



International Psychiatry

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Contributions for future issues are welcome – please contact Hamid Ghodse

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Tsunami survey: estimating the need for services in the UK and Ireland

Can you give us 5 minutes of your time?

The College has established a Task Force, chaired by the President, Dr Mike Shooter, which, among other things, has been gathering and disseminating information about the relief effort, primarily through the website, and also supporting and coordinating longer-term solutions to the training needs identified in the areas most affected.

What about survivors from the UK and Ireland? Many people who were directly affected by the tsunami have now returned home. It is currently very difficult to estimate how many people – survivors, families, friends and relief workers – have been affected and may need to access mental health services. We are keen to assess the need for mental health services, how services are coping with these referrals and how the College can provide help or support.

A brief questionnaire has been designed for this purpose; it can be downloaded from the College website: www.rcpsych.ac.uk. Copies of the survey are also available from Deborah Hart, Head of External Affairs, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, UK, or email dhart@rcpsych.ac.uk.

Please take 5 minutes of your time to complete our survey. The more information we receive, the clearer the picture will be and the better the College can respond to the needs of tsunami survivors, their families and friends in the UK and Ireland. We hope to publish the results of the questionnaire in the *Psychiatric Bulletin* in due course.

Board of International Affairs' Senior Volunteer Programme

We are pleased to announce that the database for the Senior Volunteer Programme (SVP) is now up and running.

The SVP project, designed to provide a vital link between Members and Fellows in the UK who wish to offer their expertise to low-income countries and international Members and Fellows who would like to use it, is primarily a matchmaking exercise between volunteers and host institutions.

If you wish to find out more about this initiative, please visit the Board of International Affairs page on the College website (www.rcpsych.ac.uk/college/spcomm/bia/index.htm) or contact the International Unit at the College, telephone 020 7235 2351, extension 112 (Miss Smith) or 123 (Mrs Carroll).