Partnerships

THE WHO WORK ON INJURIES, violence and disabilities involves many parts of the Organization, across headquarters, regional and country levels. Within WHO headquarters itself, the Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention collaborates with several other departments including the Departments of Child and Adolescent Health and Development; Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion; Essential Health Technologies; Evidence and Information for Policy; Gender, Women and Health; Health Action in Crises; Mental Health and Substance Abuse; and Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments; as well as the WHO Center for Health Development in Kobe, Japan. Many of the collaborative projects on-going with these departments have been described in this report.

The WHO Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention also benefits from dynamic and fruitful collaboration with its regional focal persons for injury and violence prevention, and disability and rehabilitation. After several years of advocacy for greater attention and resources to be devoted to these issues, each of the six WHO regional offices currently has at least one staff member dedicated, at least part of the time, to this Area of Work. In the WHO Regional Office for Europe there are at present three staff members tasked with guiding the work in this area, and the benefits of dedicating these human resources are reflected in their many achievements during the biennium (see Box 11.1). In the autumn of 2004 and the autumn of 2005, WHO hosted, respectively, the fourth and fifth annual meetings of its regional focal persons. In October 2005, participants harmonized the headquarters and regional office work plans, updated information on the progress of various activities, and defined ways to collaborate on some key on-going and future initiatives, several of which are described in this report. Many WHO country offices are also dedicating an increasing amount of resources to this Area of Work, and several of their initiatives are also described herein.

WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES

WHO Collaborating Centres are designated by the WHO Director-General as part of an international network that does specialized work on WHO’s programme priorities. Twenty such bodies have been designated WHO Collaborating Centres on injuries and violence prevention. During the biennium, the following were added to the network of WHO Collaborating Centers on injuries and violence prevention: in Australia, the Monash University Accident Research Centre; in Brazil, the Center for the Study of...
During 2004–2005, the WHO Regional Office for Europe stepped up its efforts to prevent violence and injuries across the region. Below are some of the highlights of the Office’s achievements during the period. (For more information, see www.euro.who.int/violenceinjury)

**Adoption of resolution EUR/RC55/R on “Prevention of injuries in the WHO European Region”**. This historic resolution was adopted by the 55th Regional Committee of the WHO European Region, held in Bucharest, Romania in September 2005. The resolution provides a strategic framework for action to reduce violence and injury in the region and urges Member States and WHO to:

- develop national plans for injury prevention
- improve national surveillance
- strengthen national capacity to respond to the burden of injury and provide services for victims
- advocate effective injury prevention activities
- promote good practice and the exchange of knowledge across the region
- prioritize research in primary prevention and trauma care
- strengthen partnerships across sectors and stakeholders
- report back on progress achieved in 2008

**First meeting of European national focal persons for violence and injury prevention**. Hosted in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, in November 2005, this meeting brought together national focal persons from 35 European countries. It aimed at facilitating the establishment of the network of European national focal persons for violence and injury prevention and at increasing collaboration between national focal persons and WHO. The meeting allowed for the sharing of experiences about the on-going developments and challenges experienced by national focal persons across the region; and agreed on the goals, objectives and strategies for an informal network and on next steps.

**Publication of “Injuries and violence in Europe. Why they matter and what can be done”**. This document highlights the burden of injuries in the WHO European Region and identifies opportunities for policy-makers, civil-society organizations and professionals in the health sector to improve health by reducing the burden of injuries across the region, in line with the strategic direction set out in the resolution EUR/RC55/R9 on “Prevention of injuries in the WHO European Region”. A policy-oriented summary of the publication was launched at the 55th Regional Committee for Europe in September 2005.

**“Stop Violence against Children – Act Now”**. In July 2005, the Government of Slovenia hosted a regional consultation to contribute to the United Nations Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children. The regional consultation for Europe and Central Asia, entitled “Stop Violence against Children – Act Now”, was organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Council of Europe, and the study’s nongovernmental organization advisory panel. The Ljubljana final statement, which was adopted upon conclusion of the consultation, identifies nine priority steps to assure and strengthen national and regional action to prevent violence against children. This was one of nine such consultations held in mid-2005 across the globe to increase awareness and galvanize the commitment of government and civil society to protect children from all forms of violence.

**World Health Day 2004**. The WHO Regional Office for Europe coordinated the celebration of World Health Day 2004 in the region and supported a number of national launches of the World report on road traffic injury prevention. These took place in Belarus, Czech Republic, France, Denmark, Italy, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey, and Turkmenistan. On World Health Day 2004, the WHO Regional Office for Europe also launched the report Preventing road traffic injury: a public health perspective for Europe and its executive summary (available in English and Russian). The report builds on and complements the world report, analyzing in depth the burden of road traffic injuries in the European region, framing the issue in the context of sustainable mobility, and presenting the successful experiences of some European Member States.
Violence at the University of Sao Paulo; and in Mexico, the National Institute of Public Health. In late 2004 and late 2005, the WHO Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention hosted, respectively, the 14th and 15th Meetings of Heads of WHO Collaborating Centres on Injury and Violence Prevention and Control. These meetings provided an opportunity to update participants on the current work of both WHO and the Collaborating Centres and to plan future collaboration. (For more information, see www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/about/collaborating_centres/en/index.html)

In the area of disability and rehabilitation, there are nine WHO Collaborating Centres. The Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists in the United Republic of Tanzania was added to the network in 2004. During the biennium, representatives of WHO Collaborating Centres on disability and rehabilitation have participated in WHO meetings related to this Area of Work, and have contributed to the development and strengthening of activities. (For more information, see www.who.int/disabilities/about/collaborating_centres/en/index.html).

BOX 11.2 WHO Regional Office for Africa responds to requests from francophone African countries to enhance initiatives to prevent violence and injuries

With support from the WHO Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention, the WHO Regional Office for Africa and the National Institute of Public Health in Quebec, Canada, a WHO Collaborating Centre for Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention, jointly organized an intercountry meeting in Brazzaville, Congo, in September 2005. The meeting sought to enhance the agenda for violence and injury prevention in Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Rwanda, Tchad and Togo. Senior ministry of health officials from these countries deliberated on the burden of violence and injuries in their societies, the measures being taken to mitigate them and what needs to be done to match the efforts to the challenge. There was consensus on the fact that countries are still doing too little to address the problem. A declaration adopted at the closing of the meeting highlighted the importance of country situation analyzes, the designation of focal persons with clear terms of reference, the need for a national policy on violence and injuries, and for a multisectoral committee or coordination desk to ensure the involvement of relevant sectors and stakeholders beyond the health sector. Since September 2005, several countries have taken the step to formally designate focal persons, and the Government of Comoros is presently considering a draft decree on violence and injury prevention. The informal network of francophone African ministry of health officials provides a good channel for exchanging information and experiences across francophone Africa. As next steps some members of the network will participate in a two-day training as a pre-meeting to the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Durban, South Africa in early 2006. This will also serve as an opportunity to evaluate the progress of the network.
SAFE COMMUNITIES

The network of “Safe Communities” is led by the Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, a WHO Collaborating Centre for Community Safety Promotion. Since 1989, a total of 96 demonstration programmes have been developed in 18 countries: Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China (including the Province of Taiwan), Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. These programmes promote safety through partnerships involving communities and their leaders, academic institutions and private sector bodies. Of the programmes, 17 were added to the network during 2004–2005. In addition, 15 centres in nine countries have been granted the status of Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre, three such centres being added during the biennium. A programme of Certifying Centres has been established to assist in the designation process, and the first of these was established in New Zealand in 2005.

In June 2004, Charles University and the Childhood Injury Prevention Board both of Prague, the Czech Republic, and, in June 2005, the city of Bergen, Norway and Vesta, an insurance company, organized, respectively, the 13th and 14th International Safe Communities Conferences. Several regional meetings were also hosted during the biennium by regional and subregional networks in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Pacific and in Nordic countries.

WORLD CONFERENCES ON INJURY PREVENTION AND SAFETY PROMOTION

Since 1989, WHO has cosponsored a series of World Conferences on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion. This bi-annual conference is the most important global gathering of injury and violence prevention researchers, practitioners and advocates. The seventh and most recent in the series took place in Vienna, Austria in June 2004, and was cohosted by the Austrian Institute for Home and Leisure Time Safety. More than 1200 individuals from 105 countries gathered to share the latest scientific research on injury and violence prevention and determine new directions for the field. The 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion came at an important time for the field, following a very successful World Health Day 2004 on road safety, the launch of the World report on road traffic injury prevention, and subsequent resolutions by both the United Nations General Assembly and the World Health Assembly calling on countries to do more for road safety. The conference also followed enthusiastic application by governments of the recommendations of the World report on violence and health launched by WHO in 2002. Highlights of the conference included state-of-the-art sessions on the global campaign on road traffic injury prevention, violence prevention, preparing and responding to mass casualties, priorities in injury prevention research, injury and safety inequalities, and the costs of injuries, among others; release of new information, such as the WHO report The economic dimensions
of interpersonal violence and the European Child Safety Alliance report on *Priorities for child safety in the European Union: agenda for action*; meetings on planning for the creation of an International Society for Violence and Injury Prevention; and hundreds of posters and presentations on all aspects of injury and injury prevention. In April 2006 WHO and the University of South Africa will host the 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Durban, South Africa and plans are already underway for the 9th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion to be held in Mexico in March 2008 cosponsored by WHO and the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico.