

IPA Program on Child Health in Humanitarian Emergency: Helping Children in Humanitarian Emergencies

During 2006 we organized and implemented six training workshops in “Disaster Management: focus on children and families”.

Four of these workshops were done in Pakistan in early 2006.

The purpose of these workshops was to provide training for Pakistani health professionals in Peshawar and Islamabad. Two of the workshops were on “Management of Humanitarian Emergencies: focus on Children” and two were on “Psychosocial issues of children after the earthquake in Pakistan”. Following the earthquake, in November 2005, Prof. Iqbal Memon, Secretary General of the Pakistan Pediatric Association(PPA) invited the International Pediatric Association(IPA) to bring these workshops to Pakistan. They were sponsored by PPA, IPA, UNICEF, American Academy of Pediatrics, Health Frontiers, Rainbow Center for Global Child Health, Case Western Reserve University, and Khon Kaen University (Thailand). The workshops were completed by 100 participants, many of whom took two workshops. Evaluations were excellent.

A Spanish language five day workshop was conducted in El Salvador in September 2006 under the direction of Dr. Marisa Herran from the Rainbow Center for Global Child Health, Cleveland, OH. Faculty included six Spanish speaking Americans and five faculty previously trained in Cleveland from El Salvador and five local experts. This workshop was sponsored by the Salvador American Pediatric Society, the El Salvador Ministry of Health, and UNICEF and endorsed by the IPA. Fifty participants from throughout El Salvador included physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and first responders.

A one day workshop on psychosocial issues of children in disasters was conducted at the Khon Kaen University in Khon Kaen, Thailand on November 20, 2006. This workshop focused on the status of children post tsunami, the children exposed to terror in southern Thailand, and the children displaced by recent severe flooding in Thailand. This workshop was sponsored by Khon Kaen University, the IPA, and Health Frontiers.

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