



JHU - CERTI UPDATE

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



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ABOUT JHU-CERTI

The **Johns Hopkins University (JHU)** School of Public Health, Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies is a **CERTI** collaborating institution. **CERTI** is an acronym for the "Linking Complex Emergency Response and Transition Initiative," an interagency initiative funded in part by **USAID**. To learn more about **CERTI**, visit the **CERTI** web page at: <http://payson.tulane.edu/CERTI/default.htm> and visit the **JHU Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies** web site: <http://www.jhsph.edu/refugee/default.html>

MEASURING & ADDRESSING THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL NEEDS OF DISPLACED POPULATIONS

On August 1, **World Vision** and **JHU-CERTI** are hosting a meeting that will look at ways to improve the quality of NGO psychosocial programs. The meeting will have two purposes:

1. Review the November 1999 Rwanda field trial of a **methodology for cross-cultural assessment of the burden of mental illness due to trauma**. The methodology—field-tested by **World Vision** and **JHU-CERTI**—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 intervention has been effective. This new methodology does not require the assistance of highly trained mental health workers from the local culture.

2. Suggest approaches that NGOs could apply to assist persons with mental illness, given common limitations of NGO programs and settings.

A **technical advisory group (TAG)** will provide recommendations to **World**

Vision and **JHU-CERTI** related to cross-cultural assessment of mental illness in a population and what to do about it. Persons on the TAG attending the meeting include:

Gordon Dodge, American Red Cross and Lakes Area Human Services, Inc. Trauma Division.

John Fawcett, World Vision Trauma and Stress Support-partnership Office.

Tedla Giorgis, Multicultural Services Division, Commission on Mental Health Services.

Hector Jalipa, World Vision Africa Regional Health Manager.

Richard Mollica, Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma, Harvard University.

Richard Neugebauer, Columbia University.

Michael Wessells, Christian Children's Fund and Randolph-Macon College.

Other persons who will participate in the meeting include:

Paul Bolton, Department of International Health, JHU.

Heather MacLeod, World Vision, International Child Protection Coordinator

Nancy Mock, Department of International Health, Tulane University.

Lincoln Ndogoni, Formerly Director of World Vision Rwanda Psychosocial Support Program.

Tom Ventimiglia, World Vision East Africa Program Officer.

William Weiss, Department of International Health, JHU.

The report of this meeting should be of great interest to NGOs, donors and researchers who work with populations affected by conflict and disasters. Please contact **Paul Bolton** if you have questions about this meeting or the report at pbolton@jhsph.edu.

FIELD-TEST OF RAP PLANNED

In August 2000, **JHU-CERTI** and **World Vision** will field-test the **Rapid Assessment Procedures (RAP): A Guide to Addressing the Perceived Needs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Populations through Participatory Learning and Action**. The field-test will be carried out with long-term internally displaced persons (IDPs) in **Gulu District, Uganda**.

The **RAP** was developed as a tool for agencies working with transitional populations (displaced or returning) following a disaster or complex human emergency. The **RAP** allows these agencies to facilitate learning and action planning in partnership with a transitional population. During the **RAP**, the transitional population and the agency together develop an action plan for addressing the top-ranked priorities of the transitional population. During this field work, we will also explore **resettlement** issues in partnership with the IDPs.

JHU-CERTI and **World Vision** will field-test a modified version of the current edition of **RAP** guide that incorporates technical review comments. Following the field-test, **JHU-CERTI** will produce a 2nd edition of the **RAP** by the end of September 2000. The current edition of the **RAP** can be found at the JHU website listed above.

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 or 1-410-614-6172.