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Dear Colleague:

Attached is the latest issue of Prevent: the Newsletter for the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention.

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HEADLINES

Fourth Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting
The Fourth Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention Meeting was held on 17-18 September 2009 at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 200 participants from 50 countries attended. The theme was "boosting global violence prevention", and the goal was to enhance the coverage, intensity and effectiveness of international support for country-level violence prevention activities. The keynote address, by the Honourable Themb Masuku, Deputy Prime Minister of Swaziland, focused on Swaziland's pioneering efforts to better understand and prevent child sexual abuse. The meeting achieved four key outcomes. First, the launch of Violence prevention: the evidence (a series of eight briefing documents), and presentations on violence prevention programmes from developing and developed countries demonstrated the effectiveness of applying a science-based approach. Second, the seeds of a violence prevention donor network were planted during a funders' workshop. A third outcome was agreement on potential strategies for strengthening global violence prevention coordination. The fourth outcome was a strengthened Violence Prevention Alliance, with the Norwegian Ministry of Health, UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC and the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime announcing their formal participation in VPA. For further information, please contact Dr Chris Mikton (miktonc@who.int) or visit the 4th Milestones meeting website at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/4th_milestones_meeting/en/index.html

Clinton Global Initiative to Prevent Sexual Violence against Girls
UNAIDS and cosponsors UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO have joined the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UNIFEM and private sector supporters through the Clinton Global Initiative to address the injustices and health impact of sexual violence against girls. The initiative, launched in September 2009 New York by the partners, will focus on countries where sexual violence is a key initiation point for the spread of HIV and other infectious diseases. Partners of the initiative will come together to conduct research in seven countries using the methodology piloted in Swaziland in 2007 by UNICEF and CDC. In collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and CDC will use the survey results to develop a technical package of policy and social interventions, tailored individually for the countries in southern Africa, Asia and the Pacific regions. For more information please contact Dr Alexander Butchart (butcharta@who.int) or visit http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2009/20090925_clinton_sexual_violence.asp
HIGHLIGHTS

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) celebrates 15 years
Over the last 15 years, ICPC has been advancing an international movement to promote research-based policies and practices that work to prevent crime and build community safety. To mark its 15th anniversary, the 7-9 December 2009 ICPC Colloquium (in Montreal, Canada) focused on the evolution of crime prevention policy and practice. There were nearly 300 participants from countries in all regions, and high-level keynote addresses were given by senior Canadian and French politicians and government officials, crime prevention experts, and outgoing ICPC Director General Valérie Sagant. The policing, criminal justice, public safety and public health sectors were represented, and speakers from UN agencies included representatives from UNIFEM, UNODC, WHO, and the World Bank. Violence was the predominant issue addressed in the plenary and workshop sessions. For further information, please contact Dr Alex Butchart (butcharta@who.int) or visit the ICPC website at http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org/.

Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum 2009
On 6–9 July 2009, the SVRI hosted its first ever conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, with a focus on "coordinated evidence-based responses to end sexual violence". The conference, which was aimed at promoting further research on sexual violence and its prevention, highlighting innovation, and encouraging, sharing and networking in the area of sexual violence, convened 200 participants from over 28 countries. For more information, please contact Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno (garciamorenoc@who.int) or visit the SVRI website at http://svriforum2009.svri.org/.

Featured outcome evaluation: A school-based programme to prevent adolescent dating violence
In Canada, an outcome evaluation of the "Fourth R: Skills for Youth Relationships" programme using a cluster-randomized design found that, based on self-report of perpetration at 2.5 year follow-up, rates of physical dating violence were 7.4% in the intervention group and 9.8% in the control group – a difference of 2.4% and an adjusted odds ratio of 2.42 (95% confidence interval, 1.00-6.02). The intervention, evaluated in over 1700 students aged 14-15-years-old from 20 public schools, was integrated into the existing health and physical education curriculum and taught in sex-segregated classes. An underlying theme of healthy, non-violent relationship skills was woven throughout the 21 lessons, which included extensive skills development using graduated practice with peers to develop positive strategies for dealing with pressures and the resolution of conflict without abuse or violence. Reference: Wolfe DA et al. A school-based program to prevent adolescent dating violence: a cluster randomized trial. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2009;163(8):692-699.

Glasgow’s Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV): promising preliminary results
CIRV is a flagship project of the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit, and is a multi-agency, community-centred project designed to reduce violent behaviour among gang members. The approach establishes a partnership among police, social services, education, housing and community safety services. Interventions include enforcement to disrupt the dynamics within gangs involved in violence; services and programmes to provide support and life skills training for gang members who demonstrate their commitment to change, and community-wide social marketing campaigns to deliver the message that violence won’t be tolerated. Preliminary evaluation shows a 49% reduction in the level of violent offending by gang members who engaged with CIRV, relative to a pre-CIRV baseline assessment. In addition, CIRV also appears to have produced an 18% reduction in violent offending by fellow gang members who did not directly engage with CIRV. Further research is under way to rigorously test these promising early findings. For more information, please visit the CIRV feature on the Violence Reduction Unit's web site at http://www.actiononviolence.com/aov/501.html

International policy dialogue on youth violence and knives
An international policy dialogue on youth violence and knives was organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and hosted by the Department of Health England on 14-15 September 2009 in London. There were 35 policy makers, researchers and practitioners present from eight countries. Presentations on the scale of knife violence, risk factors, and interventions, demonstrated a breadth of experience from South Africa, USA and several countries in Europe. Participants acknowledged that secondary and tertiary measures to decrease knife carrying and dealing with at-risk groups and situations were important. Nevertheless, there was an overwhelming need to tackle the root causes of violence by promoting "best
buys" for the primary prevention violence, including programmes to enhance parenting, social skills training, tackling harmful alcohol and other substance use, reducing access to lethal means, and promoting greater equity. A European report on youth violence and knives will be prepared and launched during the Safety 2010 conference that takes place in London in September 2010. For further information, please contact Dr Dinesh Sethi (din@ecr.euro.who.int).

Global Forum on Trauma Care
On 28-29 October 2009, WHO hosted the first Global Forum on Trauma Care in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the support of the Ministry of Health of Brazil, the State Government of Rio de Janeiro, and the Bone and Joint Decade. Around 120 of the world's leading trauma care experts attended, including representatives of 15 professional societies that deal with trauma, ministry of health planners whose portfolios include trauma and other interested stakeholders. The goal was to achieve greater attention to affordable and sustainable improvements in trauma care services globally by promoting greater uptake of the recommendations of WHA Resolution 60.22. This Forum marked the start of a broader collaborative process to create an expanded network for trauma care advocacy. For further information, please contact Dr Charles Mock (mockc@who.int).

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Africa

Workshop on estimating the costs of injuries due to violence in East Africa
On 3-4 September 2009, researchers from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, representatives of health ministries and WHO offices from these countries, and regional office staff from UN Habitat, UNICEF and WHO met in Mombasa, Kenya to review preliminary results of a study estimating the costs of injuries due to interpersonal and self-directed violence in these countries. For further information, please contact Dr Joyce Nato (natoj@ke.afro.who.int) or Dr Alex Alex Butchart (butcharta@who.int).

Assessment of child maltreatment prevention readiness and resources in Southern Africa
On 7-9 July 2009, representatives from Malawian, Mozambican, and South African ministries of health, children, women and social development; national research agencies; and NGOs, along with WHO and UNICEF staff, met in Cape Town, South Africa to review the draft findings of a project to assess child maltreatment prevention readiness and resources in the three countries. In addition to shared challenges, clear differences in prevention readiness between each country were apparent, suggesting that great potential exists for the countries to support one another in moving ahead. Funded by the Government of Flanders, Belgium, Phase II of this project will begin in early 2010 with a focus on developing national child maltreatment prevention capacity and policy along the lines suggested by the readiness assessments. For further information, please contact Dr Chris Mikton (miktonc@who.int).

Americas

Global Forum for Health Research, 2009, Cuba: sexual violence symposium
On 16-19 November 2009 in Havana, Cuba, PAHO joined efforts with the SVRI to host a symposium during the Global Forum for Health Research, 2009. The symposium explored sexual violence in the Latin American and Caribbean region and how research can be used to strengthen services for survivors of sexual violence and inform prevention efforts to reduce such violence. For more information, please contact Ms Alessandra Guedes (guedesal@paho.org), or visit the web site at http://www.svri.org/cubaarticle.htm

UNiTE to End Violence Against Women, 25 November 2009, Guatemala
PAHO supported the launch of the Latin America and the Caribbean chapter of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Campaign to End Violence against Women in Guatemala on 25 November 2009, the International Day on ending Violence against Women. The launch included a seminar with representatives from 45 government and NGO initiatives in the region, and an official ceremony attended by the President of Guatemala, Alvaro Colom, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Rigoberta Manchú, and heads of various UN agencies, including Dr. Pier Paolo Balladelli, WHO/PAHO Representative in Guatemala.
For more information, please contact Ms Alessandra Guedes (guedesal@paho.org) or visit: http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/

Europe

EURO-Region Capacity Building and Training Workshops
Over 100 individuals from 15 mainly Baltic, Central, and East European countries participated in violence and injury prevention capacity building and training projects between June and December 2009. WHO's Regional Office for Europe coordinated the technical support, and WHO staff from the regional office and headquarters formed the core teaching staff alongside country experts. Financial support for the workshops was received from the European Commission and the Austrian American Foundation, among other donors. For more information, please contact Mr Francesco Mitis (MIT@ecr.euro.who.int) or Dr Dinesh Sethi (din@ecr.euro.who.int).

UPCOMING EVENTS

19th International Safe Communities Conference, 23-26 March 2009, Suwon, Korea
Under the conference theme, "Sustainability of Safe Community Programmes" the 19th International Safe Communities Conference will cover the full spectrum of violence and unintentional injuries, and address many of the opportunities and challenges that face community-based violence and injury prevention and safety promotion programming. For more information, please visit http://www.2010safecom.org/

World Health Day 2010: Urbanization and Health: 7 April 2010
World Health Day 2010 will focus on urbanization and health. The frequency and intensity of violence is closely tied to economic and social inequalities within and between large cities, with often huge disparities in homicide rates, youth violence, sexual assault and child abuse coinciding with inequities in the provision of housing, educational, employment and health expenditure. The campaign aims to promote urban health and safety by having 1000 cities close off portions of streets to traffic to make them accessible to the public for health promotion activities, and by collecting 1000 stories of urban health champions who have taken action to improve health in their cities. Among other issues such as pollution and physical activity, the prevention of violence and road traffic injuries are identified as areas that could be highlighted. For more information about the day, and a toolkit for organizations wishing to participate in the campaign, visit http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2010/en/

German Congress on Crime Prevention, Annual International Forum (AIF), 10-11 May 2010, Berlin, Germany
The German Congress on Crime Prevention is the biggest event in crime prevention in Europe, with 3000 visitors every year, and within it the AIF serves as a platform to discuss new international trends in crime prevention with a broad audience. The AIF will feature presentations by international crime and violence prevention experts and sessions in which German and international crime prevention projects introduce and discuss their approaches. For more information, please visit http://www.gcocp.org/nano.cms/en/15-GCOCP-2010

10th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, 21-24 September 2010 London, UK
Safety 2010 will bring together stakeholders in violence and injury prevention from around the world to debate, discuss and exchange information and experiences. The conference theme of "Safe and equitable communities" has been chosen to reflect the disproportionate burden from almost all types of violence and injuries that falls on poorer communities. The conference will be preceded by a global meeting of ministry of health focal points for violence and injury prevention, and a violence and injury prevention meeting of ministers of health from the European region. For more information, please visit: http://www.safety2010.org.uk/

PUBLICATIONS

Violence Prevention: the Evidence
In September 2009, WHO and Liverpool John Moores University launched Violence prevention: the evidence, an eight-part series of briefings on the evidence for interventions to prevent interpersonal and
Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda

Despite considerable progress in the past decades, societies continue to fail to meet the health care needs of women at key moments of their lives, particularly in their adolescent years and in older age. These are the key findings of the 2009 WHO report Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda. The report calls for urgent action both within the health sector and beyond to improve the health and lives of girls and women around the world, from birth to older age, and including action to prevent sexual and intimate partner violence and mitigate their consequences.

Download and/or order the report "Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda"