

Models of Developing Field Projects and Engaging Multi-Stakeholders in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to Solve Global Health Problems and Achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals

© Dr. Judy Kuriansky, Ph.D. Main representative to the United Nations NGO cluster for the International Association of Applied Psychology, and adjunct faculty Columbia University Teachers College.

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Member States of the United Nations signed on to achieve 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015, all of which raise the dignity of peoples globally. While mental health-related issues (like insuring mental health and addressing disaster relief) are not individual goals, they underlie all the MDGs, as “cross cutting issues.” In further recognition of personal dignity, the United Nations has recently acknowledged the importance of Mental Health in Development, and in implementing IASC Guidelines (drafted by UN-related agencies) in disaster emergencies.

This presentation describes models of advancing global health and achieving the MDGs in Haiti and Africa: (1) in Haiti, through programs intended to eradicate extreme poverty (MDG#1) pre-earthquake and implement psychosocial support training using the IASC Guidelines post-earthquake; and (2) in Africa, through the creation and implementation of a unique program for HIV/AIDS prevention and entrepreneurship training (addressing MDGs #3 Empowering Women, and MDG #6 Combating HIV/AIDS). Both projects involve MDG #8 (developing global partnerships for development) through the multi-stakeholder model involving various actors (e.g. government, NGOs, ministries, media, civil society).

The presentation describes the ongoing networking for partnerships and cooperation of various organizations (with locals and international groups, from the Clinton Global Initiative, NY Together and other consortiums), launch of a new portal PsychologyForGlobalHealth.com, preliminary research, plans for replication, lessons learned, and future steps, with power point and video.