

### **WPA's support to member societies during the Covid 19 Pandemic**

The WPA established an Advisory Committee on Response to Emergencies (ACRE) in May 2020 to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic and future emergencies. The members of the Committee are representatives of large Member Societies and of Member Societies with a significant regional influence.

Member Societies represented in the ACRE provided specific support to countries in need as follows:

#### **American Psychiatric Association**

- donated 18 boxes (360) of N95 masks each to El Salvador Panama, Nicaragua and Guatemala. There have been some logistical difficulties, but these are being addressed.

#### **German Association of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Psychosomatic**

- 2000 euros to the development of a WPA Regional Russian language website aiming to provide advice and materials related to the pandemic.

#### **Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists**

- 2000 USD to Papua New Guinea for a mental health awareness program re psycho-social aspects of Covid 19
- 2000 USD to the Solomon Islands for a COVID 19 awareness programme in West Kwaio region of Malaita
- 2000 USD to fund transport for the outpatient team in Vanuata

#### **Royal College of Psychiatrists UK** is providing in kind support to Belarus by

- organizing webinars on the theme of trauma and violence in the context of COVID 19  
deploying their volunteer programme in Belarus once travel to Belarus becomes less cumbersome.  
encouraging their members to visit Belarus to set up workshops delivering specific training as soon as possible.

#### **The World Psychiatric Association** donated:

- a grant of 2000 USD to child workers to provide information and advice on mental health to a schools in rural Nepal  
grant of 2000 USD to Ukraine to provide protective equivalent

Furthermore, the development of a series of webinars and training materials has been provided by the Royal College of Psychiatrists as follows:

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**WPA has also helped the Lebanon Psychiatric society by convening several meetings bringing together** member societies from the region, WPA Board / Zonal representatives and representatives from important local NGO's to explore possibilities of collaboration and help to overcome the consequences of the disaster.

**As part of initiatives of ACRE, WPA established an Expert Group on Care for People with Mental Illness during the COVID pandemic.** This group will join the WPA Action Plan groups and is at present preparing a toolkit for action to help people with mental illness during the pandemic. The toolkit will contain a description of interventions to deal with problems related to the care of people with mental illness during pandemics. The interventions are described in a manner which makes it possible to start activities in response to a range of emergency situations during a pandemic and after it.

The WPA is grateful to Member Societies for their willingness to participate in this program and for their generous donations which WPA hopes will continue to be provided by the major resourceful societies to those in need.

Last but not the least, members of ACRE deserve special thanks for their dedication, work and support.

Please contact the WPA Secretariat at [wpasecretariat@wpanet.org](mailto:wpasecretariat@wpanet.org) for any further details.

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