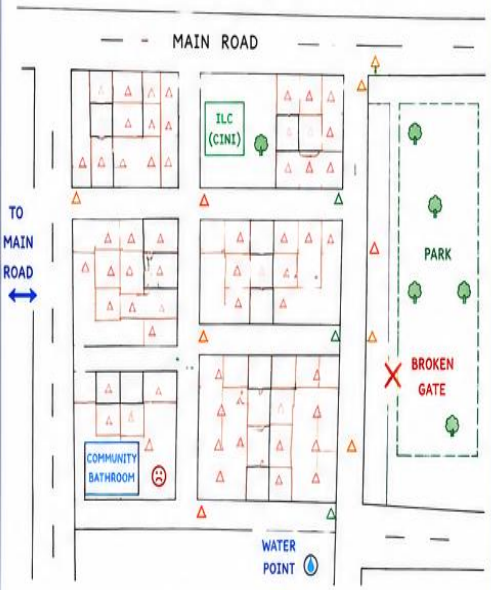
SAFETY PERCEPTION (EMOTIONS)

- HAPPY - Feel safe in some areas like school & church.
- STRESS - Worries about waste, liquor spot and lighting.
- UNHAPPY - Fear of harassment and unsafe environment.

MAP 2

KARGIL BASTI

(WARD NO. - 62, BHUBANESWAR)



LEGEND

- HOUSE HOLD
- ILC (CINI)
- PARK / OPEN SPACE
- STREET LIGHT (NOT WORKING)
- STREET LIGHT (WORKING)
- WATER POINT
- COMMUNITY BATHROOM
- BROKEN GATE

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

1. ILC renovated with minimal support, remains poorly ventilated, less child-friendly in summer & monsoon.
2. Inadequate street lighting in internal lanes.
3. Park not child-friendly; broken gate and no maintenance.

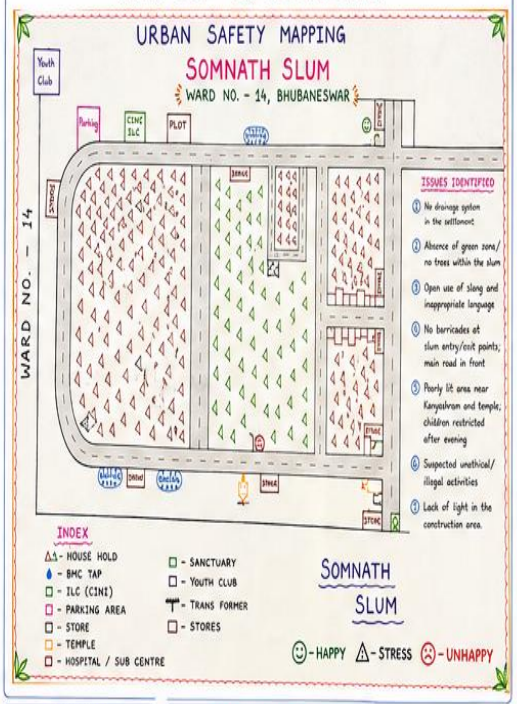
SAFETY PERCEPTION (EMOTIONS)

- HAPPY - Feel safe in some areas.
- STRESS - Worries about poor lighting and unsafe park.
- UNHAPPY - Fear for children during evening and in dark lanes.

MAP 3

SOMNATH SLUM

(WARD NO. - 14, BHUBANESWAR)



LEGEND

- HOUSE HOLD
- PARK / OPEN SPACE
- WATER POINT
- DRAINAGE CHANNEL
- DUMPING SPOT
- STREET LIGHT (NOT WORKING)
- NO BARRICADES
- SCHOOL
- TEMPLE / RELIGIOUS PLACE
- CONSTRUCTION AREA

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

1. Absence of proper drainage causing waterlogging and health risks.
2. Lack of green spaces and recreational areas.
3. Verbal harassment and unsafe social environment.
4. No barricades at slum entry/exit near busy road.
5. Poor lighting in key areas and construction zones.

SAFETY PERCEPTION (EMOTIONS)

- HAPPY - Feel safe in familiar areas.
- STRESS - Worries about dirt, lighting and safety.
- UNHAPPY - Fear of harassment and accidents.

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NOTE

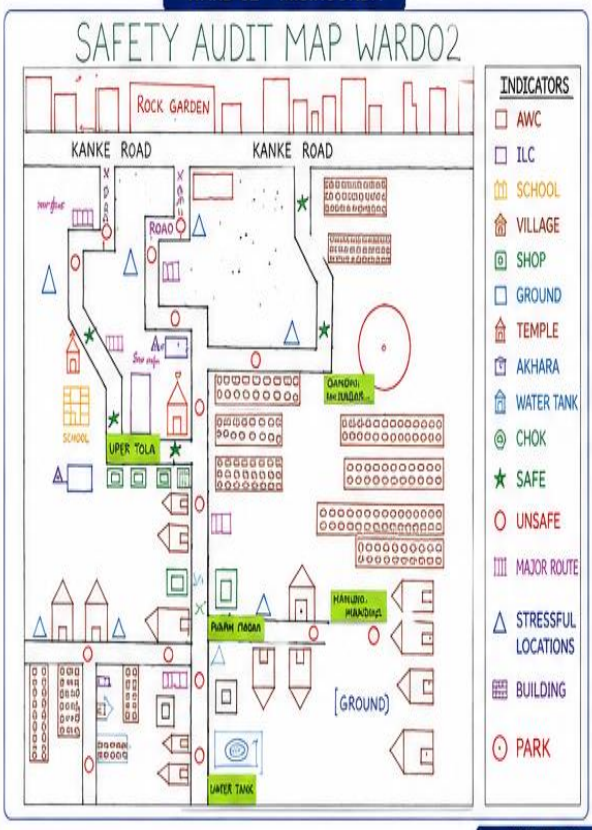
- Maps are drawn based on participatory mapping with youth and community members.
- Symbols represent collective perceptions of infrastructure, risks and safety emotions.
- Map not to scale.

PROPOSED ACTION BY YOUTH (ACROSS ALL MAPS)

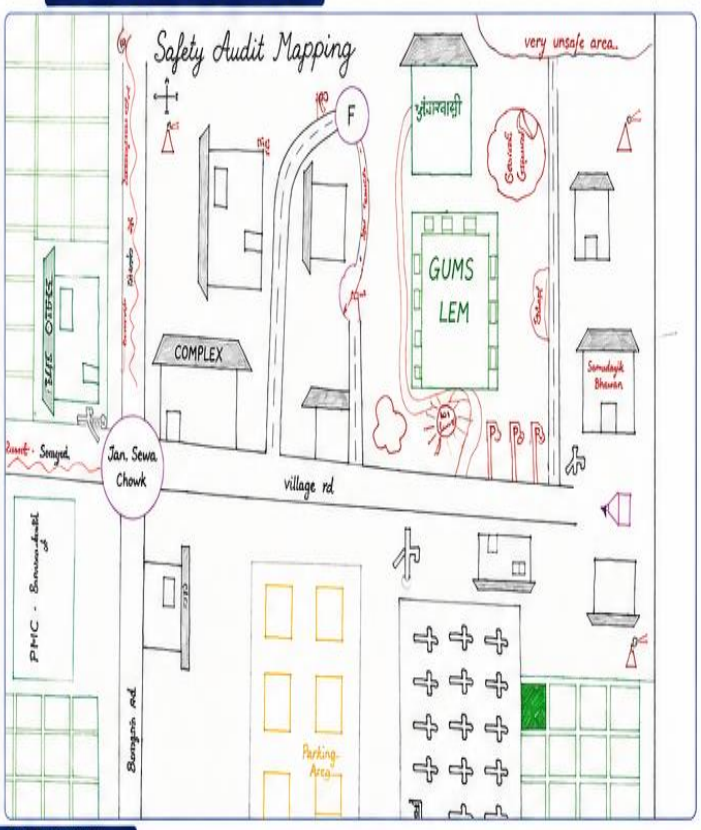
- Improve infrastructure (lighting, drainage, waste management, safe spaces).
- Strengthen child protection, linkages with schools and community services.
- Increase awareness, community vigilance and coordination with authorities.
- Ensure representation of issues in WLCPC / CPC meetings for timely action.

(ANNEXURE)

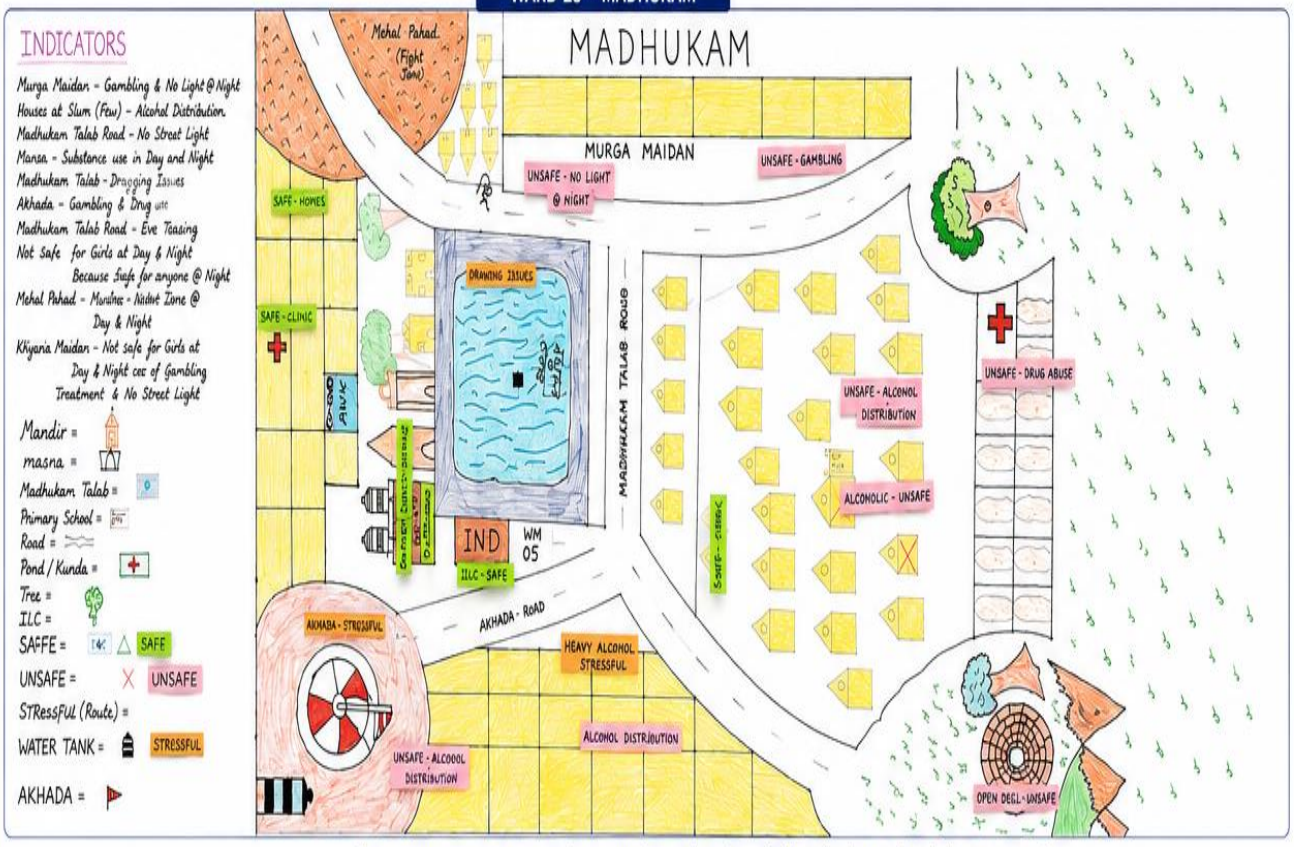
WARD 02 – MISIRGONDA



WARD 05 – LEM BARGAIN



WARD 28 – MADHUKAM



COMMON LEGEND (APPLICABLE TO ALL MAPS)

HOTSPOT / RISK INDICATORS

- Red Zone / Danger Zone
- Poor Lighting
- Isolated Area
- Crowded Area
- Encroachment / Congested
- Substance Use / Alcohol
- Gambling
- No Street Light
- Open Drain / Sewer
- Unsafe for Women/Children
- Theft / Anti-social Activity
- Traffic / Speed
- Construction / Broken Road

FACILITIES / INFRASTRUCTURE

- School
- Anganwadi Centre (AWC)
- ILC Centre
- Community Centre / PMC
- Government Building
- Health Centre / Clinic
- Temple / Religious Place
- Shop / Market
- Park / Playground
- Water Tank
- Toilet
- Akhara / Community Space

SAFETY PERCEPTION (EMOTIONS)

- Unsafe / Fear
- Stressful / Uncomfortable
- Neutral
- Safe / Comfortable
- Very Safe / Happy

NOTE:

- Maps are hand-drawn by community members during safety audit exercises.
- These maps represent collective perceptions of risk areas and safety conditions.
- Not to scale.
- For planning and analysis purposes only.

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These maps represent community perceptions and are intended for planning and analysis purposes only.