

Preventing violence in cities



1. Background

Millions of people die each year due to violence, amounting to 4% of all deaths in the world. Many more survive, but live with permanent physical and mental disabilities. Violence is also linked to other health concerns, such as depression, alcohol and substance abuse and HIV. There are different forms of violence, including child abuse and neglect by caregivers, youth violence, violence by intimate partners, sexual violence, elder abuse, self-inflicted violence or suicide, and collective violence. It occurs at different settings, including home, school, workplaces, streets and communities. Women are more at risk for being attacked by intimate partners, while young men are more likely to be attacked on the streets and in the community. The economic and social costs of violence are enormous.

A complicated web of factors at individual, family, community and societal level contribute to causing violence. Some of the causes include harsh discipline, poor monitoring and supervision of children, witnessing violence, drug trafficking, access to firearms, gender and income inequalities, and norms that support violence as a way of resolving conflicts.

Violence is preventable. Violence results from social and environmental factors that can be changed. There is increasing evidence that specially designed and carefully implemented interventions can prevent violence and are cost-effective.

Creating violence-free communities requires commitment by many different sectors to document the problem, build the knowledge base, design and test prevention programmes, and evaluate and disseminate the results of implementation of prevention programmes.

2. Good Practice Awards

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for application for good practice awards in Healthy Cities as follows:

Awards given:

Outstanding practices and innovative, successful approaches to preventing violence in a city.



Eligible applicants:

All members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities

Materials to be submitted:

A written report, and other supporting materials, describing (1) the approach and activities undertaken to prevent violence, such as child abuse and neglect by caregivers, youth violence, violence by intimate partners, sexual violence, elder abuse, self-inflicted violence or suicide, and collective violence at home, schools and workplaces, on the streets and in the community, (2) measurable outcomes of implementing the approach and activities, and (3) other information considered useful for evaluating the submission.

Deadline for submission:

31 August 2008

3. Best Proposal Award

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for proposals for innovative projects in Healthy Cities as follows:

Subject area:

Prevention of violence in a city. Innovative proposal for activities to prevent violence, such as child abuse and neglect by caregivers, youth violence, violence by intimate partners, sexual violence, elder abuse, self-inflicted violence or suicide, and collective violence at home, schools and workplaces, on the streets and in the community.

Seed money awarded:

USD10 000

Eligible applicants:

All members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities



Format of proposal:

The following sections should be included:

- Background (project area, baseline information of the area, etc.)
- Objectives
- Proposed approach and activities to prevent violence, such as child abuse and neglect by caregivers, youth violence, violence by intimate partners, sexual violence, elder abuse, self-inflicted violence or suicide, and collective violence at home, schools and workplaces, on the streets and in the community.
- Evaluation methodology
- Other pertinent information

Deadline for submission:

31 August 2008

4. Contact Information

Applications to both awards and any queries should be sent to:

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E-mail: hse@wpro.who.int or ogawah@wpro.who.int*

