Global Campaign for Violence Prevention
January 2013

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Recent events

International expert meeting on the development of guidelines for youth violence prevention
WHO is developing new guidelines on youth violence prevention, an emerging priority area in global public health, which focus on low- and middle-income countries. This international meeting was held from 11-12 December at WHO headquarters and convened some 25 international youth violence prevention experts. Its aim was to discuss the available evidence (compiled in a series of systematic reviews), assess the feasibility of implementing interventions in different settings, and formulate recommendations. For more information on the project, see: www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/youth_guidelines/en/index.html

International youth violence prevention conference hosted in Tanzania
From 6-8 November, the South African-based Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention convened around 300 delegates in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for an International Conference on Youth Violence Prevention. The conference provided a forum for practitioners, researchers, and policy-makers to share research results from, and implementation experiences in, countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. A key objective was to explore and strengthen the evidence-base for policies, programmes, and interventions. For further information, contact Ms Berit Kieselbach (kieselbachb@who.int) or see www.cjcpyouthconference.org.za/assets/content-page.php?id=home

WHO works to enhance gender-based violence prevention in Iraq
In collaboration with WHO, the Ministry of Health in Iraq conducted two major activities in Baghdad from 6-8 November: (1) the launch of the results of a mapping exercise of the multi-sectoral response to intimate partner violence/gender based violence (IPV/GBV); and (2) a multi-sectoral awareness training session on the health sector’s role in preventing IPV/GBV in Iraq. The goal was to promote inter-sectoral coordination and to raise awareness of the crucial role of the health sector in preventing IPV/GBV. A list of recommendations for preventing IPV/GBV in Iraq was issued. For further information, contact Dr Hala Sakr (sakrha@emro.who.int).

Policy dialogue on the prevention of child maltreatment in Albania
Some 40 stakeholders participated in this policy dialogue on the prevention of child maltreatment held at the Ministry of Health in Albania on 13 December. The findings of the Adverse Childhood Experiences survey recently conducted in Albania were presented. During the ensuing panel discussion agreement was reached that Albania needed a national action plan to prevent child maltreatment and to coordinate multidisciplinary preventive action. The event was widely
reported on national television. For further information, contact Dr Dinesh Sethi Din@euro.who.int.

Capacity building workshop on the primary prevention of violence against women (VAW) and children (VAC) in Peru
This capacity building workshop took place in Lima, Peru, on 3-5 December. Some 40 participants from Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru attended, representing ministries, NGOs, municipalities, and research institutions. The workshop focused on the evidence on the magnitude and consequences of VAW and VAC and on effective and promising prevention strategies. Each country developed a work plan that is currently being discussed with additional partners at the country level. For more information, please contact Ms Alessandra Guedes (guedesa@who.int).

UN Agencies in Middle East and North Africa issue joint statement:
"Standing up to the "epidemic" of violence against women"
To mark 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (from 25 November-10 December), the Regional Offices of WHO, UN Women, UNFPA and UNAIDS issued this joint statement. It reads: "UN Women, WHO, UNFPA and UNAIDS are fully committed to stopping violence against women and to ensuring the security, safety and dignity of women and girls regardless of where, when and how this violence is perpetrated. UN Women, WHO, UNFPA and UNAIDS express particular concern about the high vulnerability of marginalized women, including young and adolescent girls, women with disabilities, women living with HIV and women in situations of conflict, who are frequent targets of violence..." For the full statement, please see: www.emro.who.int/media/news/stop-violence-against-women.html

"Breaking the cycle" to commemorate 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence
On 10 December, a panel discussion "Breaking the cycle: understanding the intersections of violence against children and women" was organized in Washington, DC by PAHO, USAID, Johns Hopkins University, and other partners to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. The event was streamed live in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Presentations and the recording of the event in these languages are available at: www.igwg.org/Events/violenceagainstwomenandchildrendecember2012.aspx

Upcoming events

Evidence for Violence Prevention across the Lifespan and around the World
"Evidence for Violence Prevention across the Lifespan and around the World", a United States Institute of Medicine (IOM) workshop, will take place on 23-24 January. It will be webcast live in its entirety globally. For the workshop agenda, to register for the webcast, and for more information about IOM’s Forum on Global Violence Prevention, visit: http://iom.edu/Activities/Global/ViolenceForum/2013-JAN-23.aspx

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) European Regional Conference
The ISPCAN European Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held in Dublin, Ireland, from 15-18 September. For more information, see: www.ispcan.org/event/Dublin2013
Publications and other resources

Violence prevention: an invitation to intersectoral action available in multiple languages

Violence prevention: an invitation to intersectoral action, a publication of the Violence Prevention Alliance's Criminal Justice Liaison Group, is now available in French, Portuguese, and Spanish, in addition to English. The publication is an invitation to the criminal justice and law enforcement communities to a new way of thinking about preventing violence before it occurs, rather than responding to it once the damage is done. Fundamental to this new way of thinking is the realization that to tackle violence successfully, different sectors - such as law enforcement, criminal justice, and public health - must work together. For more information, contact Dr Christopher Mikton (miktonc@who.int) and for the full document, see: www.who.int/violenceprevention/project_groups/en/

Systematic review of the long-term mental and physical health consequences of child physical and emotional abuse and neglect

A new study in PLOS Medicine reports on a first-ever systematic examination of the long-term mental and physical health consequences of child physical and emotional abuse and neglect. The review was carried out by the University of Queensland, Australia, and the WHO Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability. The findings suggest a causal relationship between these forms of non-sexual child maltreatment and mental disorders, drug use, suicide attempts, sexually transmitted infections, and risky sexual behaviour. They also provide some evidence of an association between child physical abuse and arthritis, ulcers, and headache/migraine in adulthood. The authors note that non-sexual child maltreatment is likely to be having a large impact on major contributors to the burden of disease, and conclude that much greater effort should be made in bringing evidence-based approaches to bear on its prevention. See: www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001349

Reminders:

For a wealth of information on violence prevention, visit the WHO VIP Prevention of Violence web-site:
www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/en/

For publications and posters, visit:

To download WHO Short Courses on Violence and Injury Prevention, visit: