

## **ARMED VIOLENCE<sup>1</sup> AND THE MDGs: Key facts and messages**

The impact of armed violence on development is an emerging humanitarian and development paradigm that builds on significant achievements in disarmament, peacebuilding, and security and justice sector reform.

Responding to this growing agenda shared by concerned states, civil society and UN agencies, a group of engaged NGOs, including Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), have been advocating the need to promote a more explicit focus on measurable reductions in armed violence in strategies and programs agreed through the MDG Review Summit in September 2010.

### **Key facts:**

- Because it can occur in contexts of conflict, crime or in other forms, armed violence is a fundamental challenge that threatens each country globally.
- It is estimated that some three quarters of a million people are killed or die each year as a direct or indirect result of armed violence; injuries from armed violence are estimated in the millions and cause high social and economic costs - this places armed violence alongside HIV, malaria and tuberculosis in the large global burden of disease (GBD).
- In non-conflict areas alone, armed violence diverts up to USD 163 billion per year.
- Armed violence causes up to USD 400 billion in lost productivity each year and it costs individual states up to 10 per cent of their GDP, reducing foreign investment and reversing poverty reduction gains.
- Armed violence impacts strongly on public health whereby high rates of armed violence can cripple public health systems.
- It is estimated that in southern African countries, one gun shot victim can cost 10 to 20 times the cost of treatment for common infectious diseases.

### **Key messages:**

States need to recognize that freedom from violence is fundamental to effective development.

- Shared commitment to reduce the impact and incidence of armed violence is a foundation of the United Nations – 2015 is the time to re-establish that commitment to address the problems of violence, wherever they occur, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- In 2015, when development priorities are re-negotiated, peace and security – measured by the reduction in armed violence – must be one of the primary goals.
- Acting on existing commitments, states, in partnership with civil society, need to build a culture of recording and reporting rates of armed violence; international institutions should ensure that metrics on armed violence are incorporated as a central component of national and regional analysis.
- Working with civil society, states should include armed violence reduction as a priority in their national development plans, supported where relevant by adequate aid.
- States, civil society and representative groups should work together to ensure victims and survivors of armed violence are able to fully realise their rights.

AOAV remains at your disposal for further information on this agenda.  
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<sup>1</sup> Armed violence includes small arms, light weapons, improvised and conventional explosive weapons, including landmines and cluster munitions.