

Book Review

Mental Health Services in Disasters: Manual for Humanitarian Workers and Instructors Guide

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Manual: 75 pp, ISBN 968 426 878 5.

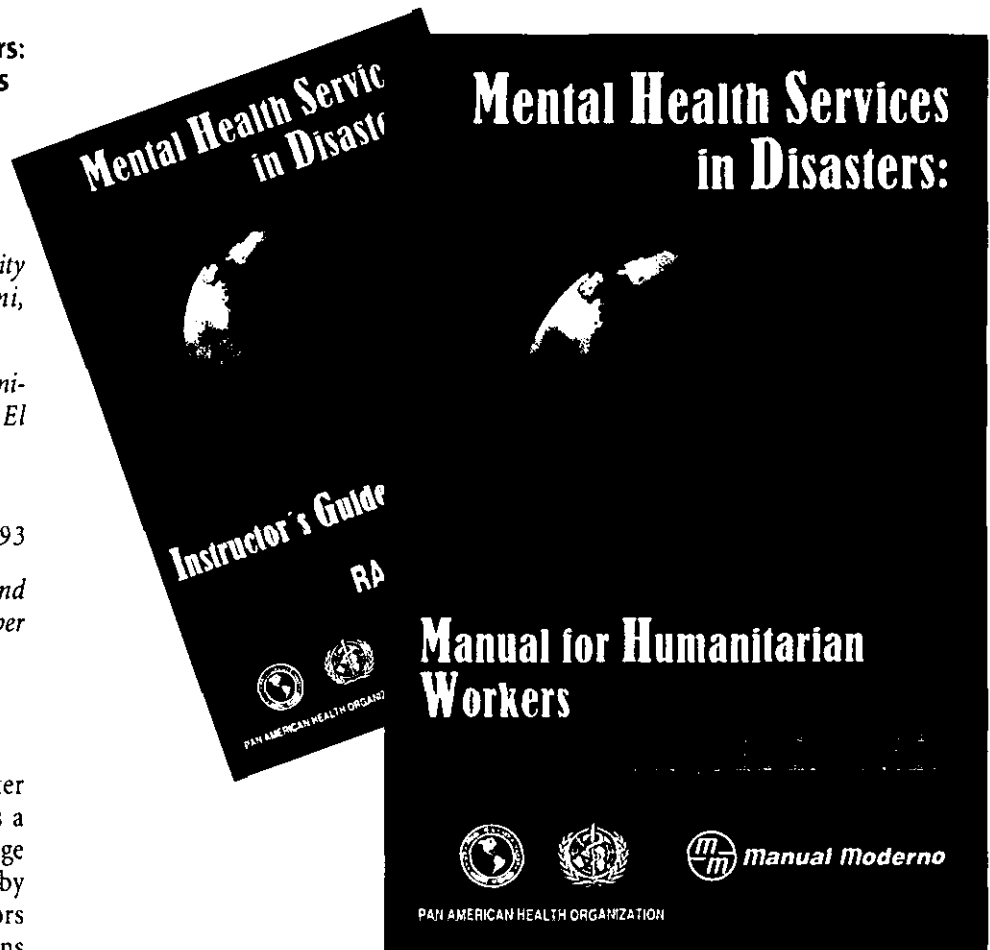
Instructor's Guide: 176pp, ISBN 968 426 879 3

Reviewed by Barry McPhee, Queensland
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The Mental Health Services in Disaster Manual for Humanitarian Workers is a basic compendium of current knowledge on approaches and procedures used by mental health workers to help survivors and disaster workers recognise the signs of trauma and assist recovery. The manual is accompanied by an Instructor's Guide aimed at mental health workers involved in training and supervising those who assist survivors to respond effectively to the aftermath of disasters.

Each of the five chapters of the manual provides a fundamental body of knowledge which sequentially enhances the capacity of the disaster worker to participate in emergency and post-disaster assistance programs in unison with other agencies. Each chapter is formatted into Learning Objectives, Content and Reading Lists.

The manual sets the context with an Historical Overview of the Mental Health Role followed by Basic Mental Health Content and the Developmental Phases of Survivor Behaviour. The chapter on Post-disaster Intervention Programs provides mental health workers and consultants with intervention models and methodologies while the chapter on Populations with Special Needs provides a preparedness and planning alert for all involved in disaster management and operations.



The accompanying Instructor's Guide mirrors the chapters in the manual. It is designed to assist mental health professionals deliver training and supervision to post-disaster counsellors and workers in the behavioural sciences from professional to paraprofessional.

The format of the guide comprises five modules each including Learning Objectives, Educational Methods, Teaching Aids, Content and Guidelines for Exercises. The training aids are comprehensive, providing the format of transparencies, slides and handouts.

Although the Instructor's Guide mainly provides resources for mental health trainers, the Historical Overview and Populations with Special Needs chapters, particularly the section on disaster workers as secondary victims, will be useful to all disaster managers.

The companion volumes Mental Health Services in Disasters: Manual for Humanitarian Workers and Instructor's Guide offer conceptual and practical information and teaching resources for

workers in the disaster situation as distinct from the clinical setting.

Availability

These publications can be obtained at: PAHO Online Bookstore <http://publications.paho.org> (a secure ordering site) or, through the PAHO Distribution Center: PO Box 27, Annapolis Junction MD 20701-0027, USA Fax: 301 206 9789 Email: paho@pmds.com

Cost and order codes:

Instructors Guide 2000:

Cost: US\$18.00

Order code: OP 131

http://publications.paho.org/english/moreinfo.cfm?Product_ID=567

Humanitarian Workers guide 2000:

Cost: US\$18.00

Order code: OP 130

http://publications.paho.org/english/moreinfo.cfm?Product_ID=566