

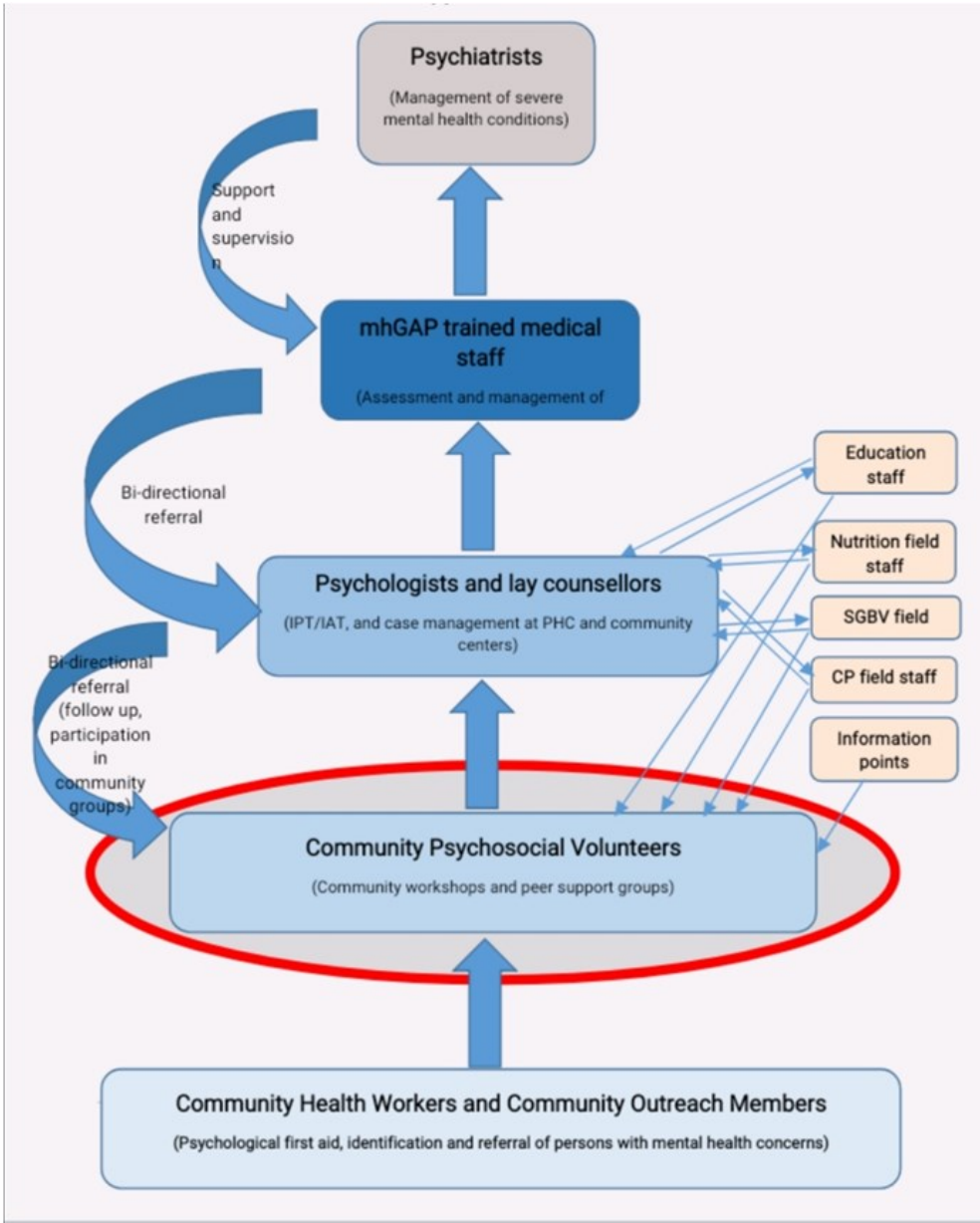
Community engagement in MHPSS

Examples from the Rohingya refugee response

ANM Mahmudul Alam

Psychosocial Associate, UNHCR

BACKGROUND:



UNHCR MHPSS Care Model in Cox's Bazar

Community Psychosocial Volunteers (CPVs):

- Community people – age 18 to 50 years.
- Education – maximum 10 grade, more than 300 Community Psychosocial Volunteers are working on community engagement;
- Language – Chittagong dialect, some people – know English, Arabic, Bengali
- Gender – both male and Female.





What do they do?

Community workshops e.g. peace of mind, journey of life, anger management, better parenting, and children led community workshop.

Principles!





The programme helps me to manage my distress and manage distress of my mother and sister;

Challenges to engage community

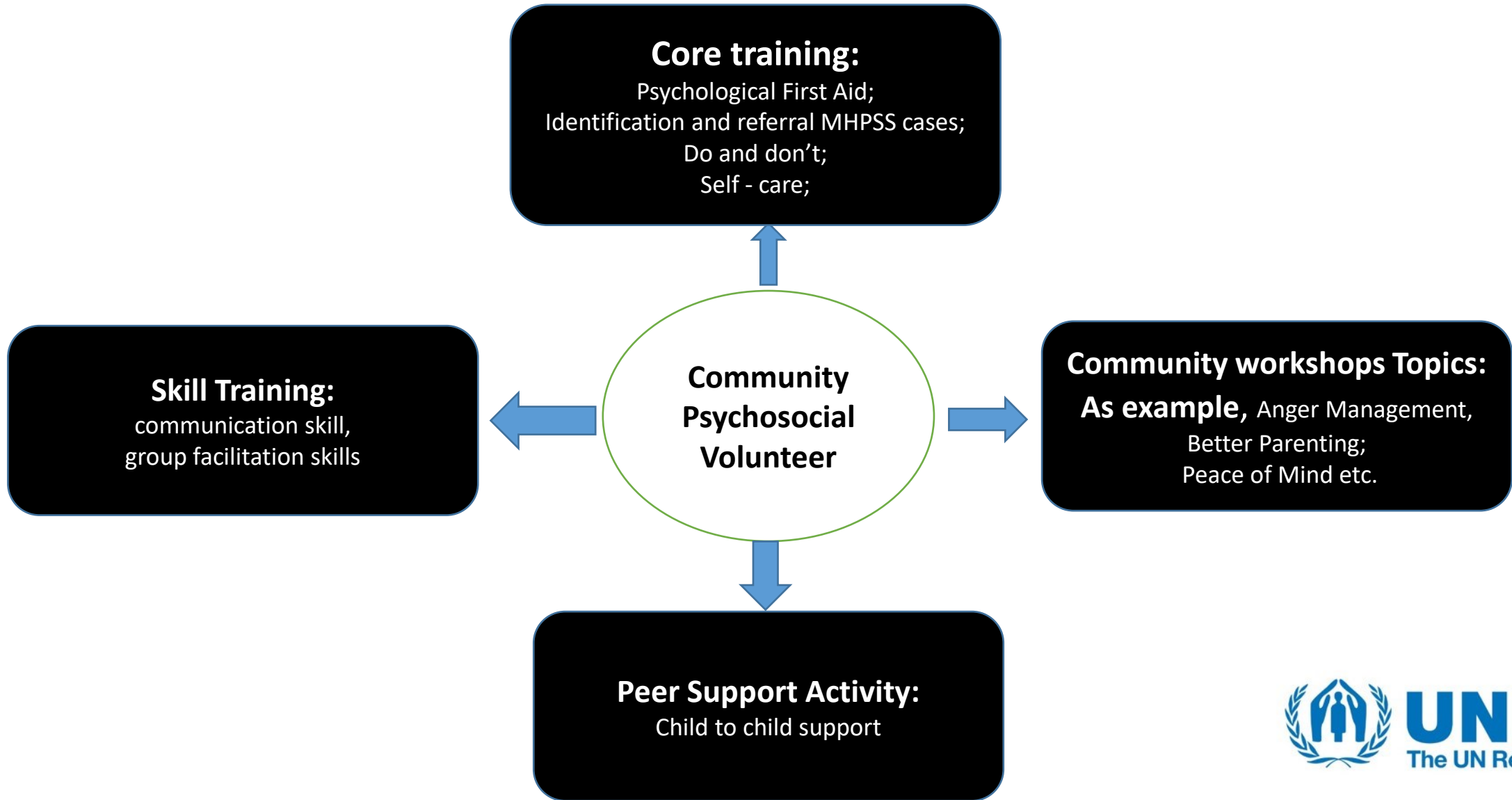
- People reluctant to sit in session;
- People are less responsive, keep silent; Do not respect the meeting rules; Less attention, quarrel and smoking;
- Some do not accept our leadership of group discussions, Some used to say, 'How can a person from the same community, and who is also a refugee, lead a workshop and teach us?'

***Mr. Arafat, Community Psychosocial volunteer,
Camp -4, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar***

**The story of a Rohingya Refugee: becoming a
Community Psychosocial Volunteer**

Community has requested to the community psychosocial volunteers to invite them in the session;

Capacity Development of Community Psychosocial volunteers



Supervision, Monitoring and Reporting

Impact

- Improved communication with communities;
- Improved referral process;
- Improved access and acceptability.

Challenges

- Men vs women participation;
- Age gap?



Thank you!



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency