



GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2021 THEMATIC EVENT

MHPSS in Protection: Towards More Action and Greater Impact

Monday 25 October 2021, 14:30-16:00 CET

Rationale/purpose

Secretary-General António Guterres stated in a lengthy video message on May 13, 2020 that mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) should be part of all humanitarian responses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become increasingly clear that MHPSS needs to be part of protection work. However, for MHPSS to have the desired protection outcomes it should be embedded in all actions, delivered in an intersectoral way and the quality of activities should be sufficient to generate impact. The session intends to pave the way for integration of *more MHPSS* and *better MHPSS* in protection work.

Expected Outcome

The session intends to provide an answer to the question: which conditions have to be fulfilled for MHPSS to generate strong protection outcomes? In the session, we will provide field examples of MHPSS and discuss the factors that led to success or failure in terms of protection. Next, we discuss possible actions on how the protective role of MHPSS can be increased in the GPC and its AoRs.

Format/Content of the Event

The session will be English plenary with interpretation in French and Spanish. The session will take place at 2.30pm CET. We will make use of the Zoom Platform.

Speakers/Moderator/ technical donor partner

Koen Sevenants, MHPSS Specialist in the Global CP AoR, will be the main moderator of the event.

Resource people include:

- Alfred Mutiti, CP AoR Coordinator, Syria
- Agnes Oluse, Protection Specialist, IOM
- Caoimhe Nic A Bhaird, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF
- Fahmy Hanna, Co-lead of the MHPSS RG
- Michael Copland, Humanitarian Director, Save the Children Australia
- Monica Vega, MHPSS and GBV Specialist, UNFPA
- Ron Pouwels, Coordinator, Global CP AoR
- Pieter Ventevogel, MHPSS Specialist, UNHCR
- Sarah Harrison, MHPSS Specialist, IFRC
- Tom Dannatt, CEO, Street Child
- William Chemaly, Coordinator, GPC

Key donors include: Belgian Government:

- Erik De Maeyer, Director Humanitarian Aid and Transition, Directorate General Development, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium



Field Cluster/Operations

The session will engage with the key people in the GPC, CP AoR and GBV AoR.

Pre-event questions /survey to be shared with participants

There will be no pre-event questions or surveys.

Background Reading

- Harrison, S., Hanna, F. Ventevogel, P., Polutan-Teulieres, N & Chemaly, W.S. (2020). MHPSS and protection outcomes: Why joint action to improve mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of people affected by conflict, violence and disasters should be a priority for all protection actors - Policy Discussion Paper. Geneva, Global Protection Cluster and IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings. Available at: <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/MHPSS-and-Protection.pdf>
- Harrison, S., Chemaly, W. S., Hanna, F., Polutan-Teulieres, N., & Ventevogel, P. (2021). Engagement of protection actors in MHPSS: the need for cross-sectoral cooperation. Forced Migration Review, (66), 8-11. Available at: <https://www.fmreview.org/sites/fmr/files/FMRdownloads/en/issue66/harrison-chemaly-hanna-polutanteulieres-ventevogel.pdf>
- Podcasts, IFRC Psychosocial Centre. Available at: <https://pscentre.org/resource-library/multimedia/podcasts/>
- Short video tour of the MHPSS Minimum Service Package Platform. Available at: <https://vimeo.com/618031012>
- MHPSS Minimum Service Package Platform: register and explore the Platform at <https://mhpssmsp.org/>
- Project Brief, MHPSS Minimum Service Package