MHPSS in Humanitarian Response

For Health and Nutrition WG
IASC Guidelines: Inclusive framework: mental health and psychosocial support covers both

Composite definition

• protecting or promoting psychosocial well-being

and/or

preventing or treating mental disorder.

The sectors that are the most involved:

• Health
• Protection
• Education
## Prevalence of mental health conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Disorder Description</th>
<th>Humanitarian setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe disorders (schizophrenia, bipolar, severe depression, severe anxiety (including severe PTSD))</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate mental disorder (moderate forms of depression and anxiety, including moderate PTSD)</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild mental disorder (mild forms of depression and anxiety, including mild PTSD)</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.1%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People in need

• **Refugees.**
  - Many persons arriving in are women - high risk of GBV;
  - Risks increased in the context of informal shelter, reception and transit facilities, accommodation centers, private arrangements for accommodation and transportation;
  - Many people went through difficult experiences, some have pre-existing psychosocial/ intellectual disabilities – particularly vulnerable;

• **First responders.** Many volunteers help new arrivals, but often with limited experiences in humanitarian assistance and limited MHPSS technical capacity

• **Host population** of the Republic of Moldova.
Basic services and security

Community and family supports

Clinical

Focused psychosocial supports

Strengthening community and family supports

Social considerations in basic services and security

Examples:
- Clinical mental health care (whether by PHC staff or by mental health professionals)
- Basic emotional and practical support to selected individuals or families
- Activating social networks
  - Supportive child-friendly spaces
- Advocacy for good humanitarian practice: basic services that are safe, socially appropriate and that protect dignity

MHPSS Intervention pyramid (Adapted from IASC 2007)
SPHERE HANDBOOK (2018 version)  
Mental Health Standard: 9 key actions

1. **Coordinate MHPSS across sectors.**
2. Develop programmes based on identified needs and resources.
3. Work with community members, including marginalised people, to strengthen community self-help and social support.
4. **Orient staff and volunteers on how to offer PFA**
5. Make basic clinical mental healthcare available at every healthcare facility.
6. Make psychological interventions available where possible for people impaired by prolonged distress.
7. Protect the rights of people with severe mental health conditions in the community, hospitals and institutions.
8. Minimise harm related to alcohol and drugs.
9. Take steps to develop a sustainable mental health system during early recovery planning and protracted crises.
1. **Coordinate MHPSS across sectors.**

- Moldova MHPSS TRG has been initiated under Health and Nutrition Sector with a close connection with Protection;
- Currently meeting bi-weekly (decided per members’ voting);

If you are planning to implement or already implementing MHPSS activities, please, contact
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Psychological First Aid: skills for all first responders

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241548205

4. Orient staff and volunteers on how to offer PFA