Urban Refugee Task Team
WEBINAR SERIES

THE URBAN REFUGEE TASK TEAM INVITES YOU

To **join us for the second in a series of urban webinars** on **Thursday 26 June at 3:00 pm (CET)**
aimed to promote good practices and learning in urban programming.

The upcoming webinar on:

Challenges and opportunities in mental health and psychosocial support for urban refugees

Mental health experts from **UNHCR, International Medical Corps (IMC),** and the **Psycho-Social Training and Services Institute Cairo (PSTIC)** will present on specific challenges for MHPSS programming in urban settings and share good practices in urban **MHPSS programming and interventions** for refugees and asylum seekers.

After a brief introduction on MHPSS programmes in Malaysia and Kenya, the webinar will shift its focus to MHPSS programming in the MENA region, particularly on experiences in Egypt as well as in Lebanon and Jordan. Following an examination of recently developed programming models, the webinar will also explore avenues for further development of urban MHPSS.

Warm regards, The Urban Refugee Task Team

Agenda

Introduction, led by **Peter Ventevogel** (5 min)

Presentations

    Nancy Baron (20 min)

    Community based psychosocial work with refugees in Egypt

    Zeinab Hijazi (20 min)

    Case management for refugees with mental disorders in Jordan and Lebanon

Discussion, moderated by **Peter Ventevogel** (15 min)

Background

Refugees from various backgrounds are increasingly accumulating in large and complex urban settings in low and middle income countries. This requires a radical rethink of humanitarian assistance to refugees. Conventional approaches of providing services to a relatively homogenous group of migrants within in a confined setting (such as a refugee camp) do often not work here. While many refugees are able to navigate their ways and are coping with the complex challenges, other have worrying levels of mental and psychological distress, and are not able to cope well and do not have proper access the services they need. Programming Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services can be challenging in urban settings but some promising approaches have been developed over the last years.

Community based psychosocial work with refugees in Egypt

Community based psychosocial work can become an essential component of the humanitarian response in such situations. It may be the glue that holds the community together and that links individuals with the services and resources they otherwise could not easily access. The presentation will focus on the work of the Psycho-Social Training and Services Institute Cairo (PSTIC) using community based psychosocial activities with refugees as providers of the services and as brokers to enable refugees to access services that they otherwise would not be able to access.

Case management for refugees with mental disorders in Jordan and Lebanon

Displaced populations are frequently exposed to distressing events prior to, during, and after displacement to host countries affecting mental disorders and psychosocial problems. Displaced people with mental disorders and psychosocial problems often have multiple and complex needs that require a comprehensive approach, which identifies, supports and protects those who are vulnerable and promotes stability and recovery. In such situations a case management approach may assist people in getting the services they need. International Medical Corps (IMC) has integrated comprehensive mental health services as part of general health care, which includes MHPSS case management, a model that identifies, supports, protects, and advocates for those who are vulnerable and promotes stability and recovery. This presentation will present a brief overview of MHPSS case management in refugee settings in the Middle East, describing the approach and using examples of the work of IMC in these countries.

Discussion

During the discussion the audience are welcome to ask questions and share their experience as well.

Speakers

o *Nancy Baron,* Director of the Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute in Cairo and Global Psycho-Social Initiatives (GPSI). Provides consultation, assessment, training, program design and development, research and evaluation for UN organizations and international and local NGOs in community and family focused psychosocial, mental health and peace building initiatives for conflict and post-conflict countries.

o *Zeinab Hijazi,* Global Mental Health and Psychosocial Officer with International Medical Corps (IMC). With support from Global MH Advisor, Zeinab provides technical support and guidance to MHPSS country teams and programs in the Middle East and North Africa Region and support to global projects.

o *Peter Ventevogel,* Senior Mental Health Expert with UNHCR. Former editor-in-chief of 'Intervention, Journal for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Conflict Affected Areas'. Worked with NGOs such as HealthNet TPO (e.g. Afghanistan, 2002 – 2005, Burundi, 2005-2008) and the War Trauma Foundation, was a psychiatrist with Arq Foundation (the national trauma expert centre in the Netherlands) and regularly did consultancies with the WHO and UNHCR.

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As part of its work to strengthen collaboration and engagement in urban settings, the Urban Refugee Task Team has been working hard to identify and promote the **adoption of good practices**.

To upload your own good practices, please visit: **http://urbangoodpractices.org/**

TECHNICAL NOTES

- Please use Internet Explorer (or Safari for Mac computers)
- Make sure your pop-up blocker is disabled (To turn off the pop-up blocker via the "Tools" menu, make sure that the "Menu bar" is enabled in your Internet Explorer (right click in the browser's upper bar and enable the bar, as shown in the image at the end of this message)
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