

Challenges in Managing coalition projects

The case of Beslan & Sri Lanka

Facts

- The **Beslan school hostage crisis** (also referred to as the **Beslan school siege** or **Beslan massacre** began when a group of armed rebels, demanding an end to the 2nd, Chechen war took more than 1,100 people (including some 777 children) hostage on September 1, 2004, at School Number One (SNO) in the town of **Beslan Russia**.
- Official death toll 355, 700 injured. 386 hospitalized, 58 in critical condition.

- ***Project's Team:***
- ***ITC***
- ***CSPC***
- ***ICPT***
- ***Sela***
- ***Contact***
- ***Hospitals : Schneider ,Tira***

Sri Lanka

- In the early hours of the morning of Sunday 26 December 2004 a massive earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale struck the west of northern Sumatra causing a wave of Tsunami
- The Sri Lankan death toll is nearing 35,322, while another at least 21,411 are missing. 516,150 displaced

- ***Project's Funding***
- *UJA Federation of New York, USA*
- *The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JOINT), USA*

- ***Project's Team:***

- ***ITC***
- ***CSPC***
- ***ICPT***
- ***FEGS NY***
- ***MSSM NY***
- ***JBFCs NY***
- ***MOH***
- ***Hospitals : Tel Hashomer, Abarbanel, Beer Sheba, Ichilov, Schneider***
- ***University of Colombo, School of Medicine School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Sri Lanka***
- ***Ben Gurion University, School of Medicine, Beer Sheba, Israel***
- ***International School Psychology Association (ISPA), Copenhagen, Denmark***
- ***International Crisis Response Network (ICRN) (reps from USA, Turkey)***
- ***Dutch Psychological Association (Nederlands Instituut van Psychologen), Amsterdam, the Netherlands***

- The goal of the project, launched in response to the Tsunami disaster, is the training of a local cadre of trainers in order to strengthen the knowledge and skills of community-based providers and institutions to address psychosocial needs, enhance resiliency, and to increase system capacity to support, treat and train others.

- The agreement with the three Sri Lankan ministries (Health, Education and welfare & Women empowerment) ensured giving the master trainers paid relief for the 1 week orientation + 4 weeks of Master Training, and funding the future training time and training activities the Master trainers will give.

- In order to accomplish this aim the Israeli/American team recognizes the importance of creating partnerships with local experts, utilizing existing community assets and resources, and the need for cultural adaptation and integration of Israeli and American methodologies in order to ensure applicability and continuity after the project has formally ended.

Accomplishments

- Four week-long basic orientation courses were held; teaching 245 professionals from a variety of disciplines the fundamental concepts, methods and applied skills of trauma recovery and resiliency.
- Candidates for the train-the-trainers course were referred by various organizations and ministries from the Kalutara, Galle and Matara and the eastern (Baticlora) provinces
- Professionals were recruited by the Sri Lanka partners from the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Welfare and Women's Empowerment. Participants included 4 spiritual leaders; police officers/superintendents; doctors, nurses, medical officers, psychiatrists, psychologists, welfare workers; school principals, teachers and community leaders . the 245 participants in the orientation are: education – 62.,community – 79,health – 104

- Sixty six people who attended the orientation courses were selected to become “master trainers” and participate in a more intensive training. These 66 ‘master trainers’ together with 14 Sahanya staff, had four additional weeks of training. Participants were divided into three segments: health, education and community. The 64 are: education - 28 community – 18 health - 20
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- Each of these trainers adapted the class materials to the local norms and culture through an independent study project. (The Israeli/American team sent powerpoints and other teaching manuals and protocols to the Sri Lankan coordinator in advance of each training for the laborious process of translation).
- The concept of an interdisciplinary approach cross-sector approach was introduced and exercises were held to foster cross-sector communication

- Two EMDR courses—Level I and Level II were held for 30 clinicians.
- Three expressive art courses (art, drama, music and movement) have been held or will be held over the three months. The courses had over 50 participants. (psychiatric nurses, special education teachers, school counselors and social workers)
- 12 Israeli Trauma Coalition partners and 5 American institutes and 3 European NGOs members of the International school psychology trauma task force were collaborating on this project

