

# **Strategic approaches for injury prevention and control**

**in the South-East Asia Region**

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# Preface

Injuries are a leading cause of death, hospitalization and disability in the South-East Asia (SEA) Region. The available data indicate that nearly 1.5 million deaths, 20-30 million hospitalizations and more than 50 million emergency room registrations are due to injuries in the Region. Among those killed, injured and disabled significant numbers are men in younger age groups. Road traffic injuries (RTIs), suicides, burns and work-related injuries are the major causes contributing significantly to death and disability. The socio-economic losses are huge and phenomenal though unmeasured.

Despite the huge increase in injuries in South-East Asia, global experiences from high-income countries reveal that injuries are predictable and preventable. A systems approach to injury prevention and control by implementing feasible and cost-effective measures through intersectoral and coordinated mechanisms can reduce the injury burden in the SEA Region. Scientific evidence is crucial to document ongoing changes and to examine the efficacy and effectiveness of interventions.

Strategic approaches for injury prevention and control along with policies and programmes form the backbone and the foundation for injury prevention and control programmes. Strong advocacy activities, better information systems through surveillance, policy formulation and programme development, capacity strengthening at different levels are crucial for implementation of interventions. To achieve desired goals and objectives, greater allocation of resources, an intersectoral approach, empowering civil society and measures for trauma care and rehabilitation services form the corner stones of present as well as future programmes. Undoubtedly, monitoring and evaluation are crucial to measure the progress over a period of time. I believe that this strategic document will be most useful for policy planners to make the SEA Region a safer place for future generations.



Dr Samlee Plianbangchang  
Regional Director



# Executive summary

## Title

Strategic Approaches for Injury Prevention and Control in the South-East Asia Region.

## Rationale

Injury and violence are the leading causes of death, hospitalization and disability throughout the world, and a major unrecognized problem in the South-East Asia (SEA) Region also. The burden is more in developing societies of the Region and accounts for significant socioeconomic losses. Young males are affected mostly. However, injuries are predictable and preventable. The far-reaching implications of injury and violence warrant an urgent need to highlight the magnitude and severity of the problem and develop preventive strategies based on strategic approaches.

## General objective

To assess the burden of injury and violence and explore ongoing efforts for prevention and control in the SEA Region.

## Methodology

**Phase I:** A questionnaire was developed and mailed to investigators in Member States of the SEA Region. The available data related to injury burden, impact and ongoing

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