

MENTAL HEALTH

PANEL 2.6 DISCUSSANT

Dr Mark van Ommeren

**Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse,
WHO Geneva**

**WHO Conference on
Health Aspects of Tsunami Disaster in Asia**

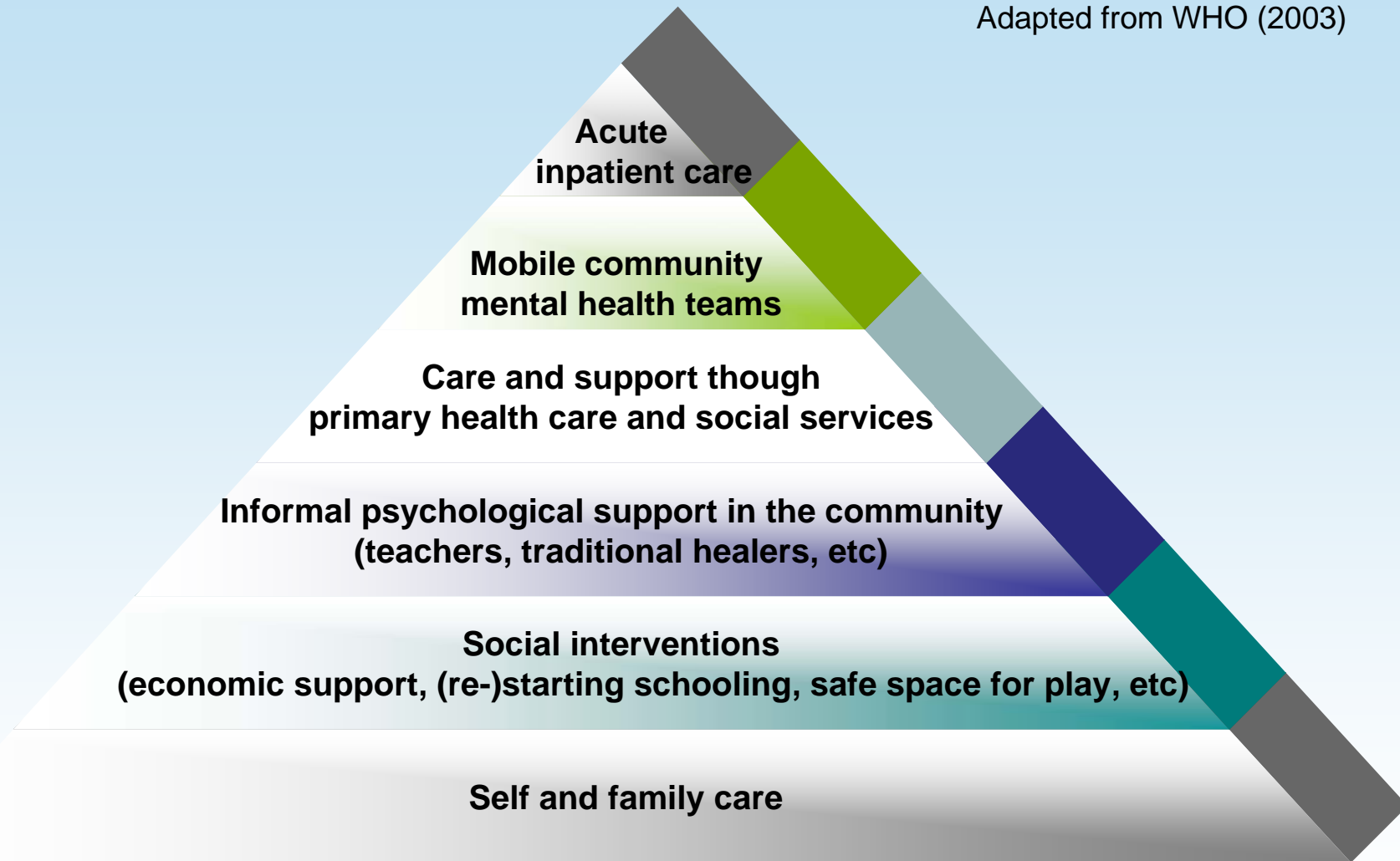
**Phuket, Thailand
5 May 2005**



**World Health
Organization**

Target mix of support at district-level

Adapted from WHO (2003)



**World Health
Organization**

5 Recommendations

1. Post-disaster care needs to address problems ranging from psychosocial distress to severe mental disorders
2. Preparing for disasters means building community-based health and mental health services infrastructure before disasters.
3. Post disaster intervention should occur at different levels of the care system
4. Post disaster interventions should be based on understanding of local culture and delivered by locally available human resources.
5. Support that is needed in the acute phase of a disaster is very different from what is needed in the post-emergency phase.

