

UNICEF-Iran

**BAM EMERGENCY PROGRAMME
PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT**

Assistant Project Officer: Maziar Taleshi
Project Officer: Berina Arslanagic

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



Nature of the Disaster

- Dec 25, 2003: Earthquake with epicentre in the historic city of Bam registering 6.4 on the Richter scale.
- RESULT:
 - > 30,000 deaths; >10,000 injured
 - > 3000 CWPC ; > 800 teacher died
 - > 27,000 children affected

Near 90% destruction of buildings

Complete destruction of schools (or unfit for use)

Destruction of ancient Bam citadel over 2500 years old

UNICEF Partners in Iran

- **Ministry of Health; Mental Health Division (Initial)**
- **Ministry of Education; Division of Counseling (Mid-term)**
- **State Welfare Org (Long term)**

DYNAMIC EVOLUTION

MoH : Outreach

MoE: Outreach + Support at CC

SWO: Counseling + Recreational

STRATEGIES IN BAM

1. Ministry of Health

INITIAL PHASES (0-12 MONTHS)

➤ OUTREACH:

Tent-to-tent visits

Screening – (one symptom)

Invitation for Participation in Group Therapy

Follow-up on need for Individual Support

Psychosocial Support for Displaced Bami's(NGO)

Bam – Initial Phase (0-12 months)

Ministry of Health Collaboration

➤ Support to Children & Parents

Structured Work Based on PTSD Model

- 4-5 Sessions; classic PTSD symptoms
- Includes expressive art activities

➤ Alternative activities were ‘outsourced’ by MoH to NGO’s such as TDH, Hamrahan & Navazesh

Outreach – Media & Public Info

The Message

- ❖ **Basic Public Information on *Normalization* for parents, teachers & members of Community**
 - ❖ ***Where & How* to obtain Services**
- ❖ **Specialized Info for Health Workers, Teachers, etc.**

The Means

- ❖ **Radio & TV Programmes**
- ❖ **Posters, Pamphlets, Booklet, Manuals**

Basic Figures/Statistics

MoH: 17000 tents visited (>60000 Screenings)
>34000 Identified and invited for sessions

Training on Normal Post-disaster Psychological Reactions and Psychosocial Support Skills for:

- 1380 Teachers
- 105 Counselors
- 300 “Health Volunteers”
- 178 Child Care Workers
- 750 Peer Facilitators

Ministry of Education

OUTREACH IN SCHOOLS

❖ **EXTENSIVE TRAINING OF BAM COUNSELORS**

❖ **BAM COUNSELORS CONDUCT WEEKLY SESSIONS IN SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN, PARENTS & TEACHERS**

❖ **REFERRAL TO MoE COUNSELING CENTRE**

❖ **INFO DISSEMINATION (MOE INFO KIOSK)**

Ministry of Education - Trainings

- **Training of Bami Counselors (30) and those from neighbouring provinces (10)**
- **Training of ALL Bam area Principals and Pedagogic Aids (240)**
- **Training of One Counselor per Province (Capacity Development) → 62 total**

Ministry of Education (Stats)

- **34 Schools Covered by 6 week cycles**
- **Over 4000 students are covered → Model**
- **>200 Teachers regularly trained/debriefed as part of prgm**
- **>5000 parent participants**

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CULTURAL ADAPTATION

- **EVALUATION & REFINEMENT OF PILOT SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMME (Manual Adaptation, Screening Form)**
- **RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS:
CLERGY-PARENT SESSION
APPROACH
Pamphlet Content**

Later Phases

State Welfare Organization

- **Establish Community Centre**
- **Integrate Counseling & Recreation**
- **Capacity Development (Counselors)**

NESHAT CENTRES BAM & BARAVAT (SWO)

- **TWO CENTRES ESTABLISHED**
- **ATTRACT CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & PARENTS**
- **BI-WEEKLY PARENT SESSION**
- **COOPERATION WITH FPA (NGO) – INTEGRATION OF HIV-AIDS PREVENTION, DRUG ABUSE**
- **COMPLICATED GRIEF**

Lessons Learnt

TABOO against counseling weaker than thought

MoH → To COMPLEMENT emergency work carried out on longer term basis with SWO/MoE

Women's only space → A necessity

Place greater Emphasis on ongoing support

Group/art/sports activities very well received by children

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

- **First 2-3 weeks** → Shock – No direct intervention
- **First 2-3 weeks** → Intense preparation, Refresher training for roster, debriefing of teachers/counselors
- **First 2-3 weeks (Supply)** → Tents, Connex, Toys
- **First 2-3 weeks** → Sign template LoU with partner
- **First 6 months** → OUTREACH
- **Beyond 6 months** → School-based Outreach + CC
- **Beyond 1 yr** → CC and Community Based Prg