

# Collective violence

WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH -WHO

## *Collective violence*

- instrumental use of violence
- group of people
- against another group
- to achieve political, economic or social objectives

## *Indicators of states at risk of collapse and internal conflict*

- Inequality
- Rapidly changing demographic characteristics
- Lack of democratic processes
- Political instability
- Ethnic composition of the ruling group sharply different from that of the population at large
- Deterioration in public services
- Cycles of violent revenge

## *The consequences of collective violence*

- Impact on health
- Demographic impact
- Socioeconomic impact

## *What can be done to prevent collective violence?*

- Reducing the potential for violent conflicts
- The potential benefits of globalization
- The role of the health sector
  - **Investing in health development** also contributes to the prevention of violent conflict.
  - A **strong emphasis on social services** can help maintain social cohesion and stability.
  - reducing
    - **inequalities between social groups**
    - **unequal access to resources**
    - both important risk factors for violence

**“ Health as a bridge for peace ”**

## *Responses to violent conflicts*

### Service provision during conflicts

- upgrade health care services
- provide good-quality services, humanely and efficiently
- involve communities in
  - determining priorities
  - the way in which services are provided
- create sustainable mechanisms
- experience from the field is used in formulating policy

# *Post-conflict health challenges*

## *Reconciliation work*

### Typical situation at present

. Activities are focused around temporary cessation of hostilities, so as to carry out disease control

### Actions for a more appropriate response

. Recognize the **symbolic value of health care** in restoring relationships between communities

. Recognize the promotion of justice and reconciliation as long-term goals involving the often slow rebuilding of trust between communities

. Promote every **reasonable opportunity** for collaboration between communities

. Consider innovative responses,  
such as truth and reconciliation commissions

# RISK COMMUNICATION

<http://psandman.com/index-intro.htm>

