

MHPSS Working Group Minutes of Meeting
January 15th, 2014 – Ministry of Health, Amman
Chaired by Mary Jo Baca (IMC) and Zein Ayoub (WHO)

1. Introduction & Updates:

- a. NICOOD: announced holding a drama presentation and bazar on Wednesday, January 18th from 3-6pm in Zarqa (venue: Zarqa Chamber of Commerce).
- b. ACF France (Action Contre La Faim): have initiated/planned activities in the areas of MHPSS, WASH, Food and Protection, operating in two areas in Irbid (Kitm and Na'aimah), and targeting 600 households including Syrians and Jordanians. The planned MHPSS project will include psychosocial support, peer groups, psychological support and referrals.
- c. JRF: providing case management and specialized MHPSS services to Syrians and Jordanians in Amman. In addition, their joint project with UNHCR will be dealing with unaccompanied minors and separated children.
- d. PU-AMI: Began activities in Jordan this year, providing activities related to shelter and cash assistance to Syrian refugees and vulnerable host community.
- e. QRC: continuing their program providing psychosocial support to children and women in Za'atari Camp.
- f. FCA (Finn Church Aid): continuing their youth program (ages 15-24) in Za'atari Camp and KAP, and will soon start a youth program in the community (Mafraq and Irbid).

2. Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) update:

IMC provided a brief presentation on the recently completed e-learning version of the mhGAP. IMC will begin implementing e-learning activities within the next month. WHO updated on the mhGAP-trained centers in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq & Ramtha.

*** The mhGAP program was launched by WHO in 2008 to scale up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders in low and middle income countries. A major component of the program is the integration of mental health into primary health care, targeting priority conditions including: depression, suicide, psychoses, child and adolescent disorders (including developmental and behavioral), epilepsy, dementia, alcohol use disorders, substance use disorders, and medically unexplained complaints. More information on the mhGAP can be found on the following link:*

http://www.who.int/mental_health/evidence/mhGAP/en/index.html

3. Briefing by mental health expert on “support services to staff working with refugees”:

Mental health expert Josephine Anthoine-Milhomme briefed on her proposed project to provide support to staff working with refugees. Main objectives include:

- a. Prepare humanitarian aid workers for their work with refugees affected by violence, loss and displacement
- b. Increase their understanding of the basic internal mechanisms at work when dealing with people affected by emergency situations
- c. Help them acquire the professional skills needed to work with refugees who have experienced distressing and extreme events
- d. Increase staff ability to deal with their own stress and wellbeing

4. **Discussion of Group's TOR:**

(Postponed due to time constraints)

5. **Any Other Business:**

WHO and IMC briefed on the main points of the recent Inter-Sectorial Working Group meeting. A draft work plan was prepared by the ISWG chair to cover the period of Jan-Jun 2014. The work plan is still under revision, but so far includes the following areas:

- Vulnerability Targeting
- Mainstreaming Gender
- Coordinated Needs Assessment System
- Referral Networks
- Contingency Planning
- Government engagement on Project Approvals
- 5Ws and Development of ActivityInfo
- Monitoring and Reporting
- Donor engagement at the inter-sectoral level
- Advocacy
- Capacity Building of Sector Coordination
- Interagency Information Management Capacity

6. **Training Calendar:** The MHPSS Working Group maintains a shared Google Calendar to track their training activities. This calendar can be accessed with the following information:

Link: <<https://accounts.google.com/>>

Username: mhpsworking.group.jordan

Password: MHPSSworkinggroup

The next working group meeting will take place on **Wednesday, February 19th at 1:00pm** at the Ministry of Health.