

Summary of the WHO-AIMS Project Proposal to Strengthen the Mental Health System in Tunisia

This project proposal is based on the results of a comprehensive assessment of the mental health system of Tunisia using the WHO-AIMS instrument. The WHO-AIMS report for Tunisia will be available soon at the following address:

http://www.who.int/mental_health/who_aims_country_reports/en/index.html

Title of Project: Training Primary Care Practitioners in Mental Health

Objectives: The proposed project aims to fill the gap between primary and tertiary levels of care by providing training for general practitioners on the management of small mental health inpatient units in regional and/or district hospitals in Tunisia.

Specific objectives include:

1. Establishing mental health care facilities in all regional hospitals.
2. Providing a strong training (2 years of in-service training) to at least 100 general practitioners.

Expected Outcomes: The project is a multi-step project that aims to strengthen the mental health care system in Tunisia. The proposed project includes gradually setting up mental health units within existing regional hospitals in the country and training general practitioners on mental health services and the management of inpatient units.

Specific expected outcomes include:

1. Training manual and academic diploma developed and endorsed by the Ministry of Health, academic faculty and other relevant professional associations.
2. 100 general practitioners trained.
3. 6 new mental health units opened in regional hospitals and the establishment of a referral system by year one.
4. An additional 17 mental health units opened in all of the regional hospitals (23 units in total) within 10 years.

Expected Impact:

1. Improved mental health care with better access to care and improved compliance.
2. Improved community-based patient follow-up.

3. Reduced stigma of mental illness through the integration of mental health care into the general health system.
4. Overburdened tertiary levels of care relieved and thus allowed more time for teaching, research, prevention, public education, and advocacy.

For further information on this project and resource requirements please contact:

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