

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2004 - 2006 AFRICA

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The first part of our regional report for 2004-2005 was covered in the one sent to the Cambridge, MA, USA board meeting on 16th September 2005. Therefore, this current report will be a continuation and probably an expansion of issues previously raised in the former. The Period under review was fulfilling and raises prospects if there will be continuity.

Multinational Injury Surveillance Pilot Project (MISPP)

With the memories of sharing the same corridor at McGill in Montreal, Canada in 2002, our second meeting with Diego Zavala at Vienna, Austria two year later provoked an idea of considering a project that will not only engage my region, but an empirical and scientific endeavor that, we hope should be a contribution to Public health and perhaps assist the future.

The aims of the Multinational Injury Surveillance Pilot Project (MISPP) are:

- To systematically collect, review and evaluate the context in which specific external injuries occur in a great diversity of socio-cultural populations.
- To test the implementation of an injury surveillance system in countries where no such system is in place (Zambia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, and Kenya).
- To collaborate with local efforts in countries where an injury surveillance system is already in place such as Uganda.
- To provide evidence-based recommendations to local government health authorities to address the incidence of injury in their communities from a public health perspective, as well as other public policy makers and other stakeholders in order to encourage the development of armed violence prevention strategies.

The project which is endorsed by WHO and financially supported by Canadian Foreign Department and Small Arms Survey promises to be groundbreaking is at it 3rd phase in the selected Africa sites.

Train the Trainers workshop, a practical interaction attended by representative of the 5 African Affiliates and conducted by our Principal Investigator, Dr. Diego Zavala in Nairobi, Kenya, March 27-30, 2006.

The workshop was to review the project goals, which include collecting contextual data on gun violence victims using a standard and thus comparable form; review the data collection procedures; discuss building country support with key health leaders for the program; and field test the data collection and entry into the EPI Info® software. The Kenyan Affiliate led by Dr. Walter Odhiambo arranged these exercises at Jomo Kenyatta Hospital.

Nobel Peace Laureates' summit

The 6th edition of this impressive gathering which focused on Africa and her emergencies was held in Rome 23-26 November, 2005.

IPPNW was represented by Ron McCoy, Alex Rosen and Ime John. The later gave a presentation *'Giving suffering a human face-One bullet stories and physicians*

Works in social reconstruction in Africa that was well received by the participants. IPPNW played a major role in shaping the final communiqué that was issued at the end of the summit.

Voices of Africa-Voices of peace

This was an international conference sponsored by the International association of University presidents and the United Nations Commission for Disarmament and UNESCO. The conference titled 'Voices of Africa-Voices of peace' was held at the North West University, Potchestroom, South Africa, 6-9 March 2006. Several papers were presented. Robert Mtonga and I were invited on the recommendation of Dr. Klaus Melf of Centre for Peace Studies, University of Tromsø, Norway. Robert's presentation was titled, "Losing the peace after winning the war: can public health models help engender a paradigm shift in Africa?", while mine was "Physicians, as partners in resolving violent conflicts in Nigeria."

DURBAN

***Pre-conference "Driving Change: Firearms Policy for Safer Societies"* March 31-April 1 2006**

Dr Walter Odhiambo of the Kenyan Affiliate made presentation on small arms injuries in Africa, with a supporting Kenyan case. Andrew Pinto presented a Ugandan study. Robert Mtonga chaired a session, which was very interactive. Some of us led group workshops. We met John Archibald and James Costas, IPPNW Donors, during the evening reception in Durban. A follow up from Cambridge was desirable.

Small Arm Survey: a Geneva based research group is interested in our survey. Maria and most of us had in-depth discussions with Robert Muggah and Nicolas Florquin, both of SAS for a possibility of supporting our MISPP. As a result, an executive summary and Budget were sent. Also, at the Revcon in New York last July, positive feedback was received and a full proposal sent to SAS through Robert Muggah.

8th World Injury Conference, "Data to Action," April 2-5, 2006

We were effectively represented at Durban during the 8th World Injury Conference on injury prevention and safety promotion held in Durban, RSA. We had several oral and poster presentations.

The highlights were

1. We met with Dr. Olive Kobisingye, Adviser on Disability at WHO AFRO Office, Brazzaville, Congo at Durban Hilton Hotel to discuss support for the MISPP and how she might help facilitate contact and possible endorsement of our survey at Individual WHO Country level. Dr. Kobisingye provided most of the contacts and promised to send introductory emails to the contact persons of WHO at our country Offices.
2. Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) meeting facilitated by Dr. Alexander Butchart, Coordinator at the VIP department of WHO, Geneva. IPPNW volunteered to lead the working group on Armed Violence. I was able to represent IPPNW at a later workshop of the VPA at Brussels, Belgium 19-21 June 2006. Materials from '*Aiming for Prevention*' campaigns were distributed to participants. Networking with other members of the Alliance promises to involve IPPNW members in workings groups such as the Emergency Physicians and trauma surgeons' action group.

AFFILIATES REPORTS

DR Congo

Active in MISPP, was able to attend the Train the Trainers workshop in Nairobi. Also, this affiliate led by Dr. Simon Bokongo Kawayu contributes regularly to the Landmines Monitor.

Kenya

The Kenyan Affiliate hosted the Train the Trainers workshop at Jomo Kenyatta Teaching Hospital which had the first hand experience of using the protocol developed for the MISPP.

Dr. Walter Odhiambo and other colleagues developed another one bullet story that was presented during the pre congress in Durban, SA

Nigeria

In addition to the current MISPP, the Small Arms survey SAS, has concluded a survey arrangement with the Nigerian affiliate to extend our studies to include injuries sustained during electioneering campaigns^a in Kano, Nigeria. The first informal meeting between the representative of SAS and our Nigerian Colleagues was in July.

The Nigerian One Bullet Stories were well documented by the Medical students at the University teaching Hospital of Jos. The edited version is ready.

The same University of Jos, played host to first African students' Regional conference at Jos, in Dec 2005. Robert Mtonga and a Zambian Medical student were unfortunately denied visas to attend, however, Mtonga and Ime sent in their presentations. A post Conference tour was organized at the Yankari game Reserve, Bauchi, Nigeria.

Uganda

A representative of the Ugandan Affiliate attended the Train the Trainers workshop in Nairobi. Currently, they are working with landmines issues in addition to data collection for the MISPP.

Zambia

Dr. Robert Mtonga was appointed into the Zambian National Commission on small arms. Also, he was able to attend several meetings related to the campaigns against small arms this year and in addition, the Review conference in New York, July 2006.

PROSPECTIVE AFFILIATES

I have been in communication with Physicians from Tanzania and Mauritius who expressed their willingness to join our Federation. They were referred to the Central Office for formal application.

Challenges

- Funding to progress in our MISPP.
- Regional meeting desired as soon as possible since, there was no formal one held 2004-2006.
- Improving communication between Affiliate and the Regional VP. Also, a consistent and structured process of reporting activities to the regional office periodically will be appreciated in the light of a renewed IPPNW.

^a The campaign for elections in Nigeria which is often violent is plan for the last quarter of 2006. The President, Governors and members of the National /State assemblies are expected to be elected in the April 2007 polls.

Suggestions

- Addition of more affiliates within our region would be highly suggested.
- A regular follow-up of collaborating Agencies in form of visits and letters regarding our projects will augur well for our Federation in this region.

Appreciation

I wish to thank affiliates for their great work and support during these past years of my stewardship. The advices from my predecessor, Robert Mtonga were valuable. Also, suggestions from Walter, Ruku, Eddie, Simon and Peter were immensely appreciated.

Maria Valenti and the Central office staffs especially Michael and Doug were of inestimable value to whatever would be adjudged as an achievement to our little efforts that made a difference. Thanks to Mehdi and Aki who were equally supportive.