


Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group in Poland

CONTEXT

People’s mental health and psychosocial wellbeing are severely impacted by exposure to life-threatening events; displacement; interrupted family and social connections; loss of homes and livelihoods; lack of access to health, education and social services; and fear and anxiety about the futures of those who remain in conflict areas. There is thus a massive need for effective **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)** services for these people as they arrive in Poland.

This need, coupled with limitations in capacities to respond and the influx of international aid organizations into Poland, call for increased coordination of efforts to provide access to MHPSS services. To answer this call, **the MHPSS Technical Working Group** was established in March 2022, co-led by the World Health Organization, UNHCR and Polish Migration Forum.



2.3 M
Ukrainian refugees
have already
entered Poland

MHPSS is

any type of local or outside support that aims to protect and promote psychosocial well-being and/or treat or prevent mental health conditions.

THE MHPSS TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Goal

to address the **MHPSS needs** of the population by ensuring access to services aligned with **good practice based on humanitarian principles** and the [Interagency Standing Committee guidance on MHPSS in Emergencies](#)

- is a **technical, operational platform** for the Ukraine MHPSS response in Poland where experts exchange information and collaborate on provision + coordination of MHPSS activities.
- is **multisectoral** and needs to be connected to the health sector to facilitate integration and coordination of MHPSS services

Actions

- 1. maintains** an operational working group and promotes representation of diverse MHPSS partners and stakeholders in Poland (international, local, public);
- 2. manages** information related to MHPSS needs, activities, and service gaps in a rapidly changing context;
- 3. promotes** the use of best practices, application of humanitarian principles, and a do-no-harm approach;
- 4. connects** stakeholders to ensure referral pathways;
- 5. provides** technical support in monitoring and evaluating the MHPSS response;
- 6. advocates** for integration of MHPSS into emergency response in relevant sectors, including use of evidence-based interventions, technical tools and know-how to enhance pre-existing care systems in a sustainable way.

Members

- UN agencies
- International NGOs, local NGOs and CBOs
- Ministries and public providers of health, social protection, education services
- Academic and research Institutions
- Professional mental health associations

>60
organizations
have already
joined

