

Multi-Country Consultation on Reducing the Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Children and Their Communities – What Works?



March 5-6 2008 Kingston, Jamaica – 2008 Peace Month: “Peace for Prosperity”



**MULTI-COUNTRY CONSULTATION ON REDUCING THE IMPACT OF SMALL
ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS ON CHILDREN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES
March 5-6, 2008
Kingston, Jamaica, 2008 Peace Month: "Peace for Prosperity"**

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I. Background

Within the observance of Peace Month in Jamaica and this year's theme **Peace For Prosperity**, the Ministry of National Security, the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) collaborated to host the two-day consultation on "Reducing the Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Children and their Communities".

Globally and regionally, countries have expressed concern over the spread of violence and its impact on children, communities and national development. The proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) has been identified as one of the many contributing factors.

Important international and bilateral declarations and agreements have been made to address the challenge. These include the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the 2006 Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, the 2006 UN General Assembly Resolution on the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children and the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Countries have taken numerous steps to stem violence, control the trafficking and use of small arms and light weapons, and mitigate their impact on children and communities. Often, however, the lack of comprehensive approaches prevents countries from fully grasping the benefits of their actions.

Purpose of the Consultation

The purpose of the consultation was to identify good practices in the Caribbean and Central America that could help countries develop policies and programmes for comprehensive prevention and response, based on international frameworks, recommendations from studies, and lessons learnt from various country experiences.

Expected Outcomes

The consultation was expected to provide an opportunity for the following outcomes:

- International frameworks presented and challenges and opportunities in operationalising them identified and discussed.
- Shared lessons from good practices.
- Identification of follow-up coordination, implementation and support processes towards effective implementation at country, regional and global levels.

Participants

A wide cross-section of international, regional and local participants attended representing relevant offices of the United Nations, governments and civil society in Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Geneva, Haiti, Jamaica, New York, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago and Vienna.

II. Introductory Remarks

Dr. Elizabeth Ward Chair, Violence Prevention Alliance

In her opening remarks, Dr. Elizabeth Ward set the tone for the deliberations by giving the following stark statistics.

- It is estimated that there are over 875 million firearms (2007). The value of the trade in 2000 was estimated at over US \$4 Billion.
- Small arms and light weapons are the world's "real weapons of mass destruction". Every day they cause more than 1,300 deaths. At least 500,000 people each year are killed by small arms.
- In Jamaica in 2006 homicide rates were 54 per 100,000 with 75% of these homicides involving use of the gun as the weapon.
- In Jamaica the cost of treating one gun shot wound in 2006 was \$JA 418,000.
- For serious injuries the total direct medical costs were \$JA 2 billion or \$US 29.2 million.
- In Jamaica in 2006 the productivity loss was J\$4.3 billion (\$US 62.7 billion).
- Proliferation of small arms also contributes to non-productive investment in private security services, expected to rise above US\$400 billion by 2010.

Armed conflict and social violence reduces or reverses economic progress

Direct medical costs and productivity losses accounted for 4% of Jamaica's GDP in 2006 and, according to the World Bank, if Jamaica could reduce its homicide rate to the level of Costa Rica its GDP would increase by over 20% per annum.

Quoting former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan Dr. Ward said that small arms proliferation was not just a security issue but an issue of human rights and development.

Dr. Ward welcomed the participants from overseas and expressed confidence that Jamaica would be able to learn from the experience of other countries and thus be able to develop actionable plans with a funding mechanism to tackle the problem of small arms.

Hon. Arthur Williams
Minister of State, Ministry of National Security, Jamaica

Minister Arthur Williams in his Opening Address said that the conference was very timely as violence involving small arms was driving fear in the hearts of Jamaicans, tarnishing the country's image and traumatizing children.

In illustrating the gravity of the problem, the Minister said that Jamaica Constabulary Force statistics indicated that in 2007, 265 children were murdered, 1,241 persons died by the gun and there were 1,441 cases of shooting.

The Minister noted that many of those murdered were parents/guardians and sole bread winners for families, consequently there was a devastating impact on the children.

Children, he said, did not have to be hurt themselves to suffer negatively as they are impacted in many ways including:

- Trauma when violence takes place near schools.
- Schools having to be closed for weeks on end.
- Psychological harm with few services for counseling.
- Hopes and futures blighted.
- Emotional scars.
- Derailment of career and educational paths.
- Living what they learn – children become accustomed to violence at an early age.
- Early initiation and recruitment.

The Minister said that successive administrations had tried to tackle the problem of small arms and light weapons, but it was a complex problem requiring multiple approaches.

He noted that despite actions to prevent illegal guns entering the country, in 2007 more than 200 guns were seized by police. And, despite the fact that Jamaica has signed all relevant treaties, limited resources to police the coastline and the over 100 illegal airstrips have meant that Jamaica's coastline is a smugglers dream.

Despite the challenges, actions taken by Jamaica to date include:

- A 1974 Gun Court Act.
- Creation of a Caribbean Search Centre.
- National Training of Trainers course on trafficking in small arms.
- Creation of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) and the Peace Management Initiative (PMI).
- Various private sector initiatives.
- Creation of a special anti-crime 'Kingpin' strategy –"Operation King Fish" in 2004.
- Border control strategies.

Minister Williams noted that among the lessons learned were that governments alone could not achieve the desired reduction in small arms and their impact on children. In addition, strategies must address economic inequality and social decay.

Prof. Barry Chevannes
Peace Management Initiative, Jamaica

Prof. Chevannes emphasized that children were victims and perpetrators, the latter because of distorted social values, as communities normalize violence as a means of conflict resolution.

He said that while Jamaica has a murder rate in the 50-60 per 100,000 range (with countries at war having rates in the 70s per 100,000), what the figures do not show is that most of the murders are confined to one section of one city of Jamaica, that is, South St. Andrew.

In sections of that area, the murder rate per population is a horrifying 600 to over 1,000 per 100,000. These figures, said Prof. Chevannes, demonstrate that the violence is distorting the value system. The role models are violent and therefore the increasing incidence of violence is not surprising.

Prof. Chevannes said that the task of reducing the impact of small arms and light weapons on children was two-fold: (a) as victims directly and indirectly and (b) as perpetrators. No society, he said, can progress with violence as a way of life, and, Jamaica should serve as a warning to other countries of what not to do and where not to go.

Bertrand Bainvel
Representative, UNICEF Jamaica

The UNICEF Representative extended his welcome to the participants especially those from the diverse countries, and expressed his pleasure at co-hosting the event during "Peace Month" in Jamaica.

Mr. Bainvel said the statistics given by the previous speakers showed the magnitude of the problem. He noted that it was important to bear in mind that violence has different impact on different groups – children, women, men, elders etc. and it is therefore important to discuss the issues from the human impact standpoint.

He urged the meeting to adopt a humble approach to sharing information and experiences and to have fun while sharing and learning even about such difficult issues.

He reiterated that the discussions were designed to be within a framework of the international Declarations and Programmes of Action, and noted that Jamaica was a leader in signing such Declarations.

Minh Pham
Representative, UNDP Jamaica

The UNDP Representative said that the issues in the context of Jamaica indicate a nexus of three elements:

- Demographics
- Location/geography – urban/peri-urban
- Income – vulnerable and low income populations

He drew on the international definition of high fatality rates – 1,000 per 100,000 per year and said that Jamaica has had higher rates over many years.

Mr. Pham congratulated the Government of Jamaica on its commitment to addressing the problem of small arms and light weapons and said that a window of opportunity for demonstrating that commitment would be the upcoming national budget debate. One indicator, he said, would be the establishment of a new integrated and coordinated approach.

Mr. Pham said that the consultation was occurring at a critical moment and that this moment is a not a call to arms, but a call to disarm.

This moment is not a call to arms but a call to disarm

SESSION 1 – THE CHALLENGE: THE DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM

The session featured presentations by three panelists.

1.1 Violence in the Caribbean – Why Here, Why Now?, Mr. Theodore Leggett, UN Office on Drugs and Crime

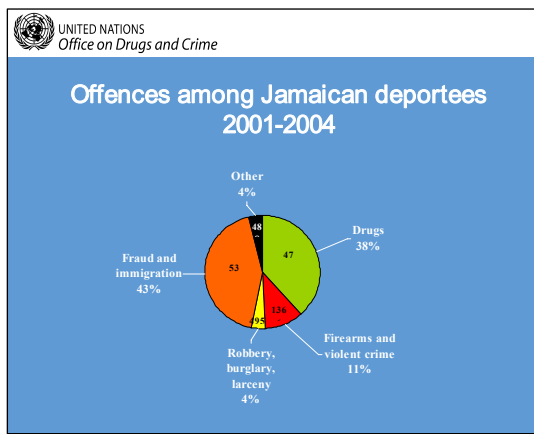
Among the main points of the presentation was the fact that crime is a development issue and should be framed as such.

Mr. Leggett outlined characteristics of the Caribbean as follows:

- There is diversity in Human Development Index, size, and economic growth. It is noteworthy, Mr. Leggett said, that some countries with higher economic growth than Jamaica have increasing crime indicating that there are no easy conclusions to be drawn concerning poverty and crime.
- Trends show doubling and tripling of murder rates in countries such as the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.
- A correlation study of GDP and violence indicates that there is some correlation but not a one-one as growth occurs with high crime rates also. Mr. Leggett said that Jamaica’s high murder rates are not happening in the poorest parishes.
- The Caribbean and Central America are the regions with the fastest growing

murder rates (data show South Africa is declining).

- It is the older age groups of youth that are impacted the most both as victims and as perpetrators. The highest levels of arrest occur in the 26-40 year age bracket and it is that older age group that has the highest victim rates.
- The research indicates that in relation to the proliferation of fire arms, Jamaica does not have a high rate of firearm ownership. However the existing arms are very active, indicating that it does not take many guns to cause alot of mayhem and damage.
- In relation to deportees to the Caribbean, Jamaica has the highest number but studies show that they are not a driving force of the problem of violence. Mr. Leggett pointed out that it is not the most serious offenders who get deported as the more serious offenders have long sentences in the US and they tend to be in an older age group when they are deported. The data show that 1 in 18 Jamaicans was arrested in one year and 1 in 17 deportees.



Mr. Leggett said that the critical question for the region is what are the main drivers of violence and crime? He offered the following issues for consideration:

- One factor which impacts the crime/violence in Jamaica is the cocaine trade but there is not a strong correlation between drug trafficking and murder rates in other high trans-shipment countries.

Hence, it is likely to be something about the **nature** of the trafficking in Jamaica that induces the violence.

- The Caribbean as a share of transshipping to the US has declined. Now the main player is Mexico.
- US cocaine demand is down, Europe is increasing, so too is West Africa.

A main point to be concluded is that:

Poverty, drugs and deportees are not predictors of high levels of violence.

Interventions

Mr. Leggett contrasted examples of interventions, namely:

- British Operation Air Bridge which had an extremely high arrest of some 400-500 Jamaican women. This had great human costs and high administrative costs of interdiction at travel ports.
- The Dutch, on the other hand, opted not to arrest couriers but seized the drugs and returned the persons home. This had a dramatic impact on reducing trafficking.

Mr. Leggett said that Jamaica's interventions have not had a significant impact on murder rates. He said that the emphasis on strong policing methods might serve only to exacerbate the 'war' between the police and citizens. While there is a place for strong policing methods, he said, there is evidence that interventions in the area of crime prevention can yield good results. It is therefore time, he said, for a fresh rethink towards social crime prevention strategies.

1.2 "The Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Children and Adolescents - A Case Study of El Salvador, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago", 2007 UNICEF-supported study, Ms. Candie Cassabalian, UNICEF TACRO

The report is a follow-up to the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children and sought to isolate the specific impact of small arms. The objectives of the study were to:

- Expose the evidence of small arms impact on children and adolescents.
- Explore possible partnerships for UNICEF.
- Document good initiatives.
- Make general and country-specific recommendations.

The key findings of the study were that:

- Children are more the victims than the perpetrators of violence. In one year 900 children were killed in the study countries, and almost 700 by small arms. Children were 4.1 – 12.7% of victims.
- Most child victims are male adolescents between 15-18 but gang-related causes accounted for only 2.8% of cases.
- Violence impacts children in all their environments – communities, schools, institutions for children's rehabilitation.
- Violence impacts children directly (death and injury) and indirectly (psychological, restricted access to services and institutions, diverted national resources etc).
- The region has the highest rates of armed violence in the world and 42% of all homicides globally.

- There is widespread availability of small arms.
- There is a lucrative arms trade with a 3.5 – 10.1 million US dollar market for the legal trade and much more for the illegal trade.
- There is availability of firearms among children due to strong cultural tolerance of violence and a skewed understanding of masculinity.

Ms. Cassabalian said that the study presents the following calls to action:

- Commitment by all actors both government and non-government to counter armed violence - this will require better coordination and cooperation.
- Measures need to be taken to:
 - Stop SALW proliferation (arms control measures).
 - Prevent armed violence.
 - Protect children.
 - Provide treatment and rehabilitation of child victims in order to break the cycle.

Among the solutions recommended by the study are the following:

- Multi disciplinary and cross sectoral dialogue across countries.
- Preventive efforts – parenting skills, constructive lifestyles promotion and services targeting the 10-14 age group.
- Reform and enforcement of the policy framework.
- Policies and programmes at the municipal levels.
- Constructive male image building.

1.3 2008-2010 UNDP-supported programme on Violence Prevention, Peace and Sustainable Development, Dr. David Smith, Deputy Representative, UNDP, Jamaica

Dr. Smith explained that the UNDP Violence Prevention, Peace and Sustainable Development Programme came out of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2007-2011. The UNDAF priority speaks to contributing to the:

"creation of a safe and secure Jamaica through the efficient use of resources to effectively enforce law and order and maintain secure borders and justice reform"

Dr. Smith said that the expected programme outcomes are:

- Enhanced design of armed violence prevention policies and programmes.
- Increased capacity of institutions to prevent armed violence and increase community safety.
- Increased effectiveness and coherence of international support to armed violence prevention policies and programmes.
- Enhanced safety in target communities.
- Development of UN Country Team programme on armed violence prevention.

The programme elements include:

- Annual crime victimisation survey.
- Harmonisation and enhancement of armed violence data.
- National policies developed on community safety, restorative justice and small arms control.
- Develop policy and implement community safety and crime prevention programmes.
- Coordinate the implementation of the National Security Policy.
- JCF and National Firearm Licensing Authority to regulate small arms.
- Conduct advocacy and deliver services in communities.
- Organised Crime Watch to conduct research and inform policy.
- Strengthening NGO advocacy and service delivery (Dispute Resolution Foundation Peace Centres)
- Support for training – for example in 2007 UNDP collaborated with the UN Regional Centre for Peace Disarmament and Development to provide training in small arms control to 57 law enforcement officers and advocacy training for 40 NGOs. UNDP is also working with the Young Americas Business Trust through the OAS, to carry out martial arts training in communities as a means of building discipline.

The programme has as its future intentions to:

- Include alternative livelihoods strategies.
- Improve literacy and numeracy outcomes.
- Improve donor coordination.

1.4 Discussion/Questions and Answers

The following were the issues/questions addressed by participants.

Q. What are the real causes of violence in the region, if not drugs, poverty and deportees?

Mr. Leggett responded that there was need for study of the real causes. For example, while deportees do interact with the violence they are not the cause. Mr. Leggett said there was a need to provide reintegration assistance for deportees. Such services, he said, would especially be needed by those who had spent a substantial portion of their lives away.

He said that while there was a relationship between crime and drugs, crime also increased when drug trans-shipment levels fall. He noted too that there was not a high drug (crack) use by rate in Jamaica.

Mr. Leggett said that the possibility was that direct causes of violence might include poor conflict resolution skills at community level, public housing that may reinforce factionalization and the spiral of revenge violence.

Q. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of the UNDP's interventions what has been the experience and challenges of coordinating multi-agency/disciplinary interventions, and what can be recommended at the regional level in terms of coordinating structures and processes.

Dr. Smith said that coordinating the UN approach began in late 2005/06. There has been increased cooperation with each entity working from its specific strengths/foci. Minh Pham added that there needs to be a coordinated platform/mechanism at a national level. In Jamaica there are monthly meetings of the UN agencies and the agencies have started to engage a number of ministries/agencies. The Government of Jamaica has recently announced its intention to map the various interventions to enable better coordination.

At the regional level, peace needs to be seen as a public good and national solutions need to be supported by regional ones as well.

Dr. Smith underscored the importance of education noting that often the interventions being recommended are fundamentally education based interventions and there is need for this message to be stressed to ensure appropriate policy and funding.

In other responses it was reported that data was being compiled and guidance on Armed Violence Reduction and Development were also being drafted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The guidance is being developed to provide practical assistance to donors, policy makers and practitioners working in areas affected by different types of armed violence.

As well, the meeting heard that in Guatemala the National Policy on Reducing Violence failed for lack of coordination.

Prevention, it was said, is fundamentally about coordination and the recognition that prevention was more than a policing issue. There is need for a double approach, with (a) immediate responses at street level and (b) dealing with the higher levels of violence i.e. organized crime. Prevention strategies were said to be the only long term solution, for example, key interventions related to access to jobs/job training, micro credit, alternative livelihoods etc.

Q. The 'X' factor might be the sum of the parts rather than any one main causative factor. Without clear ideas about the 'why' of the violence it makes going forward difficult. What strategies emerged in the four country study?

It was pointed out that although Mr. Leggett's presentation indicated that it was the wealthiest parishes of Jamaica which had the highest rates of violence, the high crime areas of those parishes were actually the poorest.

In responding Mr. Leggett said that one could see the linkages between Jamaica's history and how the violence had been developing. However, other countries in the region with higher economic growth and so on, were similarly challenged.

In relation to dealing with organized crime and 'King Pins' Mr. Leggett said that decapitating the head does not necessarily result in reduced crime. The process he

said is a much more dynamic social phenomenon than a few king pins. Once violence becomes a part of street culture, involving issues of masculinity etc. then the violence takes on a life of its own.

In commenting on the issue of coordination, he said that this is challenged by competing interests and works best when there is one central coordinating agency.

Responding to the question as to what strategies might have emerged from the four country study, Candie Cassabalian said that good initiatives existed in Jamaica and need to be generalized and replicated. Good strategies were also seen in other countries such as Guatemala.

The projects identified in the countries involved such strategies as constructive use of free time, education, drug rehabilitation services for children and adolescents and interventions involving masculinity redefinition – that is, providing gender models that do not rely on violence, power etc.

Other contributions to the discussion were that in relation to coordination, it was often not considered that children under 18 have specific needs. National policies and programmes must take that into account. Early intervention with children 10-14 years old is a window of opportunity and strategies for these age groups often include agencies not usually thought of in violence prevention. Life skills training is critical; so too is self-esteem building in the education system.

The question was raised as to whether interventions should not begin even earlier than with age group 10-14. One report, it was said, recommended starting interventions with children in the age group of 4-10.

Ms. Cassabalian said that interventions could indeed begin earlier and that one Brazilian experience demonstrated that identifying vulnerable families and giving support when children were 0-3, made a huge difference to outcomes. A life-cycle approach was most effective, she said.

SESSION 2 – Peace for Us

2.1 The Voices of Children and Youth

Mr. Orlando Hamilton, Youth Peace Facilitator and Ms. Verity Rushton, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Jamaica, spoke on behalf of children living in volatile communities who they had interviewed the previous day – Peace Day. They reported that the impact of violence had meant that the children did not feel comfortable making the presentation themselves.

Among the issues/concerns identified from the interviews were that:

- Children are used as look outs because they appear innocent.
- One 13 year-old was reputed to have more murders to his credit than his age.
- When children are expelled from school or turned out of home they often fall under the influence of gunmen.
- Children arm themselves out of fear. Gangs have children conceal weapons under the school floors, etc.

- Children feel caged in but have high ambitions.
- The children expressed the desire to see the removal of the zinc fences in their communities which enable easy get-away and provide concealment for wrong-doers.

The children's recommendations included:

- Curfew for children.
- Green spaces to play.
- Police training in mediation and community relations.
- Consultation with children by policy makers.

The children's dreams were for:

- Unity.
- Peace.
- Every child being in school.

2.2 Women's Institute for Alternative Development, Trinidad & Tobago

Ms. Susan Alphonso gave an overview of the Institute and its work. She said that the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) was founded in 1989 and got involved in addressing issues of gender and small arms in 2001.

She reported that the Institute's action areas included:

- Gun violence control.
- Advocacy – for citizens' participation and mobilization.
- Collaboration - holds national multi-stakeholder forums and regional meetings.
- Research - for evidence-based solutions and policies.

As well, there is a WINAD Forum which is a Regional Round Table for creating a Caribbean response/Programme of Action for Small Arms violence based on the UN Programme of Action.

Concerning the issue of gender and Small Arms violence, Ms. Alphonso said that:

- Women are not limited to the role of victims and are also supporters and perpetrators for example, concealing weapons.
- Violence negatively impacts women's security.
- Women's varying gender roles are impacted.
- Violence is linked to masculine identity – the protector identity is linked to weapon seeking responses.
- Small Arms increase domestic fatality among women.
- Society's/women's expectations may be a 'push' factor in violence as men seek to fulfill the provider role.
- Women straddle the victim and catalyst roles in gun violence.
- Women's economic dependence generates violence and increased physical insecurity.
- Women's social insecurity also increases based on high fatality rates of male providers.
- Systematic rape is an instrument of war and revenge.

- Women have emerged as strong advocates for social order and peace.
- In cases where communities collapse the role of women assumes even more importance in peace building and propping up social systems.

2.3 Discussion/Questions and Answers

There were a number of questions and comments which followed the presentations. These related to the following.

Gender and Small Arms

'Masculinity', it was noted, is an important issue. Lack of jobs emasculates males. Male identity as provider and protector is a driver for violence. It was noted as well that there is an equivocal attitude to violence and arms in the region and the culture of violence goes beyond having a gun.

The point was made that most men are raised by mothers; hence, the question was posed as to whether women's child rearing practices had negative impacts.

Susan Alphonso, in responding, said that the impact of gender socialization, for example, with girls being more confined and boys having more freedom, was not being sufficiently addressed by our societies.

Women, she said, were indeed the major nurturers and so interventions needed to begin at the home with parents, to help them understand the need for males to be allowed to emote without being made to feel like 'sissies', and for males to be included in household chores, etc.

Other comments from participants were that women are products of gender socialization and so it is important to avoid blaming women for socializing males who become violent. Both women and men need to be retrained as parents and there is need for early gender socialization intervention with children.

The observation was made that the concept of males' oppression from the roles which have been prescribed for them, creates a fertile ground for losing young men who do not have strong emotional intelligence. Further, the dysfunctions of young males it was said can often be seen in their fathers, suggesting that there was a cyclical process. Interventions need to occur in areas where youth are a captive audience for example, in schools, prisons and juvenile detention centres.

Children and Small Arms

In response to a question as to how the children who were interviewed had been brought together to speak so openly in a volatile community, the presenters said that key community leaders/facilitators/workers were used and that the comments were received from three children mainly.

A participant noted that the children demonstrated ambivalence towards gunmen and some internal conflict in relation to who was friend and who foe. Both presenters agreed that there was such ambivalence towards 'good' and 'bad' gunmen. They said that one child interviewed had expressed this ambivalence as the gun men

protected the community, and that was 'good'. In contrast, the men are seen as bad when they prey on the community.

Important insights and lessons emerged from a discussion about the profile of the 13 year old who had already committed a number of murders. Orlando Hamilton elaborated on the case:

Almost as many killed by him as his age!

I met the 13 year old boy when I was doing follow up on a victim. Permission to enter the community had been granted by the don but this had not filtered down to the foot soldiers. When I entered the community I saw a group of men and the 13 year old was the youngest. He stepped out first and started to search me. The Don came out and instructed them to give me pass. Later, I asked the Don about the youngster and was told he doesn't attend school, has committed many murders, is used as a decoy as he is dressed in khaki and sent out to kill specific targeted persons.

The young man sees himself not as a normal youngster. He sees himself on par with older men with a similar 'badness honor'

Lessons

He couldn't attend a 'normal' school now – his reputation etc puts him at risk. Interventions would have to be taken to him. Such young men rarely venture out in the day time. Parenting for such youth is very weak – the voices of parents are no match for that of the Dons. Since there is no formal/proper governance structure in the community the Dons rule. However, the Dons have expressed a desire to have better collaboration with politicians to end the violence.

- Orlando Hamilton, Youth Peace Facilitator

Concerning the children and their dreams it was said that these die in the face of the seduction of the power of the gun; in the realization of the short life span of many around them; in the lack of social mobility for the under-class, and the value placed on money over integrity. The media was identified as having a role in the socialization of youth for violence and promiscuity.

On the matter of children being in organized violence (e.g. being used as foot soldiers, look outs etc) and unorganized violence, the point was made that such circumstances required different interventions including prosecution of persons who use children.

In response to references to a 'culture' of violence in the region Bertrand Bainvel cautioned that such terminology may add to the problem of stigmatization of people and communities.

Presenter Susan Alphonso suggested that if culture was too strong a word then

perhaps saying a 'high tolerance' for or 'acceptance of' violence would be better since such descriptions are of behaviors which are easier to uproot than a culture.

The representative from Haiti agreed with the need to avoid using the term 'culture of violence' and said there was a need to look at the processes and characteristics of violent acts since putting them down to 'culture' could mask the specificities of the drivers for children getting involved in violence.

Interventions

The discussions elaborated on possible interventions:

- In relation to education the need for certification was identified as a means of stemming the movement of persons to the illegal economy. The point was made that the notion of the male as provider often translates into 'at any cost' and, 'by any means', and the illegal economy has attractive features such as high salaries, swift promotion, recognition for outstanding performance etc. features which need to be adopted more in the formal economy to make it more attractive to youth.
- The distinction between organized and unorganized violence is useful as this approach makes for better planning of appropriate intervention strategies.
- Guatemala's 36 years of conflict indicated the importance of peace building through inculcating a **culture** of peace.
- It is important to have programmes for women and children in situations of violence not just a focus on the male perpetrators. The children arm themselves as an act of survival in a harsh environment.

SESSION 3 – Global Framework: The International Response

The objective of the session was to review the international frameworks and their implications.

Chairperson of the session, Ms. Karin Sham Poo reiterated Minister Arthur Williams' point that Government interventions alone would not work. The most sustainable approaches, she said, would be based on the international frameworks.

3.1 Geraldine O'Callaghan, The UN Programme of Action and Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

Ms. O'Callaghan of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) began working on issues related to small arms in 1996.

The following are her main points concerning the international frameworks.

- The good thing about them is they define best practice as these emerge out of the UN consultative process.
- They define minimum standards to which Governments are to be held accountable.
- They serve as an advocacy tool and are an important awareness building and fundraising tool.

But, they are not legally binding and depend on individual country commitment. They require champions.

The challenge:

- Know what your government has signed.
- Implement what is most key and strategic for your countries.

3.1.1 The United Nations Programme Of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects <http://disarmament.un.org/cab/poa.html>

The UN POA was adopted by consensus at the UN in 2001. It is politically binding and focuses on the trade in illicit weapons specifically. It sets out actions at National, Regional and Global levels as follows.

National Level

- Establishment and enforcement of legal framework.
- Establishment of national coordinating agency.
- Strengthening of SALW controls.
 - Marking and Tracing
 - Brokering
 - Registration / Record keeping
 - Stockpile management
 - Controls on imports, exports and transfer
 - Collection and destruction
 - DDR
- Cooperation with civil society.

Regional Level

- Information sharing.
- Regional cooperation.
- Cross border control.
- Adoption of regional legal instruments.

Global Level

- Enforcement of arms embargoes.
- Negotiation of international agreements on marking and tracing and on brokering.
- International cooperation.
- Promotion of dialogue and a culture of peace by encouraging, as appropriate, education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects, involving all sectors of society.

The POA has generated the following successes:

- It's a reference point for minimum standards.
- Has strengthened local level coordinating agencies.
- Increased transparency and information sharing.
- Increased civil society involvement.
- It has garnered an impressive amount of financing/resources for addressing small arms.

Its limitations are that it:

- Does not cover civilian possession.
- Does not include ammunition.
- Is weak on arms trade.
- Makes limited linkages between armed violence and development.
- Is subject to the UN consensus process making it difficult to review and strengthen.

3.1.2 The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development **www.genevadeclaration.org**

The Declaration was signed in 2006 by 42 States and 17 non-government organizations. The Declaration broadens awareness and understanding of the linkage between violence and development. Its objectives are

- To raise global awareness of the negative impact of armed violence on development.
- To support governments, international organizations and civil society organizations committed to working on armed violence and development.
- To strengthen efforts to achieve a measurable reduction in the global burden of armed violence by 2015.



A Core Group of 12 states act as the driving force responsible for advancing the goals of the Geneva Declaration. The Core Group developed an implementation framework which focuses on the following:

- Advocacy, dissemination and coordination.
- Measurement and research, measuring the impact of armed violence on development. Activities include Experts meeting on data collection, impact assessments of armed violence in focus countries (e.g. Guatemala and Jamaica), global mapping of armed violence including scope and distribution, to estimate global burden.
- Armed violence reduction programmes to be mainstreamed in national development programmes e.g. for poverty reduction.

Ms. O'Callaghan said that there are two possible focus countries from the Latin American and Caribbean Region – Jamaica and Guatemala, and that other possible focus countries were Liberia and Burundi.

She said that the value of the Instrument was that it:

- Binds states to more sustained action.
- Is more holistic than the UN Programme Of Action.
- Seeks to put SALW funding on a more sustained footing by pushing for integration in national development frameworks/processes, and in mainstream development programmes (health, education) though this is very difficult to achieve.
- Seeks to bridge the gap between the small arms/armed violence and development communities.

3.2 Julie Myers, UNICEF New York The UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children www.violencestudy.org

Ms. Myers said that the study was the first UN study involving so many countries and so many settings - schools, communities, institutions, etc. The process, she said, benefited from a very high level of response from member states as well as from public submissions.

The key theme of the study is summarized as:

No violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable

It notes that violence against children is:

- A global problem.
- Often hidden, unreported and under-recorded.
- Exacerbated by societal acceptance.

Multifaceted responses are needed involving human rights, public health and child protection if the problem of violence against children is to be successfully addressed.

Some findings of the study included the following:

A) For Latin America

- Latin America is one of the most violent regions in the world.
- Forty-seven per cent of the population is under 18.
- Children risk becoming part of the often glamorized 'gang culture', where drugs and the use of weapons are widespread and where human life may have little value.
- A subject expert noted that children and adolescents as young as 11 years old use firearms to defend turf and in conflicts with the police and rival gangs.

B) For the Caribbean

- Homicide rates are nearly twice as high as the world average.
- Reports indicate that young people perceive violence as a useful tool for survival and advancement and have little faith in justice or law and order.
- One study revealed that 78.5% of the students had witnessed violence in their communities.
- "Male aggression...is seen as normative behaviour for boys and central to their concept and subsequent construction of maleness and masculinity..."

Ms. Myers outlined twelve overarching recommendations of the study for preventing and responding to violence against children.

1. Strengthening of national and local commitment
2. Prohibition of violence against children
3. Prevention strategies

4. Promotion of non-violence/awareness raising
5. Capacity building
6. Recovery and social reintegration services
7. Active involvement of children
8. Accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services
9. Accountability and an end to impunity
10. Addressing the gender dimension of violence
11. Improving systematic data collection and monitoring
12. Strengthening international commitments

She said that specific activities for implementation and follow-up were given for national and regional as well as international levels as follows:

National and Regional Levels

- Integration of measures to address Violence against children in national planning processes, poverty reduction strategies etc.
- Appointment of National Focal Point/Ombudsperson/Commissioner for children.
- Involvement of regional mechanisms/organizations etc.

International Level

- Presentation of a progress report: October 19, 2007.
- Passage of an Omnibus Resolution on the appointment of a special representative on violence against children.
- Creation of a UN Inter-agency group on Violence against Children.

Key message: Violence is not a natural and unavoidable phenomenon...it can and it must be prevented.

3.3 Arturo Matute, UNDP Guatemala Preventing Violence in a weak Democracy

Mr. Matute's presentation sought to make the link between citizens' security and democracy. In tracing the Guatemalan experience he said that there was a history of state violence and armed conflict. In the 1940s, he said, there was a democratic reformist revolution putting in place a reformist government that established the welfare state.

That government was overthrown resulting in a series of violent conflicts lasting for 36 years. This took place within the context of the 'cold war' and all the security policies which were enacted were created to protect 'national security' - to protect the state against communist guerrillas. This grew to genocidal proportions.

Mr. Matute said that social & political relations were disturbed by this violent scenario. Authoritarianism prevailed and the use of firearms increased so too did suspicion, doubt and mistrust.

By the 1970s, he said, the army had become a partner of the oligarchy in the exploitation of the political economy of war - thus raising the key issue of the

violence as a business for some elements of the society (e.g. the business of arms trafficking etc).

Mr. Matute said that 'parallel powers' emerged, engaged in several lines of criminal activity. It was against the background of such a scenario that in 1996 the Guatemalan society negotiated and agreed on peace accords which resulted in a ceasefire. Other main accomplishments noted were that new democratic institutions have emerged and there has been an opening up of discussions on democratic approaches to security including:

- Support for the democratic process.
- Strengthening of government institutions at local and national levels.
- Knowledge based policies.
- Creation of a culture of information access and use.
- Linking violence prevention with socio-economic development.
- Facilitating inter-institutional dialogues to generate proposals for violence prevention and reduction.

Additionally, a shift from the 'national security' approach to a 'citizens' security approach had begun with the following elements as the new '*security agenda*':

- Respect for human rights, and for multiethnicity.
- Links with development and social justice.
- Citizen participation.

Mr. Matute noted however that changing people's conceptions and the functioning of institutions had been a big challenge. Despite the progress, homicide rates have seen a sustained increase and Guatemala continues to have one of the highest homicide rates in the Latin American and Caribbean region, along with Jamaica, El Salvador & Honduras. The homicide rates are highest in the capital city and in regions where drug trafficking activities take place.

The data show that the highest rates are not concentrated in the poorest areas or in indigenous communities. Seventy-five per cent of crimes go unreported according to UNDP-Guatemala's Victimization and Perceptions of Insecurity Surveys, carried out since 2004.

Mr. Matute said that the process of strengthening a 'citizen security approach' may take advantage of some key national, regional and global initiatives and frameworks including:

- The Guatemala Declaration on Armed Violence and Development that resulted from national consultations.
- The Armed Violence Prevention Program (UNDP/WHO/UNICEF/UNODC)
- The Central American Small Arms Control Project.
- The problem of impunity and parallel powers in the state has led to the pioneering UN International Commission to Combat Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG in Spanish).

Mr. Matute noted that in supporting the road towards a '*citizen security*' approach, governments and agencies need to:

- Understand local politics better.
- Understand the political economy of violence.
- Support efforts to bring to light and discuss the themes.
- Exert international pressure on the governments to take decisive action and fulfill international agreements.

3.4 Kerry Maze, Project Manager, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Matching Needs and Resources for Implementing the UN Programme Of Action to Combat, Eradicate and Prevent the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Ms. Maze noted that despite there being ambiguity in the Programme Of Action (POA) it can be a positive tool as it gives room to maneuver which is useful in identifying programmes for funding.

The following were key points of Ms. Maze's presentation:

- States have the primary responsibility for requesting assistance. The role of the international community is to support and facilitate.
- Assistance must build on and not replace national capacities, and should not compensate for a lack of national political will as programmes will not be sustainable.
- The countries most affected by small arms and light weapons (SALW) often do not have the resources and capacity to effectively address SALW. They may also require assistance in identifying their needs for assistance and for finding the necessary resources to implement SALW programmes.

Ms. Maze noted that international SALW assistance focuses on a number of actions/ areas for intervention, such as National Commissions and coordinating bodies on SALW related matters, law enforcement, customs and borders, marking and tracing, stockpile management, weapons collection, destruction and disposal; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; children etc. Activities may include establishing or revising laws, regulations and administrative procedures or capacity-building in the areas of information-sharing, record keeping and registration, awareness raising, training, education; partnership building, and promoting dialogue and a culture of peace, among others.

From early 2001 through 2005, she said, an estimated 660 million dollars have been allocated globally to address SALW but most of the assistance has been directed at resource intensive Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes, conferences and short training sessions and general research. Much less has been directed at practical SALW programmes that match the needs of states.

Latin American and Caribbean countries have received some small arms related assistance, including Haiti (mainly DDR), followed by Jamaica (border security and awareness raising), and El Salvador (law enforcement, destruction, weapons free municipalities, awareness-raising).

Other examples of countries that have received smaller amounts of assistance include Guatemala (national commission, small arms control and training), Nicaragua (destruction, stockpile management and capacity building), Costa Rica (destruction, awareness raising and capacity building) and Guyana (stockpile management) are. Honduras and Suriname received support for a physical assessment of stockpile management and training, while Trinidad and Tobago received technical support for record-keeping.

The areas that the states rank as being their top priorities for receiving assistance are:

- Capacity building and training.
- Record keeping, registration and information sharing.
- National Commissions/coordinating bodies.

Other areas requested include:

- Record-keeping
- Linked issues (crime, drugs, terrorism)
- Legislation
- Destruction
- Marking and tracing
- Awareness raising and promoting dialogue
- Law enforcement
- Customs
- Brokering
- Strengthening partnerships

Ms. Maze noted that significant gaps exist between what assistance is needed and what is received. She said that typical challenges for donors have been:

- Lack of awareness of the technical and financial needs of states.
- Lack of coordination and communication among different implementing agencies and donors.
- Not receiving documentation and information from recipients states that is needed to justify/approve funding.
- Issues of accountability and transparency.
- Lack of evidence based programming among implementers which poses a challenge to justifying the assistance or continued assistance.
- Strong turnover rate of international staff impacting the project decisions-making process.

And, typical challenges for States seeking assistance include:

- Lack of resources and capacity to articulate needs.
- Uncertainty of how or to whom to communicate their needs.
- Need for certain types of assistance that donors are not in a position to fund.
- Inflexibility of how and when funding can be used.
- Lack of capacity or resources to provide the documentation and

- information that donors need to administer the assistance.
- Hesitancy regarding the donor expectations control engagement expected.
- Perceived feeling of lacking national control or ownership of the assistance.

Ms. Maze made the following suggestions for matching needs with resources

- National Action Plans and accompanying resource mobilization strategy.
- National reports on implementation of the POA that include details on the types of assistance required.
- Regular meetings among the national state, donors and organizations to discuss needs and available resources.
- Donors, international organizations and civil society need to help (or lobby) states to identify their SALW programming ideas/needs.
- Strengthened coordination among international organizations on multi-year, comprehensive programmes (take advantage of resources like CASA and the matching needs-to-resources mechanism being prepared by UNIDIR).
- Share information to prepare evidence-based programming.
- Be mindful of the political sensitivity of SALW and find thoughtful and creative means to support a state's implementation of the POA.

She said that more specific strategies include to:

- Organize regular inclusive meetings especially in the lead up to regional and international events.
- Use donor and policy language. Find out donor cycles and target applications 5-6 months before a major regional or international events.
- Target donor interests.
- Build strong relationship with donors and facilitate information-sharing between donor missions and capital.
- Communicate to donors the reality of the situation and what the programming needs are.
- Build up information resources to demonstrate need.
- Approach donors with data, lessons learned and proven best practices.
- Communicate with partners to avoid duplication and competition of donor funding.
- Find indicators to measure progress and monitor activities.
- Articulate regularly how SALW relates to (or negatively affects) to an organization's mandate.
- Support mechanisms to match needs and resources.
- Document and articulate best practices and lessons learned from implementing activities.

Ms. Maze informed the meeting that the next meeting of states on the POA would be held in July 2008 and would be a good opportunity for states and organizations to express their needs for international assistance and international resources.

3.5 Col. Fairbairn Liverpool, Drug and Crime Control, CARICOM

Col. Liverpool gave an overview of CARICOM crime fighting and prevention strategies:

- CARICOM Member states are party to the international conventions.
- The Heads of Government mandated a serious look at the problems of arms trafficking etc and CARICOM designed the annual Conference of the Heads, with intercessional meetings
- A quasi-cabinet was established with a Head (now Trinidad & Tobago) who is given responsibility for Crime and Security. Advising that Head is a council of advisors on crime. That Ministerial council is advised by a security advisory committee comprised mainly of Permanent Secretaries and Heads of law enforcement agencies (police, army, financial intelligence, customs etc)
- There is also an implementing agency to carry out the decisions of the Heads. Cricket World Cup 2007 provided a catalyst for a coordinated strategy. It forced the creation of the region as one domestic space i.e. all in-coming flights had to provide flight manifests and there was a central intelligence apparatus to check the background of the in-coming persons. Also, a treaty was established for mutual assistance to countries experiencing crisis situations.
- CARICOM recognizes the danger/threat of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the importance of dealing with human resources. As a result, there is a Council for Human and Social Development that looks at prevention strategies. Col. Liverpool noted that there were challenges with coordinating the various initiatives and a decision was taken to create national councils for human and social development, supported by the relevant Permanent Secretaries and technical officers.

For 2008, the Secretariat has taken on crime prevention as a regional initiative. It hopes to attract international support to include community policing arrangements, school-based strategies etc. and to develop a regional Plan of Action.

3.6 Discussion/Question and Answers

Participants' questions and discussion addressed the following.

Examples of countries in which all the conventions have been applied and where this has actually resulted in reduction of SAs

One example given was the creation of an East African Regional Centre on Small Arms which has resulted in high levels of public awareness and strong political will

The scope for imposing sanctions on countries which export SAs; the scope for reciprocal arrangements and conventions for producing countries

There is a lot of work being done on conventions for producing nations, for example, the European Union has a strong Agreement and the UN is discussing the scope and feasibility of an arms trade treaty.

The problem is of states which don't sign such agreements as well as of implementation and follow-up. The UN Programme Of Action was unanimously adopted in 2001 yet the review of what governments have done shows that progress has been very uneven across countries and regions and that not much is being done by many states

CARICOM initiatives taken during the cricket World Cup which should be followed up and sustained (e.g. legislative and other measures taken to strengthen borders etc)

There is need to have the mechanisms put in place for cricket to now focus on controlling Small Arms and light weapons. However, unlike the provision that allowed access to flight manifests of passengers coming into the region during the cricket period, there are provisions that prevent the United States from revealing information on weapons purchase for example.

The US was asked whether it could restrict and monitor weapons shippers but not much headway was made. Also, attempts were made to get a convention on tracing but these have not gone far.



SESSION 4 – THE IDEA EXCHANGE: SHARING WHAT WORKS

The session received presentations on examples of 'good practice' in the Central American and Caribbean region.

The cases outlined were the Peace Management Initiative and Violence Prevention Alliance of Jamaica; Viva Rio, Brazil; and UNDP, Costa Rica

4.1 The Peace Management Initiative (PMI)

Rohan Perry, PMI, Addressing Community-Based Violence

Presenter Rohan Perry, outlined that the PMI was established in 2002 by then Minister of National Security, Dr. Peter Phillips, with 6 independent members and 6 representing political parties. A senior officer of the police force is an ex-officio member.

The primary objective of the PMI has been to set up early warning and intervention systems to detect and manage potential or actual violent situations in a community. It currently works in over 50 communities in Kingston and St. Catherine, and there is another arm of the PMI located in the city of Montego Bay.

The range of issues that the PMI deals with includes:

1. Mediation in gang feuds
2. Community integration
3. Victim support
4. Training opportunities
5. Establishing Community Peace Councils
6. Lifestyle retreats and leadership training
7. Sports programmes
8. Income-generating assistance

A key strategy of the PMI is to foster partnerships with community-based, national and international organizations. Its partners include the Ministry of Health's Healthy Lifestyle Project; Violence Prevention Alliance, Dispute Resolution Foundation, Citizen Security and Justice Programme, Kingston and St. Andrew Action Forum, churches, political representatives, United Nations Population Fund, UNICEF, Office of the Political Ombudsman among others. Another important strategy has been to identify the influential persons on each side of the conflict communities. Trust building has been a central focus.

The PMI has established itself as an important actor in violence and conflict prevention and mediation and has the following as its main achievements.

- Instrumental in forming partnerships and linkages with other agencies - political parties, police, church, civil society and academia for pooling skills for a joint approach.
- Gained the trust and confidence of "shottas", "potential shottas" and other members of the communities.
- Ability to bring warring factions in a community to the bargaining table to discuss their grievances and to work to bring about some semblance of peace.
- Promoting response to victims' needs and developing inter-agency approach to victims.
- Creating institutional frameworks for improved community response to crime and violence prevention.
- Creating opportunities for mediating long standing violent conflicts and promoting dispute resolution strategies
- Stimulating local economies through job creation and entrepreneurships (income-generating projects).
- Ability to restore order thereby enabling communities to proceed with their normal daily business.
- Assisting NGOs and other organisations to venture into inner city communities and with them target sports, health, education programmes and retreats for children, youth, women and the elderly to encourage healthy lifestyles and personal development.
- Improved literacy of some and assistance in mobilizing several communities for action contributing to the 15% reduction in homicides over the period 2002 - 2003 and generally in the reduction of crime and violence.
- The involvement of community leaders as liaison officers in peace-making, both in and out of their communities
- The establishment of Community Councils in communities to manage the peace process.

- Providing an adequate alternative and pro – active response team which has reduced the cost of stationing security officers in volatile areas for a significant period of time.

Among the constraints and threats which the PMI has faced are:

- Limited financial resources.
- Difficulty attracting private sector funding.
- Inadequate staffing.
- Limited capacity to be more proactive than reactive.
- Persistent and pervasive community underdevelopment of which crime and violence are symptoms.
- Low levels of Community Based Policing.
- Communities relapsing for want of resources for sustained intervention.
- Inconsistent political support on the ground.
- Working around the criminal elements.
- Fragmented communities.
- Challenges in involving community organizations in the decision-making process.

Lessons Learned

- Greater focus is needed on the second tier leadership in the communities (youths with influence who still want a way out).
- No single agency has all the answers; collaboration and partnerships are the way forward.
- Strong relationship between the state [Security Forces and Politicians] and the residents of inner city communities very often results in low murder rates.
- Youth will be open and honest to you, if and only if they trust you. [It's difficult to resolve conflict with insufficient and incorrect information]

4.2 Luis Jimenez - UNDP Costa Rica

An Integrated Approach to Firearms Violence as a Public Health Problem in Costa Rica

Mr. Jimenez stressed that prevention is always possible. He described the current situation with Small Arms in Costa Rica, indicating that the country was relatively peaceful but an increasing rate of death by firearms.

A UNDP survey indicated the following:

- In 2005, 6% of Costa Rica's population had firearms.
- There was a 300% increase in fire arms imports from 1990-2006.
- Costa Ricans spent 4.5% of GDP on arms.

Whilst Costa Ricans believe that firearms are a problem proliferation continues because of increasing levels of feelings of insecurity. At present, there isn't a strong civil society sector pushing for control of proliferation. However, in 2006 the government established a National Consultative Committee with high level political representation including Vice Ministers of Health, Education, Security and Foreign Affairs; and the Arias Foundation as civil society. UNDP Costa Rica fully supports the Committee and is represented as an Observer.

The Committee is leading the current reform of firearms law. The main legislative changes being pursued seek to:

- Limit the amount of legal arms ownership among civilians.
- Declare a ban on carrying arms in public places such as bars, pubs, restaurants and schools.
- Restrict the use of 9mm to police only.
- Inhibit youth from the use of firearms through strategies such as firearms free schools.
- UNDP and UNLiREC have supported this effort by organizing workshops with parliamentarians, political advisers, police officers, journalists, prosecutors and judges, among others. A set of recommendations is about to be presented to the Congress.

Other actions include:

- Developing a local plan to prevent firearms violence in communities.
- Currently working on four different communities with the intention to expand the process to 8 neighboring communities.
- Data has been important to select communities and support advocacy.
- Key actors include local government and local police offices. Other actors are teachers, business persons, physicians, priests, among many others.

On going outcomes include:

- Investigation of the economic cost from firearms in Costa Rica
- Draft proposal of public policy to reduce the impact of SALW.
- Proposal on how local and national actors can coordinate actions to prevent and control firearms.
- Protocol of action in cases of the appearance of firearms in schools.
- Creation of national network for the prevention of firearms violence that supports efforts made by National Committee.

The goal is to foster debate on human security at the local level and to educate municipalities on this area.

National Campaign -"Arms? No thank you"

This campaign attempts to bring a message to the national and local levels. It targets children between the ages of 8 to 12 and includes such strategies as

- Production of t-shirts, stickers and banners.
- Exchange of educational kits (notebooks, pencils, stickers and rulers) for toy guns.
- Spots on television
- Holding meetings at schools.
- Organizing parades
- Symbolic establishment of "firearms free schools".
- An educational video and paper back guide with exercises and readings on the negative impact of firearms, on peace and on alternative conflict resolution.



Lessons Learned

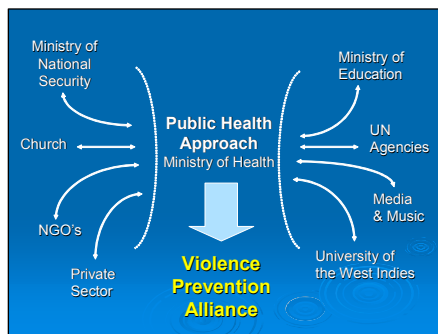
Among the lessons learned which Mr. Jimenez identified were the following:

- At media level, it is important to relate testimonies of the impact of violence, to show figures of accidents, violence between family members, murders and the impact of firearms on development opportunities. The goal is to create evidence and hard info to counter pro-gun propaganda and destroy myths. It is necessary to hold meetings with journalists to create alliances.
- Key allies are police, teachers, public transportation drivers and churches as they are likely to be directly impacted by violence involving firearms and are therefore important agents for public education.

4.3 Dr. Elizabeth Ward – Violence Prevention Alliance - Monitoring Impact and Progress

The Violence Prevention Alliance came about when the WHO launched the World Report on Violence and Health.

The VPA is a network of government and non-government agencies. It was registered as an NGO in 2006 and in 2007 it moved from the Ministry of Health to University of the West Indies (UWI) which provides accommodations.



A Public Health Approach

The VPA uses a public health approach to its work, entailing the following elements:

- Systematic data collection to define the violence problem.
- Research to define the risks and protective factors.
- Test intervention projects, implement, evaluate, redesign.
- Apply the interventions widely.

Violence is seen as a major and increasingly urgent public health issue. In the 1970s Jamaica's murder rate was about 8 per 100,000 it is now about 54 per 100,000. Overall homicides are the fourth leading cause of death and the highest cause among men. Violence accounts for over \$1.3 billion of health cost. \$2.1 billion was spent in 2006 on violence related injuries.

Dr. Ward said that in response, the Ministry of Health initiated the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System which has gathered data such as incident mapping, method, incidence of use of drugs/alcohol, who inflicted the injury etc. The system is now used by 9 of 11 computerized hospitals island wide. The system is able to provide disaggregated data for:

- Age, and gender (violence related injuries are highest among males and females aged 20-29 and 30-39).
- Victim-perpetrator relationships (over 50% are acquaintances, strangers 11%, relative 11%).

- Circumstances, place of occurrence (most (44%) occur on the street, 41% at home, about 6% in schools).
- Method of injuries (most are from sharp objects and blunt objects - guns usually result in fatality not injury).
- Health (violence and injury) GIS (hot spots).

Interventions

As a Crime Observatory the Alliance pulls together different government agencies, community councils, UWI, international agencies, the PMI etc, to take one of the 'hot spot' areas, collate information from the police division and devise intervention plans. The process entails creating street maps where violence occurs and overlaying these with a mapping of community assets. Interventions are decided on by a multi-stakeholder committee and are multi-pronged addressing conflict management, life skills training, child protection and more.

4.4 Ms Carola Mittrany, Viva Rio, Brazil

Viva Rio's main goals are to:

- Promote peace and development at the local level,
- Create means of overcoming urban armed violence and social exclusion.

The group relies on the idea of human security as a guiding concept and has as its tenet that "development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing".

Using a public health approach to violence, Viva Rio developed a diagnosis of the urban armed violence epidemic in Latin America and identified four core aspects:

- **Risk Group:** The youth are the main risk group for armed violence in Brazil and other Latin American countries. The group is mainly composed by poor teenagers and young males (15 to 24 years of age) that have dropped out of school before finishing elementary education. They are the main authors and victims of armed violence. Firearm-related mortality rate in Brazil for 15-29 year olds is between 3 to 5 times the general average.
- **Vector:** The main vector for the epidemics of urban violence in the region is the small arm and light weapon (SALW). Most homicides are committed with the use of a firearm. Heavily armed non state actors undermine democracy and civic culture at grassroots level, particularly in poor neighborhoods.
- **Critical Areas:** The critical areas are *favelas* and urban peripheries, notorious for their vulnerability concerning public services, human, social and economic capital. A chaotic urbanization process aggravates the problem.
- **Security Sector Reform:** the Security Sector Reform is critical for efficiency, as well as for integrating security, human rights and development goals.

Viva Rio's purpose is to research, design and test specific solutions that effectively deal with the complex set of problems. Its ultimate purpose is to promote the scaling up of successful solutions through advocacy and communication strategies, so that such solutions become public policy and get replicated by the State, the private sector or other NGO's.

Interventions

Viva Rio's programmes include:

Programmes for at-risk youth

- Remedial education
- Training
- Sports
- Arts
- Building culture of peace through citizenship classes
- Youth participation/leadership

Small Arms Control

Viva Rio's SALW Control Project concentrates its work on three objectives:

- 1) To reduce the demand for guns (actions to sensitize civil society to the risks involved with using or carrying firearms and to respond to the gun industry lobby);
- 2) To reduce the supply of guns (curb illicit arms trafficking and control the production, sales, exports and imports of small arms and ammunition); and
- 3) To improve stockpile controls (destruction of guns surplus, improvement of secure storage facilities, voluntary small arms collection campaigns).

Campaigns

Viva Rio mobilizes mass campaigns for example, in 1999 the group collected 1,312,929 signatures to support a small arms sale ban. In 2001 they achieved public destruction of over 100,000 guns seized by the police, and 10,000 guns were destroyed in 2002 and 2003. Also in 2003 over 50,000 people were mobilized to gather in support of a new gun control law which was to be voted on by the Congress.

Advocacy for gun control legislation

The "**Disarmament Statute**" was signed by President Lula on December 23rd, 2003. The law has the following provisions:

- **The right to carry** a firearm by civilians **is banned**.
- **The purchase** of a firearm is submitted to **harsher requisites**.
- **Federalization of a database** on SALW.
- **Marking** of ammunition sold to public and national security forces.
- National voluntary **buy-back campaign**.
- **National referendum** in October 2005 on the prohibition of firearm and ammunition sales to civilians.

The impact of these and other initiatives has been a trending down of gun related deaths with data from the Ministry of Health showing a 12% decrease in gun-related deaths from 2003 to 2006.

Currently Viva Rio is extending its work overseas in Haiti as well as part of broader Latin American network.

4.5 Discussion/ Questions & Answers

Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA), Costa Rica, Viva Rio

The discussions/questions and answers addressed the following:

Q. With the profiles that the violence surveillance has built what evidence is there of the extent of linkage between gun related deaths and the drug industry?

Dr. Ward responded that the research had so far not established a strong link. A study is soon to start however, doing drug testing of victims and of persons in lockups.

Q. How is information/data used for policy? Where does the data come from and how is it used for measuring impact?

Dr. Ward indicated that the data being compiled by the VPA is not distributed as widely as the group would like. The police's capacity for using GPS data is being strengthened. But, real time access to the information to police on the ground has not yet been achieved. Dr. Ward said that there was a need to get the data to be integrated and accessed by more agencies as presently they are not able to get the data to everyone who needs it in the form needed. However, Memoranda Of Understanding have been signed with government agencies about the use of data.

Addressing the issue as it relates to Costa Rica, Mr. Jimenez said that accuracy of information was a problem as there are often discrepancies in information provided by different institutions and it sometimes takes 4-5 months to get more accurate data.

He said that information is translated into popular forms for use with different audiences. But, he noted, there was a risk in releasing data because whilst it can spur the authorities to act when data is used by the media this can also create a back lash.

Ms. Mittrany said that Viva Rio produces its own data and also gathers from other research institutions. She said that numbers and money talk with governments and funding institutions, and so having accurate data was crucial.

Q. Ms. Mittrany was asked to elaborate on the policy of holding firearms owners accountable for injuries if the firearm was not stored safely, and to say how that policy was working.

Ms. Mittrany explained that persons have to register their guns and are held responsible for them and their use even if not used by the owner. The owner is liable for charges. The policy makes gun purchases harder. Brazil is one of the few countries with this provision.

Q. The issue of capturing and costing the impact of armed violence was revisited and note was made of the fact that the current research seemed to miss the matter of the impact in/on schools.

Dr. Ward acknowledged the need for more work in this area and noted that UNESCO had sponsored a survey of violence in schools.

Q. Everyone emphasized the multi-dimensional aspects of interventions. However, there was no mention of the education system- how urgent is such coordination?

Dr. Ward said that the Jamaican Ministry of Education was involved in the VPA and gets involved in strategies, however, their data collection and analysis systems are weak. Ms. Mittrany said that Brazil's Ministry of Education would consider the group's work to be a criticism of its impact since the Group runs remedial programmes for youth who have been in the formal school system.

Q. The Peace Management Initiative

There were many questions concerning the PMI's mode of working that included meeting and negotiating with gang members and others who possess illegal weapons.

Other questions related to the role of the police in the work of the PMI, reasons for conflicts in communities and the sustainability of the PMI and of its interventions. The responses were that the PMI operates on the basis of what they don't know they don't know. They treat each person as a valuable human being. In relation to financing of the PMI, it receives an annual budget which is disbursed monthly.

Because the PMI is composed of influential people it has standing in the community. Usually, on first entry to communities it is residents in general who are spoken with and in the second round of community talks the combatants usually come forward from both sides.

Political Parties which are represented on the PMI help to get the influential persons in communities together. Currently, many violent conflicts are not political but are more related to gang turf (though sometimes this is to increase the political spoils received).

The PMI avoids including the police at the early stages of interventions as they do not go in to investigate criminal activities but to identify the causes of the conflict and to end the conflict. Most times no-one has the answer for what the war is about. To build and maintain trust the PMI must remain independent of the police. It does not take information to the police. Where there are key informants who request protection there is a successful witness protection programme run by the government.

It was said that there is mistrust between the police and communities and the PMI tries to be attentive to what the people have to say. There has to be a strong movement towards rebuilding the relationship between the community and police and community policing is very necessary.

However, in order to stop the blood letting the immediate problem has to be addressed, that is, to stop the guns being fired and people dying. Then there is attention to community policing and broader services.

A similar strategy was reported for Trinidad and Tobago. There too there has had to be a protocol for engagement with community members and the police have had to be excluded in order to build communities' trust. The local police station is informed when the group is going in, and they have had to brief the community about not coming to meetings with drugs and not coming if wanted by the police. They have also asked the police to hold off apprehending wanted persons while they are in the meetings.

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

Prof. Barry Chevannes gave a summary. He concluded that there were tremendous similarities in the interventions, namely:

- The role of a multi-faceted approach that leads to collaboration. This underscores the point that no single agency can do it
- All involve the community with various approaches for getting community participation
- All have involvement of the general public as this is what national campaigns are about.
- All demonstrate that data is crucial in all of what is being done.

Prof. Chevannes pointed to two main differences in the cases:

1. The PMI primarily intervenes at the level of specific communities and this differs from the Viva Rio approach, perhaps because of cultural and geographic differences, as Viva Rio more isolates and targets a specific segment of the population, for example, the youth at risk population. Both approaches work.
2. None of the other case studies have done what Viva Rio does, which is to use legislation to bring about disarmament – the banning firearms, the buy back campaign etc.

Prof. Chevannes noted that the latter strategy had been posed in Jamaica many times and had been rejected as not being feasible. Dr. Ward commented that even though Brazil had a buy back provision they found that the guns were brought in without collection of the money. This suggested that what works is the amnesty - not the buy back. Other examples are trading of the arms for a tool to be used in income generation.

SESSION 5 – THE WAY FORWARD: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Participants were divided into four thematic groups: Building and Enforcing a Protective Legal and Policy Environment; Promoting a Culture of Peace; Child and Youth-Friendly Services for Victims and Perpetrators; and Coordinating and Monitoring Overall Progress.

The groups were to share information, discuss priority strategies for a 12-18 month period informed by 'lessons learned', propose coordination and monitoring mechanisms, identify linkages among group themes, and identify issues requiring multi-country and international support. The results of working groups were summarised and presented in plenary as follows.

5.1 GROUP ONE

Policy and Legislative Environment and Enforcement

Recurring themes in the group's discussion were the following:

- The need for flexibility in the way in which we advocate and for policy advocacy to be relevant to country specific examples.
- The need for a multi-faceted approach to addressing SALW (use of language should be carefully considered to reduce resistance).
- The exact numbers and prevalence of SALW is unclear.
- Data are required to inform advocacy efforts.
- There must be intelligence led interventions.

The most urgent priorities for action over a 12-18 month period were identified as being:

1. Country-specific review of the legislative framework and existing legislation (supply / demand) in line with international conventions and regional commitments and agreements (i.e. Inter-American Convention to Combat the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and other materials). The review must be age and gender specific and consider the needs of persons particularly the vulnerable.
2. Regional strategy developed with strategic (multi-faceted) and long-term approaches established; with short, medium, and long term indicators and goals (in collaboration with all regional organizations).
3. Review of data collection systems and intelligence – led systems (identify gaps; opportunities for networking; appropriate systems).
4. Public education led initiatives to change attitudes (using varied informant groups (age and gender specific) through use of participatory processes to inform behavior change and communication campaigns.

The expected outcomes are advancements in policy and legislation and increased political will.

The group made the following recommendations:

Capacity building challenges, priorities and recommendations:

1. The process must involve timeliness and be ACTION-orientated.
2. Financial and technical challenges need to be addressed and capacity increased to track; investigate; inform intelligence led interventions.
3. Technical resources for border control are needed.

Recommendations for enhancing / 'scaling up' partnerships and coordination:

1. Build on existing agreements and initiatives established i.e. ICC World Cup Cricket and other regional initiatives.
2. Carry out external evaluation of initiatives that have been successfully implemented such as the region wide security initiatives.
3. ACTION is needed on scaling up established initiatives.

5.2 GROUP TWO

Advocacy, Overall Coordination and Monitoring

The group identified the following as the most urgent priorities for action:

Develop proper governance structure(s) with requisite capacity to develop and oversee working mechanisms. Through these structures:

1. Foster multi-sector commitment to addressing violence prevention, reduction, individual and community support, by bringing multi-sector actors together in a governance structure.
2. Ensure international support to the structure.
3. Ensure that vulnerable groups' interests are represented.

The group identified the following:

Capacity building challenges, priorities and recommendations:

Capacity building challenges:

1. Absence of authority, legitimacy, ability to make and enforce decisions of main counterparts, unclear decision making and accountability procedures.
2. Scarce human and financial resources.
3. Lack of legal instruments for arms control and restorative justice.

Recommendations

1. Support multi sector coordination mechanisms (but not too many!).
2. Amend legal instruments to deal with unregistered weapons.
3. Support the creation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national plans (not too many!) which address long term change- ensure that all levels are involved.
4. Support recourse to international instruments for guidance on policy and practice: make them meaningful.

Recommendations for enhancing / 'scaling up' partnerships and coordination:

1. Use regional involvement to resolve problems of possible impasse.
2. Ensure UN commitment and consistency.
3. Promote accountable representation in coordinating bodies and commissions.
4. Ensure good communication between all actors: this is always important but especially for implementation and monitoring of national plans.
5. Enhance coordination between Central America and the Caribbean, given similar problems and opportunities to capitalize on lessons learnt.

Recommendations for advocacy and awareness-raising at national, regional and local levels

In general

Create opportunities for demonstrating commitment to violence reduction.

Local levels

Promote municipality driven advocacy and awareness raising efforts, to create interface and bring together national actors and community groups.

National

Use national mechanisms to ensure that advocacy and awareness raising is in keeping with an overall framework and culturally relevant.

Regional

Involve CARICOM: Enhance CARICOM's Council for Human and Social Development (COHSoD) capacity and promote recourse to COHSoD.

International

Ensure coordination of international actors – multi and bilateral agencies.

Research and data collection challenges and recommendations:

Challenges:

Partial assessments, too much focus on violence alone

Recommendations:

Evidenced based programming:

1. Review data collection and management practices / are all issues covered?
E.g. is it possible to relate migration and violence in Costa Rica?
2. Call on regional support opportunities.
3. Integrate lifestyle and public health concerns in research which also addresses violence, injuries and human rights.
4. Use rapid assessment tools with feed back mechanisms.
5. Use GIS.
6. Work with existing data collection mechanisms (ex: HIV/AIDS in Haiti)
7. Collect positive experiences in each community to build advocacy strategies for programme development.
8. Promote virtual networks for communities of practice.
9. Carry out cost-benefit analysis.
10. Use internationally and regionally standardized data collection and analysis mechanisms (WHO etc).

Inclusive prevention and response: recommendations for ensuring the needs and experience of men, women, boys and girls:

1. Use NGOs to provide 'sentinel sites' for information gathering (programme development and evaluation) and implementation
2. Ensure meaningful participation: provide leadership training, create spaces for dialogue, etc

5.3 GROUP THREE

Promoting a Culture of Peace

The most urgent priority areas for action were identified as being the need to identify short-term, medium and long term development strategies, focusing on establishment of safety nets (including networks of referral) and increasing and systematizing community contacts with young people in a constructive manner towards ensuring their protection and empowerment.

Recommended strategies were:

Prevention of violence

- Peaceful conflict resolution skills for all.
- Mapping of services and resources, capacity gap analysis at community level, training.
- Social support for vulnerable groups – include social assessments (environment of children) and referrals; abuse treatment and rehabilitation.
- Constructive use of time.

Response to already existing violence situation

- Crisis management of conflicts (gangs, arms control, establishment of crisis management responses and mechanisms, etc).

Capacity building challenges, priorities and recommendations:

- Teacher training and inclusion in the school curriculum of conflict resolution; training of school personnel, police, parents, young people, children, etc.

Research and data collection challenges and recommendations:

- Need for better understanding of the gender dynamics of violence and of the image of masculinity as perceived by young males.
- Need for the establishment of mechanisms for early intervention

5.4 GROUP FOUR

Child and Youth Friendly Services for Victims and Perpetrators

The group defined child-friendly services as being:

- Respectful, welcoming and friendly with non judgmental staff (*from security, and maintenance to case workers*) who are trained in child/youth work.
- A safe and secure environment.
- Age appropriate in activities and furnishings.
- Informal in the physical space and atmosphere.

The group identified the most urgent priorities for action as being:

1. To establish universal standards for child/youth Friendly services
2. Accessing adequate human & physical resources
3. Providing parenting education & support services
4. The need for more case workers as for perpetrators there is a high social work case load (approx. 1:100) with the ideal being 1:30; as well there is insufficient counseling and psychological assessments.

5. For victims there is also a high social worker case load. There is need for additional dispute resolution centres
6. Increased effort to address emotional/psychological trauma e.g. depression, anxiety and conduct disorders etc.(school and Community based programmes)
7. Re-socialization of perpetrators (community, school and residential)
8. Research and economic impact studies to guide government policy

Additionally the group noted the following gaps:

1. No universal standards for child/youth Friendly services
2. Lack of human & physical resources to address current needs
3. Limited provision of ongoing training for all mental health staff

The group made the following recommendations:

1. Establish universal standards for child/youth friendly services
2. Utilize youth workers (peer educators/ support groups) etc. when trained social workers and psychologists are not available
3. Public education

Recommendations for enhancing / 'scaling up' partnerships and coordination:

1. Working with University of the West Indies and other tertiary institutions to provide practicum placements in NGOs, CBO etc.
2. Duplicating the YMCA model of a child/youth friendly space
3. Community policing and police led youth groups/holiday camps
4. Fund community driven programmes
5. Enhance mechanisms for communication between NGOs and community based organizations (CBOs)
6. Create mechanisms for ongoing sharing of regional best practices

Recommendations for advocacy and awareness-raising at national, regional and local levels

1. Be evidence based e.g. using economic impact assessment
2. Meet funding requirements for encouraging work in partnership building and multi-agency coordination
3. Undertake, through information ministries, production and airing of weekly programming on television and radio of child/youth issues and related outreach programmes
4. Focus on the promotion of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and on amending legislation that compliment it.

Research and data collection challenges and recommendations:

1. Funding
2. Standardization of data collecting instruments
3. Recruitment & training of professionals

Inclusive prevention and response: recommendations for ensuring the needs and experience of men, women, boys and girls are considered:

1. Extended family/sibling support
2. Incorporate life/social skills training in vocational/work programmes
3. Implement faith based initiatives where appropriate
4. Promote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the

Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

5.5 Discussion/ Questions and Answers

In relation to Group 1 – **Policy and Legislative Environment and Enforcement** the following were participants' comments:

- Having a legislative agenda underscores the need for 'joined up' government. There is a need to have actors understanding the legislative process and where to enter, and knowing who the key partners are.
- Competing priorities slow down the legislative process. The CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development meets on a regular basis and could be a forum for the development of model legislation - the process could be pushed from a regional basis.
- All the countries have agreed that violence is a problem (especially for tourism); also the Port Of Spain Declaration includes a goal of violence reduction so COHSoD should be able to carry forward the agendas. There is also a legal affairs committee of CARICOM which does draft model legislation; however, it is not clear what has happened in the past with respect to such model legislation.
- The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) may have done more than the broader CARICOM, for example they have developed policy on restorative justice for children.
- Sometimes things move faster at the country level (especially in the 12 -18 month timeframe) than the regional level. A longer timeframe can be considered for the regional processes

In relation to Group 2- **Advocacy, Overall Coordination and Monitoring** the comments were:

- Delegates from Haiti had contributed significant perspectives on implementing advocacy and achieving overall coordination.
- There are sometimes many national plans but a lack of cohesiveness in approaches etc.
- Use of GIS, as is done by the Violence Prevention Alliance, is an important tool to get mapping of trends and for analysis to inform advocacy.
- At the COHSoD level and the legal affairs committee of CARICOM a regional framework could be developed especially for overall coordination and monitoring.

In relation to Group 3 - **Promoting a Culture of Peace**, the following were noted:

- Promoting a culture of peace is a long term project
- Actions are needed at two levels: (a) Prevention of youth involvement – e.g. Including conflict resolution skills in teacher training curricula; (b) Responding to already existing situations.

- The group was conscious of a need for a joined up approach and not waiting for the perfect situation.
- The importance of participatory processes and engaging youth was to be stressed.

In relation to Group 4 - **Child and Youth Friendly Services for Victims and Perpetrators**; the following were the main comments:

- The need for training in grief counseling.
- The need for interventions for youth in high risk circumstances e.g. in detention, those deeply involved in psychopathic behaviours etc. The group indicated that the main intervention was 'residential care' but one problem was a lack of trained professionals (psychologists etc).
- The importance of restorative justice in handling the needs of victims.
- The need for therapeutic environments for child perpetrators who are too dangerous for placement in juvenile institutions and are in adult facilities. There are no such institutions at the moment. In the region overall there is a problem of children being placed with adults. There is also a need for more research such as that done by UNICEF in Jamaica, on why children are referred to institutions. The research in Jamaica indicted that often such placement was not an appropriate response/intervention.

Other questions/comments were:

- The need to better and more empirically define the concept called the 'community' - what we actually/concretely mean.
- The need for action to achieve harmonized data collection and analysis. Dr. Ernest Pate, WHO/PAHO Representative in Jamaica said that much is being done in the region on data gathering, for example, in Colombia; as well the WHO has put forward a standardized data capture format to look at the impact of violence. What is needed is a central clearing house for these things. There have been attempts by some groups to create electronic networks and these needs to be expanded. Dr. Pate agreed that there was a need to standardize to make data more compatible; also that there was a need to improve dissemination. He suggested that perhaps the UNDP could explore how to support data sharing/availability in the region.

Dr. Pate, who was Chairman of the session, gave the following summary of the main outcomes:

- The period of 12-18 months is short term but each group's response acknowledged that the tasks were long term. What is being worked on then are medium to long term plans and these recommendations indicate actions in the short term to jump start the achievement of goals.
- Multi-sectoral approaches were highlighted.
- Each group highlighted the need for data collection to be standardized if they are to be really meaningful.
- A mechanism for Information dissemination of best practices is needed.
- There is need to review the legislative framework. While in some countries this may be a long process; at the regional level there are opportunities to develop models.

- There is need to define 'community' (for example in implementing disaster response). This has implications for targeting interventions.
- The presentations highlighted the lack of financial, technical and physical resources in some of our countries. If intervention programmes are to be sustained then policymakers have to be convinced to allocate resources and this meets up on the challenge of competing priorities. The data is important for convincing policy-makers and for planning.
- The need for capacity building at many levels.
- The need for training for everyone working in the area of children and adolescents – all levels of staff/personnel of the agencies need to be trained.
- Need for communication and coordination across the different groups implementing programmes in the area of children and adolescents.

SESSION 6 – COUNTRY DELEGATION AND INSTITUTIONS' COMMITMENTS TO NEXT STEPS

Participants were placed in individual country team delegations and as Regional and Global institutions to confer on key elements which emerged in the preceding sessions and to identify areas for country-level follow-up with partners. The following commitments were reported.

6.1 Country level:

Belize

Delegates undertook to meet with the Ministries of National Security and Youth to discuss better coordination and encourage the development of a strategy for children and adolescents.

There is interest to pursue an exchange programme between countries, for example, with the PMI in Jamaica.

Brazil

Viva Rio is open to sharing their experience and projects with partners in this network.

Costa Rica

Commitment was given to

- Review the legislative framework.
- Promote development of local and national networks.
- Review what other UNDP and UNICEF offices are doing in Latin America to learn.
- Address the issue of homemade arms in schools (possibly in collaboration with Freidrich Ebert Stiftung -FES).

Haiti

It is important to present a common face to the government of Haiti; the UN agencies must avoid giving mixed messages and ensure that they present as a unified group with improved coordination - ensuring that agencies engage each other

in terms of various expertise; integrating and bridging each agency's perspectives in each others work/programmes

Jamaica

- There are some overarching considerations.
- The need for a national plan of action for citizens.
- Need to focus on what CAN be done.
- Defining what is required for sustained population impacts.
- Streamlining data collection and improving evidence based programming.
- Scaling up violence reduction strategies and therefore enhancing prevention programmes.
- Creating a greater level of consciousness.
- Many entities are working and it is important to maintain multi-sectoral approach but there is need for a coordinated strategy through a 'lead agency' mechanism.
- Need to improve dialogue with government, greater ownership of what is happening and what civil society is doing.
- Influencing the central Office of the Prime Minister function in driving joined up government. This will be put forward at the next meeting of the Planning Institute Of Jamaica (PIOJ).
- Need for greater use of popular methods and culturally appropriate communication tools with child and human rights messages.

Given the number of issues for follow-up it was agreed that Jamaica's group would have a follow up meeting with support from UNICEF.

Trinidad & Tobago

The delegation indicated that through continued collaboration with UNICEF T&T and with each other, the following four main areas will be addressed:

- Data collection- incorporating various data collection and creating a work plan.
- A firearms prevention plan and addressing domestic violence and abuse of children (with the Ministry of Education and WINAD).
- Looking at collaborating with and learning from PMI and introducing domestic violence programmes to protect Children.

6.2 Regional Level

CARICOM

- Will present to the next COHSOD meeting the proposal for a programme of action for a coordinated anti-crime strategy.
- Will have a meeting with UNODC to try to get a political declaration for continued support for regional anti crime measures.

Central American Region

- Enhance exchange and networking.
- Participate in the process of assessment of legislation, looking at the gaps, and contribute to having a framework for support to the different countries with regard to legislation.

- Strengthen networks of UN agencies and Civil Society Organizations to ask for accountability from governments on the international frameworks that they have signed.
- Contribute to research on armed violence and its economic costs and work towards standardization of how these factors are measured e.g. Standardizations of capturing perceptions of 'insecurity' among citizens.

6.3 Global Level

UN Family

The Representatives looked at the global and regional issues and indicted the following as commitments:

- Support for regional commitments.
- Regional Directors are to meet in Suriname and Guyana and will be asked to put the issue of Small Arms on the agenda.
- At the regional and HQ level the matter of how to get the Dominican Republic involved will be raised, as it is a strategically positioned country, which straddles issues associated with both Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The UN inter-agency small arms mechanism – CASA, Coordinating Action on Small Arms, has 16 UN agencies. The delegation will disseminate information on what they have been doing.
- Will seek to build linkages for an armed violence prevention programme within CASA
- The UN HQ is to be informed of the outcomes of this meeting to further refine agency niches and possibilities for support.
- In July 2008, the Third Biennial Meeting of States to consider implementation of the Programme of Action (<http://disarmament.un.org/CAB/thirdBMS.html>). A request will be made for a UN caucus to further clarification of common actions.

6.4 CLOSING REMARKS

Prof. Barry Chevannes, Peace Management Initiative

Prof. Chevannes said it had been a good meeting with good proposals on a country by country basis. He said that he had been struck by Belize wanting to learn from the PMI, and by other proposals for exchange programmes. Prof. Chevannes said that perhaps the existing exchange programme sponsored by UNICEF could be useful here.

Dr. Elizabeth Ward, Violence Prevention Alliance

Dr. Ward thanked UNICEF, UNDP, and participants for providing such a rich source of information. She reiterated the need to establish working mechanisms for sharing information and said that gun control was one of the difficult but necessary roads to be embarked on.

Dr. Ward said that the meeting has helped to clarify strategies and that the goal was to achieve sustained population impact

Bertrand Bainvel, Representative, UNICEF

Mr. Bainvel thanked participants and commended the good learning spirit of the meeting. He said that it had been agreed that Peace Month would be a month for peace activities. This consultation was one such activity.

Mr. Bainvel thanked the team that had put the meeting together and he especially thanked Ms. Julie Myers for her efforts.

He indicated to the meeting that UNICEF would consider a follow up meeting to examine progress in actions.

APPENDICES

I. CONCEPT PAPER



Reducing the Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Children and their Communities- What Works?

An inter-country exchange of experiences- Kingston Jamaica 5-6 March 2008

Background: Globally and regionally, countries have expressed concern over the spread of violence and its impact on children, communities and national development. The proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) has been identified as one of the many contributing factors. Internationally, and on a bilateral basis, declarations and agreements have been made to collectively address the challenge, including the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the 2006 Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, the 2006 GA Resolution on the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children and the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Purpose of the Consultation: Countries have taken numerous steps to stem violence, control the trafficking and use of small arms and light weapons, and mitigate their impact on children and communities. Often, however, the lack of comprehensive approaches and the unevenness in the strengths of their various elements have prevented countries from fully grasping the benefits of their actions. The purpose of the consultation is to identify good practices in the Caribbean and Central America that could help countries develop policies and programmes for comprehensive prevention and response, which are based on international frameworks, recommendations from studies and lessons learnt from country experiences.

Expected Outcomes:

- # International frameworks presented and challenges and opportunities in operationalisation fully discussed;
- # Lessons learnt from good practices shared and discussed in policy and legislation, peace promotion, and monitoring; and
- # Follow-up coordination, implementation processes and support identified towards effective implementation at country, regional and global levels.

II. AGENDA

DAY ONE - 5 March 2008

08:30 Registration

09.00 – 11.00

INTRODUCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES BY MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY, VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE, UNDP AND UNICEF –

SESSION #1-- THE CHALLENGE: THE DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM

Purpose: To highlight the relevance of the consultation and identify support to the initiative

Chair: Senator Williams, Junior Minister, Ministry of National Security, Jamaica

Presentations on:

- Regional crime and violence trends; prevention and response – UN Office on Drugs and Crime (Mr. Theodore Leggett) 20 mins
- 2007 UNICEF-supported study on the Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Children and Adolescents in El Salvador, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica – Ms. Candie Cassabalian, UNICEF TACRO 20 mins
- 2008-2010 UNDP-supported programme on Violence Prevention, Peace and Sustainable Development – Mr. David Smith, UNDP Jamaica 20 mins

Interactive discussion, Questions and Answers: 30 mins

11.00 – 11.15 Break

11.15 - 12.30 -- SESSION #2-- PEACE FOR US

Purpose: To allow children and affected communities the opportunity to have a voice in issues which concern them and to contribute to being agents of change

Chair: Mr. Minh Pham, UNDP Representative, Jamaica

Children and youth speak up: 30 mins

Civil society and community impact and response: Women's Institute for Alternative Development 20 mins

Discussion: What does this mean for children and communities in our countries? 30 mins

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14.00-15:30-- SESSION #3-- GLOBAL FRAMEWORK: THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Purpose: To review the international frameworks and discuss their implications at the country and regional levels.

Chair: Ms. Karin Sham Poo, Special Envoy for UNICEF in the Caribbean

The 2001 UN Programme of Action and the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development - Ms. Geraldine O'Callaghan, U.K. Department for International Development – Jamaica 15 mins

- # The UN Secretary General Study on Violence against Children – Ms. Julie Elaine Myers, UNICEF New York 15 mins
- # Relevant regional frameworks (Guatemala Declaration and CARICOM) – Mr. Arturo Matute, UNDP Guatemala 15 mins
- # “Matching resources to needs” – Ms. Kerry Maze, UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) 15 mins

Interactive discussion, Questions and Answer: 30 mins

15.30 – 15:45 Break

15.45 - 17.15 -- SESSION #4 - THE IDEA EXCHANGE: SHARING WHAT WORKS

Purpose: panel to identify opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the international frameworks - Countries learning from countries.

CHAIR: PROF. BARRINGTON CHEVANNES, CHAIR, VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE

- # Exchanging peace over violence: the case of Jamaica - Peace Management Initiative
- # Political commitment, policy reform, community prevention: the case of Costa Rica - UNDP
- # Monitoring impact and progress: the case of Jamaica – Dr. Ward, Violence Prevention Alliance and Mona Infomatics
- # ‘Advocacy **and** Action’ human security for youth and communities: the case of Brazil – Viva Rio

Each country case will highlight achievements and constraints and give a special emphasis on the entry points, the processes and the sustainability of results.

15 mins per presentation

Interactive discussion / Question and Answer: What have we learned? What is compelling? What is worth pursuing? 30 mins

17.15 – 17.30

Summary of day 1 sessions and preview for day 2 (comments only)

07: 30 p.m Reception, Hotel Pegasus.

DAY TWO - 6 March 2008

09.00 – 09.30

Opening remarks and summary of key points highlighting the importance of coordination across sectors of work and complementarity of effort towards a common result. 10 mins

09.30 - 11:30 -- SESSION #5 -- THE WAY FORWARD - TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Purpose: through presentations and group work, countries will identify key strategies to reduce the impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons on children and communities. Participants will be divided into four thematic groups: Building and Enforcing a

Protective Legal and Policy Environment; Promoting a Culture of Peace; Child and Youth-Friendly Services for Victims and Perpetrators; and Coordinating and Monitoring Overall Progress. Groups will share information, discuss strategies informed by 'lessons learned', propose coordination and monitoring mechanisms, identify linkages among group themes, and identify issues and support requiring multi-country and international support. Results of working groups will be summarised and presented in plenary.

Chair: Dr. Ernest Pate, WHO/PAHO Representative, Jamaica

Theme groups:

1. Policy and Legislation environment and enforcement

Chair: Ms. Karin Sham Poo, Special Envoy for UNICEF in the Caribbean

Country case: UNDP Guatemala

2. Advocacy, overall coordination and monitoring

Chair: Dr. Ward, Violence Prevention Alliance

Country case: Haiti UN delegation

3. Promoting a Culture of Peace

Chair: Ms. Carola Mittrany , Viva Rio

Country case: Jamaica Dispute Resolution Foundation - community based child-friendly peace and justice centres linked to community school-based initiatives

4. Child and youth-friendly services for victims and perpetrators

Chair: UNICEF Trinidad and Tobago

Country case: Dr. Margaret Robinson, Child Guidance Clinic

11.30 - 11.45 Break

11.45 – 12.30 Presentation of thematic WG to plenary

Reporting from the first two groups to plenary: 15 mins each

Interactive discussion 15 mins

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 14.45 Session 5 continued

Reporting from the last two groups to plenary: 15 mins each

Interactive discussion: 15 mins

14.45 - 16.00 -- SESSION #6-- COUNTRY DELEGATION AND INSTITUTIONS' COMMITMENTS TO NEXT STEPS

Purpose: through 30-minute consultations within individual country team delegations, participants will confer on key elements, which emerged during the preceding sessions and identify specific areas of emphasis for country level follow-up with partners. Results of country team consultations will be summarized and presented in an informal format to plenary.

Chair: Mr. Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Representative Jamaica

Country delegation presentations -- 3 min each

Jamaica

Belize

Costa Rica

El Salvador

Guatemala

Haiti

Trinidad and Tobago

Regional and Global Institutions: *CARICOM, UN (UNDP, UNLIREC, UNIDIR, UNODC, UNICEF, PAHO, UNESCO), Banks-- 3 min each*

16.00 -16:15 Closing Remarks

**III. PARTICIPANTS IN THE SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
CONSULTATION, 5-6 MARCH 2008**

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