KEEPING WEAPONS OUT OF HEALTH FACILITIES – AN ONLINE TOOLKIT

NO WEAPONS
LEAVE YOUR WEAPON HERE

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

At the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), we have always recommended that health facilities in areas affected by armed conflict and other emergencies implement policies to keep weapons out.

This is because the presence of weapons in health facilities:

- undermines their neutral character and makes them less safe
- creates a culture and an atmosphere that is not conducive to the respect of medical ethics
- is a precursor of threats and security incidents.

The presence of weapons in a health facility may suggest that the facility is involved in military operations and no longer protected under international humanitarian law.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Displaying a "no weapons" sign at the entrance to the building is a common practice around the world, but it is not enough to stop individuals from carrying weapons.

Behaviour change science tells us that we can only successfully change people's behaviour if we simultaneously act on all the drivers of that behaviour. For example, we have seen that "no weapons" policies have a much greater chance of success if they combine staff training, a public communications campaign, stricter rules and solutions for weapon carriers to store their weapons safely.

For real change to happen, it is crucial to engage with health-care staff, the community they serve and the people who carry weapons – and to ensure that any measures are tailored to the specific situation.

The online toolkit helps you understand what works in practice and how you can change people's behaviour over the long term. It includes information on:

MESSAGING   REDESIGNING THE ENVIRONMENT   TRAINING

ONLINE TOOLKIT

The online toolkit includes resources and materials that can be downloaded from the website, including:

- an easy-to-use planning tool that generates an action plan
- a set of tools to support users with the planning process from start to finish
- a communication tool with templates and techniques to persuade people not to bring weapons into facilities
- case studies explaining how others have successfully developed and implemented their own policies
- a "no weapons" policy template for that facilities can adapt.

GETTING STARTED: MAKING THE CASE FOR ACTION

Keeping weapons out of health facilities is often just another item in a long list of competing priorities. When weapons are present in health facilities, the consequences may not always be immediately obvious or understood, and the impact of their presence can be difficult to quantify.

There is often no specific law banning weapons in health facilities. If legislation does exist, it is often not enforced – and many people perceive the problem as too complex to tackle.

If an organization does decide to limit weapons in health facilities, or eliminate them, there is often little information, guidance or support on how to do it.

→ Our online tool will help you overcome these difficulties.

It's all too difficult and complex

"there is no evidence to support activity in this area"

The online tool:

- provides tangible evidence that allows you to prioritize action
- helps you make the case for action by enabling you to quantify the impact of weapons in health facilities
- is regularly updated with new case studies
- provides practical examples of successful behaviour change methodologies.

STEP 1: UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLES OF BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

The online toolkit gives you a short introduction on why people do the things they do and how you can influence behaviour change.

STEP 2: PLANNING AND DEVELOPING YOUR PLAN TO LIMIT OR ELIMINATE WEAPONS

The planning process comprises six easy-to-implement steps that help you to:

- identify the problem to be addressed
- develop and implement a plan
- monitor and evaluate if the plan was successful.

01 Getting started | 02 Scoping | 03 Developing | 04 Implementing | 05 Monitoring and evaluating | 06 Following up

https://healthcareindanger.org/no-weapons/

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH

ICRC