



WFMH URGES GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH NGO'S IN COUNTRIES DEVASTATED BY SOUTH ASIA TSUNAMIS

The World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) has issued a statement urging financial support for mental health non-governmental organizations located in countries impacted by Indian Ocean tsunamis.

“The world is mobilizing a tremendous campaign to support basic shelter and survival needs of the millions of people in the devastated communities hit by the tsunamis. International health bodies such as the World Health Organization are striving to prevent threats to public health in the aftermath of the death and destruction. At the same time, and usually without media coverage and fanfare, many national and grassroots mental health organizations are beginning to provide emotional support and develop strategies and services to address the immediate and long-term mental health consequences that are certain to impact thousands of individuals and families in the weeks and months ahead.”

In an effort to make financial resources available to assist in country grassroots mental health organisations responding to the mental health consequences of this disaster, the WFMH is encouraging contributions to be made through their website www.wfmh.org

All proceeds received through the WFMH "DONATE NOW" account through 31 March 2005 will be placed in a special fund from which small grants will be made to mental health organizations from the countries affected by the disaster that are undertaking specific programs and services to address mental health consequences in the stricken areas.

For further information, and to offer ways in which you or your organization can help, contact Deborah Maguire, Director of Programs, World Federation for Mental Health, at dmaguire@wfmh.com.

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