Youth in Placemaking: Barriers and Benefits.
Lessons from Cuenca, Bandung, and Envigado

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Appendix 3. Focus group guide

These interviews aim to find out the opinions and perspectives of the youth participants of placemaking projects from 3 different cities in the Global South—Cuenca (Ecuador), Envigado (Colombia) and Bandung (Indonesia)—that took part in the Safe and Sound Cities Programme. The goal is to gather primary data that brings knowledge and adds relevant information to existing academic literature on placemaking and youth engagement in the Global South.

A. Introductory question

Consent to record audio and video, to use their responses and anonymised quotes for the study. Information about the possibilities to withdraw their consent at any time (up until the study is published) without needing to give a reason. Information about how the data will be stored, used, and anonymised. Introduction to the focus group format.

Introductory question asked to each participant.

1. Introduce yourself briefly and your role in the program. What placemaking initiatives did you participate in?

B. Benefits of placemaking

2. What were the main - individual and communal - benefits you experienced from youth placemaking? (from your placemaking initiative)

Additional guiding questions if the topics do not come up organically:

   a. Do you feel more attached/connected to the spaces you worked in? What about the city more generally?
   b. Do you feel safer in public spaces than before?
   c. Do you feel more comfortable using public spaces? Have your feelings changed during and after the project?
   d. What individual, communal, and physical benefits the placemaking activities

C. Barriers to placemaking

3. What were the main barriers in your placemaking initiative?

Additional guiding questions if the topics do not come up organically:

a. Was "placemaking" a new term to you before the project started?
b. Did you use the English term and did you encounter any barriers in using it?
c. Was the new term and the concept itself useful?
d. Did you collaborate with the local authorities? Did you encounter any challenges?
e. Did you encounter any institutional barriers?
f. Did you encounter any interpersonal barriers?
g. Did you encounter any issues with the contents of your projects? (e.g. conflicting needs with other citizen groups)
h. Were there any external barriers limiting your participation in the project? (e.g. school and other responsibilities)
i. Was the overall process of project implementation with different stakeholders smooth or complicated?

D. Overall experience of the programme

Final question asked to each participant.

4. In your experience, were there more benefits or challenges in this programme?

All focus group participants are asked to fill in a survey (Appendix 4) to evaluate their responses on a numerical scale so that the general consensus on the questions is obtained and louder, more extravert voices do not overtake other opinions and experiences.

Thank you for your time and participation.