



MHPSS TWG - Bulgaria

Meeting Minutes



Members

WHO, UNHCR, CRWB, Foundation Ukraine Support and Renovation, IOM, Bulgarian Association of Social Workers, For Our Children Foundation, Open Doors Situation center, AKNO, Bulgarian Red Cross, Association Autism

1. Up-dates from members

- UNICEF – They are looking into organizing an orientation for the MHPSS Minimal service package, possibly in October. The results from the needs assessment targeted at children and adolescents 10-24 years old will be ready this month and presented at the next meeting of the group.
- Second home in Plovdiv has a working medical office that can offer support to people without health insurance and they have an agreement that covers the whole country for treatment of children.
- UNHCR – We had Sofia Casas, Regional MHPSS Officer attending, who briefed the group on the purpose of her visit
- Association Autism – Offered help in working with Ukrainian children on the spectrum.
- BRC offered psychologists and psychiatrists on national level and encouraged colleagues to reach out if needed. They also informed us that under the IFRC project they have the possibility to pay health insurance if needed.

2. Presenting results of the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023

- Hayoung presented the results and this sparked a discussion around data:
Sofia Casas pointed out that the MSNA 2023 is different from the MSNA 2022 as it asks the question at the individual level and not the household and unfortunately can't be used to see trends.
Dessi Ilieva also made a short presentation of the results of their online assessment of MHPSS needs amongst over 1000 people and will do a more in-depth one at the next meeting of the group. The results showed up to 80% of people identify MHPSS needs.
- AKNO – also have made a pilot study with 100 people in Varna and again the results indicate increased need of MHPSS support amongst the Ukrainian population.

3. MHPSS services for teenagers

Another topic that the group highlighted was the difficulty to engage teenagers, especially boys. BRC offered to help colleagues in Plovdiv develop a program for work with this group. It was decided that at the next meeting of the group we will put aside some time to share good practices for working with this age group. Jennifer, WHO, asked if preparing a desk review of good practices from other countries would be useful and the group responded positively to this offer.

4. Green line for professionals – colleagues from Bulgarian Association of Social Workers presented their project in support of practitioners and the Green telephone line. The response of the group was very positive and it led to discussing further steps to support the refugee response work force. It was suggested to look into possibilities to create a joint induction training between all UN agencies, Red Cross and local partners.

5. Burnout identification and prevention Training of trainers by the National Center for Public Health and Analysis will take place in October, 28-29. Colleagues that are interested can write to the chair.

5. AoB

- UNHCR presented the 2024 RRP planning and encouraged group members to reach out if they want to be part of the process.
- A request if anyone can share a contact for gynecologist who works with girls with autism.

Next Steps:

- Members to prepare good practices from their work in engaging teenagers, especially boys to present at the next meeting of the group.
- Chair to share information about the Green line, the Burnout training, MSNA results.



Updates & Achievements



Action Points