Projects
Psychology Beyond Borders (PBB) works alongside local and international government and non-government agencies to enact and study evidence-informed psychosocial support to communities affected by disasters, armed conflict and terrorism around the world. PBB’s initiatives strive to help alleviate distress in the aftermath of traumatic experiences, to support the natural resilience of affected peoples and their communities, to contribute to local capacity and self-reliance, and to add to the body of research knowledge about what works most effectively in such contexts.

Mission Awards
The annual PBB Mission Awards are designed to support projects that address the four key areas of the PBB Mission. They include support of research and service projects investigating: the effects of specific intervention methods for repeatedly exposed populations; programs to prepare people for disasters; the risk and resilience profile of potentially vulnerable communities; effective ways to build societal resilience in the face of disasters, armed conflict and terrorism; and peace-building and nonviolent conflict resolution.

Our International Team

History tells us that in any given year, there may be 200-400 natural disasters around the globe, and 20-50 armed conflicts. In the immediate aftermath of disaster, war or terrorism, the focus of intervention efforts is usually necessarily on providing food, water and temporary shelter, and the treatment of physical wounds. But the psychosocial impacts on survivors are equally important.

We know from past disasters, armed conflicts and terrorism around the world that distress, anxiety, grief, and terror, are expectable and understandable responses to such extreme events. We know too that there is no single response to this kind of trauma, and no universal intervention. We do know that in time, most people adapt and build new lives. Some, however, face long-term challenges—psychosocial effects that can last long after the news cameras and international aid organizations move on.

With a “do no further harm” philosophy, our international Psychology Beyond Borders team is committed to a three-fold mission—evidence-informed psychosocial service delivery combined with research and initiatives to inform future programs and public policy. This comprehensive approach—service delivery, research and policy—is a missing link in the international humanitarian context. We know from studies conducted in the last decade that well-intentioned government and non-government organizations may administer programs that contribute to post traumatic adversity and exacerbate distress. Whether in Indonesia, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, the USA or the Middle East, Psychology Beyond Borders seeks to implement evidence-informed psychosocial policies and programs that promote resilience in individuals, communities and nations so they are more able to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters, armed conflict and terrorism.
I am impressed by all that Psychology Beyond Borders has achieved.

THE MOST REVEREND DESMOND M. TUTU, HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNER