



EUROPE

Regional Committee for Europe Fifty-fifth session

Bucharest, Romania, 12–15 September 2005

EUR/RC55/R9
15 September 2005
54257
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resolution

Prevention of injuries in the WHO European Region

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA49.25 on prevention of violence – a public health priority; WHA56.24 on implementing the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*; WHA57.10 on road safety and health; and WHA57.12 on reproductive health: draft strategy to accelerate progress towards the attainment of international development goals and targets; United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/289 on improving global road safety; the celebration of World Health Day 2004, dedicated to road safety; and the launches of the *World report on road traffic injury prevention*, and the Regional Office for Europe's report *Preventing road traffic injury: a public health perspective for Europe*;

Recognizing the burden of injuries in WHO's European Region, which is even increasing in some countries of the Region, and the urgent need for public health action to reduce the relentless daily loss of life and suffering caused by unintentional injury and violence;

Mindful that this response should take into account the diversity of the European Region, the inequalities in the burden of injuries across and within countries, and the opportunities created by adopting a public health approach that promotes multisectoral action in which the health sector plays a coordinating role, as well as by mainstreaming injury prevention across different policies within and outside health systems;

Acknowledging the extensive work already carried out by WHO globally and within the European Region on the prevention and control of unintentional injuries and violence, as well as Member States' existing commitments to improving reproductive health (as exemplified by World Health Assembly resolution WHA57.12), child and adolescent health (Regional Committee resolutions EUR/RC51/R4 and EUR/RC53/R7), and environment and health (resolutions EUR/RC49/R4 and EUR/RC54/R3), and to addressing the harmful use of alcohol (resolution EUR/RC49/R8);

Having reviewed document EUR/RC55/10 on Injuries in the WHO European Region: Burden, challenges and policy response;

1. URGES Member States:

- (a) to give high priority to the prevention of violence and unintentional injury by developing national action plans that are coordinated with other relevant existing action plans, so as to strengthen their efforts to implement existing World Health Assembly and Regional Committee resolutions;
- (b) to develop injury surveillance, in order to obtain a better understanding and to raise awareness of the burden, causes and consequences of injuries, so that programmes and investments for prevention, care and rehabilitation can be better targeted, monitored and evaluated;
- (c) to strengthen their technical and institutional capacity to address the issue of injuries, both in terms of prevention and along the whole continuum of trauma care, from the prehospital phase, through hospital care to rehabilitation, as well as strengthening social interventions to address interpersonal violence, as appropriate;
- (d) to promote research on effective intervention measures and the implementation of evidence-based approaches for prevention and care, which would also involve establishing effective mechanisms for identifying, disseminating and sharing good practices across and within countries and sectors;
- (e) to take stock of and support the activities of the network of national focal points for the violence and injury prevention, to promote the dissemination and sharing of experience in developing and implementing policies and actions to reduce the burden of injury across the Region;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to support Member States in their efforts to strengthen injury prevention and to draw up national action plans;
- (b) to facilitate the identification and sharing of good practice in the prevention of violence and unintentional injuries;
- (c) to stimulate and support the network of national focal points and further develop collaboration with other relevant networks of experts and professionals;
- (d) to provide assistance in building capacity at the technical and policy level in order to strengthen national response to injuries to include surveillance, evidence-based practice and evaluation;
- (e) to provide technical assistance to improve prehospital treatment and care for victims of unintentional injuries and violence;
- (f) to promote the development of partnerships and collaboration with the European Union and other international organizations, in particular the Council of Europe, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization, and nongovernmental organizations, as appropriate, to enhance the response to the challenges posed by different causes of injuries;
- (g) to report back to the Regional Committee in 2008 on progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution by the Secretariat and the Member States.