

MHPSS Working Group Minutes of Meeting
June 18th, 2014 – Ministry of Health, Amman

Chaired by Ahmad Bawaneh (IMC) and Zein Ayoub (WHO)

1. **Introduction & Member Updates:**

- Dignity: Providing services since 2007 through partner IFH to Iraqi, and recently Syrian, victims of torture. Services include psychological support, physiotherapy and general medicine.

2. **Presentation on internal evaluation of case management services and tools by IMC**

IMC presented highlights of an exercise they have initiated to evaluate their mental health case management (MHCM) services/tools. Objectives of this exercise include:

- Develop a comprehensive and standardized MHCM monitoring and evaluation tool
- Evaluate IMC's Case Management services in Jordan
- Phase I includes the validation of the following instruments for use with refugees:
 - WHO-UNHCR's Assessment Schedule of Serious Symptoms in Humanitarian Settings (WASSS): *prevalence of distress and mental health problems*
 - The Humanitarian Emergency Settings Perceived Needs Scale (HESPER) *assess perceived serious needs of people affected by emergencies*
 - IMC's Clients' Functioning Tool assess client's functioning in five domains (physical functioning, interpersonal relationships, social acceptability, daily skills, and applied skills)
 - The McMaster Family Assessment Device assess general family functioning
 - Symptoms Checklist – 90 – Revised (SCL-90-R)
 - Liverpool Seizures Severity Scale (LSSS)
 - PTSD Checklist (PCL)
 - IMC's Patient Satisfaction Survey
- Phase II (not yet initiated) will entail a randomized control trial aiming to use validated tools (from phase I) to evaluate IMC's case management approach.

3. **Presentation on Balsam Project by Charite/Help:**

Charite/Help presented highlights of their Balsam Project, initiated in October 2013 in collaboration with MOH for the provision of the following services:

- Psychiatric assessment and treatment
- Psychological and psycho-social support
- Training of doctors and psychologists to provide mental health service

The project consists of two components:

- A mental health training program, including a series of workshops and lectures designed to prepare and support mental health professionals in the provision of mental health services.
- Provision of mental health services through clinics and outreach. Currently, psychiatric and psychological services are being provided to Syrians and Jordanians through Charite staff at one MOH center in Sahab.

4. **Any Other Business:**

- Provision of transportation fees: Following the WG discussion on the issue of providing transportation to MHPSS beneficiaries, an excel sheet was circulated to capture the current practices of members which will be discussed in the next meeting.

- WHO announced the opening on an inpatient and outpatient mental health unit in Ma'an Governmental Hospital. The units will provide specialized mental health care to Jordanians and Syrians.

- Mr Michael Page, a Harvard University student currently affiliated with CVT, is part of a student-led initiative on the Syrian Refugee Crisis that aims to understand how to best support the rehabilitation of Syrian refugees over the short, medium and long term. The group intends to engage with senior practitioners and key decision makers in international organizations, regional governments, donor institutions, think tanks, academic institutions, regional experts and civil society representatives; and are planning to host a workshop for select participants in October/ November in NYC; this will launch the formation of a working group and research agenda focusing on rehabilitation requirements for Syrian refugees, of which psycho-social support is a critical sector. The group is interested in better understanding the current scope of mental health programming for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan, and have inquired whether WG members could share their curriculum and methodology (including manuals, training handbooks or modules, etc.). For further information, please contact Michael directly (Michael_Page@hks15.harvard.edu).

5. **Training Calendar:** The MHPSS Working Group maintains a shared Google Calendar to track their training activities. This calendar can be accessed with the following information:

Link: <<https://accounts.google.com/>>

Username: mhpsworking.group.jordan

Password: MHPSSworkinggroup

The next working group meeting will take place on **Wednesday, July 16th at 1:00pm** at the Ministry of Health.