



# JHU - CERTI UPDATE

The Johns Hopkins University (JHU), Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies  
Complex Emergency Relief and Transition Initiative (CERTI)

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## ABOUT JHU-CERTI

The "Complex Emergency Response and Transition Initiative (**CERTI**)" is an interagency initiative funded in part by **USAID**. This initiative addresses the challenges of programming international assistance to achieve health security within the context of increasingly frequent and severe conflict-related crises (complex emergencies) in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The **Johns Hopkins University (JHU) School of Public Health, Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies** is a **CERTI** collaborating institution. The goal of **JHU-CERTI** is improving the health status of populations in transition after an acute emergency by strengthening the capacity of NGOs to assist these populations through: better operational research capacity; improved planning and management; and stronger service delivery. To learn more about **CERTI**, visit the **CERTI** web page at:

<http://payson.tulane.edu/CERTI/default.htm>

Visit the **Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies** web site:

<http://www.jhsph.edu/refugee/default.html>

## JHU-CERTI ACTIVITIES

The **JHU-CERTI** collaboration began in late 1997. Below is a description of the key **JHU-CERTI** activities carried out since that time:

- The **Training in Qualitative Research Methods for PVOs/NGOs** is an adaptation of a course at JHU specifically for use by PVO and NGO programs. This field-based course emphasizes the use of a variety of qualitative and participatory methods to improve program planning, monitoring and evaluation. The course also provides skills in management and analysis of textual data, and skills in design of rapid qualitative studies. The training was field-tested in 1998 and 1999 in

Angola, Mozambique and Sudan by **Bill Weiss** and **Paul Bolton**.

- The **data bank on training materials** was developed to assist programs working with displaced persons. The web-based data bank provides a list of training materials developed by various organizations on a variety of topics. Browse the data bank at the Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies web site.

- The **methodology to assess the burden of community psycho-social problems across cultures** is designed to allow PVOs & NGOs to quantitatively assess the burden of trauma at the population level across cultures. This tool provides baseline information to help PVOs/NGOs decide if an intervention is needed and later to decide if the an intervention has been effective. This new methodology does not require the involvement of a cross-cultural psychiatrist for validation as do existing methodologies. The method was developed then field-tested in Rwanda in November-December 1999 by **Paul Bolton**.

- The **Rapid Assessment Procedures (RAP)** study guide was developed to help PVOs/NGOs assess the context and perceived needs of refugees or internally-displaced persons (**IDPs**) in transition. The **RAP** helps PVOs/NGOs to facilitate community identification of priority concerns, interventions and vulnerable groups.

The **RAP** describes how to use of a mix of traditional qualitative and participatory rural appraisal (**PRA**) techniques to facilitate this process. The **RAP** was developed by **Bill Weiss**, **Paul Bolton** and **Anita Shankar**.

- The **Forced Migration Demography Study** looks at how fertility and health behavior patterns—and patterns of domestic violence—change over time in long-term self-settled refugees. The study was carried out in Uganda and Sudan by **Unni Karunakara** with support from **Gilbert Burnham**. The study looks at four groups: (1) long-term Sudanese refugees in Uganda; (2)

Uganda host populations; (3) Uganda host populations that were formerly refugees; and (4) Sudanese **IDPs** in Sudan.

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW

**Paul Bolton** completed revisions to the report of the Rwanda field-test of the cross-cultural psycho-social assessment methodology in the light of feedback from our **CERTI** colleague, **Nancy Mock**. **Paul** also worked with **Bill Weiss** to prepare for a presentation at the upcoming **CERTI Partners Meeting** on 19 April.

This week, **Bill** also contacted potential technical reviewers of the **RAP**. A **RAP Review Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for 24 or 25 May to discuss the technical review comments and suggest improvements prior to additional field-tests of the methodology in June or July. To date the following persons have received and agreed to review the **RAP**:

1. Anne Henderson, WVRD
2. Thoric Cederstrom, SC
3. Barbara Monahan, CARE
4. Jindira Cekan, Am Red Cross

If you know of other good candidates for technical reviewers (preferably those in the DC area who can more easily attend the review meeting) please let **Bill** know.

**Bill** also worked with the School's web designers to finalize the **Online Resources** page of the **Center's** web site. This should be available to the public early next week. Most **JHU-CERTI** documents will be available via this site in .pdf format.

The *JHU-CERTI UPDATE* is published by the JHU Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies. If you have questions or comments about this *Update*, please contact Bill Weiss at [bweiss@jhsph.edu](mailto:bweiss@jhsph.edu) or 1-410-614-6172.