

Abstract of the Executive summary

Cultural events and public art have a direct and indirect impact on urban safety. The research “Mobile A2K: Culture and Safety in Africa. Documenting and assessing the impact of cultural events and public art on urban safety” mapped and compared a series of case studies on the cultural production of Douala in Cameroon, Luanda in Angola, and Johannesburg in South Africa, between 1991 and 2013. In these contexts safety is a concern appearing constantly in the background, determined by the presence and fear of criminality and violence, and by the threat of forced evictions and natural and man-made disasters. The most relevant result from an international perspective is that the research highlighted the existence of common patterns in different typologies of productions: *proximity artworks* tend to provide infrastructural-functional elements that can directly respond to safety-related problems; *large-scale sculptures and monuments* tend to be more contested and can generate conflicts; *urban-scale artworks and cultural events* participate in urban branding. *Artworks in passageways* are specifically relevant: they do not produce direct impact on urban safety, but they are more likely to establish a personal relationship with the viewer, triggering humanity, ownership, empowerment, active citizenship, value, and sense of pride.