

Training program for international humanitarian psychosocial aid workers.

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Laguna Collective Working Group

This working group, consisting of professionals with a mixed mental and public health background, aims to strengthen the capacity of people who want to work on mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian settings.

Many talented people working in the field of mental and psychosocial support are interested to work in humanitarian settings, but often lack the knowledge or field-based experience that is needed to adequately apply their skills. Similarly, aid workers are often confronted with clients that require not just humanitarian assistance but also psychosocial support, and in turn lack the expertise to work in a manner sufficiently sensitive to mental health problems.

This working group aims to develop theoretical and skills-based trainings that will be combined with practical field work. Specifically, it will do this by first making a comprehensive summary of relevant trainings related to mental health and psychosocial support that already exist and/or are developed by other Laguna Working Groups. After having identified the gaps, this Group aims to develop a wide-ranging training program consisting of a number of modules on mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian contexts, which can be combined and/or adapted dependent on the specific purpose and staff to be trained and the operational context.

Targets groups for these trainings comprise mental health professionals interested in applying their skills in humanitarian settings, as well as humanitarian aid workers who like to extend their

expertise to include a psychosocial component, thus being able to provide more holistic care.

Further collaboration and focus will develop over time in close collaboration with other Laguna working groups and organizations.