
Project:	Enhancing public security and stability in Asia and the Pacific through armed violence reduction and prevention
Disarmament Focus:	Public Security Programme
Project Timeframe:	2010/2011 (12 Months)
Geographical Focus:	Asia and Pacific States
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BACKGROUND

In UN General Assembly Resolution 63/23, entitled “Promoting development through armed violence prevention and reduction”, Member States reaffirmed their commitments to creating an environment conducive to development and the elimination of poverty and stressed the need for a coherent and integrated approach to the prevention of armed violence, with a view to achieving sustainable peace and development¹.

Armed violence affects all societies to different degrees, whether they are at war, in a post-conflict situation, or suffering from everyday forms of criminal or political violence. The human toll of armed violence across various contexts is severe. In the recent past at least 740,000 people have died directly or indirectly each year from armed violence. The Asia Pacific region has not been immune to the damage caused by armed violence. Armed violence also has a tremendous economic negative impact. The cost of lost productivity from non-conflict or criminal violence alone is about USD 95 billion and war-related violence decreases the annual growth of an average economy by around two per cent for many years².

The Governments of Asia and Pacific States recognized the seriousness of the escalating levels of armed violence at the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on Armed Violence and Development held in Bangkok in 2008. They agreed to work on practical measures to promote socio-economic development that aim at reducing armed violence. Furthermore, they acknowledged the importance of cooperation between governments, sub-regional, regional and international organizations to prevent and reduce armed violence and to promote measures that enhance prospects for sustainable and equitable development³.

¹ UN General Assembly Resolution 63/23, 17 November 2008

² Global Burden of Armed Violence, Geneva Declaration Secretariat, Geneva 2008

³ Asia-Pacific Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, Bangkok 2008

OBJECTIVE

To enhance public security and socio-economic development in Asia and the Pacific through, upon request, countries' elaboration of policies aimed at reducing and preventing armed violence in the region:

- Assist affected countries in Asia and the Pacific in adopting synchronized whole-of-government procedures to armed violence reduction and prevention;
- Assist affected countries in Asia and the Pacific to develop multi-sectoral national policies, strategies and programmes for armed violence reduction and prevention; and
- Increase inter-regional dialogue and cooperation within Asia and the Pacific between governments, international organizations, civil society including women's organizations, and development cooperation agencies.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

The project consists of the following activities:

- Three sub-regional workshops for two days in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen whole-of-government procedures and to develop national policies, strategies and programmes for armed violence reduction and prevention;
- Each sub-regional workshops will produce national action plans on the implementation of the Geneva Declaration for armed violence reduction and prevention;
- Prior to the seminars, lead organizations and agencies of crucial importance for armed violence prevention and reduction will work together to strengthen cooperation among relevant actors on a national and sub-regional level;
- Thematic areas to be discussed during the seminars will include development policy and programming gaps in armed violence reduction and prevention programming in urban contexts and border areas, key elements of armed violence prevention and reduction programmes, identification of risk factors and impacts of armed violence, challenges of youth at-risk, the interrelation between underdevelopment and transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in SALW, the role of the media as well as gender-specific approaches to conflict prevention and arms control initiatives; and
- Lessons learned, best practices and experiences of developing national policies will be shared and used for concrete national and sub-regional follow-up projects. A compendium of best practices for stake holders will be disseminated.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Greater regional awareness about the interrelations between armed violence and development and the need to adopt a holistic approach in addressing armed violence;

- Identified lessons learned and best practices on national policies for the implementation of the UN Secretary-General’s report on promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence and of the Geneva and Bangkok Declarations on Armed Violence and Development;
- Developed elements of national action plans on the implementation of the Geneva and Bangkok Declaration;
- Enhanced cohesion of national and regional responses to armed violence and development issues;
- Strengthened advocacy, outreach and dissemination of the goals of the Geneva and Bangkok Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

BENEFICIARIES

Beneficiaries include governments, parliaments, and civil society organizations from participating States, including women’s organizations, as well as relevant regional and sub-regional organizations.

PARTNERS

Geneva Declaration Core Group, UNDP/BCPR, UN regional and country offices, regional/sub-regional organizations as well as relevant civil society organizations, including women’s organizations

BUDGET ITEMS IN US \$	AMOUNT
Project Personnel (note only 12 month)	100’000
Operations and Implementation Costs	200’000
TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED	300’000
TOTAL SECURED FUNDING	0’00