

Introducing Heartland Alliance International

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HEARTLAND
ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL

- Heartland Alliance International (HAI) is the global arm of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights.
- Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights is a family of 5 organizations – of which HAI is an official subsidiary – that has been leading anti-poverty and social justice work in Chicago for over 125 years.
- HAI headquarters: Chicago, Illinois with representation in DC and NY
- Currently HAI has programs in 8 countries, in the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and Caribbean regions, and one US based program.

HAI's Mission

We believe in ensuring the safety of people whose rights have been violated and empowering them to actively engage in their communities and drive social change. Our mission is to secure the rights and well-being of marginalized people and communities.

HAI's Areas of Focus



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support



Access to Justice



Gender

→ *Emphasis on partnering with government, local organizations/institutions; capacity building of national organizations & institutions; systems strengthening & developing sustainable programs*



Access to Justice

- Integration of human rights framework and principles into all HAI programs

HAI provides access to justice through:

- Providing direct legal services to marginalized individuals
- Building the capacity of justice systems and institutions to protect citizens' rights, prevent situations of impunity, and eradicate discriminatory practices
- Strengthening civil society to ensure that citizens are able to hold government accountable
- Supporting protection initiatives to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized people are not further impacted by the inability to access protective services



Gender

- HAI's understanding of gender goes beyond the binary dichotomy of women and men and instead considers the range of sexual orientations, sexual practices, and gender identity and expression and how these relate to status, access to resources, and treatment in society and under the law.
- Gender considerations are integrated into all HAI programs.

HAI's gender programming includes:

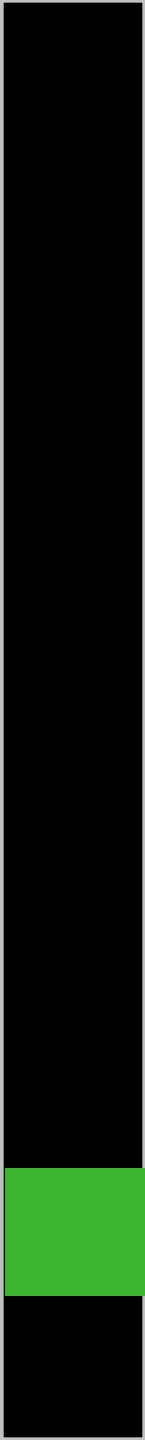
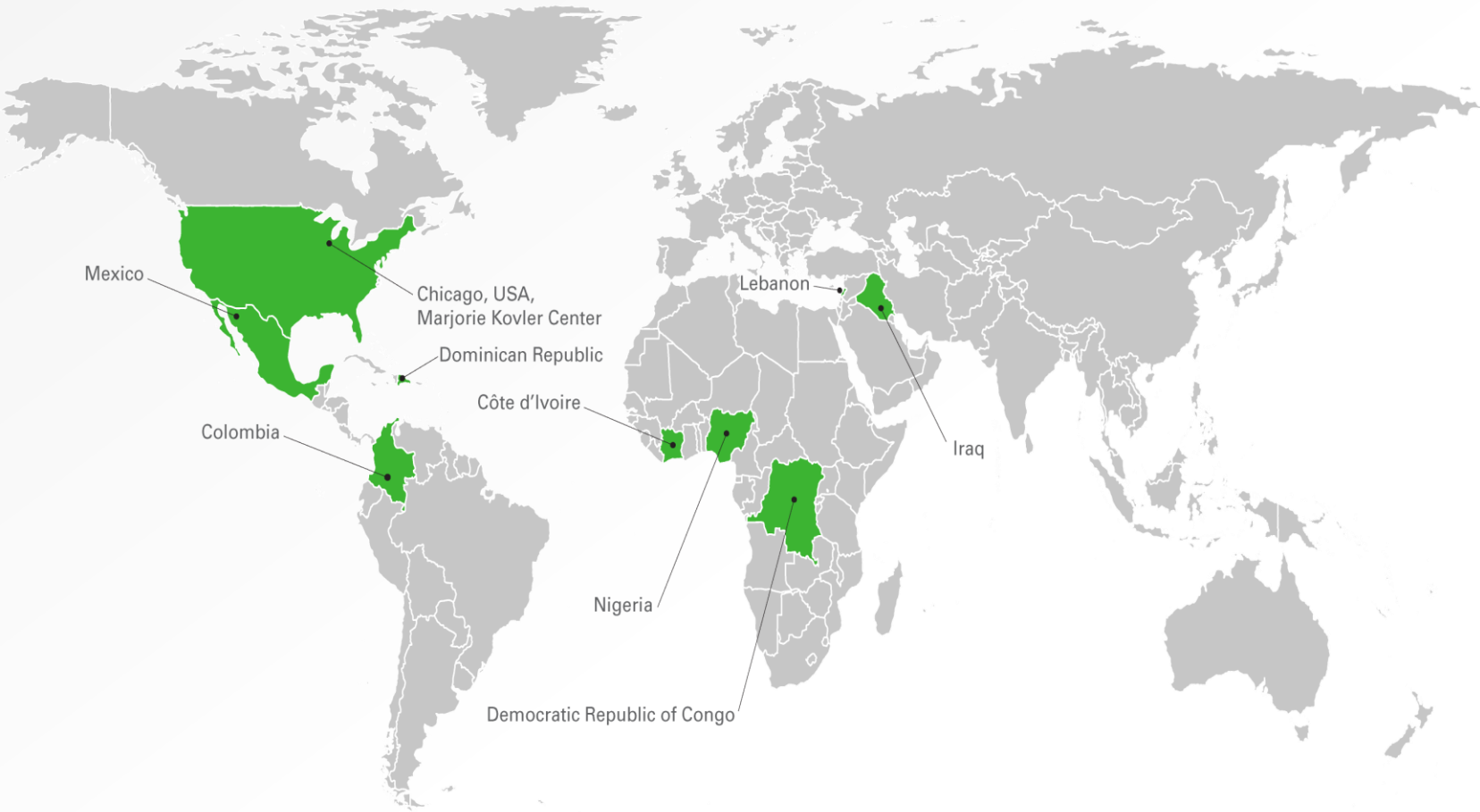
- A focus on marginalized women, girls, LGBT and gender non-conforming individuals, and men
- Sensitizing law enforcement and local authorities on gender discrimination and abuse

Gender (contd.)

HAI's gender programming includes (contd.):

- Supporting public health professionals and other service providers to provide non-discriminatory, gender sensitive services
- Strengthening grassroots organizations that advance the rights of women and sexual minorities
- Empowering the most vulnerable women to exercise their full economic rights, free from discrimination and harassment at work
- Creating safe spaces for women, girls, and marginalized groups to meet, build leadership skills, and develop plans for collective action and social change

HAI's MHPSS Programming Globally





MHPSS at HAI

- Trauma informed lens
- Committed to institutionalizing IASC MHPSS guidelines through staff education and application in program design and implementation
- Emphasis on partnering with government, local organizations/institutions; capacity building of national organizations/institutions and providers, systems strengthening and developing sustainable programs

MHPSS - Iraq

- HAI has been working in Iraq since 2004
- Highlights:
 - Established the Trauma Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (TRTC), the first and largest independent torture treatment program in Iraq
 - In partnership with Johns Hopkins University, conducted two randomized control trials of treatment interventions for survivors of torture
 - In collaboration with Iraqi stakeholders contributed to the drafting and passing of a Mental Health Act which set forth guidelines regarding the rights of persons residing in psychiatric facilities

MHPSS – Iraq (contd.)

- Currently: Six programs with a MHPSS component
 - Most programming is being implemented in Iraqi Kurdistan, although two projects are currently also being implemented in Baghdad
- Ex. UNICEF funded project combining psychosocial services, child protection, and access to justice
 - In partnership with three national NGOs
 - Provision of legal representation and psychosocial support services to former ISIS affiliated child soldiers in detention; ensuring safe reintegration into community
 - Provision of PSS services to children, adolescents and families within 9 IDP camps through mobile teams and child friendly spaces
 - Tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children

MHPSS - Lebanon

- HAI has been working in Lebanon since 2008
- Currently: 2 programs with an MHPSS component
 - Safe Women and Girls Project (Tripoli & Akkar): In collaboration with local partners, have established walk-in community centers for Syrian refugee and Lebanese women and girls who are at risk of or have survived violence. Services include legal, vocational training, child care and psychosocial support.
 - Literacy education for emergency-affected, out of school Syrian refugee youth (Akkar):
 - Training teachers to provide basic literacy and numeracy classes (BPNL) as part of a United Nations approved structured educational program
 - Training teachers in understanding and appropriately responding to the mental health consequences of war and displacement on children and adolescents

MHPSS – Democratic Republic of Congo

- HAI has been working in the DRC since 2009
- Currently: 2 MHPSS programs
 - Fikra Timamu (South Kivu):
 - Provision of services to adults many of whom have been impacted by violence or the consequences of the complex emergency
 - Capacity building of national psychologists through one year placements within five district hospitals
 - Training of hospital based healthcare providers
 - Community outreach and psychoeducation through community psychosocial workers
 - Advocacy with Ministry of Health
 - South Kivu Anti-Trafficking Partnership Program (South Kivu):
 - Safe house (Uvira)
 - Services: PSS, legal assistance, medical services, training in income generating activities, community reintegration follow up and support
 - With 2 local partners
 - Sensitization and advocacy

MHPSS – Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria

- HAI has been working in Nigeria since 2009 and Cote d'Ivoire since 2010
- Programs provide stigma free healthcare to key populations (KP; female sex workers, MSM, people who inject drugs) with a focus on HIV prevention and treatment
- HAI partners with grassroots peer-led organizations and primary healthcare structures
- KPs more likely to experience trauma. Research indicates link between trauma and increased risk taking behaviors and poorer health practices and outcomes.
 - Pilot project integrating PSS interventions within our service delivery structure.

MHPSS - Colombia

- HAI has been working in Colombia since 2010
- Implementing community based MHPSS services for Afro-Colombian victims of the country's protracted armed conflict
 - In partnership with local Afro-Colombian grassroots organization and national University (and in initial first 3 years in partnership with Johns Hopkins University)
 - Afro-Colombian survivors of violence trained in evidence based intervention to provide community based group and individual psychosocial support services
 - National psychologists provide office based MHPSS services within two community based treatment centers
 - Location: Pacific region of Colombia (Cali, Quibdo, Buenaventura)
 - Developed two training curricula and an intervention protocol

MHPSS - Mexico

- HAI has been working in Mexico since 2010
- School based psychosocial program:
 - Three year project launched in 2015
 - Location: Monterrey Metropolitan Area, Nuevo Leon
 - Implemented in 10 schools; grades 6-9
 - Objective: Promote positive development and community engagement in at risk, vulnerable youth
 - Developed evidence based individual risk evaluation to identify at risk youth
 - Intervention:
 - 2 curricula based PS groups for youth (primary and secondary prevention)
 - Groups/home visits for parents
 - Psychoeducation for teachers

MHPSS – Dominican Republic

- HAI has been working in DR since 2015
- Programming focused on stateless persons and individuals at risk of statelessness:
 - Education on their rights
 - Ensuring access to legal services
 - Small PSS component: Community based PS support groups
 - Implement services in partnership with a local NGO

MHPSS – Marjorie Kovler Center

- HAI's US based program (Chicago, IL)
- In existence since 1987
- Provides integrated, culturally informed services to survivors of politically sanctioned torture
- Services include: Primary healthcare, MHPSS (individual and group therapy; psychiatric services; psychosocial group activities) and case management as well as linkage to legal services
- Survivors come from over 77 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East

Questions?
Thank you!