

2010 - Haiti

On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 earthquake devastated Haiti causing over 200,000 deaths, more than 300,000 injuries, and an estimated 1.5million internally displaced people. In the aftermath of the earthquake a tremendous response was mobilized by various government agencies and humanitarian aid organizations from around the world. This year, our group participated in the effort to assist Haiti, traveling to the capital, Port-Au Prince, one of the country's most populated cities affected by the quake. According to reports, Port-Au-Prince incurred over 150,000 casualties. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MSPP) & the Clinton Foundation, we organized and implemented mental health training for nurses and other health workers. Our group collaborated with a psychologist from one of largest public health facilities in the city, General Hospital (HUEH) offering a 2-day seminar (November 27th & 29th) for thirteen health workers representing seven different health facilities in and around Port-Au-Prince.

The purpose of the training was to raise awareness of relevant mental health issues among varied healthcare personnel, to provide knowledge of basic mental health concepts and interventions, and to stimulate referrals to existing mental health services. Common mental health signs of distress and stressors reported to local mental health clinicians were assessed and a comprehensive psychosocial lecture series was presented in two 7-hour classroom sessions. A mental health reference manual to aid in sustaining knowledge following lectures also was made available to each participant. The curriculum presented considered subject matter included in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings (IASC, 2007) and was consistent with guidelines set forth by the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (WHO, 2008) for scaling up mental health support in settings where mental health resources have been limited. For more project details, contact us at info@pgtn.org for the 2010 Annual Report.

2) Other Activities

In 2010, PWB continued to assist individuals with limited financial resources identify affordable mental health services (Los Angeles County, California). In addition, PWB's activities drew attention from individuals out-of-state and abroad. This year, requests for resources and inquiries about PWB's services and activities came from states including Colorado, Connecticut, Washington state, and Washington D.C. , and abroad from Italy.

