

Strasbourg, 5 July 2007

AP/CAT (2007) 21  
Or. E

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT  
(EUR-OPA)

## **ASSESSMENT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOLLOWING A DISASTER**

**Proposal prepared**

**by the**

**European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA)  
Standing Committee on Disaster, Crisis and Trauma Psychology**

**The European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EPPA) has presented the following proposal to the Committee of Permanent Correspondents.**

**The Committee is invited to consider the proposal, discuss it and take the appropriate decisions to launch preparatory work.**

## **EFPA PSYCHOSOCIAL REVIEW TEAM**

### **Background**

While there has been considerable attention paid to lessons learned within disaster organization for the learning of the medical and logistic caretaking of disaster affected populations, there has been little systematic gathering of information about psychosocial intervention. In the professional literature more attention is now paid to such efforts, i.e. following the 2004 Tsunami in Asia. In Sweden, KAMEDO (an organizational committee for disaster medicine) has sent medical personnel to different parts of the world to gather systematic relevant information which can be used for Swedish planning in this area. We propose to establish a similar review team which especially addresses psychosocial issues involved in the follow-up of large-scale accidents and disasters.

### **Aim**

In order to more systematically gather psychosocial lessons learned from disasters we propose to create a review team which can travel to disaster areas. This team will gather and evaluate the lessons learned from the psychosocial intervention and make these lessons available for all nations in the event of new disasters. It is important to review both positive and negative learning. A structured protocol should be developed for data collection.

### **Composition of the team**

The team will be composed of a small group of psychologists from the EFPA Standing Committee on Disaster and Crisis Psychology with broad experience from previous disasters. The team may be supplemented by other experts or professional groups. The team will have two permanent members, while one member is seconded based on the situation at hand. The review team will aim to collaborate with local professional organizations.

### **Time frame**

The team aims to visit the area within the first 6 months after the disaster, but not within the first month. This will make it possible to evaluate both the immediate psychosocial intervention efforts and the planning and first phase of the long term intervention.

### **Method**

In order to achieve the aims mentioned above, the following data collection will be undertaken:

- interview key personnel involved in disaster management and psychosocial follow-up, including NGOs

- interview key persons in support groups formed by survivors and bereaved
- interview community leaders
- collect written reports including self-report data

### **Foci for review**

The review will collect information on several aspects of the psychosocial intervention:

- immediate intervention
- short-term intervention
- plans for long-term intervention

Among the aspects evaluated will be:

- assessment methods used
- structure of psychosocial follow-up
- overview of organisations involved in follow-up
- training and background of those involved in service provision
- transnational challenges
- use of professional resources
- financing of follow-up
- turf issues and problems of coordination, communication and command

### **Result**

The review should result in the following:

- brief reports which list lessons learned and implications for:
  - disaster preparedness and prevention
  - immediate and long-term intervention
  - collaboration between helpers within and across borders
  - assessment
- reports to be put in bullet point form on EFPA and Council of Europe (EUR-OPA) web pages.

Reports will be made available for personnel involved in disaster planning as well as professionals involved in psychosocial disaster work.

## Budget

Each review is estimated with the following costs

- review of relevant material, writing of review guide, preparation : €.....
- ten days work compensation (€.... per day per person) = €.....
- travel and accommodation (€..... per person) = €.....
- Three days of report preparation (€..... per day per person) = €.....
- On scene coordinator (€..... per day) = €.....
- Interpreter (€..... per day) = €.....
- Rental car, unforeseen expenses = €.....
- Total of €.....

Expected: 2 reviews per year. Yearly budget will be €.....

## Time frame

Following a review of relevant material, purchasing relevant books etc., and writing of a review guide, this team could be operative from January 2008.