

**World Health Organization Western Pacific Region
Healthy Cities Recognition 2014**

Safe cities: Prevention of violence and injuries

Background

With almost 1 million deaths each year, violence and injuries kill someone every 30 seconds in the Western Pacific Region. Leading causes include road traffic injuries, falls, drowning and interpersonal violence.

Perhaps much more crucial to the overall burden of violence are the multitude of non-fatal outcomes that lead to physical injury, disability, mental conditions, attempted suicide, HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections, and substance abuse. Violence is, therefore, both a disease outcome and a major risk factor for additional serious health problems. Likewise, road traffic crashes are estimated to result in more than 50 million non-fatal injuries each year, leading to various degrees of disability.

Injuries are not “accidents”. Accidents are defined as “unexpected occurrences that happen by chance”, whereas injury outcomes are characterized by well-established risk factors that could be addressed by intervention. Research clearly demonstrates that violence and injuries can be prevented.

Regional action to prevent violence and injuries has been limited. The first Regional Committee resolution on this often neglected area of multi-sectoral public health was passed in 2012 (WPR/RC63.R3).

Recognition of Best Practice

Recognition is given for innovative examples of outstanding practices for prevention, control and response to violence and injuries.

Submissions could reflect a systematic approach to all causes of violence and injuries, or may focus on any subtype of interpersonal violence (youth, intimate partner, sexual violence, child and elder maltreatment) or unintentional injuries (road traffic injuries, falls, drowning, burns or poisoning).

Materials to be submitted

In addition to the filled out application template, please provide any relevant background materials in support of your publication, including for example: relevant policies/strategies, media releases, and other information materials (e.g. flyers, booklets, photos etc.).

** For further information, please email Mr Jonathon Passmore (Technical Officer for Injury and Violence Prevention) at passmorej@wpro.who.int*

