

International Medical Corps - Project Psychiatrist Guereda, Chad

In the three camps in which IMC is providing health services for refugees from Darfur, an IMC psychiatrist encountered a high level of traumatic and grief symptoms amongst Sudanese children, including regular nightmares, flashback-like experiences in the daytime, persisting sadness and tearfulness, poor concentration, continuing fear and hyper-alertness and a phobic response to anything resembling aircraft noise. A rapid psychosocial assessment of Mille and Kounoungu camps conducted by UNICEF in the first half of July found similar high levels of traumatic symptoms.

IMC has thus proposed a multilevel emergency intervention to address the mental health and psychosocial needs of 30,000 refugees living in the Kounoungu, Mille, and Am Nabak camps, close to Guerada. In the absence of any mental health services in the region, the mental health consultation service will also be available to the local population of Guerada and the surrounding villages for emergencies. Additionally, activities will include public education and de-stigmatization campaigns.

Indirect beneficiaries will include the PHC and psychosocial staff from both Chad and Sudan who will receive mental health training and who will continue to act as mental health care providers in their respective communities once the emergency is over.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

- Work closely with the Camp Doctors to plan and implement Community Based Mental Health Care activities in line with the IMC Chad Annual Plan and objectives
- Provide ongoing training and supervision for PHC Nurses in Psychiatric Nursing, Community Care, Health Psychology and Mental Health Hygiene.
- Conduct training and regular briefing for Community Health Workers for identification and referral of people with mental illness
- Develop comprehensive case management plan for psychiatric patients
- Communicate and coordinate between Primary Health Care and mental health and psychosocial services.
- Coordinate and develop partnership with local and international agencies
- Coordinate program activities with community leaders among refugees and local population

- Assist PHC staff in identification and management of psychiatric and neuro-psychiatric cases.
- Assist PHC and Psychosocial staff in clinical service for the mentally ill in designing and supervising community based care for the mentally ill performed by PHC nurses and Social Work Assistants.

Person Specification:

- Graduate degree in psychiatry or mental health nursing
- Postgraduate training in community mental health
- Experience in psychiatric nursing, and community mental health (3 years)
- Working in humanitarian emergencies, refugee camps
- Will have excellent communications skills, both oral and written
- Experience in effectively dealing with international and headquarters staff, as well as donor agencies, government officials, and other NGO's
- Ability to work with a broad spectrum of people
- Ability to exercise sound judgment and make decisions independently
- Extremely flexible, and have the ability to cope with stressful situations and frustrations
- Ability to relate to and motivate local staff effectively
- Creativity and the ability to work with limited resources
- Must be able to speak English and French fluently and Arabic highly desired
- Good knowledge of computer skills (windows, Microsoft excel)

The position is available now and is for up to 6 months. Please note this is a salaried position.

If you are interested in this opportunity please complete the volunteers registration form (available at <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/SVP-VolunteerQuest.doc>) and send it together with your up to date CV to Simone Callender at scallender@rcpsych.ac.uk or call Joanna Carroll, International Manager at the College, on 020 7235 2351 ext. 123.