



MHPSS TWG - Bulgaria

Meeting Minutes



Members

WHO, UNHCR, CRWB, Energy, Foundation Ukraine Support and Renovation

1. Up-dates from members

- Nata Ellis – The Summer camp in Plovdiv has started working and is offering 50 children all-day care and activities targeted at their physical and mental health. Several other organizations are coming to the facility to offer additional courses and activities to the children, including municipal social workers and psychologists.
- The TWG has a new member – Animus Foundation, one of the leading NGO's in Bulgaria in the area of GBV with significant experience in psychological support to victims of violence. The chair would like to use the opportunity to ask all members to think if there are any other organizations that could benefit from membership in the group and contribute with their expertise. Municipal PSS service was suggested. Including municipalities in the group is a very good idea and the chair will follow-up on it.
- WHO is organizing a Workshop in the area of MHPSS: **Building Better Before: Scaling up capacity or mental health and psychosocial support preparedness Global Capacity-Building Workshop & A Full-scale Multisectoral MHPSS Simulation on the 19 – 22 September 2023 in Tallinn, Estonia.** Information will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting.

2. Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023

The representatives of UNHCR presented the MSNA 2023 with special focus on the MHPSS questions. On the 26th a training will be organized for the enumerators and the chair suggested that the MHPSS TWG could support the process with a short document of Do's and Don'ts based on the experience of the MH experts in the group that could be useful for the enumerators when they travel and interview refugees. It was highlighted that there will be the need for clear pathways for referral if the enumerators identify or are approached with MH needs.

Another request from UNHCR was around locations for the needs assessment. If the members of the group work in locations that are new or not well known to other organizations, please let us know. The announcement of the hiring process for the enumerators will be shared by UNHCR so that members of the group can further share in their networks.

The possibility for a representative of the group to take part in the training of the enumerators will be further discussed. If the group can offer additional training to the enumerators, for example Psychological First Aid, it would be appreciated.

It was noted that the NA is only for Ukrainian refugees and a question was posed to UNHCR on including other nationals as well. WE were informed that another similar activity is planned for non- Ukrainian refugees later this year.

2. Refugee-led Innovation Fund

A funding possibility for organizations and groups up to 45 000 USD is still open till the 30th of June. UNHCR office will support the interested parties in the application process. We would like to highlight that to apply you don't have to be registered as an organization. Members are encouraged to share if they know of active volunteers or groups of refugees, who might want to apply.

3. AoB

The chair suggested to dedicate the next meeting to finalizing an action plan for the rest of the year with prioritizing two activities.

- Chair to circulate the Multi-Sector Needs assessment presentation and to facilitate a online discussion in the coming week on Do's and Don'ts short document.
- Chair to circulate the information on the Innovation fund and the WHO Workshop.
- Chair to reach out to Municipalities over the idea to include municipal PSS services in the group.



Updates & Achievements



Action Points