



**Application Report for  
The re-designation of  
Tuen Mun Safe Community  
Hong Kong  
2009**



**WHO Collaborating Centre on  
Community Safety Promotion**



## **WHO Re-Designation for Tuen Mun Safe Community of Hong Kong**

### **Background**

Tuen Mun is the first safe community in Hong Kong which was designated in 2003 as the 72<sup>nd</sup> Safe Community worldwide. With the joint effort from local public and private enterprises and organizations, continuous improvement has been achieving throughout these years.

Below is the summary of the work done in the past 6 years from 2003 to 2008 according to the 6 indicators for a Safe Community as defined by the World Health Organization.

### **Indicator 1**

**An infrastructure based on partnership and collaborations, governed by a cross-sectional group that is responsible for safety promotion in their community**

Since Safe Community is a long-term development initiative that aims to promote and sustain safety for the population, a sustainable structure is required to ensure continuity of the work towards a Safe Community. For Tuen Mun Safe Community project, a Steering and a Working Committee were established to manage the project with the convenor, project co-ordinator and secretariat office being established in Tuen Mun Hospital.

Apart from the Steering and Working Committee, the Tuen Mun District Council, as a statutory body to advise the Government on matters affecting the well-being of the people within the District, had also contributed by providing support through a Occupational Safety & Health Working Group under the Commerce, Industry and Housing Safety Committee to the Safe Community Project. Together with the public and private organizations, the Tuen Mun Safe Community Working group and the Tuen Mun District Council has pulled together partnerships to make the Tuen Mun Safe Community project a success.

Since 2004, the number of participating member organizations was increased from 13 to 17. The new members were Shui Wing Steel Company Limited, Green Island Cement Company Limited, River Trade Terminal Company Limited and Sino Estate Management Limited. They had joined the Working Committee and the OSH Working Group under the Commerce, Industry and Home Safety Committee of the Tuen Mun District Council.

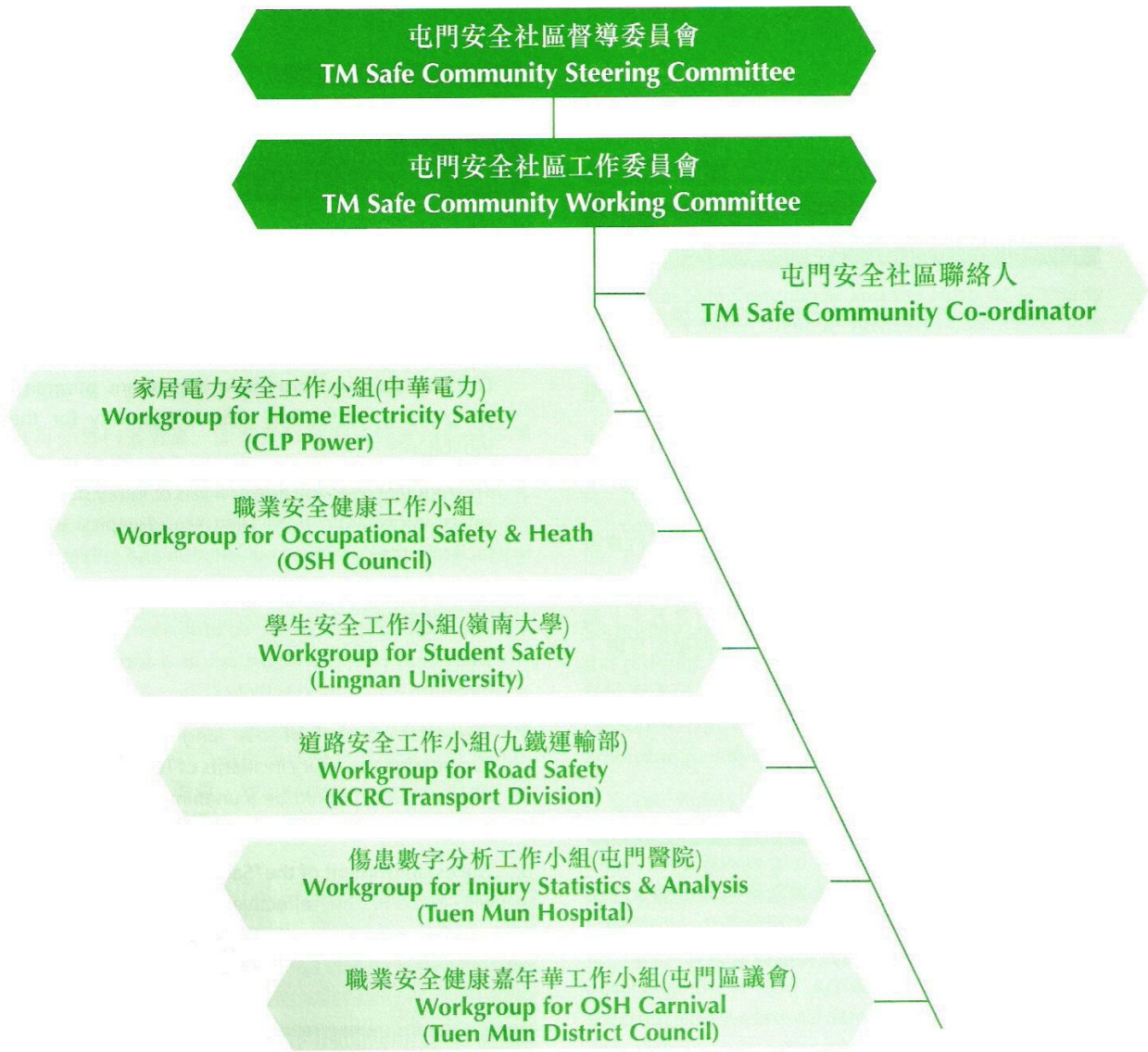


Figure - Organization of the Tuen Mun Safe Community

## **Indicator 2**

### **Long-term sustainable programs covering both genders and all ages, environments and situations.**

To prevent accidents for citizens living in remote villages in the district, the Tuen Mun District Office had regularly co-ordinated numerous improvement projects including renovation of roads & access pathways and recreational facilities.

The Occupational Safety and Health Working Group under the Commerce, Industry and Housing Committee of Tuen Mun District Council teamed up with the Occupational Safety & Health Council to organize a series of OSH prevention activities including the “Tuen Mun Occupational Safety and Health Carnival and Award Presentation” at Tuen Mun Cultural Square. The event attracted active participation of several thousand residents in the district. The event also featured a number of entertaining programs, including the performance of classic songs by singers, dances by children and the elderly residents, and safety and health quiz. At the venue, there were attractive games booths and body-testing services available for residents. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for the residents who also learned a lot about occupational safety.

In fact, with the cooperation of Tuen Mun District Council and other organizations in the district, its achievements are fully recognized. In addition to the carnival on that day, Tuen Mun Safe Community has already staged a number of road shows and quiz in the district for the past year. For the year 2006/07, a series of topical seminars including the safe use of gas, the safety use of display screen equipment, first-aid demonstrations and safe manual handling, etc. To deepen residents’ understanding to the concept of safe communities, a slogan competition and a hazard spotting competition had been organized in district newspapers.

Through the Tuen Mun District Fire Safety Committee, the Fire Service Department had regularly organized promotion and preventive programs including public safety talks, Fire Safety Ambassador Program & fire drill exercise with public and private housing estates as well as public & private organizations and institutes.

On the other hand, regular safety promotional activities were regularly being arranged by the member organizations. These programs included Safety, Health & Environment protection (SHE) Day for China Light Power and Green Island Cement Company, electricity safety programs by CLP, stretching exercise program before work at Shui Wing Steel Company, regular safety promotion programs organized at different public estates under the Housing Authority as well as fire drill exercise at the YKK Company etc.

### **Indicator 3**

#### **Programs that target high-risk groups and environments and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups**

For student safety, the Trauma Advisory Committee and the Orthopaedic and Traumatology Department of Tuen Mun Hospital had regularly organized promotion activities for secondary schools students in the area of road safety, home safety and sports safety.

The HK Police Force had regularly organized promotional activities for road safety, drug safety and crime prevention. These programs included the famous Project X, Junior Police Call, Tuen Mun West Open Scout and the Secondary School Ambassador program. To enhance the communication between Police and the schools, the Tuen Mun Police District and the Tuen Mun Lingnan University established the Tuen Mun Police/School Network web site for young people to gain easy access to all promotional programs about crime prevention, ambassador project, JPC etc from the Police.

To reduce elderly falls in the community, a Fall Prevention Program was conducted in Tuen Mun from November 2004 to March 2007 when a Physiotherapist was employed to collaborate with NGOs to identify suitable clients for a fall risk assessment. Tai Chi masters were recruited to teach the elders simplified version of Tai Chi exercise at the NGOs. The Tai Chi exercises aimed at strengthening leg muscles and enhancing balance ability of elders. Since November 2004, the Physiotherapist had collaborated with 8 NGOs, screened 750 elders and conducted Tai Chi classes for 350 elderly. Elders identified with other fall-related clinical problems were referred to the Geriatric Day Hospital of TMH for further intervention.

#### **Indicator 4**

##### **Mechanism that captures the frequency and causes of injuries**

For information collection, Tuen Mun Hospital had convened a working group, under the Tuen Mun Safe Community Steering Committee, comprising the Occupational Safety and Health Council and the government departments as members. The data collection mechanism involved mainly the Emergency Department and the Health Information & Records Office of Tuen Mun Hospital where the data were retrieved, analyzed and categorized.

On the other hand, relevant information collected by respective public or private organizations would be provided to the Committees as necessary to help monitoring the safety of the community and to provide data for future strategic planning.

The information was conveyed through publication, local newsletter and regular meetings for the Safe Community Steering and Working Committees.

All data was conveyed to the working groups and hospital service-chiefs for targeted programs of improvement.

All data would be evaluated in relation the program initiatives.

## **Indicator 5**

### Evaluation measures to assess their programs, processes and the effects of change

For the evaluation of the effectiveness of the safety programs, the Working Committee has used the statistics of injury attendance at the AED of TMH as an indicator. Analysis of injury data from 2002 to 2008 reviewed a significant reduction of 23% of number of trauma injuries and 22% of trauma admission.

Age	Year 2002	Year 2008 (Projected)	Variance
Aged 0-4	22630	15793	-30%
Aged 5-19	107095	85699	-19%
Aged 20-44	224235	202230	-9%
Aged 45-64	109898	157200	43%
Aged 65+	38446	47595	23%
Total	502304	508518	1%

Table – Population by age in Tuen Mun 2008

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Variance (2008 vs 2002)
Assault	1165	1161	1098	1020	954	959	894	-23%
Battering	215	206	184	219	217	187	210	-2%
Domestic	4508	4436	4262	4615	4155	5206	5384	19%
Occupational	6618	4826	5278	5239	5282	5117	4428	-33%
Sports	2109	1669	1717	1504	1535	1605	1359	-36%
Traffic	1204	1060	1324	1315	1220	1197	1170	-3%
Others	10451	6378	6692	6411	7507	5931	6759	-35%
Total	26274	19739	20555	20323	20870	20202	20204	-23%

Table – TMH AED trauma data analysis (2002-2008)

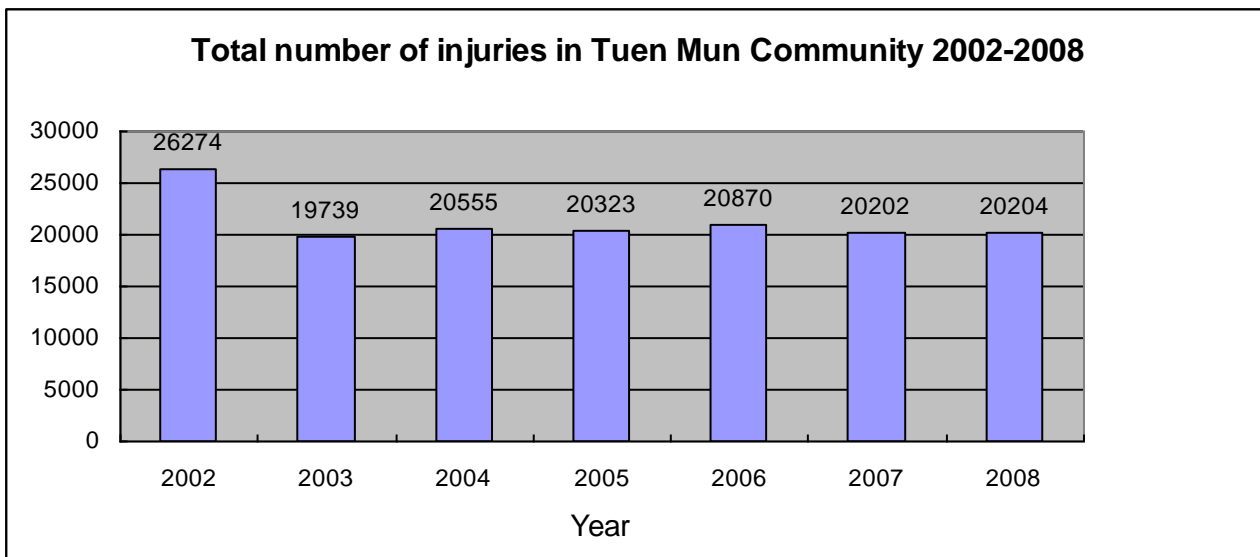


Table – Total number of trauma injuries in Tuen Mun 2002-2008

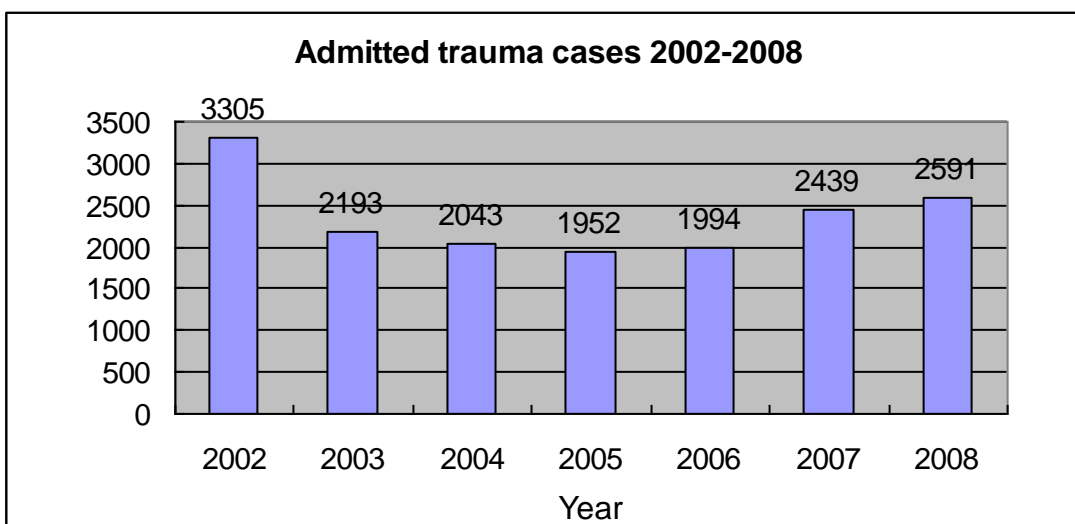


Table – Admitted trauma cases in TMH AED 2002-2008

In fire safety, there is significant improvement of 13% reduction in the total fire calls including 30% decrease in building fire calls and 13% reduction for hill fire calls.

## **Indicator 6**

### **On-going participation in national and international Safe Communities networks.**

Tuen Mun is the first district in Hong Kong to launch the WHO Safe Community project. As a member in the Safe Community Network world-wide, we have actively engaged in exchange with delegates from China as well as those from overseas. In the past years, Tuen Mun Safe Community had participated 8 local & international Safe Community conferences covering European and Asian communities as well as the Asian Regional Conference on Safe Communities and the China Hong Kong Safe Community Network.

## **Looking forward**

The short term target in 2009 for the Tuen Mun Safe Community will be the establishment of a community fall prevention clinic at the Tuen Mun Community Care Centre to identify fall risk for elders who will be empowered through education for preventive measures in their daily living at home and outdoor.

As a medium and long term plan, the Tuen Mun Safe Community is planning to collaborate with the Tuen Mun Healthy City Association to enhance partnership with more local enterprises and pull together more local effort to cover a wider scope of safety and health areas for the Tuen Mun citizens.

## **Conclusion**

Since the designation of the 72<sup>nd</sup> WHO Safe Community in 2003, Tuen Mun has overcome considerable challenges and difficulties in achieving the target of 23% reduction of number of injuries. Our success can never be achieved without the total commitment and dedication of the Tuen Mun District Council & District Office, HK Occupational Safety & Council, Tuen Mun Hospital and other local member organizations. With solid foundation of existing effort and our future collaboration with the Tuen Mun Healthy City Association, we will strive to sustain the momentum of building a safer community in Tuen Mun.

**END**