Protection Cluster South Sudan

PROTECTION CLUSTER SOUTH SUDAN

GUIDANCE ON MHPSS INTEGRATION IN HNRP PROJECT SUBMISSION USING THE MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL MINIMUM SERVICE PACKAGE (MHPSS MSI)

MHPSS activities are for those that have a specific aim to improve the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of a target population. AoRs play a key role in integrating and strengthening MHPSS in the humanitarian response and nexus to development and solutions as part of their mandate. This short guidance aims to support partners aiming to include MHPSS activities/components in designing their target activities and priorities for 2025 based on the protection indicators.

GUIDANCE PER INDICATOR

GP3 – It may be relevant to share information regarding to MHPSS services when available, it is essential that partners link with MHPSS TWG and collaborate to do service mapping and information sharing. When the MHPSS TWG is not established, the Protection Cluster, AoRs and partners should have knowledge of what MHPSS services exist and are being provided. For more information look into activity 1.1 Coordinate MHPSS within and across sectors in the MSP.

GP4 and GP5— These indicators relate to the identification and provision of support to PSN. This may include the identification of mental health and psychosocial needs and the incorporation of basic MHPSS into case management. For a proper integration of needs and support look into 3.13 Provide MHPSS through case management services in the MSP.

The core actions include adapting training courses to include MHPSS topics, training on relevant MHPSS topics and skills, adapting tools, templates, and referral protocols, working with caregivers, engage with MHPSS technical expertise for supervision. The MSP also provides resources and guidance to do so.

GP9 and GP10 - When including psychosocial support activities in community-based protection activities please refer to activity <u>3.4 Support new and pre-existing group-based community MHPSS activities</u> in the MSP for further guidance. Core actions related to this activity include identifying pre-existing community-led initiatives and promoting new community MHPSS activities to strengthen coping resources and social supports, facilitate access to information to connect with family and social support, provide financial support, facilitate access to safe and appropriate spaces, link and referrals and engaging staff with MHPSS expertise.

CP3 - It is key to include MHPSS in the mapping and referral pathway; to do so, please refer to activity 1.1 Coordinate MHPSS within and across sectors in the MSP for further information. When MHPSS TWG is functional, it is recommended that CP partners are part of it.

CP4 - For community-based MHPSS support please refer to activity <u>3.4 Support new and pre-existing</u> group-based community MHPSS activities and activity <u>3.6 Provide group activities for children's mental health and psychosocial well-being</u>.

Activity 3.4 has been covered in the General Protection section.

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Activity 3.6 includes: the development of program content based on participatory assessments, development of training courses and education and information materials, sessions for caregivers, and training facilitators. As well as, provision of structured activities and supervised recreational activities, providing information, links and referrals, and engagement with staff with MHPSS expertise.

If the service aims at providing psychological support please look into activity <u>3.12 Initiate or strengthen the provision of psychological interventions</u> and ensure all core actions are integrated:

- Selection of platform/setting
- Provide appropriate space/s
- Develop, adapt, and translate evidence-based psychological intervention manuals and materials.
- Assess training needs and capacities.
- > Provide competency-based training and supervision.
- Provide the interventions.
- Facilitate referrals
- Engage with staff with MHPSS expertise.

Further guidance and resources are available <u>here</u>.

For general information check <u>Guidance for MHPSS Aspects of Child Protection in the HNO/NRP</u> 2021

CP5 - If your program aims to specifically raise awareness on MHPSS topics please refer to activity 3.3 Disseminate key messages to promote mental health and psychosocial well-being and look into the core actions: review relevant information, collaboratively develop/identify, adapt, and translate culturally relevant key messages for targeted groups, get community feedback and disseminate and engage with staff with MHPSS expertise.

If you are looking particularly into working with caregivers and education personnel please look into activities 3.7 Promote caregivers mental health and psychosocial well-being and strengthen their capacity to support children and 3.8 Promote the mental health and psychosocial well-being of education personnel and strengthen their capacity to support children where you will find guidance on core actions, recommended training topics and resources related to MHPSS, counseling and parenting skills.

GBV 3 – If partners are planning to include MHPSS to GBV Case Management, please refer to activity 3.13 Provide MHPSS through case management services in the MSP and look into core actions, key recommendations, recommended training topics and resources (this has already been described in the CP section related to case management).

GBV 4 - When partners are planning to provide **psychosocial services** to GVB survivors there are different types of support:

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- Provision of basic psychosocial support and PFA, done by non-specialist workers, please refer to 3.2 Orient frontline workers and community leaders in basic psychosocial support skills to find guidance on core actions, key considerations, and resources
- ➤ Provision of psychological support can be either provided by non-specialists **adequately trained and supervised** or by staff with MHPSS expertise. For both cases please look into activity <u>3.12</u> <u>Initiate or strengthen the provision of psychological interventions</u> for guidance.

When looking into different **settings** to provide psychosocial support please look into activities:

- > 3.9 Provide MHPSS through women and girls safe spaces and activity
- ➤ 3.11 Provide MHPSS as part of clinical care for survivors of sexual violence and intimate partner violence

In both activities, you will find guidance into how to integrate adequately MHPSS services into women and girl save spaces and as part of clinical care for survivors