

**THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF HEALING:
POST-TSUNAMI PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS IN SRI LANKA**

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The paper outlines and explores the contours of post-tsunami psychosocial interventions in Sri Lanka. The paper applies a political economy perspective in examining how and why the post-disaster humanitarian response in this sector unfolded as it did. The analysis is multi-layered and draws from examinations of global media responses, state-level initiatives such as the Centre for National Operations and state policies, policy and programmatic interventions by international agencies, district-level coordination efforts and field-site interactions of implementing staff.

The material utilized in this paper derives from nearly two-years of first-hand experience of post-tsunami work in Sri Lanka, key informant interviews and the analysis of project reports, policy documents and media accounts.

The paper finally discusses the implications of the post-tsunami experiences in the Sri Lankan psychosocial sector for recent Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) efforts to provide guidance for a coordinated response of mental health and psychosocial support during emergencies globally.

***Key Words:* Psychosocial Intervention, Mental Health, Post-Tsunami, Sri Lanka**

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