

Child and Family Working Group Update

Zeinab Hijazi (UNICEF) and Leslie Snider (MHPSS Collaborative/Save)

Co-Chairs

Members

Members

Starting (Feb 2019)

Now

Individuals

11/15

24

Agencies

10

13

UNICEF, Save, IOM, REPSSI, Plan International, Action Contre le Faim, World Vision International, MHPSS.net, Terre des Hommes, War Child

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Purpose and Objectives – Activities to date

Purpose: The overarching goal of the thematic group on mental health and psychosocial support for children and families in emergency settings is to support long-term, sustainable, systems strengthening, enhanced co-ordination and quality of MHPSS programming for children and families.

Objectives

a. Develop a guidance note on how to carry out effective community-based MHPSS programming with and for children, adolescents, youth and caregivers.

b. Lead on inter-agency planning, and technical support to the development and demonstration of MSP packages that would assist agencies in operationalising child-focused MHPSS response standards and guidance within health, child protection and education programming and activities.

Activities to date

- Insufficient funding to carry out task
- Plans to link with Community Based Approaches to MHPSS WG

- Orientation of group to MSP process and role in providing technical input and review to different stages of the process
- Direct input pending formal start of MSP project

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Objectives

- c. Contribute to development of guidance or toolkit for national level coordination to strengthen MHPSS for children, adolescents, youth and caregivers.
- align with the work on the MSP project (see point b above),
 - link with the CP AOR, and
 - build on communication and exchange with other sectors, including CP, by linking with the work of the CB Child Protection WG and the Family Strengthening WG of the CP

Activities to date

- Insufficient funding to develop guidance or toolkit
- Informed group on linkages with ECW and the MSP to strengthen cross-sectoral coordination (education and protection)
- Linkages with other sectors strengthened through:
 - CP Alliance – wellbeing work and community-based CP working group and the UASC working group
 - CP AoR – costing linked to children in need
- Invited Porticus to join working group as a representative of education and SEL Collaborative

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Objectives

d. Contribute to IASC MHPSS RG plans for building capacity and a deployable surge roster of MHPSS specialists, to include a child and family focus to meet both immediate and medium-term needs to reach children, adolescents, youth and families most in need.

e. Explore other thematic areas where links and integration with MHPSS remain absent or weak (e.g. child labor, child marriage, CP and GBV case management, etc.) and establish means and channels of technical and field engagement, and global dialogue around these thematic areas (e.g. webinars on MHPSS.net).

Activities

- To be discussed with RG co-chairs

- Input to the Paris Principles Handbooks, specific to CAAFAG
- Sought input from the group on children in detention
- Input to the wellbeing work of the CP Alliance
- Individual agencies from different sectors shared their work on various topics (e.g., MHPSS, CP, Education) – moving forward will ensure to better engage GBV