

Development and Implementation of a Minimum Services Package (MSP) for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Humanitarian Settings

October 2018

PRESENTERS:

Mark Van Ommeren (WHO)

Fahmy Hanna (WHO)

Alison Schafer (WHO)

Zeinab Hijazi (UNICEF)

Background

September 7, 2018: The Dutch government hosted a meeting of international experts on MHPSS in conflict and emergency settings.

Objective: To identify actions the Dutch Government could develop and lead globally in three areas:

- 1-** field level programme delivery;
- 2-** global and national advocacy; and
- 3-** international financing for MHPSS in emergencies.

Outputs of the Meeting: Identification of key problems in each of the three areas and explored potential solutions.

One of the key problems identified:

While standards and guidelines exist, there is an absence of a package to assist humanitarian actors working across these sectors to **operationalise** these various standards and guidance.

A need to innovatively bring together a clear set of practical actions (or activities) for:

- 1- emergency preparedness,
- 2- the prevention of MHPSS problems, and
- 3- initial response to MHPSS needs;

... and to do so with approaches that optimise the potential for sustainable MHPSS and care across the health, child protection, and other sectors.

What is the MSP?

A Minimum Services Package (MSP) will **operationalise**:

- The **globally accepted IASC Guidelines on MHPSS in Emergency Settings**, as well as;
- Other established **guidance that includes MHPSS action**, including:
 - Sphere Standards
 - CP Minimum Standards

... to offer **predictable, costed and clear direction for optimal MHPSS programs.**

A Minimum Services Package *IS*:

- *A costed and essential package of SMART actions by humanitarian actors in emergency settings;*
- *Minimum actions implemented as a starting point for MHPSS and services;*
- *Based in evidence for effectively promoting MHPSS in emergencies and accurately pricing cost-effective activities;*
- *Developed to **operationalise existing standards**, such as Sphere and recommended actions of the IASC Guidelines for MHPSS in Emergency Settings;*
- *Stringently **demonstrated with detailed protocols for implementation** and an **evaluation** of that process;*
- *Built **collaboratively** with multiple stakeholders, experts and groups, and informed by learnings from others (including UNFPAs reproductive health team)*

A Minimum Services Package is *NOT*:

- *A set of kits, supplies or isolated activities without preparedness training or coordination;*
- *A complete MHPSS program implemented alone, without transition to broader services over time;*
- *A ‘blindly’ implemented set of activities that are **not based in evidence or without cost projections**;*
- *Highly specialized or secondary activities implemented only after recovery has begun;*

What topics will the MSP focus on?

MHPSS crosses over many sectors

As outlined in the IASC MHPSS Guidelines: **MHPSS needs to be a consideration in all aspects of emergency response.**

However, MHPSS interventions are most commonly needed, integrated and programmed in the following sectors: **health, community mobilization, nutrition, protection (including child protection) and education.**

Establishing a MSP for all sectors is necessary in the long term

→ **The first chapters of the MSP will focus on two key humanitarian response sectors: Health and [child] protection, with other topics to follow.**

What will the process for MSP development look like?

Consultations & Design

Ongoing consultation throughout phases of development & demonstration of the MSP

The design phase will:

- **Ensure all non-sectoral aspects of the guidelines** *including coordination, prevention, community mobilization, dissemination of information, human resources, human rights*, **are incorporated to the recommended and costed actions.**
- Safeguard the cross-over nature of MHPSS
 - ➔ Making sure the MSP structure, design, interventions and approaches **do not separate the concept of mental health** (such as by only being managed via health and focused predominantly on adults) **and psychosocial support** (such as by only being akin to child protection and not linked to health, education, or adult needs).

Considerations for Development

*The idea of a minimum services package is **not new in humanitarian work**. Some of UNFPA's key learnings, shared with WHO and relevant to this proposed work, include:*

- *Ensuring **multi-agency and organisation inclusion in development**, review, testing and finalisation of materials; and including local partners and member states in field level planning and implementation.*
- *Including **all phases of an emergency in the key actions of the MSP**, including emergency preparedness, preventative and curative/responsive actions;*
- *Including **multi-faceted approaches to training**, such as traditional, class-based, online, video, and other interactive resources;*
- *Planning at the outset for **systematic dissemination** of materials at national, regional and global levels, including in collaboration with clusters, working groups, donors, and member states.*

Development Strategy

WHO and UNICEF will jointly **develop and demonstrate implementation** of the MSP for MHPSS by employing a strategy that:

- **engages and involves** the relevant **health and protection** groups and clusters and their member organisations;
- builds **consensus** throughout the MSP development phases;
- **disseminates learnings** from implementation sites; and
- encourages the final MHPSS MSP to be **endorsed** (and therefore used) by the majority of humanitarian response organisations in ongoing and future emergencies.

Demonstration Sites

Five countries affected by humanitarian crises will be selected in different regions.

- ***5 countries per chapter***
(sites may overlap with joint demonstration of developed chapters)

Who is Involved? (Ideal Scenario- what we will work towards)

Various actors are involved to ensure that the MSP chapters are reviewed, demonstrated, shared and widely disseminated:

Project Steering Committee

Provide oversight and assurance of inter-sectoral representation of MSP development and implementation.

WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, IASC MHPSS Reference Group, Health Cluster, Protection Cluster, CP Alliance, CP AOR

&

Other partners (e.g., UNFPA, NGOs, iNGOs, **experts in cross-cutting issues**)

[Involved throughout project timeline]

Engagement of Key Humanitarian Actors & Consultation Groups

IASC MHPSS RG
Health Cluster
Protection Cluster
CP Alliance & CP AOR



+ Key Humanitarian Actors involved in Demonstrating use of the MSP in the field

Any
questions

