


Romania MHPSS Sub Working Group

Meeting Minutes – 15 February 2024

<p>Members</p> 	<p>16 online and 7 in-person participants from the following organizations ESTUAR, HIAS, Muresh Hub, Plan International, Save the Children, Terre Des Hommes, UNICEF, and WHO.</p>	
<p>Agenda items</p>	<p>Summary of the background information</p>	<p>Action points</p>
<p>Opening & Introduction</p>	<p>Participants shared their expectations from the MHPSS sWG while introducing themselves. The major commonalities that came up along the expectations are shared below,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Interact and collaborate with the other members,</i> - <i>Technical contribution to each other,</i> - <i>Clear and well-defined roles from co-chairs and members,</i> - <i>Complementing others' services by creating referral pathways,</i> - <i>Share best practices and learn from each other,</i> - <i>Understand the plan and the strategy for 2024.</i> 	<p>- N/A</p>
<p>Updates from the MHPSS members & co-chairs</p>	<p>Terre Des Hommes- Last year, Terre Des Hommes provided many activities in the accommodation centers. Since this year many of the accommodation centers have been closed, and there is also a reduction in the number of staff of TDH. Hence for the moment, TDH has been focusing the MHPSS Programming in their centers in Piața Pache Protopopescu and Piata Izvorul Rece. The current programs intensify non-specialized MHPSS activities (psychosocial support program) and digital skills-building sessions. TDH also does have activities in schools, as well as recently they are looking forward to expanding the scope of activities to be integrated with sports. One of the major challenges TDH has been experiencing is the limited or lack of continued participation of the Ukrainian students who are enrolled in</p>	<p>TDH is looking at identifying further areas where it is possible to bring both the Ukranian and Romanian children together for their participation in MHPSS activities. For more information, please contact: crisrina.vladescu@tdh.org</p>

formal education in Romania. This is why, it is getting difficult to implement MHPSS activities both with Ukranian and Romanian students in schools.

Muresh Hub- Muresh Hub has been IOM’s Implementing partner since December 2023 as well as recruiting Ukranian community members for the service provision. Muresh Hub has a Ukrainian psychiatrist onboard and there are many other available services for children and adults aside from the specialized MHPSS activities. In March and April, their services were more focused on the prescription of psychotropic medication to manage better the conditions regarding sleep disturbance, anxiety, and depression. Since the joining of the Ukrainian psychiatrist, many other programs have been developed such as psychological consultation for individuals and groups integrated with art and tea and talk themes based on the needs of the community members. On February 24, Muresh Hub will be starting a new program focusing on specialized MHPSS activities to be delivered for different age groups (as follows 3-6, 7-11, 12 to 15, and 16 to 20) for the following 6 months. This year, another project on relaxation and emotional management will be launched for the youth community members who are from 16 to 20 years old.

ESTUAR- The current interventions of ESTUAR are located in Bucharest, yet with an outreaching capacity through the mobile units. The focus in 2024 is to deliver most of the MHPSS programs in their community centers. Another focus is on the integration of Problem Management + curriculum in the current implementation which is something already well integrated in the refugee response services. The third focus is on the empowerment of the affected community members. For the time being ESTUAR has been working with only UNHCR.

HIAS- Economic inclusion programs integrated with Protection and MHPSS have been ongoing.

If you would like to get in touch with Muresh Hub, please send an email to the following email address, marius@mureshub.ro

For more information regarding the available services of ESTUAR, please reach out to the below email address, amedeea.enache@estuar.org

<p>Updates from the co-chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new Guidance Document has been available at the global manner - IASC Guidance Integrating MHPSS and Peacebuilding, a Mapping and Recommendations for Practitioners - The tentative date has been identified as the 21st of March for conducting an in-person workshop among the MHPSS sWG members to prepare a strategy and a Work plan for the remainder of 2024. - Capacity needs assessment findings and plan have been revised by the MHPSS Co-chairs and will be shared with the MHPSS members for their further contribution. 	<p>The members who are interested in finding out more about the integration of MHPSS in Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion themes please visit the link below https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/IASC%20Guidance%20Integrating%20MHPSS%20and%20Peacebuilding%2C%20a%20Mapping%20and%20Recommendations%20for%20Practitioners..pdf</p>
<p>Presentations from the MHPSS members</p>	<p>ESTUAR (Presenter: Amedeea Enache) - "I support my friend" ESTUAR has implemented the program in collaboration with World Vision Korea and World Vision Romania. The program is based on creativity and expressive psychosocial support activities for children including the ones living with developmental delay or disabilities. 64 teenagers (44 Ukrainians and 20 Romanians) participated in the training and supervision process in Prahova and Bucharest to support their peers who need to receive psychosocial support due to being exposed to war or any other challenging life situations. A training of trainers (ToT) also took place in Bucharest for 15 participants including psychological first aid as well as psychosocial support skills. The major outcome was the participants were equipped with the skills to identify the problems among their peers as well as the skills to support their friends.</p> <p>Save The Children (Presenter: Ioana Tonceanu) - 'Save the Children Romania's Response for Ukrainian Refugee Children and Families: MHPSS Achievements and Future Plans' For the last two years, STC has been active in more than 17 locations including integrated hubs at transit points and counselling centers (integrated service provision), and currently has been implementing MHPSS services in 11 locations. The service provision intensity goes up to the 3rd Layer of MHPSS services without stepping into the specialized MHPSS services that fall under the 4th Layer in the IASC's MHPSS Service Provision Pyramid. The MHPSS service provision modality entirely relies on the case management process conducted by the social workers to better assess and conduct more accurate referrals to the persons in need of MHPSS services. This service provision process ensures close collaboration among the multidisciplinary</p>	<p>If you are interested in receiving the curriculum and asking more about ESTUAR, please feel free to send an email to the following address, amedeea.enache@estuar.org</p> <p>If you are interested in hearing more or keen to create further referrals with Save The Children Romania, please send an email to the below address, ioana.tonceanu@salvaticopiii.ro</p>

	teams including social workers, psychologists, and MHPSS facilitators. The major MHPSS activities focus on the following themes, activities for children and parents, training for teachers, and training for representatives of local authorities.	
Presentations from the co-chairs	<p>Re-interpreted findings of the previous capacity building needs assessments were presented to the members and the draft capacity building plan will be circulated among the partners for their further contribution in identifying who can support which capacity building session.</p> <p>Identification of new nominees for co-chairing the MHPSS sWG with WHO. Thanks to ESTUAR, this position has been covered by them for the last two years. To be able to give the same opportunity to the other national MHPSS members, it has been suggested by the WHO Regional Office to go for a new round of voting for the identification of a new co-chair for 2024. The nomination will stay active till the end of the 24th of February.</p>	MHPSS members are highly urged to raise their interest in taking the co-chairing role.
Training & Workshop	Romania MHPSS sWG Strategy Workshop- 21 March 2024 (tentative date)	
Shared Folder	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-kO5peSjNhN4hnn6_2H5s_qPegrTzjDL?usp=drive_link	