



ARMED VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Project Overview	
Project Title	Armed Violence Prevention Programme
Project Code	33247 (SADU)
Project Duration	Jan 2004-December 2007
Managed By	UNDP BCPR Small Arms and Demobilization Unit
Funded By	United Kingdom
Objectives	To reduce armed violence and demand for small arms in selected settings and generate best practices in violence prevention
Status	Ongoing

Situation Analysis

There is increasing recognition that armed violence is a global problem with important development, health and security dimensions. Aside from the direct human health impacts, the wider socio-economic costs of armed violence include direct health care costs, declining economic activity, decreased development assistance and investment, reduced government resources, and damage to social structures and social capital.

The linkage between these wider impacts and violence is poorly understood as a major contributor to the deterioration and exacerbation of poverty within areas affected by violence. For example, the Inter-American Development Bank recently estimated the economic costs of armed violence in Latin America at approximately 12% of regional GDP during the late 1990s.

A number of key international actors have recognized the need for concerted action and analysis on armed violence reduction. Recent discussions at the First Biennial Meeting of States

on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in July 2003, drew attention to the need to reduce demand for weapons. Similarly, in April 2003, a UK government sponsored workshop recommended that approaches to the small arms issue be expanded to address the prevention of armed violence directly as a key step in securing sustainable human development.

UNDP's mission is to promote sustainable development, in particular the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Where armed violence prevents development and the attainment of these goals, UNDP's key concern is to contribute towards efforts to prevent violence and offer other avenues toward security, sustainable livelihoods, and development opportunities. At the same time, with the launch of its World Report on Violence and Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared violence a leading global public health problem, and called for evidence-based approaches for the prevention of violence and evaluation of model violence prevention programmes.

While some violence prevention projects have achieved notable success in developed countries, there has been very little effort to address human security by preventing armed violence in the lesser-developed world where the problem is most pressing.

Project Strategy

This action-research programme is being undertaken in partnership with WHO, and will draw on WHO's substantial experience in the analysis of armed violence and its impacts. It will seek to fill gaps in armed violence research and policy by supporting, guiding and evaluating interventions aimed at reducing armed violence in a number of settings.

The programme will have the following general objectives:

- To reduce armed violence and demand for small arms in selected settings.
- To develop improved policies and strategies to address armed violence at the local and national levels in selected countries.
- To generate best practices and lessons learned in violence prevention.

A multi-agency collaborative effort will help ensure that a coherent mechanism exists to transfer experiences from one part of the world to another, while also developing local capacities and taking full advantage of existing expertise and experience related to armed violence prevention. The programme would provide an opportunity to integrate the issues related to violence prevention more effectively within WHO and UNDP, as well as sensitize other development actors and relevant UN agencies and international financial institutions.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the impacts of armed violence on health and development, including the MDGs, in order to generate effective and evidence-guided responses to armed violence.

Operationally, the programme will provide for technical assistance, monitoring, and evaluation of applied prevention projects in six countries. In each country, the programme will directly support and assess the effectiveness of armed violence prevention initiatives. Lessons learned in these model interventions will be used to design and shape interventions in various other contexts, including through other UNDP and WHO projects. Data collection and analysis, supported by ongoing dialogue with national and local authorities, will guide the provision of technical assistance to strengthen relevant policy frameworks.

The programme will take place in two phases over four years. In the first phase, three countries will be chosen using a number of selection criteria. These include indications that armed violence has become a substantial impediment to development, as well as the presence of existing community-based violence prevention programmes. The second phase will follow a consultative review, and will target an additional three affected countries with less experience with armed violence prevention and more in need of

strong inputs based on understandings and strategies developed in the first phase.

In order to transfer experiences across regions and share results with the donor community, the programme will review all country-based interventions and derive from this review an evidence based understanding of best practices. Such emerging best practices will form the design of phase two of the programme and will also be shared within regional networks. Further to this, these emerging best practices will serve as the basis for a consultative review meeting in 2005 involving WHO, UNDP, donors, and relevant stakeholders on violence prevention. At the conclusion of the programme, all findings will be consolidated and shared across settings and within appropriate regional and global fora.

Results Framework

The following are the main focus areas and major activities of the project:

- Enhanced national policies for violence prevention, including the development of national action plans for violence prevention;
- Capacity development at the levels of national governments, civil society, and international organizations to prevent violence, monitor ongoing progress, and develop more evidence guided violence prevention policies in the future;
- Six initiatives supported, developed, implemented and assessed in terms of their effectiveness to prevent violence;
- Development of more integrated approaches to violence prevention and reduction within international organizations and throughout the donor community.

Contact Information

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