



MHPSS TWG - Bulgaria

Meeting Minutes

23/02/23



Members

WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, NCPHA, BRC, USRF, CRWB, Nadja Centre Foundation, FSCOD, Bulgarian Association of Psycho-Oncology

1. Intro and revision of action points.

No actions points pending from previous meetings. Partners interventions:

USRF: a chess tournament was organized in Plovdiv for Bulgarian and Ukrainian children. 84 boys and girls participated and enjoyed playing and language exchange. Parents participated to the event and socialized too.

FSCOD: the organization works on MHPSS and education. Activities are ongoing in order to support integration of Ukrainian children in local schools. There are communication challenges among kids, but also teachers and parents, and this lead to tension sometimes. Activities are intended to empower teachers, student and parents in positive conflict resolution and mutual support. Results have been positive, despite much work is to be done.

WHO: The RRP Bulgarian chapter was launched last week in Sofia. WHO intervention referred to centrality of MHPSS into the humanitarian response, particularly burnout prevention. The presentation of the JRT mission to Bulgaria (assessment of the National Health Care System) is scheduled for the 22nd of March. This will attract investments toward MHPSS, as it is part of the recommendations. WHO will second a person in the MoH as focal point for Health Migration. WHO is grateful to UNHCR for the translation provided during the trainings delivered by the NCPHA, which were attended by more than 150 participants.

BRC: In April, trainings on PFA and basic PSS will be provided to all provincial branches, reaching more than 1000 volunteers and 25 Ukrainian refugees living in the shelters. This is a BRC-IFRC initiative for Red Cross staff.

UNICEF, Nadja and BRC: raised concerns about visits of NCPHA teams at the Blue Dots with intention to provide supervision to staff, with this service being already in place. The members stressed need for better coordination and clearer communication. NCPHA clarified that the field visits were intended as explorative and not aiming to provide supervision at this stage. The chair committed to take this conversation further, offline, in order to have all on the same page on this matter.

2. MHPSS TWG ToRs

The relevance of the ToRs draft process was highlighted as consensus process, fundamental to shape the life and meaning of the MHPSS TWG.

Chair read through with members the ToRs document, which include Introduction and Background, Definition of MHPSS, Guiding Principles, Main Objectives, Scope of Activities, Roles and Responsibilities, Meetings.

Following read out, several members commented that the document is too lengthy, resembling a policy paper and need to be more succinct, and action oriented. The chair acknowledged these remarks and clarified that the ToRs will be accompanied by an action or workplan, that will help operationalizing the document and identify priorities for 2023. Moreover, a comprehensive ToRs will facilitate and guide the work of any potential future co-chair, particularly local ones. It was agreed that the ToRs will be circulated for reading and comments/revisions from members.

It was also stressed that at this stage the TWG lack a national stakeholder as co-chair of the platform and that stakeholders interested in such position shall come forward directly to the chair. Support and guidance will be provided to interested organizations accordingly. It was agreed that the MHPSS TWG language shall be English and the frequency of the meetings shall be agreed upon based on online survey among members.

- Chair to circulate the ToRs for revisions and comments
- Chair to circulate a brief survey to inquire preferred frequency of meetings
- Chair to facilitate offline discussion around the theme of supervision



Updates & Achievements



Action Points