

Meeting Minutes – Health / SRH Partner Meeting, 23 October 2024

Meeting	Health / SRH Working Group	
Time & Location	23 October 2024, 14:00 pm EEST, online - Zoom	
Chaired by	Silvia Gatscher (WHO Romania)	
Minutes prepared by	Victoria Schiere (WHO Romania)	
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction and welcome to any new members 2. RRP updates 3. Updates from Health and SRH sector 4. Workshop planning for Q4 5. AoB 	
Participants	Silvia Gatscher – WHO Romania Victoria Schiere – WHO Romania Daniela Timuş – WHO Romania Bogdan Hălăgean – WHO Romania Carmen Niculescu – ANES	Ionela Horga – EEIRH Galyna Arikh – Code for Romania Bogdan Pavel – Care for Ukraine Response Team Irina Mateescu – AMI Diana Biclineru – Plan International
AGENDA POINTS		
Agenda Point 2	<p>RRP Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RRP health indicators are finalised and these are for all refugee receiving countries. This was led by the WHO EURO with the aim of Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Czech Republic, etc. to report cohesively on the same indicators. • The next RRP will be for two years, 2025-2026. We have two regional health indicators, one regional MHPSS indicator and one in-country MHPSS indicator: <p><u>Regional Health Indicators</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. # on individuals supported in accessing health services <i>comprising of</i> <i># of individuals attending health consultations</i> <i># of individuals receiving medical support</i> <i># of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access care.</i> 2. # health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees. <p><u>Regional MHPSS Indicator</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. # of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities <i>comprising of</i> 	

of individuals that participated in community and family supports (structured or unstructured like sport, art, music, drama, recreational, traditional/cultural activities, peer support etc, with MHPSS components and implemented by staff trained in MHPSS) (level 2 of IASC pyramid)

of individuals who participated in focused individual and group psychosocial support (level 3 of IASC pyramid)

of individuals who participated in specialised MHPSS services (level 4 of IASC pyramid).

In-Country MHPSS Indicator

4. # of MHPSS sessions provided

- Health indicators focus on the number of individuals supported in accessing health services and healthcare providers trained for refugee health services.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) indicators include participation in services and number of sessions provided.
- Reporting will consider potential double-counting as individuals may access multiple health or MHPSS services.
- The given examples are only a selection but also other similar activities can be reported under these indicators and health partner that might be in doubt are encouraged to reach out to SG or the CO office team
- Sub-activities do not need to be reported, only the monthly overall numbers are necessary for the reporting; however, partners may consider collecting numbers for sub-activities internally.

2025-26 Health Narrative

- Facilitate health access and promote health prevention activities (e.g., vaccination uptake, TB and hepatitis screening, prevention of NCDs).
- Strengthen linkages between reproductive health, mental health, and protection services for refugees, with integrated capacity-building initiatives.
- Continue advocating for refugee-inclusive health policies in Romania.
- Support resilience planning for national and subnational authorities in preparation for future emergencies.

2025-26 MHPSS Narrative

- Integrate MHPSS across Health, Protection, Livelihoods, GBV, and Education sectors, emphasizing support for people with disabilities and promoting social cohesion within both refugee and local communities.
- Train primary healthcare professionals to deliver basic, culturally appropriate MHPSS services, focusing on managing mild to moderate mental health conditions (WHO PM+ training) .
- Provide continuous training in scalable psychological interventions and psychosocial skills, targeting children, caregivers, and vulnerable populations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use qualitative assessments to measure intervention impact and establish feedback channels to ensure high-quality, responsive services. ○ Collaborate closely with relevant sectors and the Ministry of Health to include a MHPSS-focused Minimum Preparedness and Action Plan in Romania’s National Emergency Response Plan, enhancing long-term service sustainability.
<p>Agenda Point 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Updates from Health and SRH sector</p> <p>Silvia Gatscher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MoH has confirmed that State Secretary Dr Brădăţan will continue to be the RRP focal point. ● Some family doctors reported that recent updates to digital signatures have caused functionality issues, rendering signatures non-operational. Dr Herdea, Director of the National Health Insurance House (NHIH), explained that the company responsible for issuing digital signatures implemented this update without coordinating with the NHIH. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family doctors are advised not to update their digital signatures currently. If possible, they should revert to the previous version of the signature to maintain functionality. ○ NHIH will issue a formal advisory to family doctors regarding signature compatibility and partners experiencing issues with signatures should notify the NHIH for support and further clarification. ○ NHIH plans to implement a new system in the coming years, at which point a general upgrade for digital signature compatibility will occur. <p>Carmen Niculescu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An international conference is being organized with a focus on preventing and combating sexual and gender-based violence, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Social Security in Norway as a key partner. ● Scheduled for November 12-13, it will feature experts from Norway, Spain, and Great Britain, including GBV expert, Melanie Hyde from WHO Regional Office for Europe. ● Further details on participants and conference format will be shared as the event approaches. ● Partners are encouraged to save the date and a formal invitation with additional information will be circulated. <p>Silvia Gatscher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In collaboration with Dr. Carmen Ungurean from the National Institute of Public Health, we are organizing an event to celebrate and raise awareness for Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action. ● This event is typically observed on 17 November, as this date falls on a Sunday, it will be held on 14 November. ● The event will begin at lunchtime and conclude around 4:30 pm. Invitations and the agenda will be shared.

Ionela Horga

- The team is currently in the process of planning for the upcoming year. This follows some changes to the end-of-year plans due to various reasons, which led to the cancellation of some events.
- Despite these adjustments, the team is continuing to plan ahead and has applied for several new opportunities.
- An update was shared regarding the opening of a new centre for intervention for survivors of sexual violence in Târgu Mureş.
- The centre premises have been refurbished and are fully equipped, featuring two private, confidential rooms dedicated to supporting survivors.
- In the coming days, the centre will officially open, marking a key milestone in the initiative.
- A multi-sectoral event will be held to acknowledge the opening, although comprehensive services for survivors of sexual violence have already been in operation.

Irina Mateescu

- The prenatal education program offered by midwives is now extended to 7 additional cities in Romania: Bucureşti, Cluj-Napoca, Târgu Mureş, Medgidia, Timișoara, Ploiești, and Botoșani. Carrefour is now the current donor of the program.
- A new program for lactation consultation has been launched, featuring internationally accredited midwives and consultants, in partnership with Carrefour.
- Advocacy efforts are ongoing to secure reimbursement for these services from the NHIH, aiming to address long-term gaps.
- An event on abortion access will be held in Sibiu (31 Oct – 1 Nov) in partnership with ALEG and the French Embassy, focusing on the increasing restrictions on abortion access in Romania. The event is by invitation only.
- Currently preparing a training session for 150 medical professionals which will cover family planning for midwives, family doctors, and obstetricians, along with gender equality, gender-based violence, intersectionality, and topics on antenatal and postnatal care (12 topics in total). This activity is supported by the Minister of Health in France through the French Embassy in Romania.
- Work is underway on a medium and long-term strategy for sexual and reproductive health within gender equality coalitions, to be completed in the next months. Suggestions from members are welcomed.

Silvia Gatscher

- A workshop was conducted with the medical-legal department of the "Iuliu Hațieganu" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca. It was agreed that starting from the 2025 summer semester, a module on GBV will be included in the training program for medical residents.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If successful, there are plans to extend this module to pre-service training for students. This is easier to implement for doctors because their pre-service curriculum already includes a medical-legal module, which can be modified without needing additional approvals. However, for nurses and midwives, it would require additional approval. • The plan is to pilot the module for medical residents first, then expand it to medical students, and eventually extend it to nurses, midwives, and other medical schools. • Dr. Brădăţan was also consulted last week, and he expressed interest in helping to include a GBV module in the training for hospital managers. This would be a significant achievement, especially as there have been challenges in mobilizing hospital managers to participate in training. Including GBV in their training would help sensitize them to the issue, which could have a positive impact on hospital practices. • This is seen as a "baby step" forward, with the hope that small steps will eventually lead to larger progress in addressing GBV in medical training.
<p>Agenda Point 4</p>	<p>Q4 Workshop Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Mentimeter survey QR regarding s for upcoming workshops was shared with the following suggested topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to MHPSS Minimum Service Package ○ Stress Management for humanitarian workers ○ Competency course for humanitarian workers providing services to refugees ○ Addressing vaccine hesitancy • The topic “Introduction to MHPSS Minimum Service Package” received most of the votes and this will hence be the topic of the in-person workshop in November. • The competency course for humanitarian workers, developed by WHO, is an excellent program. WHO Romania and IOM cultural mediators attended a recent course, and the feedback was positive. WHO Romania is considering offering this course to partners in Romania. The course consists of two or three modules and will be delivered in part online and in person. • Regarding 'Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy,' WHO Romania is currently launching a qualitative study on the barriers to vaccination, interviewing healthcare providers and caregivers. Findings should be available at the start of next year and recommendations will be shared with partners. • Members are invited to share any topics of interest for future workshops.
<p>Action Points</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members to consider topics for future workshops and provide feedback on preferred session topics /schedules. 2. Partners encouraged to book in their calendars the date of November 27 for the upcoming in-person meeting.
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>In-person Health Working Group Meeting - 27 November 2024, Novotel</p>