

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group
YEMEN-**

July 2018

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A) INTRODUCTION and RATIONALE

Within the context of the current humanitarian needs in Yemen the Protection and Health clusters have agreed to set up a mental health and psychosocial support technical working group, that brings together the already established PSS working group under the leadership of the child protection working group and the Mental Health task force led by MOH and the health cluster. The overall purpose of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group is to bring together stakeholders working on MHPSS and enhance the response and access to MHPSS services for displaced communities in Yemen. The working group will achieve this goal by providing timely and efficient leadership for members and promoting good practice, joint advocacy and building capacity for members. The working group adheres to the general framework of the global Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on MHPSS. All agencies and organizations working in MHPSS are therefore invited and strongly encouraged to participate. The MHPSS technical working group will operate under the coordination framework of the Protection and Health clusters under the leadership of UNHCR and WHO respectively.

B) OBJECTIVES

- Ensure an effective, coordinated and focused inter-agency response to the MHPSS needs of populations of concern in Yemen,
- Provide ongoing strategic direction, promote adherence to standards of best practice and global interagency recommendations, and develop relevant guidelines or tools for MHPSS actors when needed.
- Strengthen the safe and ethical collation, analysis and transparent sharing of data and information pertaining to MHPSS needs, priorities and activities in Yemen, including gap identification. Data analysis should also take place with existing sources such as the OCHA 5Ws data collection process through the existing cluster system.
- Inform inter-agency efforts and planning by highlighting key MHPSS issues, collectively representing the TWG interests and perspectives, and advocating for MHPSS needs and priorities within the humanitarian response.
- Ensure that quality standards are upheld by actors working in the MHPSS sector, maintaining equity and coverage, where possible.
- Coordinate the planning and implementation of joint initiatives, including training and capacity building activities.

- Promote the engagement and leadership of the government, and encourage the representation of diverse MHPSS partners and stakeholders within the WG, including government partners, UN agencies, international and local NGOs.

C) SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

I. General Coordination:

- Conduct regular inter-agency meetings with MHPSS actors to update and disseminate work progress and plans, exchange and disseminate information.
- Maintain contact with cluster focal points and relevant line ministries promoting MHPSS as a cross-cutting issue.
- Encourage the active involvement of the relevant line ministries (MOSAL & MOH) in the working group.
- Keep an updated 4Ws service mapping matrix on MHPSS and tracking geographic coverage and gaps in order to better allocate resources and avoid duplication. The MHPSS 4Ws tool does not replace the OCHA 5Ws reporting process conducted by clusters.
- Lead the setup of an efficient and functional interagency referral mechanism at both national and subnational levels
- Ensure that the MHPSS response is guided by relevant national and international policies and standards, including reference to the National Strategy for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
- Provide input to policies and plans as required, including referral systems, standard operating procedures, advocacy and resource mobilization documents.

II. Needs assessment, analysis and information sharing:

Activities:

- Participate in inter-agency assessments and mappings to gain a better understanding of the service landscape and identify gaps and duplication.
- Collate, document and share lessons learned among TWG members.
- Encourage members to join the global platform www.mhpss.net

III. Advocacy, Monitoring & Reporting:

Activities:

- Share information on best practices with all stakeholders and advocate for better quality of and better access to MHPSS services.
- Advocate vis-à-vis the donor community with the view of securing more funds for MHPSS activities.

- Develop/improve monitoring and evaluation mechanisms focusing on outcome and impact indicators that are specific to MHPSS actors working in Yemen. Include cluster leads in any discussions on indicators.
- Identify and prioritise the scale-up of key mental health and psychosocial evidence –based interventions.
- Advocate for welfare of staff as one of the principles of good practice.

IV. Technical Support and Capacity building: Ensure all agencies working in MHPSS in Yemen have received minimum training package to deliver quality MHPSS services

- Develop a capacity building plan based on interagency capacity assessments and organise training workshops to build the technical and institutional capacity of MHPSS actors.
- Promote self-care and staff care through a systemic and integrated approach that involves direct support to staff and provision of orientation sessions on stress management and self-care.
- Conduct interagency training on MHPSS targeting key stakeholders staff such as outreach workers and community mobilizers, with a focus on PFA, basic PSS, identification and referral of persons with MHPSS conditions, and psycho-education is conducted.
- Share and circulate training opportunities and tools among partners.

V. Strategy development

- Spearhead the development/review of the national MHPSS strategy ensuring it reflects and addresses the humanitarian context in Yemen.

D) GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The MHPSS SWG pledges to adhere to the following basic principles in all its activities:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confidentiality of personal information shared with the members of the working group ○ Do no harm ○ Human rights ○ Participatory approach ○ Impartiality and non-discrimination ○ Respect for cultural context ○ Neutrality and equality between members ○ Transparency and information-sharing ○ Multi-layered support |
|---|

E) ROLES, RESPONSIBILITES and MEMBERSHIP

i) Leadership

The MHPSS WG is jointly led by the **Protection and Health Clusters** with support from **MoH and MOSAL**. The chairs will divide tasks in an equal and collaborative manner, and will be responsible for:

- Represent the MHPSS WG as focal points in inter-agency, inter-sectoral and other coordination platforms.
- Act as the link between the MHPSS WG and other coordination groups, communicating relevant information to the MHPSS WG, and reporting back to the Inter-Sector, Health and Protection WGs.
- Facilitate the regular MHPSS meetings, including the preparation of agenda and required documents. Facilitate the collaborative development and implementation of the sector work plan.

ii) Membership

Members of the MHPSS WG will commit to regular participation in WG meetings, activities and initiatives. Agency focal points will represent their respective organizations and will not participate in their individual capacity. They should therefore be knowledgeable about their agency's mandate, capacities, priorities and activities. Participating members will be responsible for:

- Briefing their organization on the orientation, recommendations, and decisions of the MHPSS WG, and ensure that appropriate mechanisms of information sharing in their own agency enable communication of information back to the WG.
- MHPSS actors are responsible for effectively coordinating their programs and activities, avoiding duplication and working towards good practice standards within their own organizations.
- Active contribution of experiences, perspectives and inputs to the WG, including proactive engagement in assuming responsibilities in the distribution of sectoral tasks and initiatives.
- Serve as advocates in representing the MHPSS WG perspectives when participating in inter-agency and inter-sectoral activities.
- Upholding reporting commitments in a timely manner.
- All new agencies are required to provide a summary of intentions an indication of their geographic coverage and case load before any admission to the working group.

F) MEETINGS

The MHPSS WG meets regularly on the ----- of the month at -----am. In agreement with WG members, the sector chairs may schedule alternative dates in special circumstances, or may call for additional adhoc meetings to discuss specific issues as necessary. An agenda is shared a minimum of 3 days before the meeting and brief meeting minutes, including relevant documents, are circulated within 10 days after the meeting is held.

DRAFT