

Athens, 19.3.2021

**Minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> MHPSS Technical Working Group at Babel Day Centre**

Chaired by Nikos Gkionakis, Maria Ntetsika

**Participants:** HIAS, ADDMA, Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, Network for children’s rights, MsF VoT, MsF OCG, ARSIS, UNHCR, MdM, Chamomile project, MVI, IOM, EPAPSY, PRAKSIS, TdH, HR360, Equal Rights, Babel Day Centre

**Agenda:**

- Discussion and updates on the current situation
- Discussion on writing down a common letter providing our feedback on Helios programme
- AOB

<p><b>Discussion and updates on the current situation</b></p>	<p><b>PRAKSIS:</b> All the needed adaptations took place during the last days, so that the SIL and Hestia programmes will cover the new eligibility criteria according to the Ministry of Migration.</p> <p><b>TdH:</b> The psychosocial support through one-to-one sessions continues normally in Lavrio site. The group activities have been postponed according to the restriction measures. In Skaramagas site all the sessions take place remotely since the site is under lockdown. Two projects are at the moment implemented: the YouCreate project involves 14-25 young people in recreational activities with the participation of volunteers who are trained on TdH methodology and the Breastfeeding project that is about informing and empowering women in the sites.</p> <p><b>IOM:</b> Sixteen psychologists are operating in the field at the moment. A new training has been planned for the staff in collaboration with Kethea. The groups that are focused on the substance abuse continue in the sites of Ritsona and Thiva. The leaflets focused on the mental</p>
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health are ready and it remains only to be translated and they will be shared with the group. A mapping focused on the services for the LGBTQI community all around Greece is to be ready during the following days and it will be shared with the group. IOM PSS staff will be trained on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. The training will be organized together with organizations that are specialized on these issues. Workshops focused on the voluntary hospitalizations will take place in the sites, aiming at familiarizing the community with this issue. IOM staff continues to face difficulties with the referrals in certain hospitals.

**ADDMA:** A presentation took place for the ADDMA staff of Hestia programme focused on the new legislation. The two psychologists in Petralona have a contract until the end of March and it is not sure if they will continue offering their services. The vulnerability criteria for the prolongation of the contact in Hestia programme have become stricter and this is something that worries the staff, since there are many vulnerable cases that do not fall into the criteria.

**HR360:** According to formal information, the sites of Skaramagas, will be closing down until the end of spring.

**ARSIS:** The sites of Kara Tepe and old Vovli will be closing also until the end of spring.

**MsF OCG:** The Day Care Center in Solonos does not accept new referrals. The mobile unit has started visiting the outskirts of the sites so that they can provide services to homeless or undocumented individuals. The interventions have been quite successfully. However, they face some issues with neighbors in the areas that they have been operating. Moreover, four recognized refugees, that haven't left their apartments, have received an extrajudicial call to leave the house. One of them needs to appear in the court for this issue. Many homeless people are living at the moment in Victoria square and this population is rotating, which means that the number is bigger than it seems.

**MdM:** MdM continues to provide psychological and psychiatric support, however they are struggling to cover the increased demand. A series of seminars on mental health issues took place quite successfully with wide participation. The open reception center for women asylum seekers hosts at the moment twenty-two women with their children and the demand increases.

	<p><b>MsF VoT:</b> The training on the PM+ was completed and the two community helpers are now ready to work in the community. Their role is to identify individuals in the community that can benefit from the PM+ sessions and provide them or, in case that they need specialized care, to refer them in appropriate services.</p> <p><b>MVI:</b> MVI representative asked the members of the group about their opinion on how to deal with people that face an emergency mental health issues, since these cases have been increased in their clinic during the last period. The members of the group agreed that they need to contact the hospital that is on duty, provide interpretation and also a detailed note with all the relevant information (it has been proved to be of great help). A difficulty with admissions of minors is noted since there aren't adequate beds. Also the gap for the provision of mental health services to minors 17-18 years old was mentioned since they are usually not being accepted neither as minors nor as adults. At the moment an extra difficulty on accessing the public mental health services is noted due to the pandemic.</p> <p><b>Babel:</b> A new project focused on the provision of mental health services to survivors of torture will start for one year. New psychologist, psychiatrist and interpreters will be added to the team of Babel. A questionnaire on the experiences of the pandemic in the frontline workers has been created in collaboration with the Department of Psychology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens aiming at a better response of the management of the pandemic. All the actors are asked to help on distributing the material.</p> <p><a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeB5X2HyYtwvVQCmeqBHPwklsieXZSFqKUXBTuB-Emps1z7Aw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR04CA6O5nDsOyJrXq9C7R0XO2O7THPIebbzEASIUCnnnTKT8IH2G1oKMLM">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeB5X2HyYtwvVQCmeqBHPwklsieXZSFqKUXBTuB-Emps1z7Aw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR04CA6O5nDsOyJrXq9C7R0XO2O7THPIebbzEASIUCnnnTKT8IH2G1oKMLM</a></p>
<p><b>Translation of IASC Technical Note</b></p>	<p>The suggestion of the translation in Greek language the newly published Technical Note on “Linking Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)” by MHPSS TWG was discussed. All the members that are interested to participate needs to send an email with their availability at: <a href="mailto:atticamhpsstwg@gmail.com">atticamhpsstwg@gmail.com</a></p> <p>The material to be translated is the following:  <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2021-03/Technical%20Note%2C%20Linking%20Disaster%20Risk%20Reducti">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2021-03/Technical%20Note%2C%20Linking%20Disaster%20Risk%20Reducti</a></p>

	<a href="#">on%20%28DRR%29%20and%20Mental%20Health%20and%20Psychosocial%20Support%20%28MHPSS%29-%20Practical%20Tools%2C%20Approaches%20and%20Case%20Studies.pdf</a>
<b>Discussion on writing down a common letter providing our feedback on Helios programme</b>	<p>A discussion on writing a collective letter including the feedback of our beneficiaries related to Helios integration project took place. The idea is to include feedback for the whole process from the application to the state that the participants that have concluded the programme are being at the moment.</p> <p>The members of the MHPSS TWG needs to discuss within their organizations their interest to participate to this initiative and <b>give their feedback either by email or in the next meeting of the TWG on 2<sup>nd</sup> of April.</b></p>
<b>AOB</b>	<p>-The following links were shared by colleagues during the meeting:</p> <p><a href="https://mdmgreece.gr/en/taking-care-self-others-challenging-times/">https://mdmgreece.gr/en/taking-care-self-others-challenging-times/</a></p> <p>-Any issue related to the PAAYPA can be addressed to the following email:</p> <p><a href="mailto:paaypa.helpdesk@migration.gov.gr">paaypa.helpdesk@migration.gov.gr</a></p>
<b>Agenda for the next WG</b>	<p>-Discussion and updates on the current situation</p> <p>-AOB</p>

The next MHPSS WG meeting is going to take place on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April** at **09:30 -11:30**.