



Members

WHO, UNHCR, MSFCH-Harmanli, Médecins du Monde, NRG, Association Animus

1. Up-dates from members

UNHCR are in process of technical evaluation following the MHPSS RFQ call.

WHO CO Bulgaria is planning to conduct a PM+ training for mental health professionals from NGOs.

2. Thematic focus of the meeting: social integration of children in schools, observation on tendencies of bullying, drug abuse and tobacco use.

NRG had a lot of difficulties in Varna as they have a lot of new refugees enrolling in schools. One of the main problems relates to children who are accommodated in hotels and do not have any education in Bulgarian language. This therefore leads to drop out of schools. Addressing the language barrier is still much needed.

Currently in Varna there is not information on cases of bullying, drug abuse and tobacco use. This is also linked to the fact for this school year, children were integrated in schools which already have other refugee children.

The main challenge is the integration for refugee children with special needs in schools, due to the Bulgarian legislative system. Also, there are very few professionals in schools who assist children with developmental difficulties throughout the educational process. One of the schools in Varna which has a high number of refugee children is preparing to hire two or three Ukrainian teachers who will support all Ukrainian children. Furthermore, it is planned to add Ukrainian language classes in the educational program. NRG is further supporting the integration of children in schools as well as any further mental health related difficulties throughout the continuous work of their mobile psychologists.

Association Animus observe similar issues as NRG. Similarly, their project from the previous year on mobile MHPSS desks at schools proved as a good practice and showed good results.

MSFCH are closing their activities on 31 October. They are in process of arrangement the position of three professionals at the camp with the assistance of Caritas. One psychologist will start working at the camp independently, three times per week, in the afternoons. They will also donate medications to SAR for three months.

3. Topics for next month's meetings

1. Follow up on the integration of children in schools and sharing good practices.
2. Addressing the challenges of the mental health professionals.

4. AoB

Meetings to be held in Bulgarian language and to welcome as many mental health actors as possible.

Next steps: Chair to sent MHPSS materials on good practices with children.



Updates & Achievements



Action Points