

Second Response Initiative

Second Response Trauma Teams

The Second Response Trauma Team consists of 4-6 mental health professionals trained extensively in disaster work, trauma-related disorders, body-centered therapies, torture, grief, and loss. The Second Response team responds swiftly following the initial Emergency Phase of a disaster and deploys during the Recovery Phase to areas around the world most severely impacted by tragedies of natural (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.) or man-made (involving elements of human intent, negligence, or error) causes.

Scientific Considerations

Hypothesis:

H1: We hypothesize that through the use of body-centered therapies such as PLAYshops, we can effectively prevent post-traumatic stress disorder from developing in children and adults following a traumatic event.

H2: We hypothesize that body-centered therapies such as PLAYshops is the most transculturally respectful, developmentally universal, and socially congruent method to utilize with children and adults in the United States and foreign countries alike.

H3: We hypothesize that the existing repertoire of trauma-focused therapies, largely cognitive based psychological and pharmacological treatments, are not only ineffective in the prevention of post-traumatic stress disorder but also inadequate in addressing the body's somatic responses to trauma.

Strategies, Goals, Mission

Strategies

S1a: To better understand and accommodate service gaps within disaster relief services, particularly on a global scale.

S2: To continue developing awareness of cultural landscapes, signals, and meanings to ensure the highest level of respect to all cultural groups and the smallest degree of hegemonic bias in our interventions.

Goals

G1: To prevent and reduce trauma-related disorders and post-trauma symptomatology in children and adults, including but not limited to post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, somatic complaints, generalized anxiety, separation anxiety, and impairments in daily social and occupational functioning.

G2: To build sustainable capacity on the ground through the training of local caregivers, social workers, teachers, parents, health ministries, and mental health providers so that future events can be met with similar and effective responses.

Mission

The mission of Second Response is to become the number one global standard of disaster relief care for the prevention of post-traumatic stress disorder and other trauma-related disorders.