

Volume 4, Number 2

Contents

Page 95 Introduction

Reviewed articles

Page 97 Training trainers for counsellors and psychosocial workers in areas of armed conflict: some basic principles

Guus van der Veer

Page 109 The 'TOT': a global approach for the training of trainers for psychosocial and mental health interventions in countries affected by war, violence and natural disasters

Nancy Baron

Page 127 Integrating a psychosocial perspective into poverty reduction: the case of a resettlement project in northern Sri Lanka

Maleeka Salih & Ananda

Galappatti

Page 147 The social world of dreams and nightmares in a post-conflict setting: the case of Gorongosa in central Mozambique

Victor Igreja & Beatrice

Dias-Lambranca

Field reports

Page 161 Working creatively with young children within a context of continuous trauma

Kirsten Thomson

Page 167 Sri Lanka's post-Tsunami psychosocial playground: lessons for future psychosocial programming and interventions following disasters

Kolitha Wickramage

Page 173 Feedback from the local staff

Page 175 Book and article review

Page 178 Summaries in Arabic, French, Sinhalese, Spanish & Tamil

Introduction

Through *Intervention*, the editors try to stimulate the development of knowledge, by stimulating discussions between professionals. Both local professionals in areas of armed conflict and western experts write contributions to *Intervention*. However, the threshold for writing seems to be higher for local professionals. In order to stimulate more contributions from local professionals, the editorial staff of *Intervention* has decided to reserve space for contributions from local professionals who are cooperating with ex-pat staff from western countries. By doing this, *Intervention* offers the opportunity for these local staff members to anonymously express their critical thoughts on the role, the activities, and/or the perspectives of ex-pats and their impact. This new section is titled: *Feedback from the local staff*.

This issue of *Intervention* opens with two articles on training psychosocial workers in areas of armed conflict. The first, by *Guus van der Veer*, explores some basic issues such as the relationship between the educational methods used by the trainer and the main messages of the training. The second, by *Nancy Baron*, describes practical methods for the training of trainers who have the task to train teams implementing psychosocial and mental health interventions after wars, violence and natural disasters.

The first contribution to the section *Feedback from the local staff* is also about training.

To quote: "Training in this field often is done by international trainers. However, many international trainers seem to have very little awareness of the context in which they are conducting training. The essential, first basic step of connecting to local professionals is too often skipped, resulting in some disastrous work."

This contribution is inspired by what happened in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the Tsunami. Adequate psychosocial interventions carried out by local professionals, such as the one described by *Van der Veen & Somasundaran* in *Intervention 4.1*, were not the only interventions in the aftermath of the Tsunami. Some interventions carried out in Sri Lanka, in particular, the unsolicited ones, were culturally inappropriate and insensitive to the armed conflict in that country. These interventions were initiated by both local and international teams and are further discussed in a field report by *Kolitha Wickramage*. He concludes that humanitarian compassion needs to be balanced with effective psychosocial programming, especially in resource-poor contexts that seem to readily absorb such interventions.

The remaining contributions to this issue of *Intervention* are about diverging subjects. One article, by *Maleeka Salih & Ananda Galappatti*, is about the possibility of integrating psychosocial intervention with interventions aimed at poverty reduction. It illustrates the challenges inherent in such an approach through a case study.

The article by *Victor Igreja & Beatrice Dias-Lambranca* takes us to Mozambique; it describes how the people of this country consider dreams as a means of communication conveying important messages. The prolonged civil war has added another dimension to the interpretation and language of the dreams.

The field report by *Kirsten Thomson* describes a therapeutic group for young children within a context of continuous trauma. This contribution from Northern Ireland explores creative ways to work with young children for whom, at an early age, experiences may have been overwhelming and their trust in the world around them has been threatened.

Ton Haans