



VIOLENCE
PREVENTION
ALLIANCE



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

VPA Annual Meeting 2010

MEETING REPORT

Violence Prevention Alliance Annual Meeting 3-4 June Rome, Italy

1. Background and scope

Since it was launched in January 2004, the VPA has grown from a dozen participants to almost 50 today. In 2009, seven new participants joined among which, for instance, were other UN organizations such as UNDP, UNICEF, and UNODC. So far in 2010, the World Bank's newly established Conflict, Crime and Violence Team has joined the VPA, as have the Prevention Institute, the Education Development Center, and the Preventing Violence across the Lifespan Research Network.

The 4th Milestones Meeting in September 2009 recognized the significant progress achieved in the field of global violence prevention over the past two decades. This includes, for instance, publication of the *World report on violence and health* and launch of the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, the adoption of UN General Assembly resolutions on violence against children, on violence against women, and on armed violence and development. Further progress in the field of violence prevention includes more demand from LMICs for technical and policy assistance on violence prevention; a growth in the science-base; increasing commitment to an evidence-based approach by, and greater policy coherence between, key actors; and the emergence of significant new partners in the violence prevention arena. Nonetheless, in spite of the strides made, global violence prevention still faces serious challenges. Most prominent among these are a lack of sustained high-level political interest in the topic, insufficient funding, and inadequate resources in kind.

To adapt to the increased number and size of VPA participants and to take on successfully the challenges facing the field of global violence prevention, it was recommended at the 4th Milestones Meeting that the VPA be restructured and reorganized – that a strengthened VPA be created. To this end, the VPA Secretariat drew up a Draft Conceptual Framework for a strengthened VPA which was circulated ahead of the VPA Annual Meeting in Rome and formed the basis of discussions during the meeting.

2. Aims

Based on a the "Draft Conceptual Framework" circulated before the meeting, the aims of the meeting were:

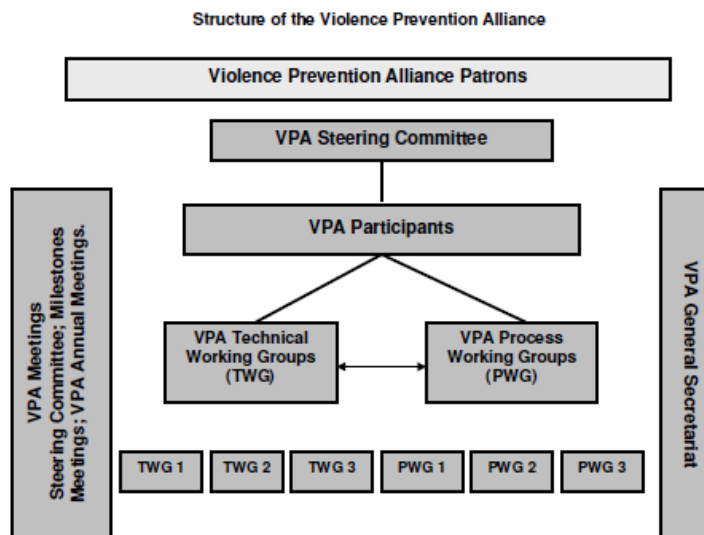
- To discuss and agree on a new structure and organization for the enlarged VPA;
- To discuss and agree on a Strategy and Work Plan for the VPA for 2011-2015;
- To review VPA progress on the priorities and working groups decided on at the December 2008 VPA meeting; and
- To discuss and agree upon future VPA working groups based on the VPA Strategy and Work Plan for 2011-2015 proposed in the Draft Conceptual Framework.

3. Participants

The 49 meeting participants (see Annex) came from low-, middle, and high-income countries. They included representatives from 26 VPA participant organizations and six observer organizations (the Bernard van Leer Foundation, the French "Conseil National des Villes", the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, the German Congress on Crime Prevention, the Ministry of Health Focal Person on Violence Prevention from The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the Mexican Ministry of Health)

4. Input

The main input to the meeting was the document circulated beforehand entitled "Strengthened Violence Prevention Alliance: Draft Conceptual Framework" and a presentation summarizing it at the beginning of the meeting. This document put forward for discussion a list of strategic priorities for the VPA for 2011-2015; the scope, vision, goals and approach for the VPA; a Work Plan for the VPA for 2011-2015; and the following new structure for the VPA:



5. Summary of main discussions and decisions

Discussion and decisions on "Draft Conceptual Framework"

The discussion following the presentation of the "Draft Conceptual Framework" focused on five main themes.

(i) The extent to which collective violence should be included in the scope of the VPA: Participants in favour of including collective violence within the scope of the VPA in addition to interpersonal and self-directed violence emphasized the close links between certain forms of collective violence (e.g. the drugs trade, organized crime and gangs, and militias) and interpersonal violence, especially in some low- and middle-income countries. Participants with reservations about extending the scope of the VPA to include collective violence pointed out that many other organizations and UN agencies already exist which address collective violence; that the risk factors for collective violence are somewhat different from those for interpersonal and self-directed violence; that interpersonal and self-directed violence have, compared to collective violence, been neglected even though they make up the largest proportion of the global burden of mortality due to violence; and that including collective violence in the VPA might dilute the focus of the VPA to such a degree as to make it ineffective. However, a consensus emerged from the discussion on the need to include those aspects of collective violence in the VPA that were a risk factor for or most affected interpersonal and self-directed violence, but to exclude outright wars between states and civil wars. It was agreed that the exact aspects to be included – referred to as the "grey" or "fuzzy" zone – would need to be carefully defined by one of the VPA working groups, but would likely be related to gangs, drug trafficking, violence in post-conflict settings, and violence in weak institutional settings where criminal gangs take over some of the functions of the state.

(ii) Value statement: It was agreed that a value statement should be inserted into the document spelling out the basic values underpinning the VPA and injecting into the document a greater sense of urgency.

(iii) Evidence-based public health approach: To avoid excluding other sectors from the VPA, it was suggested that the document should expand on the definition of "evidence-based public health approach". Concerns were raised that "evidence-based public health approach" might be construed in a such a way as to rule out criminal justice or human rights approaches, which do not conform to a narrow definition of the term but which are nonetheless evidence-based. It was suggested that the term "evidence-informed violence prevention" could be used instead.

(iv) Resources: The need for more resources – to recruit patrons, to help run the working groups, to improve VPA advocacy and messaging, for instance – was a topic that recurred throughout this discussion and, indeed, throughout the meeting. However, it was pointed out that VPA participants were potentially themselves a rich source of financial and non-financial support.

(v) *Champions from experience*: The document was criticized for taking too much of a top-down approach and not sufficiently engaging with the communities that experience violence. To remedy this, it was suggested that in addition to patrons, "champions from experience" should also be recruited to the VPA.

(vi) *Protective factors*: Too great an emphasis was placed in the document on risk factors for violence and protective factors, resilience, and assets of individual, communities and societies were given short shrift. It was agreed that a greater stress on protective factors should be included in the document (e.g. in scope and vision of the VPA) and that the VPA should call for more research to be carried out in those communities and societies in which violence occurs at significantly lower levels.

In addition, it was suggested that the VPA consider developing a rapid response capacity; and that the importance of capacity development, training in particular, be made more explicit in the document. No clear decisions were made regarding these suggestions.

Discussion and decisions on "What we would like VPA to achieve in next five years".

Four possible goals for the VPA emerged from this discussion:

(i) *Building political will*: To mobilize political support for an integrated approach to the prevention of interpersonal violence. This might include the adoption of a United National General Assembly (UN GA) resolution on violence, which would require a number of governments to sponsor such a resolution. It was noted that there would be a UN GA resolution on early childhood development later this year and that another UN GA resolution on armed violence and development was currently be prepared.

(ii) *VPA as an authoritative source of information on violence prevention*: To ensure that the VPA become an authoritative voice and source of scientific and technical information on violence prevention, including on such topics and the measurement of different forms of violence and criteria for outcome evaluations in low- and middle-income countries. Rather than itself producing research on violence prevention, the VPA would act as a clearinghouse, signposting such information, and producing practice notes.

(iii) *Advocacy*: There was broad agreement that the following facets of advocacy should be a central concern of the VPA: framing of effective violence prevention messages, establishing that primary prevention of violence is possible, enlisting the support of victim and survivor groups, emphasizing the costs of inaction, and developing tools for frontline violence prevention actors to make the case for primary prevention.

(iv) *Setting research agenda*: To set the research agenda in the field of global violence prevention and to make sure the VPA is regarded as the authoritative body that sets the research agenda.

Discussion and decisions on Project Groups

Early in the discussion on working groups it was decided that the term "project groups" should replace "working groups" since the term "project" has the advantage of being more specific and time bound. It was agreed to continue work on three existing project groups and create five new ones, and to decide on the leadership, membership, exact aims, specific products, and timescales for each project group by 30 June 2010. A template will be sent out for this purpose to those who expressed interest in leading project groups. The project groups selected (listed below) coincide only to an extent with the goals agreed upon (listed above) – no project group was created to work on turning the VPA into an authoritative source of information on violence prevention, for example. In practice, the achievements of the VPA will largely depend on the work of project groups and the products they generate, hence the VPA Strategic Priorities will only be formulated once project groups have been finalized.

Existing project groups:

- (i) Database of VPA participants assets

The Bernard van Leer foundation, attending the VPA meeting as observers, generously announced that they would fund the creation of an interactive VPA Assets Data base.

- (ii) Training in violence prevention

- (iii) Criminal Justice Liaison Group (enhancing intersectoral collaboration)

New project groups:

- (i) Violence prevention Funders' network

- (ii) Violence prevention research agenda

- (iii) Violence prevention in weak institutional settings and grey zone between interpersonal and collective violence

- (iv) Communications (messaging, knowledge translation, violence prevention language and "marketing", patrons and champions, and primary prevention awareness raising).

Discussion and decisions on organizational matters

Two main organizational matters were discussed – the VPA steering committee and VPA participants. There was agreement that the steering committee would adopt a light touch in coordinating VPA activities and that WHO should be given considerable freedom and flexibility in selecting the members of, and running, the steering committee, but that the committee should be representative of the different constituencies within the VPA. In addition to the WHO, the following 10 organizations expressed interest in participating in the steering committee: US-CDC, UNDP, Public Health Agency of Canada, Geneva Declaration/Small Arms Survey, Education Development Center, Liverpool John Moores University, St Andrews University, the International Centre for Crime Prevention, the World Bank, and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

Regarding VPA participants, there was consensus that the VPA could not continue growing indefinitely and that future participants should be selected on the basis of project groups, regional representation (currently several regions of the world remain unrepresented) and

multi-sectoral representation (e.g. the need for representation from the educational sector was pointed out).

6. Next steps

- Revise "A Strengthened Violence Prevention Alliance: A Conceptual Framework", circulate for comments to VPA participants by 30 June 2010, and finalize by 30 July 2010;
- Send out VPA Project Group template to those interested in leading a project group by 15 June 2010 and return completed by 30 June 2010;
- Based on completed project group templates, draft, circulate, revise and finalize VPA Strategic Priorities for 2011-2015 by 30 July 2010;
- Selection of members of the Steering Committee by 30 July 2010.

ANNEX

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Violence Prevention Alliance Meeting
Rome, 3-4 June 2010**

VPA PARTICIPANTS

John R Ashton
Cumbria PCT
Tenterfield
Brigsteer Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 5EA
United Kingdom
john.ashton@cumbriapct.nhs.uk

Linda Borland
Detective Inspector
Violence Reduction Unit
First Floor
Pegasus House
375 West George Street
GLASGOW
G2 4LW
United Kingdom
Linda.Borland@vruscotland.pnn.police.uk

Gregory Bourne
Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK)
P.O. Box 12232
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96828
United States
gbourne@nonkilling.org

Nancy Cardia
Centre for the Study of Violence
Avenue Professor Lucio Martins
Rodrigues
Traversa 4 bloco 2
Sao Paulo 05508-900
Brazil
ngcardia@gmail.com

Vivien Carli
International Centre for the Prevention
of Crime
465 St Jean Street, Suite 803
Montreal Quebec
H2Y 2R6
Canada
vcarli@crime-prevention-intl.org

Keith Cernak
Community Network Coalition Against
Violence
4433 246th Ave SE
Issaquah, WA. 98029
United States of America
partnerskeith@comcast.net

Maia Christopher
ATSA
4900SW Griffith Drive
Beaverton OR 97005
United States
maia@atsa.com

Rachel Davis
Prevention Institute
221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94607
USA
rachel@preventioninstitute.org

Peter D Donnelly
University of St Andrews
Bute Medical School,
Bute Medical Building,
ST ANDREWS,
Fife
KY16 9TS
United Kingdom
pdd21@st-andrews.ac.uk

Joám Evans Pim
Research, Global Team Leader
Center for Global Nonkilling (CGNK)
P.O. Box 12232
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96828
United States of America
jevans@nonkilling.org

Nancy Gage-Linder
Hesse Department of Labour, Family,
and Health
Dostojewskistr 4
65187 Wiesbaden
Germany
Nancy.Gage-Lindner@hmafg.hessen.de

Christine A Goodall
Medics Against Violence Programme
Glasgow Dental Hospital and School
378 Sauchiehall Street
Glasgow G2 3JZ
UK
c.goodall@dental.gla.ac.uk

Rodney Hammond
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention
and Control
Division of Violence Prevention
Mailstop F-63
4770 Buford Highway, NE
Atlanta, GA 30341
United States of America
rih2@cdc.gov

Christiane Hauzeur Vermeulen
FPS Health
Food Chain Safety
bloc 2
Place Victor Horta 40 boite 10
1060 Bruxelles
Belgium
Christiane.Hauzeur@health.fgov.be

Kathy Hegadoren
Canada Research Chair in Stress
disorders in Women
Faculty of Nursing
University of Alberta
4-130C Clinical Sciences Building
Edmonton Alberta

Canada T6G2G3
kathy.hegadoren@ualberta.ca

George Hosking
Wave Trust
Cameron House
61 Friends Road
Croydon Surrey
CR0 1ED, United Kingdom
ghosking@wavetrust.org

Freja Ulvestad Kärki
Department for Mental Health
Universitetsgata 2
Helsedirektoratet
Norwegian Directorate for Health
Pb 7000 St Olavs plass
0130 Oslo
Norway
FrejaUlvestad.Karki@helsedir.no

Finn Kjaerulf
Programme Manager for Latin America
and
Improvement of International
Development Practices
Rehabilitation and Research Centre for
Torture Victims
Borgergade 13, P.O. Box 2107
DK-1014 København K
Denmark
FK@rct.dk

Anthoulla Koutsoudi
Wave Trust
Cameron House
61 Friends Road
Croydon Surrey
CR0 1ED
United Kingdom

Joanne Lacroix
Family Violence Prevention Unit
Public Health Agency of Canada
200 Eglantine Driveway, AL 1909D
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9
Canada
Joanne.Lacroix@phac-aspc.gc.ca

Richard Matzopoulos
Medical Research Council of South
Africa
PO Box 19070
Tygerberg, 7505
South Africa
Richard.Matzopoulos@mrc.ac.za

Laurie Matthew
Eighteen And Under
15 St Boswells terrace
Dundee-Tayside
Scotland
DD3 9PU
lormac1053@aol.com

Harriet MacMillan
Departments of Psychiatry and
Behavioural
Neurosciences, and Pediatrics
Offord Centre for Child Studies
Patterson Building - McMaster
University
1200 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 3Z5, CANADA
macmilnh@mcmaster.ca

Maggi Morris
Director of Public Health
NHS Central Lancashire
Leyland
Lancashire,
PR1 2HE, UK
maggi.morris@centrallancashire.nhs.uk

Jan Ole Haagensen
Rehabilitation and Research Centre for
Torture Victims (RCT)
Borgergade 13
P.O. Box 2107
DK-1014 Copenhagen
Denmark
joh@rct.dk

Jerry Reed
Center for the Study and Prevention of
Injury, Violence, and Suicide
Suicide Prevention Resource Center
Education Development Center, Inc.
1000 Potomac Street, NW, Suite 350
Washington, DC 20007

jreed@edc.org

Qutub Syed
Health Protection Agency North West
Rooms 103-112, First Floor
DBH House
105 Boundary Street
Liverpool
L5 9YJ
United Kingdom
qutub.syed@hpa.org.uk

Zachary Taylor
United Nations Development
Programme
Bureau for Crisis Prevention and
Recovery
11-13 Chemin des Anemones
Chatelaine
CH-1219 Geneva
Switzerland
zachary.taylor@undp.org

Lil Tonmyr
Injury and Child Maltreatment Section
Health Surveillance and Epidemiology
Division
Public Health Agency of Canada
Tunney's Pasture
AL 1910C Ottawa
ON K1A 0K9, Canada
Lil_Tonmyr@phac-aspc.gc.ca

Maria Valenti
"Aiming for Prevention" International
Campaign
A Health Approach to Preventing Small
Arms Violence
International Physicians for the
Prevention of Nuclear War
66 Union Square, Suite 204
Somerville, MA 02143
United States of America
mvalenti@ippnw.org

Elizabeth Ward
Institute of Sustainable Development
Violence Prevention Alliance Jamaica
13 Gibraltar Way Road
UWI Mona Kingston 7
Jamaica
eward2008@gmail.com

Keiran Watson
Eighteen And Under
15 St Boswells terrace
Dundee-Tayside
Scotland
DD3 9PU
keir5680@aol.com

Alys Willman
World Bank
Social Development Department
1818 H Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20433
USA
awillman@worldbank.org

ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Dr Teresa Di Fiandra
WHO National Counterpart for Mental
Health
Ministry of Health of Italy
Viale Giorgio Ribotta 5
I-00144 Rome
Italy
t.difiandra@sanita.it

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HQ

Etienne Krug
kruge@who.int

Alexander Butchart
butcharta@who.int

Christopher Mikton
miktonc@who.int

Alison Gehring
gehringa@who.int

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
EURO ROME**

Francesca Racioppi
frr@ECR.euro.who.int

Dinesh Sethi
din@ECR.euro.who.int

Francesco Mitis
mit@ECR.euro.who.int

Manuela Gallitto
mga@ECR.euro.who.int

Manuela Zingales

Annalisa Marianecchi

OBSERVERS

Claudine Bansept
Conseil National des Ville
194 avenue du Président Wilson
93217 Saint-Denis la Plaine cedex
France
Claudine.BANSEPT@ville.gouv.fr

Arturo Cervantes
Secretaría de Salud
Lieja No. 7, 1er piso
Col. Juárez, Delegación Cuauhtémoc
C.P. 06600
México DF
Mexico
arturo.cervantes@salud.gob.mx

Marc Coester
German Congress on Crime Prevention
Am Waterlooplatz 5 A
30169 Hanover
Germany
marc.coester@gcocp.org

Luigi De Martino
Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence
and Development
Small Arms Survey
Avenue Blanc 47
1202 Geneva
Switzerland
luigi.demartino@genevadeclaration.org

Michael Feigelson
Programme Director
Bernard van Leer Foundation
PO Box 82334, 2508EH
The Hague, The Netherlands
Michael.Feigelson@bvleerf.nl

Marija Raleva
Clinical Center Skopje
Clinic for Psychiatry
Clinical Center Skopje
„Vodnjanska 17”
1000 Skopje
The Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia
marijaraleva@gmail.com

**VPA PARTICIPANTS UNABLE TO
ATTEND**

- Adelaide Hills Community Health Service
- Child Protection Unit, University of the Philippines
- Child Welfare League of Canada
- Community Network Coalition Against Violence (CNCAV)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
- Garance ASBL
- Institute of Legal Medicine, University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf
- Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence (IACPV)
- International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)
- Murray Mallee Community Health Service
- Onkapinga Collaborative Approach to the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Indigenous Family Violence (OCA)
- Thai Ministry of Public Health's Department of Health Service Support
- Violence and Injury Unit of the Ministry of Health Malaysia
- UNICEF
- UNODC
- Violent Crime Task Group, Cardiff Community Safety Partnership
- World Council of Churches: Decade to Overcome Violence
- White Ribbon Campaign
- Woman-to-Woman International