



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION
CAMPAGNE MONDIALE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION NEWSLETTER N° 4 — APRIL 2004

Milestones of a global campaign for violence prevention	1
Country-level initiatives	2
Global Interpersonal Violence Prevention Alliance	3
Implementing the recommendations of the <i>World report on violence and health</i>	4
UN collaboration for the prevention of interpersonal violence	4
Looking ahead	4

The year 2004 began with two major events in the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention. In early January, the meeting *Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention* took place with the aim of reflecting on achievements since the launch of the *World report on violence and health* and of planning for the coming years. Later that month, United Nations agencies concerned with preventing interpersonal violence convened at WHO to discuss advocacy efforts for violence prevention. This newsletter describes both these meetings and reviews ongoing activities to implement the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*.

MILESTONES OF A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

On 12 January 2004, in collaboration with the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland, WHO convened an international meeting of about 200 partners in the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention to review the progress made so far in the Campaign and to plan the next steps.



Dr Pierre-François Unger, Minister for Social Action and Health of Geneva, opened the meeting. Dr LEE Jong-wook, Director-General, World Health Organization, announced that WHO would continue to do everything possible to lead and support efforts to transform the wealth of information and ideas contained in the *World report on violence and health* into positive actions. He added, "As part of the UN system, we exist to promote justice and security in the area of health. Violence prevention contributes directly to both of these aims."

The meeting provided an opportunity for the Ministers of Health from Belgium, Costa Rica, Jordan and Mozambique, as well as the Director of the Health Insurance Fund, the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to present some of the remarkable achievements at national level since the launch of the *World report on violence and health* in October 2002. These included important policy discussions, releases of national reports, national violence surveys, the launch of poster campaigns and the development of national plans of action.

During the meeting other speakers described how they and their institutions had started to use the *World report on violence and health* to advance their work. Dr Aurora del Rio, Programme Officer in the Mexican Ministry of Health, for instance, discussed the development and implementation of a national report on violence and health in her country. Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Independent Expert for the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children, explained how the *World report on violence and health* had been used in designing this study. Dr Delon Human, Secretary-General of the World Medical Association (WMA), described an important statement issued by the WMA's General Assembly encouraging national medical associations to develop more systematic approaches to violence prevention and services for victims.

Following an international panel discussion, there were presentations from a local perspective on implementing the third recommendation of the *World report on violence and health*, "defining priorities for, and supporting research on, the causes, consequences, costs and prevention of violence". Presentations focused on the roots and causes of violence and on problems encountered by different sectors addressing violence. The discussion – led by representatives from the Canton of Geneva's medical, sociological, public health and criminal justice sectors – served as an excellent illustration of the multisectoral and collaborative approach to violence prevention. A highlight was Dr Daniel Halperin's description of the University of Geneva Hospital's programme for dealing with family violence, including child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. Concluding the session, Dr Unger stated, "Our duty is to assure safety for humankind. We owe it to ourselves to ensure the greatest possible multisectoral collaboration to prevent all forms of violence."

The real wealth of meetings such as this one is the opportunity to share experiences and ideas and learn from past mistakes. Jordan awaits the outcome of this conference with great interest so that we can chart our course accordingly.
Dr Darwazeh, Minister of Health, Jordan, on behalf of Her Royal Highness Queen Rania of Jordan

COUNTRY-LEVEL INITIATIVES

During the Milestones meeting, government representatives from five Member States presented some of the activities undertaken in their countries since the launch of the *World report on violence and health*.

Belgium

In October 2002, the *World report on violence and health* was launched in the presence of His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium at the Egmont Palace in Brussels. In January 2003, the King dedicated his New Year's speech to the issue of violence and violence prevention. The Ministry of Health then published a comprehensive report on violence and health in Belgium, including data and knowledge of the different types of violence, and an overview of existing public health structures for the prevention of violence. The government has agreed to appoint a ministerial focal point for violence prevention and has begun developing a national plan of action under the direction of the Belgian Commission on Sustainable Development. The government has also provided valuable support for implementing the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health* in Mozambique and is a core participant in the Global Interpersonal Violence Prevention Alliance.



Mr R. Witmeur
Chef de Cabinet
Ministry of Health
Belgium

Costa Rica



Dr Maria del Rocio Saenz
Madriga, Minister of
Health, Costa Rica

In December 2003, the Ministry of Health in Costa Rica released its national report on violence and health. The report describes violence as a public health issue, the increasing burden which it represents in Costa Rica, the risk factors for violence in the country and the various forms violence takes, and current prevention initiatives in different sectors. Following this analysis of violence in the country, a strategic national plan to control social violence was developed and classified as a political priority on the health agenda.

Jordan

In collaboration with the WHO Country Office, Jordan's Ministry of Health drafted a national report on violence and health. The report focuses on violence within the family and describes the burden of the problem and initiatives being undertaken in Jordan, under the auspices of Her Royal Majesty Queen Rania, to prevent violence. The government has also started developing a multisectoral Plan of Action for Family Violence.



Dr Said Darwazeh
Minister of Health
Jordan

Mozambique

The national launch of the *World report on violence and health* in December 2002 helped to catalyse various activities in Mozambique. To date these have included: the appointment of a focal point in the health ministry on injuries and violence prevention; a visit to Mozambique by the UN's Special Rapporteur on the right to health; a workshop on conventions and treaties related to violence prevention in Mozambique; the inclusion of a module on injury and violence in the national Demographic and Health Survey; a pilot surveillance study in the emergency department of Maputo Central Hospital; data collection on small arms and light weapons; and the setting up of 17 police stations to assist women and child victims of violence. The Minister of Health has expressed a firm interest and commitment to furthering the violence prevention work over the coming years.



Dr Francisco Songane
Minister of Health
Mozambique

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



Professor Nikola
Panosovski, Director
Health Insurance Fund,
The former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia

On 25 November 2003, as part of the programme "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence", the Macedonian Ministry of Health launched the *World report on violence and health*. At the same time, it set up the National Campaign for Violence Prevention, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia (FOSIM), a national nongovernmental

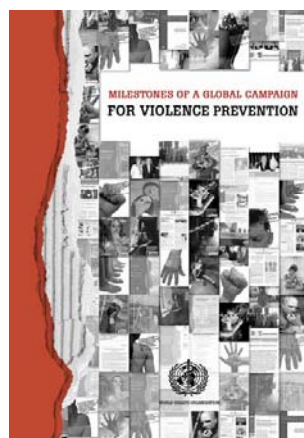
organization, and the Republic Institute for Health Protection. Some 150 participants attended, including delegates from the Ministries of Health, Justice, Education, Labour and Social Protection, and the Interior. Also present were representatives from academic institutions, public health associations and foundations, UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations and the media. Activities in the National Campaign for Violence Prevention have included publishing, in Macedonian, the summary of the report, fact sheets and posters. The posters have been displayed throughout the capital, Skopje, as pictured here.



For more information on these activities, visit www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/ or contact WHO's Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland; tel: +41 22 791 2533; e-mail: violenceprevention@who.int

Recent events related to the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention

	Event and follow-up activities
15 September 2003, Washington, DC, United States	Presentation of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> at an event on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Experts on violence prevention from WHO, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Global Health Council and other organizations joined the United States Surgeon-General, Dr Richard Carmona, to discuss violence prevention efforts in the United States and abroad. Participants noted the large volume of experience that has been accumulated in the United States and the need to maintain government support for global efforts.
16 September 2003, London, United Kingdom	Launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> in London, hosted by the Chief Medical Officer. Some 70 participants discussed the report and called for follow-up actions on WHA Resolution 56.24 – “Implementing the recommendations of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> ”. The Chief Medical Officer has appointed Dr John Ashton of the United Kingdom’s Department of Health as focal point for follow-up activities.
4 November 2003, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium	Launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> in the European Parliament. The event, co-hosted by MEP John Bowis of the United Kingdom and MEP Anna Karamanou of Greece, was attended by some 40 Members of the European Parliament and representatives of NGOs working on violence prevention. Earlier in the day, Dr Etienne Krug, Director of VIP, updated the Parliament’s committee on women’s rights on the progress in implementing the <i>World report on violence and health</i> . Other speakers included Mrs Lisbet Palme, widow of the murdered former Swedish prime minister, and Mr Jean-Pierre Titz from the Council of Europe.
25 November 2003, Madrid, Spain	Launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> in Spain on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In her address to the media, Dr Ana Maria Pastor Julian, Spain’s Minister of Health and Consumer Safety, expressed strong support for the implementation of the report’s recommendations. She announced that over the coming months her government would give priority to developing a national report on violence and health, based on the <i>World report on violence and health</i> .
5 December 2003, Stockholm, Sweden	Launch of the <i>World report on violence and health</i> , by the Swedish Ministry of Public Health. The event was attended by Mr Morgan Johansson, Minister of Public Health and Social Affairs; Dr Danzon, WHO Regional Director for Europe; and some 100 participants from several government agencies and academic institutions. Speakers discussed issues including violence against children, violence against women, and the links between violence, alcohol and mental health.



More information on many of the achievements of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention can be found in WHO’s report, *Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention*, published in January 2004. The report can be downloaded at www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/global_campaign/campaign/en/

GLOBAL INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE

At the Milestones meeting, Dr LEE Jong-wook launched the Global Alliance for the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence – an essential element for advocacy and implementation of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention. The underlying vision of the Alliance is a network of institutions linked by their voluntary adoption of shared principles on

violence prevention and policies derived from the *World report on violence and health*. The creation of the Alliance will greatly increase the number of agencies supporting programmes for implementing the report’s recommendations, and in so doing will enhance their impact on country-level policies and practice.

Core partners in the Alliance to date include the California Wellness Foundation, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence, the South African Medical Research Council, and the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Germany and Jamaica.

Participation in the Alliance will be open to all WHO Member State governments and government agencies. It will also be open to other bodies, including nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and private, international and intergovernmental organizations with an established interest and expertise in preventing interpersonal violence and improving victim services.

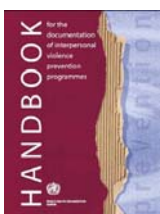
This alliance is uniting a range of organizations and Member States around mutual violence prevention principles and policies and will strengthen our ability to address the problem.
Dr LEE Jong-wook,
Director-General, WHO

IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH



WHO Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence

WHO's Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention, in conjunction with the Department of Gender and Women's Health, has been working since 2001 on an initiative to strengthen the health sector's response to sexual violence. The cornerstone of this work is the WHO document, *Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence* – a comprehensive resource for improving the knowledge and skills of health workers who interact with victims of sexual violence. The guidelines were released in February 2004, after an extensive review to ensure that their recommendations were as accurate and up-to-date as possible. Pilot testing has already begun in Nicaragua and the Philippines and will be extended to Mozambique and other countries in the course of the year. The guidelines can be found at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention. Printed copies can also be requested from vip@who.int.



Handbook for the documentation of interpersonal violence prevention programmes

In February 2004, WHO published the *Handbook for the documentation of interpersonal violence prevention programmes*. The handbook aims to facilitate standardized descriptions of violence prevention programmes, so that these can be collated into databases at national, regional and global levels, and promising practices and trends in violence prevention programming then identified. Brazil, India, Mozambique, the Russian Federation and South Africa will be among the first countries to make use of the handbook. It can be found on the Internet at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention. Printed copies can be requested from vip@who.int.



TEACH-VIP

In response to numerous requests from Member States and professional groups for ways in which to build capacity for preventing violence and injuries, WHO has developed a modular curriculum and course for teaching basic public health competency in violence and injury prevention. This curriculum, TEACH-VIP, consists of a core course and an advanced course. The core course involves 20 hours of teaching and covers the fundamentals of injury prevention, including surveillance, prevention and ethical issues, as well as specialized topics. The advanced course consists of 39 hours of teaching and provides broader and deeper exposure to these topics.

In January 2004, a consultation was held in collaboration with the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden that brought together experts in the field of curriculum development and capacity building. Among issues addressed were the practical aspects of pilot testing, mechanisms for evaluating input on the

curriculum, strategies for computer-based dissemination of knowledge, and steps to ensure that training results in long-term capacity building. The core module of the TEACH-VIP curriculum is being provided to institutions in Colombia and South Africa so that pilot testing can begin in these two countries in March 2004. In the following months pilot testing will continue in settings including China, Kenya, Mozambique and Viet Nam.

UNITED NATIONS COLLABORATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

In January 2004, WHO hosted the second meeting of the United Nations Collaboration for the Prevention of Interpersonal Violence. The consultation was attended by representatives from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the University for Peace and the World Bank. Participants discussed the opportunities for interagency advocacy and future directions for the group.

The agencies agreed to collaborate on and support the 2005 African Year of Violence Prevention, to contribute actively to the United Nations study on violence against children, and to develop a web platform to facilitate information exchange on prevention work by United Nations agencies on interpersonal violence.

LOOKING AHEAD

As a result of the efforts of many partners in the field of violence prevention, important progress has been made around the world. Relevant activities taking place over the next few months include the following.

- National launch of the World report on violence and health in Romania in mid-2004.
- Consultation to develop guidelines for bi-lateral donors on integrating violence prevention in development programming, hosted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), 25 May 2004.
- The 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, 6-9 June 2004, Vienna, Austria.

This is an important event for researchers and practitioners in the field of injury and violence prevention, and an opportunity to share information and build partnerships. Among the specialized working meetings organized by WHO are sessions on developing national policies for injuries and violence prevention; capacity building for injury prevention: WHO's TEACH-VIP curriculum; strengthening the health sector response to sexual violence; launch of WHO research report, *The Economic Dimensions of Interpersonal Violence*; WHO's "Guideline for preventing interpersonal violence by implementing the recommendations of the World report on violence and health"; and the project and handbook for the documentation of interpersonal violence prevention programmes.