

Terre des hommes *Psychosocial Interventions in Emergencies Review*

With regard to the cross-cutting topic of psychosocial matters, this report forms an essential update to aid Tdh make strategic medium and long-term choices.

It must be read by the thematic advisers and operational managers at Headquarters and at regional levels and delegations.

Where is Tdh positioned today in the sector of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in emergency situations (MHPSS)? What assessment can we make of the five past years of interventions in this domain? What 'psychosocial level' are we mainly working towards within the projects we set up in the field? Should we continue, or question what we are doing at the moment? How can we align our activity in the psychosocial domain with the strategies of the programmes defined in the framework of Vision 2013? What should be Tdh's level of investment in this domain (at Headquarters and in the field) in the future?

So as to reply to these questions during the full swing of preparations for the new 2016-2020 strategic plan, the Child Protection Unit and the Sector for Emergencies and Humanitarian Crises (SEHC) launched a '**Review of our psychosocial interventions in situations of emergency**' in 2015. This work is based on a documentary review of 5 years of interventions in a humanitarian context, as well as field trips (Lebanon, Jordan, South Sudan, Nepal) and an internal comparative assessment (benchmark) (individual interviews with Tdh staff) and an external one (interviews with partners and funders). A report is now available, consisting of analyses and very useful recommendations for a strategic plan (November 2015).

This report puts forward several options corresponding to different levels of investment in the psychosocial domain. However, the consultant clearly suggests that Tdh should **continue and strengthen its interventions in the field of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), retaining the two focuses chosen during the past 5 years: community psychosocial support and non-specialized individual follow-up.**

According to the report, Tdh has established itself as a key player in these two fields. Its activities are pertinent, their effects beneficial for the children and the communities, and its expertise is recognized and sought by governmental partners and donors.

In addition, in view of the strategies that the humanitarian crisis sector and the 3 programmes linked to child protection have developed in the framework of the 2016-2020 strategic plan (migration, exploitation of labour, juvenile justice), psychosocial interventions appear destined to play a key part in terms of:

- **Increasing the child's capacity for resilience and risk prevention:** prevent or delay getting into conflict with the law; early or dangerous migration; a work situation that could turn into exploitation; preparing a child to face difficult situations and to overcome them;
- **Support for a child in a difficult situation:** lessen the psychosocial consequences related to stressful situations met by a child during an episode of migration, a work situation, a stay in detention, etc.; reduce or limit the psychological distress caused by a humanitarian crisis;
- **Personal development of a child and increase of his chances of reintegration after a difficult experience:** return to his own environment or successful integration in a new environment after a painful experience of migration, exploitation, detention, humanitarian crisis; support during the process of restorative justice, etc.

In the consultant's opinion, the **quality of the psychosocial interventions could still be improved at the cost of additional investment at the level of the methodologies that are the 'trademark' of Tdh.** In this way, the methodology 'Movement, Games and Sport' (MGS), one of the key factors in Tdh's success, should be developed and adapted to new challenges or contexts of intervention. The development of new tools for monitoring and assessment would also make it possible to demonstrate results more scientifically. In general, in the psychosocial domain, Tdh, like the majority of international

organizations, does not have really powerful tools in terms of impact measurement. The Foundation should therefore invest in seeking academic partners so as to be able to measure the effects of its actions accurately and precisely, and to share its expertise widely. In order to respond to this challenge (amongst others) more specialized human resources should be hired for Headquarters and in the field, close to the project teams, particularly at a regional level. This is in effect perceived to be a strategy: it should make it possible to pool resources by covering several geographies of impact that share common issues.

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