IASC

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

Setting inter-agency standards in MHPSS operations

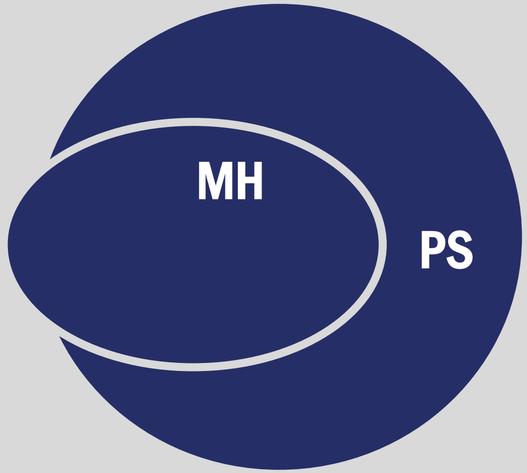
IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

Composite term and definition

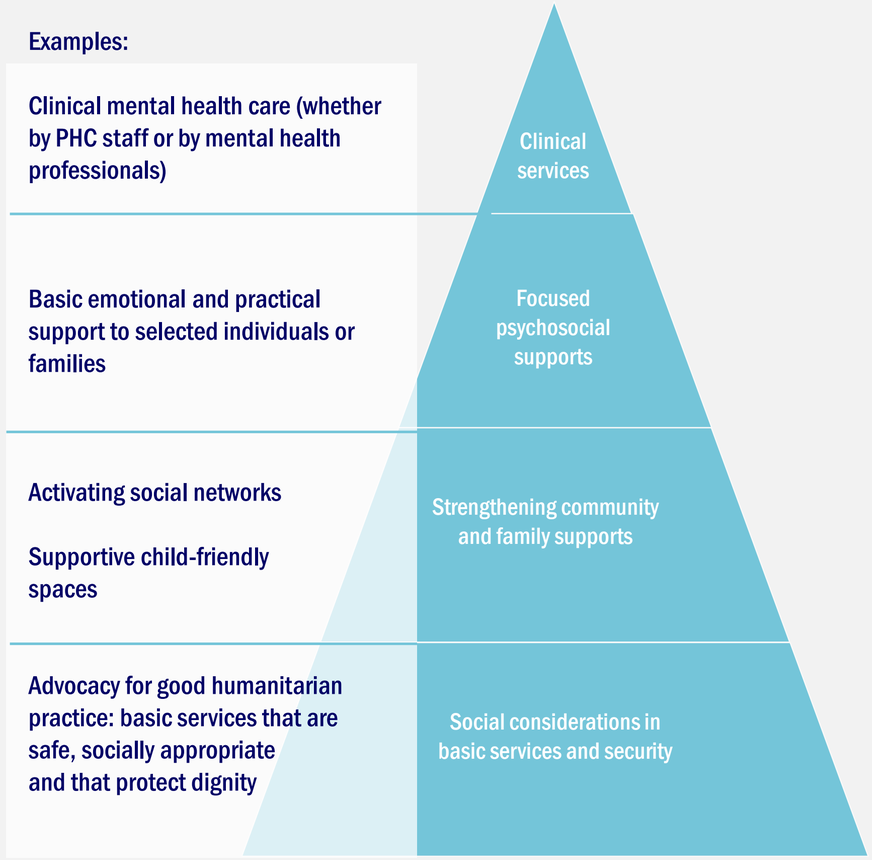
- protecting or promoting psychosocial well-being

and/or

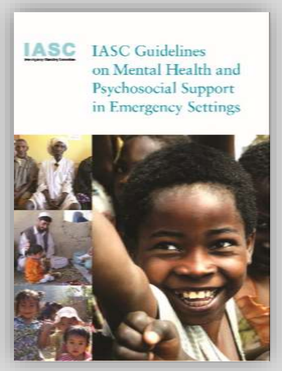
- preventing or treating mental
- health conditions.

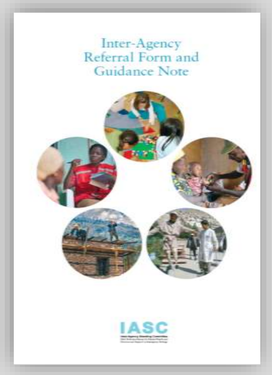


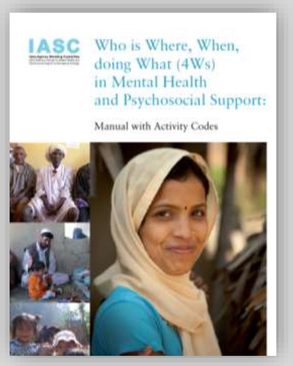
Intervention pyramid (Adapted from IASC 2007)

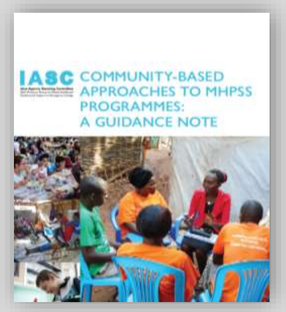


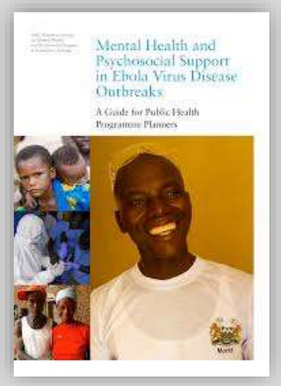
IASC MHPSS Guidelines and guidance for the field

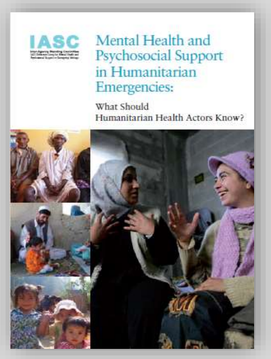












Structure of IASC MHPSS Reference Group

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

Global

- GCCG
- Results Group 2
- IASC Disability & Inclusion Task Team
- Donor MHPSS Group
- UN Peacebuilding architecture
- CP Alliance
- Standby Partners
- OCHA

OPAG and IASC Secretariat

Co-Chairs WHO & IFRC

MHPSS RG members

Country level

MHPSS Technical Working Groups in 50 countries in humanitarian contexts.

Membership

60	10	8
full members	Observers	Donor organisations

Country-level coordination of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

Humanitarian Coordinator / Government leader

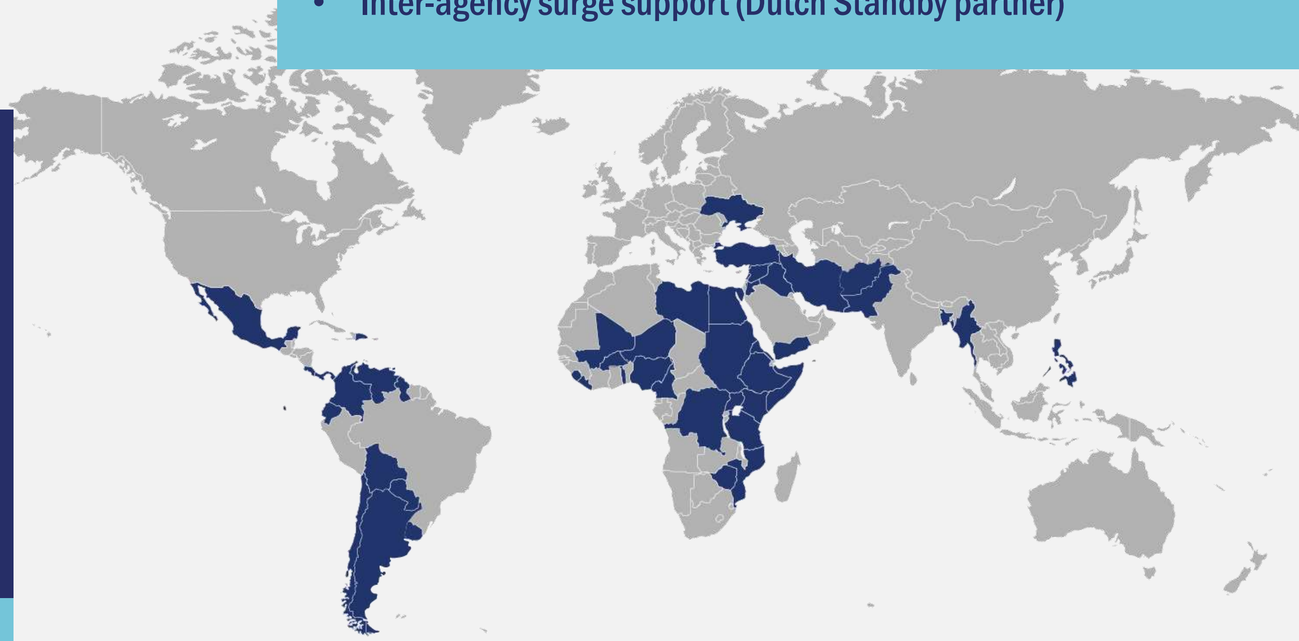
Inter-sector Coordination Group

- Health sector
- Protection sector (with Child Protection, Gender Based Violence and Mine Action AoRs)
- Education, Nutrition, CCCM and other sectors

MHPSS Cross-sectoral Working Group

(with focal points in each of the sectors and with accountability in sectors. MHPSS activities to appear as relevant within Appeal chapters, rather than in a separate stand-alone Appeal chapter)

- Teleconferences at beginning of emergencies to coordinate response
- Country support missions
- Annual retreats for MHPSS TWG co-leads
- Inter-agency surge support (Dutch Standby partner)



- MHPSS is a neglected area
- Absence of a budget code for MHPSS in the Financial Tracking System

Inter-agency MHPSS surge support

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

DUTCH ENTERPRISE AGENCY
(Dutch Surge Support)
contracts, deployments, finances, insurance, MoUs

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

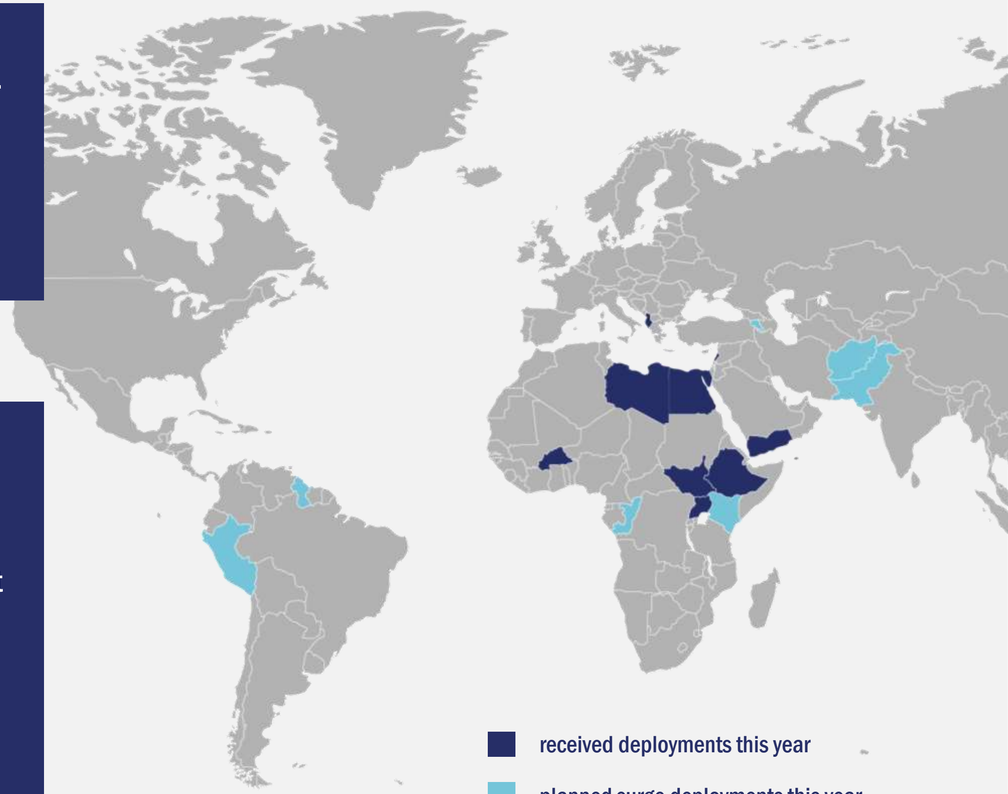
Co-Chairs of the IASC RG on MHPSS
Building & maintenance of roster, identification of persons, capacity building component, ToR development. Working on behalf of IASC MHPSS RG.

Steering Committee
IASC MHPSS RG member agencies

Request made by MHPSS RG Member Agency who has signed an MoU with DSS/NEA

MHPSS Technical Advisor hosted by one RG agency but deployed to support the work of the MHPSS WG

12 country deployments in 2020



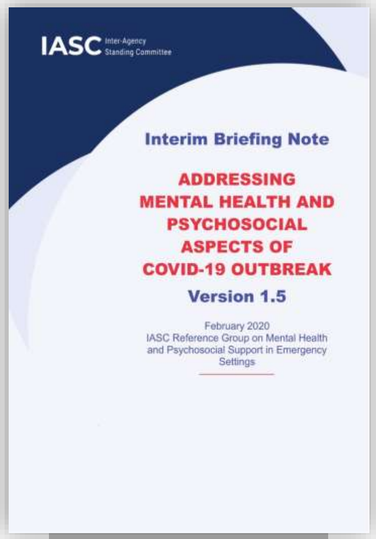
IASC MHPSS Reference Group response to COVID-19

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

MHPSS Coordination calls

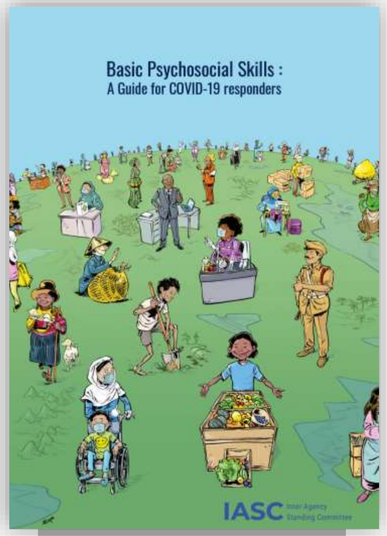
20
TCs for global MHPSS focal points for MHPSS RG Agencies.

6
TCs for Chairs of country level MHPSS TWGs in humanitarian emergencies.

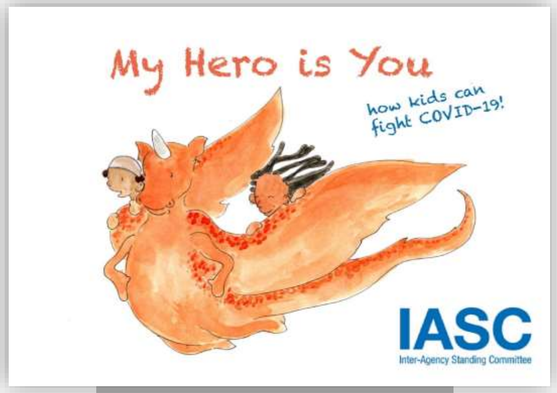


23
languages

5
languages

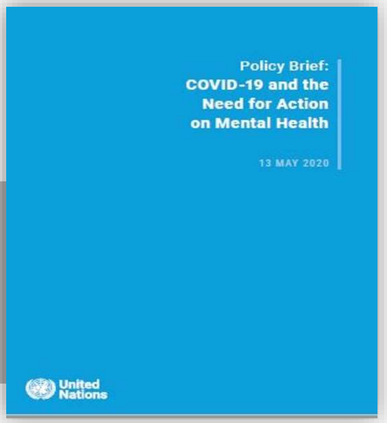


23
languages



130
Languages and **40+** accessible formats

MHPSS indicator in GHRP is country level multisectoral MHPSS Technical Working Groups in humanitarian settings (doubled during COVID-19)



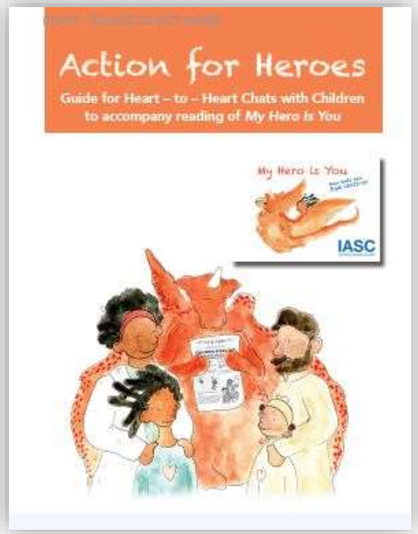
Key upcoming priorities

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

Continued technical support for country level MHPSS Technical Working Groups

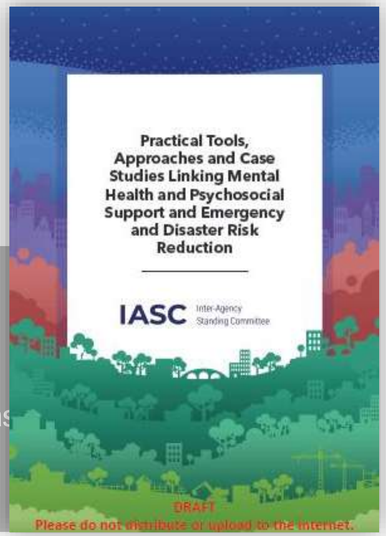
SBP Standby Partnership

Scaling up the roll-out of surge response to country-level MHPSS WGs.



Work with OCHA on an MHPSS budget code in the FTS

Disaster Risk Reduction and Peacebuilding publications documenting best practices in countries and linking both areas



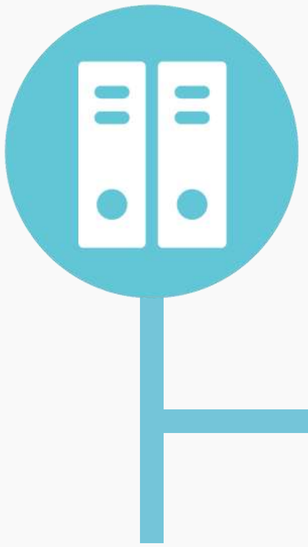
Addressing suicide in humanitarian settings through multisectoral approach.

Staff support guidance and guidance on disability inclusive MHPSS

Updated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with over 40+ Means of Verification included (data collection tools) with relevance for MHPSS, protection, nutrition, education, health and CCCM colleagues and roll-out in countries and with clusters.

MHPSS Timeline

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings



4th December 2019

MHPSS included in humanitarian planning documents: The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) released on December 4th 2019, had for the first time, an overview of global MHPSS humanitarian needs.

5th December 2019

MHPSS formally recognized as a cross-cutting issue that has relevance within health, protection, nutrition, education and Camp Management and Coordination sectors/clusters, in all emergencies. The recognition came from the Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals, highest level humanitarian coordination forum on December 5th, 2019.

MHPSS Timeline

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

17th December 2019

Global Refugee Forum

3rd February 2020

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week

MHPSS Timeline

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

12th June 2020

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

24th September 2020

UN General Assembly

MHPSS Timeline

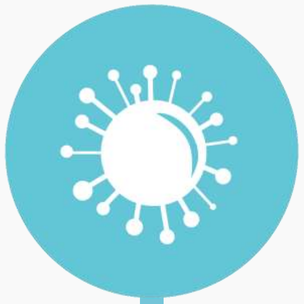
IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

3rd February 2020

MHPSS inter-agency rapid deployment launched with the first deployment on February 3rd 2020, to support inter-agency MHPSS coordination in South Sudan. Additionally, in 2020 the interagency surge deployments have been conducted to the following countries to support MHPSS coordination during the COVID 19 pandemic Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Lebanon, Libya, Peru, Guyana, Pakistan, Egypt, Albania, Yemen and Republic of Congo.

MHPSS Timeline

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings



9th April 2020

MHPSS resources for COVID-19 was developed, by the IASC MHPSS Reference Group, rapidly and in high-quality with an unprecedented global uptake by countries in all geographical regions. On April 9th, the IASC Agencies, released “My Hero is You”, Children Story Book on COVID-19, to date it is available in 130 different languages and more than 45 accessible formats, making it one of most translated humanitarian documents and books in history. Other resources by the MHPSS Reference Group, played a crucial role in low, middle and high-income countries response.

MHPSS Timeline

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

7th May 2020

MHPSS included for the first time, in Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), as a cross-cutting issue linked to the GHRP strategic priorities, and needs of vulnerable people across age and gender groups, with MHPSS activities to be implemented by UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, UNRWA and WHO.

7th May 2020

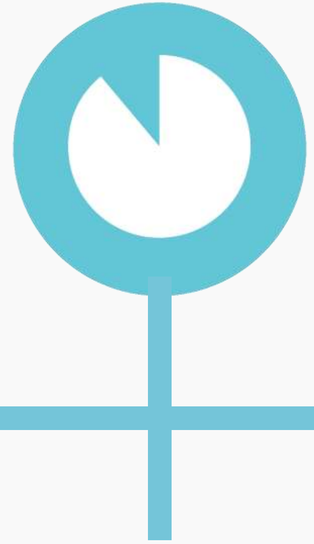
MHPSS monitoring indicators included for the first time in humanitarian multilateral response plans. The COVID-19, Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, Global Humanitarian Response Plan and the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Support to COVID-19, all have MHPSS indicators.

MHPSS Timeline

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

13th May 2020

MHPSS urgent needs acknowledged in a call for action, by the United Nations Secretary-General, (UN SG) in a dedicated UN Policy Brief and video message. UN SG recommended to Member States, UN Agencies and NGOs to integrate MHPSS as an integral component of COVID-19 response and to ensure widespread availability of emergency mental health and psychosocial support.



30th September 2020

MHPSS country-level coordination groups in humanitarian settings were doubled in 2020. On September 30th, the Global Humanitarian Progress Report reflected 42 countries with functional multisectoral MHPSS coordination groups.

MHPSS Timeline

IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IASC Reference Group for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings

5th October 2020

MHPSS included in 89% of countries COVID-19 response plans. On October 5th, WHO published an assessment report showing that out of 130 countries, responding to its survey, the vast majority (89%) of countries reported that (MHPSS) is part of their national COVID-19 response plans.