

Annex to Report on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Sierra Leone

1. Meeting aims and objectives

Aim:

- To learn lessons from the MHPSS response to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak of 2014/15 in Sierra Leone and document lessons learnt.
- Agree a framework for coordinated future action in mental health and psychosocial support in Sierra Leone

Objectives:

- Critically review MHPSS response during EVD outbreak of 2014/2015
- Clarify roles of different actors in mental health and psychosocial support in Sierra Leone
- Ensure coordination in future mental health work in the country
- Prepared for regional post-EVD meeting in June 2015

2a. Activities of main actors in EVD response (by MOHS service package)

MHPSS Service Package 4: Specialized support				
Service package are planned according to the levels of the MHPSS Pyramid	EAMH/CBM	On-going training and supervision of the MH nurses trained by the programme and COMAHS. Facilitation of establishment of District Mental Health Units	National	Ongoing
	WHO	Support to the establishment of District Mental Health Units and central Mental Health Coordination Office at MoHS	National	Ongoing
	KSLP	Ongoing clinical supervision and training of MH Nurses. Peer supervision (monthly) in clusters. Supporting undergraduate psychology teaching at COMAHS. Establishing Mental Health Units (Connaught, 34 Military Hospital). Plan for Child and Adolescent MH at Ola Daring Hospital. Research: service evaluation. Disease burden.	Freetown. Regional hubs (Makeni, Bo, Kenema)	Ongoing
	IsraAID	Running and monitoring self-care sessions for 117 hotline workers. Collecting data as to their mental wellbeing	Freetown	Ongoing
	CHASL	Specialized services in CHASL hospitals	National	Planned
	Save the Children	Case management of orphaned/unaccompanied children	WA, Kailahun, Pujehun	
	Child Welfare Society	Stress management. Case management support. Linking and support people with MHPSS and monitoring of general protection indicators.		
	SL	Behavioural activation		Ongoing
	Mental Health Coalition	Project activities. Training and service provision. Facilities networking and referral at professional level. Advocacy for inclusion of medication in the procurement system	National	Ongoing
	UNICEF	OICC support. ToT	National	Ongoing

MHPSS Service Package 3: Community based, focused and non-specialized support			
GOAL/IsraAID/Commit and Act	Training in PFA dissemination and supervision using MoSWGCA PFA manual and complementary modules	14 Districts	May to October 2015
COOPI	Case management support. Distress activities	Western Area	May to October 2015
Medair	Follow up. Linking and counselling	Western Area	May-December (possible extension for 2 years)
Child Welfare Society SL	Linking and supporting people with MHPSS. Behavioural activation, including problem solving and stress management. Family and community mediation	Tonkolili, Kenema, Kailahun, Western Area	Ongoing
International Medical Corps	Training for lower cadres of PHU staff	Port Loko (possible expansion to Kambia)	May-December 2015
EAMH	Training of PHU staff in basic mental health and ongoing supervision	National	2013-2015 (Phase 2 will follow)
Mental Health Coalition	Stress management services and coalition building workshop. Leadership training. PFA. Other MH capacity training. Research	National	On going
UNICEF	ICC support. Protection desk support/CP officers	National	On going
Red Cross	Support groups for survivors and for volunteers. PSS activities for vulnerable children		
CHASL	Training of health staff on MHPSS to provide services in health facilities	National	On going
WHO	mhGAP-IG training for CHO and other health staff	National	Planned
Minimum MHPSS Service Package 2: Community -based well-being support			
Child Welfare Society	Community engagement. Life skills programme. Formation of community clubs. FTR. strengthening of alternative care systems	Western Area, Tonkolili, Kailahun, Kenema	Ongoing
COOPI	FTR. Social Networking. Community Activities (Tutoring). Social recreational. PFA	Western Area	May to October 2015
ACF	Training on PFA and PSS for PHU Staff (Health Workers)	Moyamba?	May 2015
CRS	FTR. Educational support. Training of Community Women Association members. MHPSS activities in Schools. Income generating empowerment	Bo, Western Area, Port Loko and Bombali	February 2016
GOAL/IsraAID/Commit and Act	Training of outreach workers to disseminate PFA in their existing roles in the community	14 Districts	May to October 2015
Plan SL	FTR. Support to separated children. Training and equipping CWCs to engage in preventative and responsible CP activities in community. Education, livelihoods, Protection mainstream	5 Districts	May-September

GOAL (with protection consortium) Handicap International. Save the Children	Protection mainstreaming. PFA basic skills training for service providers with a focus of using PFA with various vulnerable populations.	14 Districts	May-September 2015
GOAL	PFA integrated into case management/FTR processes	Freetown	Ongoing
Trocaire	Work with communities to provide PFA. Trained community counsellors. Counselling for survivors and spouses in behaviour change and peaceful cohabitation. Community mobilization and awareness raising	Bombali, Kambia, Port Loko	
Red Cross	Psychosocial Support	Freetown	Ongoing
MDM	Mental Health module for health staff and PHU, including the Mental Health Nurse in Moyamba. Psychosocial support module for teachers and community committees. Training of trainers: psychosocial officers, community development officers		April-July 2015
MDM	Focus Groups discussions to continue the identification, referral and assistance of EVD psychosocial residual issues	Moyamba	July-September 2015
Mental Health Coalition SL	Service users and family groups	Freetown and expanding to districts	Ongoing
Save the Children	Training in community structures and child protection. FTR and case management. Life skills. Training of teachers, CHO, children on SGBV and other child rights violation. PFA and PSS training targeting community structures.	Western Area, Kailahun, Pujehun	2015
EAMH/Save the children	Creative well- being project based on the tree of life process for EVD affected children	Western Area	2015
Handicap International	Social mobilization for people with special needs under EVD response	WA, Port Loko, Kailahun, Kenema, Moy., Bo, Kono	Ongoing
Handicap International	Personalized social support for children with disabilities (inclusive education)	Port Loko, Kenema, Moyamba	2013-2017
CHASL	Community MHPSS	National	Planned.
Minimum MHPSS Service Package 1: Safe and dignified provision of basic needs and security			
COOPI	Food Distribution, NFI, Livelihoods	W.A. Rural W.A. Urban	End: October 2015
CRS	School support, Provision of shelter for affected children, medical support	Bo, W.A., Bombali. Port Loko	12 months: end Feb. 2016
Child Welfare Society SL	Livelihood activities, food distribution, child protection and gender mainstreaming, water and sanitation, advocacy to support community access to services,		Ongoing
Red Cross	distribution of survivors kits		Ongoing

	CP, WASH activities, support to PHU, support to school to increase enrolment and retention, skills training, life skills, school campaigns, support to EVD survivors	W. A rural. W. A. Urban, Pujehun, Kailahun	
Save the Children			
CHASL	General Health services	All districts	Ongoing
International Medical Corps	ETC patient care, support to survivors in their communities, support to bereaved families and communities		
			Jan to June 2015.
			Possible extension
Medair	Food distribution, WASH, Medical Support, PSS, NFIs	Western Area	
Mental Health Coalition	Advocacy for improved MH services	All districts	Long term commitment
	Livelihood support to vulnerable groups, provision of food and non food items to quarantined homes, provision and replacement of house kits, provision of water to ambulances	Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali	
Trocaire			
Handicap International	Ambulance fleet, health promotion and Ebola awareness. Livelihood for people with disabilities	WA, Kono,	2015
EAMH	Advocacy for basic needs provision and anti-stigmatization activities	National	Ongoing
		W. A. Urban, Port Loko, Moyamba, Kailahun, Bombali	
Plan SL			
	Advocacy and sensitization on MHPSS needs, FTR and survivors kits distribution, WASH, Nutrition, Health, Education		
UNICEF			

2b. Activities of Participating Organisations (by organisation)

Overview of Attending Organisations/Ministries Involvement in MHPSS in Sierra Leone: General and With Reference to the EVD Response

Ministry	Role
Ministry of Health and Sanitation(MoHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Clinical and technical healthcare projects. → Mental Health and Substance Abuse Focal Point: Dr Muana. → Trained 275 healthcare workers from PHUs and Government hospitals on the Mental Health Care System, including referral systems, mentoring and supervision. → Community health workers who can identify people with psychological issues and care them basic counselling, or refer up if needed. → Posted qualified mental health nurses in the 14 district hospitals → Continued commitment to providing the mental health nurses with information of who is doing what in their communities so they are able to share information and encourage/make referrals. → Committed to a top-down/bottom-up approach to ensure the largest number of people can gain access to the services they need.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Wish to strengthen community ownership, utilise community structures, advocacy groups, religious leaders, community leaders, teachers in providing MHPSS services.
Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MoSWGCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Service provision and protection issues, including gender and Child Protection, food and non-food items, social work, etc. → Lead of CP/Gender/PSS pillar for EVD response → Lead of MHPSS Working Group → Focusing on survivors and bereaved families. → Addressing how to incorporate survivors into mainstream hospitals. → Committed to monitoring services provided by iNGOS to ensure they are in line with the ministry approach. → Wish to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and the scope of work in the districts. → Drafted MHPSS Strategy and Basic Packages for MHPSS delivery in accordance with international guidelines
Organisation	Role
Action Contre Le Faim (ACF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ebola management and education, including Infection Prevention Control (IPC) trainings for EVD response workers. → PSS interventions focusing on EVD- affected communities and survivors. → Interventions addressing stigma and fear in communities, as well as addressing mother's hesitance mothers in approaching key service providers. → These interventions aim to compliment training support given to PHU workers in Moyamba district in working with EVD-affected communities.
Child Welfare Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Working in the Western Rural area, Port Loko, Tonkolilli, Kenema, Kailahun. → Addressing issues affecting children and women, primarily connecting excluded adolescent girls to their communities and opportunities. → Approaching interventions through two groups: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'On Track' Group: those who are already have their basic needs provided for within their communities; they are living with their families and are in education. 2. 'Off Track' Group: those not in education, who may be affected by child labour (street selling), teenage pregnancy, and early marriage. → Facilitates 10 'Girls Clubs' (with 20 members in each), which provides a weekly platform for literacy activities, confidence building and sharing of life stories. → Developing a business plan for supporting girls through the Salone Adolescent Girls Network for providing: advocacy, training, mentorship, provision of reading materials, sanitary and hygiene kits, referrals, counselling.
Christian Health Association Sierra Leone (CHASL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Have trained two staff in PSS. → Central member of the Mental Health Coalition. → Strongly involved in advocating for the rights of those with mental health issues. → Planning to set up MH services in all of their hospitals and clinics across the country.

<p>Catholic Relief Services (CRS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Running activities in Sierra Leone for 40 years → Currently implementing a 12 month programme focusing on EVD orphans. Targeting 2800 children in Western Area, Port Loko and Bombali. → Training PSS community volunteers (in conjunction with IsrAID) in community projects involving arts and movement therapy. → FTR/PSS Project in Bo: → Providing FTR for 120 children and PSS for 1200 children and orphans in Bo. → Providing a holistic package of support for reintegrated children and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational support for reintegrated child and 3 other school children. • Accommodation assistance to support additional room for the child • Income generating activities to support sustainable caregiving. • Medical support for the children’s families. • PSS for children and caregivers. → The Bo project is being used as an alternative care model pilot to learn lessons and share best practice. → Hopes to scale up the FTR/PSS model to reach two other districts in 2015/16. → Potential to work with targeted schools to provide PSS services for children from the FTR/PSS programme.
<p>COOPI Cooperazione Internazionale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Working in Sierra Leone since 1971. → Focus on PSS with children, previously with ex-child soldiers. → Now implementing a 6 month programme, focusing on providing EVD-affected children with basic food items, as part of Coopì’s PSS anti-stigma support and Child Protection programme. → Providing tutoring to caregivers and community leaders on how to emphasise with and support beneficiaries.
<p>Enabling Access to Mental Health in Sierra Leone (EAMHSL): UniMak, CAPS and the Mental Health Coalition/City of Rest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → A GIP/CBM project functioning in Sierra Leone since 2011, funded by the EU. → The project’s three main objectives are to develop services and rights for those with mental health issues through capacity building, community awareness and advocacy → Works via three implementing partners: The University of Makeni (UniMak), The Community Association for Psychosocial Support (CAPS), and The Mental Health Coalition, coordinated by City of Rest (MHC/CoR). <p>UniMak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Developed and supported the first in country training on mental health nurses (who qualified in 2012). These nurses are now posted in their mental health roles in the Government hospitals across the 14 districts of Sierra Leone. → As part of the EVD Project, with the support of the MoHS, have been supporting the establishment District Mental Health Units (DMHUs) across 14 districts → Provides on-going supervision and support to the mental health nurses, both in CPD and establishing the DMHUs. → As an active member of the MHPSS working group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was involved in drafting the MHPSS draft strategy and Basic Services Package.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the development of the PSS teacher training manual for MOSW. <p>→ Acts as a focal point for organisations to partner with the mental health nurses in the districts.</p> <p>CAPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Community awareness building and sensitisation surrounding mental health issues, the rights of those with mental illness and the services available to them, through the development of jingles, radio plays, posters and forums. → Aims to reduce stigma surrounding mental illness. → Currently embarking on nationwide forums run in conjunction with the mental health nurses, to train traditional healers, religious leaders and community stake holders (chiefs and mammy queens) in awareness of mental health and mental illness and services available. <p>MHC/CoR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The Mental Health Coalition is Co-ordinated through City of Rest. → Involved in advocacy for the rights of service users and lobbying for the amendment of the ‘Lunacy Act’. → Coordinates the annual Mental Health Conference. → Comprises of a Events Committee, Research Committee, Medication Committee and Service Users Group. → Actively involved in advocating for PSS services post EVD. → Was instrumental in the formation of the MH steering committee.
GOAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 10 years’ experience of working in Sierra Leone. → Prior to the EVD outbreak. MHPSS work focused on FTR and case management with street children. This is still on going. → MHPSS work currently focused on disseminating basic PFA at a community level and the protection of Vulnerable Groups during the EVD response. → Delivering short trainings on PFA, and ensuring service providers know how to integrate this into their work with vulnerable groups seeking other kinds of support. → Working with UNICEF and IsrAID to train people to deliver PFA to affected persons. → Partnering with Commit and Act in Bo to build PFA provision capacity. → 30 core team members have been trained in PFA and are active in their communities in service provision. → Integrated MHPSS response as part of MHPSS working group. → Established an ETC in Port Loko. → PSS team (headed by a mental health nurse) is conducting follow-up with survivors discharged and providing support to ETC team. → Committed to strengthening protection systems as part of the Protection Forum. → Committed to offering support to the recovery process in Sierra Leone.
Handicap International (HI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Experience of working in Sierra Leone since 1996. → Focus on physical rehabilitation. → During the EVD outbreak, HI have managed ambulances for Western Area and done social mobilisation in Western Area, Kenema, Bo, Kailahun and Moyamba.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Social mobilisation work has focused on disseminating key health messages to people with disability, special needs and sex workers. → Will be running a Protection Project (Child protection, GBV, PSS) as part of the Protection Consortium, commencing in May 2015, in seven districts. → Invested in the early recovery and long term development strategy for MHPSS.
International Medical Corps (IMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Experience of working in Sierra Leone since late 1990s. → Previous work focused on fistula care, rehabilitation of child soldiers, and the SNAP programme for sustainable nutrition. → Scaled up massively during Ebola response. → Operating three treatment centres in Makeni, Lunsar, more recently Kambia. → PSS team is a multidisciplinary teams of PSS/ PFA and WASH workers. → Disseminating safe behaviour messages. → Provide resources to families to help re-integration and outreach. → Delivering training to IMC staff and other organisations in PSS. → Have trained survivors provide PSS care to most vulnerable patients in IMC ETCs. → Supporting lowest level staff, for example training PSS to the staff of PHUs. → Run a Training Centre in Lunsar; others are invited to work with IMC on trainings. → Working with the protection desk on referrals. → Working with UNICEF and WHO and ministries on strategy.
International Red Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Long history of working nationwide in PSS in Sierra Leone. Post-war, trained child protection workers to work with affected children. → EVD outbreak: focusing on capacity building and developing a strategy plan. → Have 35 PFA trainers and 14 branches across Sierra Leone. → Training burial teams in PFA and coping mechanisms. → Supporting survivors to reintegrate into their communities. → Supporting EVD affected children (survivors, teenage pregnancy, child labour). → Disseminating home kits of basic household items for survivor families.
IsrAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Currently working in 11 emergency countries. → Projects focus on building capacity and resilience. → Working in Sierra Leone since Oct 2014. → MHPSS programmes in Sierra Leone focus on long term resilience measures as well EVD response. → Partnering with CAPS at IsrAID training centre in Freetown to provide specialist self-care training to EVD response workers: burial teams, 117 workers (to take care of themselves as well as those calling). → Running an internship programme with Forah Bay Social Work students, who get real life experience in running self-care sessions for 117. → Working with Goal and UNICEF to roll out a large PSS training programme in all 14 districts. The training will focus on skills transfer, with on-going supervision. → Continuing interest in working with partners. → Planning a research project that will look at EVD survivor secondary complications, 1 year on from the outbreak.

<p>King's Sierra Leone Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Long term presence in Sierra Leone. → Work focused on capacity building and health systems strengthening. → EVD response: opened isolation and small holding units in Western area. → In the process of returning to HSS work. → Offering specialised services through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support and supervision to mental health nurses in conjunction with EAMH-SL, including Peer supervision of Freetown nurses, imminently to be rolled out to 2 nation-wide clusters, in conjunction with EAMH-SL. • Providing in and out-patient mental health support at Connaught Hospital via the new Psychosocial and Counselling department. • Supporting Military 34 in setting up their own Mental health Unit in conjunction with EAMH-SL. • Supporting the teaching of medical students in psychiatry at COMAHS.
<p>Médicos del Mundo (MDM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → History of working in Sierra Leone since 2002. Strengthening of the Primary Health Care System (Port Loko, Maforki, Koinadugu, Kabala). → At Community level: in collaboration with the PSS Pillar and MoSWGCA, two different types of assessments in order to gather information regarding EVD death patients' families and EVD survivors' community reintegration and EVD complications (psychosocial situation, medical conditions, livelihoods and wash situation, etc.). → At Schools level: Support and training for teachers and school counsellors for the "Back to School Campaign". Training in four chiefdoms of Moyamba : PFA, stress management, infection prevention, etc. Local staff (8 Community Development Officers (CDO) and 8 Psychosocial Officers (PSO)) are being trained by Mdm to start the trainings the 19th may 2015. → PHUs: Mental Health training and support to health staff in 36 PHUs in four chiefdoms of Moyamba (Kaiyamba, Fakinya, Lower Banta and Kori). Reinforce mental health problems identification in EVD affected people, facilitate reintegration avoiding stigma and guilt, how to manage with vulnerable patients such as kids, disabled people and women GBV, etc. It will create a referral protocol for patients that need specialized attention. Mdm will provide a trainer's manual so the health staff can replicate the training. Local staff, (8 Community Development Officers (CDO) and 8 Psychosocial Officers (PSO)) are being trained by Mdm to start the trainings the 19th may 2015 → Ebola Projects in Koinadugu: mobilisation, local health staff training, IPC and Holding Centers. (August 2014-currently).
<p>Medair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ran an ETC centre outside Freetown which closed in April 2015. → Currently exploring possibilities for PSS. → Plan to support 16 homes for survivors EVD affected persons. → Plan to do home visits and PSS for survivors. → Currently recruiting additional staff. → Funding is pending to support a number of health clinics with training and medication. → Interested in linking survivors with other partners.

Plan Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Focusing on Child Protection issues. → Primarily working at the base of the intervention pyramid, focusing on advocacy and at community level. → Worked alongside MOSW and UNICEF in the development of the PSS manual. → Training frontline workers (social workers, healthcare workers) to reach out to affected children in communities. → Plans to work more with the MOHS and UNICEF in assisting affected children in communities.
Save the Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Working in the Western Area, Pujehun, Kailahun. → Focus on children affected by EVD, and street and slum dwellers. → Provision of basic food items, PSS and case management. → Provided a training of teachers and children’s groups in PFA and Kailahun. → Operated a large ETC at Kerrytown, Western Rural. → Currently conducting follow-up with survivors. → Interested to link mental health nurses in districts with SAVE trainers in districts. → Want to align interventions with MoSW and MoSWGCA.
Trocaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Providing food support and household replacement kits for 500 EVD-affected households. → Community mobilisation and support for community reintegration of survivors → Gender programme provides immediate PFA at community level, partnering with IMC to train Trocaire partners. → Partnered with IsraAID to train 30 people in counselling, support, basic communication and facilitation skills to deliver training at community level. These trainers are training 150 community counsellors (also training them in the knowledge of their scope, limitations and referral pathways).
Partners In Health (PIH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Support group provided by IsraAID; 6 sessions with 15 survivors in Freetown → 2 day PFA training for 20 Ebola survivors in Port Loko provided by IMC → Planned: 2 Day PFA training for all school going survivors and orphans in Port Loko, Kambia, and Kono → Planned: Support groups/school clubs in all major senior secondary schools led by (3) survivors/orphan facilitators who are members of the schools in all of Kono District and Maforkie chiefdom of Port Loko
MSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → MSF SWISS provided a “training for trainers” about Ebola (2 days) and about “social mobilization” linked with Health Promotion and Mental Health (1 day) → For the training they used MSF tools for communication and education, specific for Ebola → PFA is one of the tool; both the HP and MH staff received training about PFA in Ebola context by the previous psychologist and me as well → The staff is 6 Health Promoters and 1 psychosocial counsellor → Survivors clinic in Prince of Wales provides MH services

UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Capacity building for government and implementing partners. → Co-chairing child protection and MHPSS clusters. → Drafting MHPSS draft strategy and Basic Services Package with MHPSS work group. → Making suggestion guidelines for minimum service packages. → Delivering TOTs to OICC staff in PSS → Participated in the development of the PSS teacher training manual for MOSW. → Advocating for MHPSS to be part of the larger UNICEF provision package. → Integrating different services into their approach by working with broad range of partners in child protection, case management, FTR and PSS.
The Carter Centre (TCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Have strong history in Liberia of training and supervising mental health nurses in national programme. → Participated in MHPSS response to EVD in Liberia → Participated in Sierra Leone mental health conference → Looking to replicate aspects of Liberia programme as pertinent in Sierra Leone (are in discussions with GoSL and local partners exploring the feasibility of this)
World Health Organisation (WHO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Capacity building for government and implementing partners. → Support in management MHPSS clusters. → Equipment and resources for the establishment of District Mental Health Units lead by Mental Health Nurses of MoHS → Resources for the establishment of the Mental Health Coordination Unit at central MoHS level. → Training on national PHU staff, CHOs and nurses in PFA, in collaboration with MoHS → Supervision of Mental Health Nurses, in collaboration with EAMH → Drafting MHPSS draft strategy and Basic Services Package with MHPSS work group. → Making suggestion guidelines for minimum service packages. → Advisory role for implementation of programmes by partners

3. SWOT Analysis of the MHPSS Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in Sierra Leone

(brown font is non-priority points)	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existence of local and international organisations/individuals working in MHPSS with expert knowledge in their field and the country context and systems (which could be cascaded). • Sierra Leoneans' experience of working in the post-war response was able to be built upon. • PFA was cascaded to community levels for the first time since the war. • The existence of a wider advocacy entity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of general coordination among PSS actors and government ministries: who is doing what, where, and when). Particular challenges in coordination and communication between districts. • Challenges with the implementation of existing plans due to bureaucratic process. • Limited understanding of MHPSS and successful ways of applying it at community level. • A shortage of appropriately trained staff.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a coordination group, drawing upon existing expertise and willingness to participate in MHPSS activities. • Numerous implementing partners working in close collaboration with existing structures. • Government line ministries taking the lead in the planning and implementing process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of monitoring and evaluation and on-going supervision of trained staff following trainings. • PFA projects that are project driven, rather than process driven. • The late contextualisation of tools (IASC). • Need for more support and recognition of frontline health workers. • Poor family meditation tools for MHPSS in Sierra Leone.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased funding, interest and local and international actors on the ground for implementing MHPSS activities. • Long-term / post Ebola commitment of a number of partners. • The existence of a wider advocacy body to push for MHPSS policies and laws. • Increased political will to deliver MHPSS. • Increased access to training and expertise from a wider pool of organisations and individuals. • The opportunity to establish protocols, approaches and information systems for MHPSS service providers. • The opportunity for more collaboration between MHPSS actors to share ideas and learn from each other. • The opportunity to create a successful MHPSS mapping tool to identify gaps in service provision and avoid duplication. • The opportunity for wider dissemination of services, e.g: including chiefdoms within the strategies for MHPSS projects and plans. • Capacity for intervention on the familiar 5 response pillars. • The opportunity to build back better during the recovery phase! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk of implementing top-bottom approaches to MHPSS that are not culturally appropriate. • Lack of clarity on PS terms and definitions. • Lack of quality control of services provided. • Sustainability: activities may be short-term and project driven (particularly where NGO funded). There is a need for defined exit strategies and strong ownership and on-going funding of local actors, including government, to ensure needs continue to be met. • Interest and funding of iNGOs and UNOs could be overshadowed by other emergencies, creating a post-epidemic vacuum in Sierra Leone. • Projects focusing too much on EVD-affected persons, rather than overall PSS needs that may not be related to EVD. • The risk of interventions impeding natural support systems. • Overuse of stigmatising vocabulary. • Coordination needs to come from ministry level. • Dissemination and the duplication of activities in the same districts. • Competition between partners in implementing the same activities.

4. Meeting Programme

Day 1: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support during the EVD outbreak, and preparing for any future emergencies

Day 2: Planning coordinated mental health care as part of a strong health care system in the future.

Day/Time	Contents of session	Facilitators
Wednesday 6th May 2015		
8.00-10.00	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcoming remarks ▪ Introduction of participants ▪ Goal and objectives of the workshop 	Dr Muana, MoHS Carmen Valle
10:00-10:30 Coffee Break		
10.30 – 11.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of overall response to mental health and psychosocial needs related to the EVD outbreak ▪ Discussion 	Carmen Valle
11:30- 12.30	Overview of organisations' activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brief update reports from participants on their work in EVD MHPSS response 	Participants
12:30-13:30 Lunch		
13:30-15:30	Lessons learnt from the crisis response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordination and planning ▪ Interventions 	Julian Eaton
15:30-16:00 Coffee break		
16.00-17.00	Preparing for future emergencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MHPSS as part of a coordinated plan 	Julian Eaton

Thursday 7th May 2015		
8.00 – 9.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of Day 1 ▪ Introduction to Day 2 	Rapporteur George Bindi
9.00 – 10.30	<p>Proposed next steps for Building Back Better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of the National Mental Health Policy ▪ Summary of plans by organisations 	Dr Muana Participants
10:30-11:00 Coffee Break		
11.00 – 13.00	<p>Agreed joint framework for future work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Priorities to be met from national Policy and Strategy ▪ Collaboration and coordination between actors 	Julian Eaton
13 :00 Lunch and Close		
Afternoon	Individual meetings	
Thursday 7th May 2015		
8.00 – 9.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of Day 1 ▪ Introduction to Day 2 	Rapporteur George Bindi
9.00 – 10.30	<p>Proposed next steps for Building Back Better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of the National Mental Health Policy ▪ Summary of plans by organisations 	Dr Muana Participants
10:30-11:00 Coffee Break		

11.00 – 13.00	Agreed joint framework for future work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Priorities to be met from national Policy and Strategy ▪ Collaboration and coordination between actors 	Julian Eaton
13 :00 Lunch and Close		
Afternoon	Individual meetings	