



Interpersonal violence prevention in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: Facts from the *Global status report on violence prevention 2014*

Introduction

The *Global status report on violence prevention 2014* is jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). For the first time ever, it assesses national efforts, globally and by WHO regions, including the Eastern Mediterranean Region, to address interpersonal violence. Interpersonal violence includes child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner violence¹, sexual violence and elder abuse. Interpersonal violence is a risk factor for lifelong health and social problems. It is both predictable and preventable and responsibility for addressing it rests clearly with national governments.

The report aims to assess countries' progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2002 World report on violence and health (Box 1) and the related World Health Assembly resolution WHA56.24. The resolution encouraged Member States to consider adopting the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health* and to prepare their own reports on violence prevention addressing the magnitude of the problem, the risk factors, existing prevention efforts and future action enhancing a multisectoral response. It also requested WHO to promote research to support evidence-based approaches for the prevention of violence and the mitigation of its consequences.

¹ According to WHO, intimate partner violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

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The findings of the *Global status report on violence 2014* offer an opportunity for all violence prevention stakeholders in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to come together and step up their activities and investments to match the burden and severity of the problem in the Region.

For instance, by showing the extent to which national action plans are often not driven by data, the findings provide pointers for governments and regional bodies on how they should steer national planning exercises in a more data-driven direction. By highlighting gaps in prevention programming and service delivery by type of violence, stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels have an opportunity to correct existing imbalances. Perhaps most important, the findings represent a set of indicators and a baseline that will help countries to measure and track future progress based on clearly set targets.

Related factsheet

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