

## THE AUTHORS

*Marijke Velzeboer*, Coordinator for the Women, Health, and Development Program of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), prepared Section I (Chapters One through Three). *Mary Ellsberg*, Senior Program Officer, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), and *Carmen Clavel Arcas*, International Fellow, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), prepared Section II (Chapters Four through Seven). *Claudia García-Moreno*, Coordinator, Department of Gender and Women's Health of the World Health Organization (WHO) provided the global insights presented in Chapter Eight. *Roberta Okey*, of PAHO Publications, served as the book's editor.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge the valuable contributions and support of the following individuals, teams, and institutions: PAHO's Janete da Silva and Cathy Cuellar; PATH's Colleen Conroy, Willow Gerber, and Rebeca Quiroga; and CDC's James A. Mercy, Associate Director for Science, Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, and Mark Anderson, Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services, National Center for Environmental Health, for reviewing and commenting on the manuscript drafts. PAHO's Hillary Anderson and PATH's Rebecca Quiroga composed the Resources Section found at the end of the book, and Edna Quirós of PAHO provided administrative support. PAHO's Central American country offices and the Women, Health, and Development Program's network of focal points facilitated the "Lessons Learned" evaluation on which the book is based.

Moreover, the PAHO focal points and their national counterparts in the respective ministries of health, offices of women's affairs, and women's nongovernmental organi-

zations, under the direction of the PAHO Subregional Coordinating team, have been instrumental in developing and implementing the integrated approach to gender-based violence described in the book and in contributing to its achievements. These include the team's current Coordinator, Cathy Cuellar, and her predecessor, Lea Guido, with the assistance of Marta Castillo; focal points Sandra Jones, Belize; Florencia Castellanos, Costa Rica; Amalia Ayala and Ruth Manzano, El Salvador; Elsy Camey, Paula del Cid, Rebeca Guizar, and Patricia Ruiz, Guatemala; Raquel Fernández, Honduras; Silvia Narvaez, Nicaragua; and Dora Arosamena, Panama. Janete da Silva provided key support to the Central American network. We also wish to thank the women, men, health care providers, community activists, and representatives of the ministries of health and PAHO for sharing their time, experiences, and knowledge with PAHO and the project evaluation team in a critical, yet constructive spirit.

Clearly, the long-term support of the Governments of Norway and Sweden has not only enabled the development of the integrated approach, the Central American project, and its subsequent evaluation, but the production of this book, as well. Special thanks are due to Carola Espinoza and Mette Kottman and of the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD) and Hans Åkesson of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), in particular, for their assistance throughout the project's assessment phase. Likewise, the authors owe a debt of gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for supporting the contributions of our Bolivian, Ecuadorian, and Peruvian colleagues to this book.

The authors wish to dedicate this book to all the survivors of violence who so courageously have shared their stories with the desire that others might benefit from their experiences and live safer and happier lives. Their situations are both unique and universal, contributing to our knowledge and understanding of gender-based violence and informing our resolve and actions to overcome it. We hope that the lessons learned in Central America will transcend national and cultural boundaries to find resonance everywhere in the world where dedicated and concerned individuals are looking for guidance in making their communities healthier and violence-free.