



“Where There is No Clean Water”: Hesperian Foundation Health Care Manuals Used in Katrina Relief Effort

Sept. 22, 2005: The last place that staff at the Hesperian Foundation anticipated their Water Treatment and cholera prevention fact sheets would be used was the United States. But the nonprofit international health care publisher of “*Where There Is No Doctor*” got a call from Oxfam America shortly after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Southeast United States asking to use the fact sheets in New Orleans and other polluted and badly contaminated areas.

“Immediately after the hurricane we called the Red Cross to see if they needed our materials on water treatment—developed after the Indonesian Tsunami. We were told FEMA and the CDC have lots of stuff,” recalled Hesperian Foundation executive director Susan Shannon. “Then we got the call from Oxfam America’s deputy director asking to use our materials saying they were the clearest and most useful Oxfam had found.”

The fact sheets are now being distributed. Oxfam America has just completed a Spanish translation of Hesperian’s cholera prevention fact sheet. *Sanitation and Cleanliness For A Healthy Environment* is available in English, Spanish and French online and in print. Each can be found at www.hesperian.org, hesperian.org/pdf_files/Cholera_Emergency.pdf or hesperian.org/pdf_files/Sanitation.pdf. (Hesperian’s open copyright policy means health care workers can copy or download the materials for free.)

While Hesperian Foundation books are written primarily for use in developing nations, the simply written and heavily illustrated educational materials are easily accessible to people everywhere, especially when disaster strikes.

Hesperian’s “*Where There Is No Doctor*” has been used by health workers and communities around the world for almost thirty years. It provides simple step-by-step instructions on treating diarrhea, broken bones, gunshot wounds and other health problems. Hesperian books and educational materials offer community organizing tools and health care skills that other publications lack because Hesperian books are created in conjunction with the very people most likely to use them.

Over the years Hesperian Publications like *Where Women Have No Doctor* and *Where There Is No Dentist* have been used by the Peace Corps, the World Health Organization, Save the Children, International Aid, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Rotary International and the International Rescue Committee.