

**Launch of Innocenti Working Papers on Child Injury in Asia**  
**Opening Remarks**  
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Let me begin by welcoming you here today for the launch of some groundbreaking new research. The Innocenti working papers on child injury in Asia are the result of more than seven years of innovative research and analysis.

The papers bring together the results of five of some of the largest ever household surveys conducted in China, Bangladesh, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. They represent an important investment in mapping what we now can clearly state is one of the leading causes of death for children in the region.

Child injury, especially as more children live beyond their first birthday, represents a serious threat to a child's survival and development.

As you will hear today, the findings that will be presented provide a clear indication that we must act to put this much higher on the public agenda.

Today, we are very fortunate to have a distinguished panel of experts to present the findings and explain their significance.

- Dr. Mike Linnan, from the Alliance for Safe Children, who is the primary author of the papers, will present the findings.
- He will be followed by Dr. David Parker from the Innocenti Research Center, who will speak on the implications for children's agenda.
- Dr. Shumona Shafinaz, a child injury specialist from UNICEF Bangladesh, will then illustrate the human consequences for children and their families and share experiences about some of the practical interventions that can help reduce the risk.
- Finally, Ambassador Pete Peterson, the founder of the Alliance for Safe Children, whose personal commitment to this issue led to this research, will map out what he would like to see happen next.

This research represents an important partnership between Governments and academic institutions in the respective countries, as well as the Alliance for Safe Children and UNICEF.

It provides further evidence to lead to strengthen action at the global and regional level. Already it has made a difference at country level contributing to strengthening policies, public education campaigns and prevention programmes.

The release of these findings also comes at a very opportune time. Later this week in Mexico, the 9<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion will begin. This research, which will be shared at the conference, demonstrates that this is no longer just an issue that needs attention in the industrialized world but a global problem that needs our attention. We at UNICEF are very pleased to have been involved in this research and the contribution it has made to the global movement for children.