

POLAND MHPSS TWG Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 19 May, 2022

Meeting subject	Poland Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group Weekly Meeting
Time & Location	https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTIhMTlyNjQtMmQzNC00ODc3LTk5ODktZTA5M2ViNDhkMjVh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f610c0b7-bd24-4b39-810b-3dc280afb590%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d782bb44-7c31-4c80-9b1b-3eb33764ae5f%22%7d 19 May 2022 Thursday 11 am
Chaired by	Anna Goloktionova, Selma Sevkli
Minutes prepared by	UNHCR Poland
Participants (25)	Agnieszka Cwielag (Intersos), Alice Silvestro (Intersos), Alicja Polanska, Allison Prather, Angelike (GenCo MDM Poland), Anna Kavouras (WHO), Austin Ericson, Carla (Together International), Claire Bathgate, Dominika, Karolina Fabirkiewicz (UNHCR), Lucia Daccarett, Malvina Failla (Action Contre la Faim), Maya Pelmann, Merkur Bequiri (WHO), Mike Baskin (Ukraine Trauma Resilience Project), Murat Yuksel (International Corps Poland), Natalia Musial (Babinski Hospital), Neven Knezevic (UNICEF), Noemi Skala, Pablo Perez – Fernandez (IRC), Patricia Landinez (UNICEF)
Agenda	<p>Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updates from Selma Şevkli, WHO 2. Introduction of new members 3. Updates from members 4. MHPSS integrated in Education by Neven Knezevic, UNICEF 5. Presentation on MHPSS Communication Essentials Document by Ganna Goloktionova, UNHCR/DSS 6. AOB
Introduction & Overview	
Agenda point 1	<p>Introduction of new members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pablo Perez-Fernandez, International Rescue Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CP activities in the shelters in Warsaw (Kasprzaka, Smolna, Długa, Gorskiego, Woloska, Mysliwiecka, Rondo ONZ, Chmielna) - Plan to expand to other cities - Pablo is a temporary MHPSS Focal Point 2. Angelike, GenCo MDM Poland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the process of defining activities, will be shared once finalized 3. Mike Baskin, Ukraine Trauma Resilience Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3-hour Stress Release Workshop on 20/05 - https://ukraineresponse.wixsite.com/stressrelease - One-week Breathwork & Trauma Release Training

- Contact: mike@biodynamicbreath.com

4. Malvina Failla, Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger)

- MHPSS activities in the East Station Transit Center in Warsaw through local NGO Nagle Sami

Agenda point 2 Update from members:

1. Natalia Musial, Babinski Hospital in Krakow

- Met UNICEF
- Created structure for Ukrainian women and children, now the hospital has 2 new units dedicated to refugees
- Many Ukrainian patients – need to increase capacity
- Considering opening a dedicated ward for treating PTSD with virtual reality, but lacking software

Q1: What is the percentage of people diagnosed with PTSD? The term is often used incorrectly.

A1: Very low, most patients diagnosed with depression, passive psychosis and other diseases have relapses now. Agree that the term is overused – patients with PTSD are a minority.

2. Neven Knezevic, UNICEF

- 94,6% of refugees in Poland are women and children
- More than 1,5 million refugee children in Poland
- Engaging children in a number of social activities over the course of summer
- Workshop with the department of education of Warsaw municipality
- Focus on 12 municipalities with the biggest refugee children concentration

Q1: Have UNICEF and MoE signed MOU?

A1: In progress – the signing has been delayed

Q2: How fast do you expect to have summer activities material ready?

A2: We want to build off the programs that already exist and scale them up. Summer in the City Program was already created by municipality.

Q3: Are you an MHPSS FP for partners?

A3: New staff is being hired. For now, Patricia Landinez can be contacted. FP in the EWG is currently Yuliia Hudz and IM support is Oscar Onam.

3. Murat Yuksel, International Medical Corps Poland

- Upcoming MHPSS referral workshops in Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw
- Introduce tools for service mapping and referral pathways
- Target group: program coordinators, case managers in institutions/organizations
- Participants are encouraged to run similar workshops in their organizations
- Tentative dates: Warsaw – 6th June, Krakow – 8th June, Wroclaw – 9th June

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation will be shared next week
Agenda point 3	<p>Updates from Selma Şevkli, WHO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with Ministry of Interior Affairs on MHPSS held recently. Participants included MoE, MoH, WHO and UNICEF aiming improved inter-sectorial coordination - Focal points of MHPSS in all ministries were shared. Follow-up next steps
Agenda point 4	<p>Presentation on MHPSS Communication Essentials Document by Ganna Goloktionova, UNHCR/DSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Document is available in MHPSS TWG Google Drive in Ukr, Pol and Eng - Participants encouraged to disseminate with their teams and partners – not only MHPSS staff - “Trauma” terminology is problematic and can be harmful – language creates reality <p>Comment by Noemi Skala, Save the Children: <i>Indeed, partners overly focus on trauma terminology. The document is a useful tool to share with partners.</i></p>
Useful links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR Data Portal [click here] - Poland MHPSS TWG Google drive [click here] - Three IASC MHPSS resources published this week in Polish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IASC Basic Psychosocial Support Skills: A guide for COVID-19 Responders IASC MHPSS Guidelines Check list for Field Use IASC interagency MHPSS Referral Guidance Note - WHO's Psychological First Aid Slides in Polish - WHO's weekly regional MHPSS workshop folder [click here]. Last week's webinar was titled “Working with Volunteers in Emergency Settings” presented by IFRC. Kindly find the PPT and recording of the workshop here. - WHO's recently launched online course Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies is now available in Polish and Ukrainian. This free course presents how to apply existing practical, evidence-based, scalable tools and practice-led approaches for the successful implementation of projects to strengthen Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in emergencies – all based on WHO, IASC and Sphere Handbook content. The online orientation is designed to strengthen the competencies of humanitarian actors working in emergencies to establish, support and scale-up MHPSS in emergency responses. - The Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs at Fordham University together with UNICEF and MHPSS.net is organizing a webinar: What do Children Need? A Conversation on Ukraine Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Response that will take place next <u>Tuesday, May 24th at 5pm Ukraine time</u> (4pm CET). Please register here and the flyers of the webinar in Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and English

could be found [here](#)

- Child Protection Working Group published a referral pathway mapping for Poland, please see [here](#)