



MHPSS TWG - Bulgaria

Meeting Minutes

26/01/23



Members

WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, AKNO, Situational Center Open Doors, Pomosht za Ukraina, Pituitary Association, CRWB, World Bank, USRF, Nadja Centre Foundation, BEINX.Org

Action point from previous meeting follow up.

Final list of indicators has been shared with UNHCR for inclusion in the 2023 RRP framework. The matrix is completed and UNHCR will circulate in the next days. A training for the reporting system is in the pipeline. The rapid MHPSS service mapping is ongoing; 11 organizations have been interviewed so far and the exercise will continue in February. A shared folder for MHPSS TWG Bulgaria is created and access link will be circulated shortly.

Updates from the chair and group members.

1. **Engagement with Ministries.** It is paramount for the MHPSS TWG to identify line ministries focal points to support the platform and eventually act as Co-Chairs in the medium-long term. In this framework, a meeting has been held at the end of November between WHO and the Mental Health Unit under the MoH. Additionally, a letter has been addressed to the current MoH Minister Dr. Asen Medzhidiev for formal endorsement and guidance on appropriate counterpart within the Ministry. In the long term, the ambition of the TWG is to join the national MH advisory board/council, and contribute to the implementation of relevant reforms like the national MH strategy 2021-2031. Moreover, engagement with the ministries of Labor and Social Policy and Education and Science was initiated via UNHCR. The chair will follow up on this matter and report back to the group in case of meaningful progress.

2. **NCPHA trainings.** Applications for the sessions increased to 53 in the past two weeks; as anticipated, sessions will be translated in Russian language. After the training, the NCPHA team will travel to the locations where trainees are based and provide services, to offer supervision to those that requires it.

3. **New IASC publications.** In 2023, the IASC MHPSS RG has published two important manuals: The Handbook on MHPSS Coordination and the Guidance Note on Addressing Suicide in Humanitarian Settings. These and many other manuals have been uploaded into the shared folder.

Ukraine Support & Renovation Foundation (USRF) in Plovdiv.

The USRF in Plovdiv is a community-based organization composed exclusively of Ukrainian staff and serving refugees in the area. The main program components include provision of basic non food items and medicines, and the Psychological Support project "Heart to Heart" for children, teenagers and elderly. Moreover, the organization manages two children daycare centers, and a transit accommodation center (128 refugees currently accommodated, 303 in total so far). The Center function as transitional home and offer multiple recreational and cultural activities. The key feature of USRF presence in Plovdiv is a strong existing network created with the Municipality, volunteer groups and civil society at large including business networks. The plan is to expand the program to other areas like Yambol and Gabrovo and contribute to the dialogue with relevant ministries to strengthen access to services for refugees like tertiary education.

- Pending: chair to share access to the created shared folder



Updates & Achievements



Action Points