



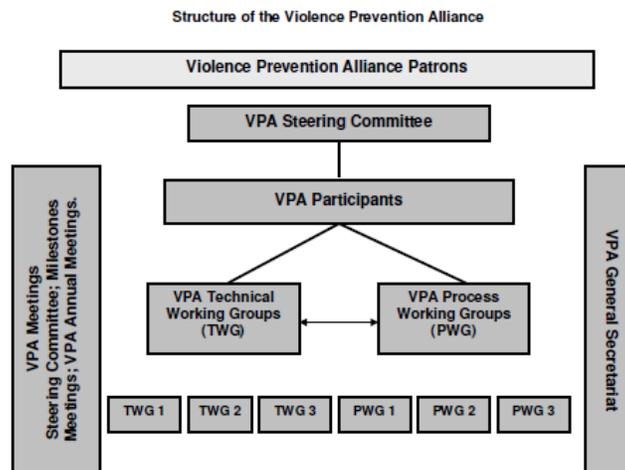
2012 VPA Annual Meeting *Munich, Germany*

MEETING REPORT

1. Background

Since it was launched in January 2004, the VPA has grown from eight to 50 participant organizations. Since the last VPA Annual Meeting in Rome in June 2010, the following 11 new participants have joined: in 2010, the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and the Small Arms Survey, the German Congress on Crime Prevention/Annual International Forum on Crime Prevention, and the Open Society Foundation's Crime and Violence Prevention Initiative; in 2011, the Forensic Psychiatry Research Unit based at Queen Mary's University in London, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Safety and Violence Initiative of the University of Cape Town, the Society for Prevention Research, and the United Nations' Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children; and so far in 2012, the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Partners for Prevention, Together for Girls, and Yale University's Violence and Health Group.

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, the following new structure for the VPA was agreed on in Rome in 2010 and has been implemented since. A key component of the new structure was the creation of project groups with clear terms of reference specifying the leadership and membership of the group, products the group will generate (e.g. surveys, databases, publications, etc.), and timelines.



At the September 2011 Fifth Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention (GCVP) Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, nearly 300 violence prevention experts from over 60 countries agreed on the need to identify a small set of policy, legal and programme-delivery goals at national level towards which global violence prevention efforts can be directed, and for a plan of action to unify their efforts. Subsequently, the VPA Secretariat, in close consultation with VPA participants, prepared the VPA's draft Plan of Action 2012-2020 for the GCVP, which was one of the main focuses of the 2012 VPA Annual Meeting.

2. Aims

In light of the restructuring of the VPA and the VPA's draft Plan of Action for the GCVP, aims of the VPA Annual Meeting 2012 were to:

- Provide an update on the implementation of new VPA structure;
- Discuss and agree upon the Draft Plan of Action for the GCVP 2012-2020;
- Discuss and agree upon how the VPA can help implement the GCVP Plan of Action 2012-2020, particularly through its project groups; and
- Provide updates on activities of VPA project groups.

3. Participants

The 56 meeting participants (see Annex 1 for final list of participants) came from low-, middle, and high-income countries. They included representatives from 37 VPA participant organizations and six observers (Juma Assiago from UN Habitat; Professor Manuel Eisner from the Institute of Criminology of Cambridge University; Michael Feigelson from the Bernard van Leer Foundation; Reinhart Fichtl from the UBS-Optimus Foundation; Barbara Gallo from the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund; Dr Shariful Islam from the Centre for Control of Chronic Diseases of Bangladesh).

4. Input

The main input to the meeting was the VPA's draft Plan of Action 2012-2020 for the GCVP and a series of presentations providing updates on VPA activities and project groups (See Annex 2 for Agenda). The Plan of Action has three overarching goals: to prioritize violence prevention within the global public health agenda; to build strong foundations for on-going violence prevention efforts; and to support evidence-based prevention strategies with the potential to prevent multiple types of violence.

5. Summary of main discussions and decisions

Update of VPA activities

Discussion: The session focused on the extent to which the new VPA structure was implemented, the main challenges facing the VPA, and whether the VPA should follow in the footsteps of two other WHO-led alliances which successfully increased the political priority of their issues – road safety and non-communicable diseases. Key elements of the approach these alliances adopted included getting a

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on the issue, raising substantial funds for advocacy campaigns, and convening high-level ministerial meetings.

The under-representation of participants from low- and middle-income countries in this 2012 Annual VPA meeting was repeatedly pointed out. The VPA Secretariat explained that no funds were available for the organization of this meeting or for funding participants from low- and middle-income countries, that meeting participants all financed their own participation, and that the meeting was held thanks to the generosity of the German Congress/International Forum on Crime Prevention.

Decisions:

No clear decision was taken on the recruitment of VPA patrons and champions – the only part of the new VPA structure which has so far not been implemented. However, during the VPA Steering Committee meeting on 15 April 2012, it was suggested that VPA participants try to take advantage of opportunities as they arise to approach potential patrons/champions and then report back to the VPA Secretariat.

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- There was consensus that the VPA should continue to be led by WHO and that the Secretariat should remain within WHO, but that it would benefit from additional administrative assistance – ideally from outside the UN system, to save on costs.
- Strong support was expressed for adopting the approach for increasing the political priority of violence prevention used by road safety and non-communicable diseases. Strong support was expressed for making best use of UN processes to increase the political priority of violence prevention (e.g. seeking a UNGA resolution on an integrated approach to the prevention of interpersonal violence and advocating for the inclusion of violence prevention in the process of revision of the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs]). A few meeting participants warned though that UNGA resolutions are not invariably effective in this regard.
- To increase the representation of meeting participants from low- and middle-income countries a proposal and an offer were made. The proposal was that every high-income country VPA participant raise money to fund the participation of a colleague from a low- and middle-income country in the next VPA Annual Meeting in 2014. The offer came from the Bernard van Leer Foundation which said it would fund the attendance of some participants from low- and middle-income countries at the next VPA Annual Meeting.

"Plan of Action 2012-2020 of GCVP"

Discussion: The discussion following the presentation of the Plan of Action focused on five main topics.

(1) Amendments to Plan of Action: The following amendments to the plan of action were suggested: specify that the WHO Prevention of Violence Team has authored the document on behalf of the VPA and then provide a list of VPA participants; add social norms supportive of violence in the box on the social determinants of violence and give examples of a few such social norms, such as gender and ethnic/racial norms; make clear that not all programmes belonging to the prevention strategies recommended are supported by evidence for their effectiveness and that only those supported by such

evidence should be prioritized; amend monitoring and evaluation section to include all relevant VPA participant projects; consider including some emotionally more engaging language.

(2) *Communications strategy*: The need to develop an effective communications strategy to promote this Plan of Action and increase the political priority of, and investment in, global violence prevention was emphasized by many participants.

(3) *UN General Assembly Resolution*: Seeking a UN GA resolution on an integrated approach to the prevention of interpersonal violence dominated the discussion of the Plan of Action. WHO made clear that as a UN agency it cannot lobby for such a resolution. VPA participants were on the whole in favour of seeking a UNGA resolution, but views ranged from making this the main focus of the VPA, subsuming most other VPA activities; through including it as one among other important goals of the VPA; to warnings that such resolutions have not always led to real policy changes and increased political commitment on the ground. The existence of UN processes on violence against children and violence against women and on armed violence (including resolutions on the issues) and the increased political sensitivity of interpersonal violence compared to road safety, for instance, were highlighted as a potential difficulty. It was agreed that it was also desirable to get violence prevention included in the revised MDGs.

(4) *Targets*: Targets of two types were discussed. It was suggested that the Plan of Action include aspirational quantitative targets for reductions in violence – for instance, reducing homicide by 50% by 2050. The second form of targets discussed concerned commitments to, and a timeline for, implementing the Plan of Action.

(5) *Assent to and status of Plan of Action*: How VPA participants could give their assent to this Plan of Action and the status of this document were debated at some length. Options proposed for assent spanned obtaining formal endorsement from each VPA organization to getting informal agreement from each of the VPA focal point within the organization. Options suggested for the status of the document included considering it an official Plan of Action to which VPA participants would formally commit by obtaining official endorsement to viewing it as an informal road map.

Decisions:

- (1) It was decided that suggested amendments to the Plan of Action would be made by WHO and then a final version circulated shortly after the meeting.
- (2) There was wide agreement that it is necessary to develop a communications strategy for the Plan of Action and on Day 2 of the meeting it was decided to establish a VPA Communications Project Group to achieve this and other communications goals.
- (3) Consensus was achieved on trying to seek a UNGA resolution on an integrated approach to violence prevention and on working towards including violence prevention in the MDG revision process. Those VPA participants in a position to do so agreed to approach their governments to explore their interest in tabling and/or supporting such a resolution.
- (4) No clear decision was taken regarding aspirational quantitative targets. However, the following sentence was added to the final revised Plan of Action: “It is recognized that the formulation of such baselines and targets is a complex endeavour that must proceed in close consultation with national governments, and a mechanism for undertaking such consultations will be developed at an appropriate stage in the implementation of this plan, once sufficient data are available.” It

was decided that WHO will prepare and circulate an implementation template to be filled out by each VPA participant which will specify which parts of the plan of action they commit themselves to implementing.

- (5) Agreement was reached that the Plan of Action should have the status of an informal road map and that assent to it should be given through informal agreement to the Plan of Action by VPA focal points. WHO will send out the final Plan of Action for clearance shortly after the meeting.

Update on VPA Project Groups

This session, which took up much of the second day of the meeting, consisted of presentations on the activities of the seven VPA Project Groups currently active followed by questions and answers and discussions. The seven Project Groups are the Funders' Network Project Group, the Assets Database Project Group, the Training Project Group, the Research Agenda Project Group, the Criminal Justice Liaison Group, the VPA Parenting Project Group, and the Project Group on Violence Prevention in Weak Institutional Settings. In addition, a representative from the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund, which is financing outcome evaluation studies of programmes to prevent violence against children in low- and middle-income countries, gave a presentation. Numerous suggestions were made during the discussions, including increasing the interaction between project groups and the full alliance; considering using graduate students to help with some of the projects (e.g. carry out outcome evaluations or develop training courses); developing a monitoring and evaluation project group and a communications project group; and translating training resources into other languages.

The discussion on the Project Group on Violence Prevention in Weak Institutional Settings touched on topics such as the meaning of “weak institutions”; the need for a typology of weak institutional settings; the relation between weak institutions, governance, and the legitimacy of institutions; the link between weak institutional settings and violence against children; the need to involve political scientists and specialists in international relations in the group; and the development of methodologies to study governance and interventions to address violence prevention interventions in weak institutional settings.

Decisions:

- Assets Database Project Group: No decision was taken concerning whether or not to continue with the group.
- Criminal Justice Liaison Group: it was decided to reprint and re-launch the publication produced by this group in 2010 entitled *Violence prevention: an invitation to intersectoral action* and explore the possibility of translating it into other languages – Spanish and Portuguese in particular; WHO will approach UNODC to see if they are interested in joining and ICPC has committed itself to joining the group.
- VPA Parenting Group: several VPA participants expressed interest in joining the group. However, the group already has 10 members and membership of VPA Project Groups is generally capped at 10 to avoid making the groups unwieldy. But those interested in

participating in this project group's activities can contribute as observers or reviewers of the group's work.

- Project Group on Violence Prevention in Weak Institutional Settings: UNDP (E. Debruijn), the University of St Andrews (P. Donnelly) and the Forensic Psychiatry Research Unit (J. Coid) committed themselves to joining the group. Several different products for the group were proposed – on evaluating violence prevention interventions in weak institutional settings, advocacy, and the “grey zone” between interpersonal and collective violence – but no clear product was decided upon.
- The Open Society Foundation's Crime and Violence Initiative offered to help fund the establishment of a Communications Project Group and the Bernard van Leer Foundation has accepted to co-chair this group with WHO. The exact focus on this group will be determined in coming weeks.
- The VPA Secretariat will, in consultation with each project group, update the terms of reference for each project group, listing changes in leadership, membership, products, and timelines.

6. Next steps

- The VPA Secretariat will revise the Plan of Action 2012-2020 for the GCVP in light of the discussion at this meeting and the agreement of VPA focal points will be sought shortly after the meeting.
- Once the Plan of Action has been agreed on, a template for its implementation will be created and each VPA participant will complete it specifying which parts of the Plan of Action they will implement and by when. Its implementation will then be monitored by the VPA Secretariat.
- Terms of reference for existing VPA Project Groups will be updated and new terms of reference will be created for the Communications project group. Subsequent to the meeting, several VPA participants – including the Open Society Foundation, the Bernard van Leer Foundation, and WHO – expressed commitment to supporting this project group.
- VPA participants in a position to do so will approach their governments to explore interest in tabling and/or supporting a United Nations General Assembly resolution on an integrated approach to the prevention of interpersonal violence and will also work towards including violence prevention in the MDG revision process.

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Annex 2 – Meeting Agenda

Day 1 - 16 April 2012
Theme: VPA's Plan of Action 2012-2020 for the GCVP
Chair: Professor Peter Donnelly

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
8.00-09.00	Registration	
09.00-09.15	Welcome and the VPA eight years on	Marc Coester Alex Butchart
09.15-09.25	Meeting objectives, inputs, and outcomes & adoption of meeting agenda	Chris Mikton
09.25-10.55	Participant self introductions and updates on activities	All
11:00-12.30	Opening Session of German Congress/International Forum on Crime Prevention	
12.30-13.30	Lunch	
13.30-14.00	Update on VPA activities and discussion	Chris Mikton & All
14.00-14.15	Presentation of VPA's Plan of Action 2012-2020 for the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention	Alex Butchart
14.15-15.30	General discussion on VPA's Plan of Action 2012-2020 for the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention	All
15.30-15.45	Coffee	
15.45-16.45	Implementing VPA's Plan of Action 2012-2020 for the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention	Chris Mikton
17.00-18.00	Launch of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime's International Report	Paula Miraglia
18.15-20.30	German Congress/International Forum on Crime Prevention Reception and Dinner	

Day 2 – 17 April 2012
Theme: Update from VPA project groups
Chair: Dr Anna Alvazzi

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
09.00-09.05	Brief overview of Day 1	Alex Butchart
09.05-09.10	Introduction to VPA project groups and how they can help implement the GCVP goals	Chris Mikton
09.10-09.20	Update from project groups 1: Funders' Network PG	Jerry Reed
09.20-09.30	Presentation on the Children and Violence Evaluation Challenge Fund	Barbara Gallo
09.30-10.00	Discussion on funding global violence prevention	All
10.00-10.15	Update from project groups 2: Assets Database PG and discussion	Shannon Turner
10.15-10.45	Update from project groups 3: Training PG and discussion	Jerry Reed
10.45-11.15	Update from project groups 4: Research Agenda PG and discussion	Masako Tanaka and Harriet MacMillan
11.15-11.30	Coffee	
11.30-11.45	Update from project groups 5: Criminal Justice PG and discussion	John Carnochan
11.45-12.15	Update from project groups 6: VPA Parenting PG and discussion	Theresa Kilbane and Cathy Ward
12.15-12.45	Update from project groups 7: PG on violence prevention in weak institutional settings and discussion	Anna Alvazzi
12.45-13.15	How VPA project groups can help implement the goals of the Plan of Action 2012-2020 for the GCVP and discussion	Alex Butchart & All
13.15-13.20	VPA organizational considerations	Chris Mikton
13.20-13.30	Summary, next, steps, and concluding remarks	Alex Butchart