

MoM-MHPSS-TF-South-2

Date	Tuesday September 1, 2015	Venue	Lebanese Welfare Association for Handicapped - Sarafand
Time	10-11:15am	Minutes prepared by	Moataz Tayara
Organizations attending	Blue Mission, International Medical Corps, LWAH, MoPH, MSF Swiss, UNHCR, NISCUT, Intersos, Terre des Homme		
Agenda			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation by LWAF association 2. Presentation of the Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy for Lebanon 2015-2020 3. Presentation of the action plan of the MHPSS TF for 2015. 4. General Updates 			
Discussion		Action / Decision / Suggestion	
1. Presentation by LWAF association			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The presentation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A snapshot of the organization's history and mission: LWAH is dedicated to serving the disabled and its objectives are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide full rehabilitation services to the disabled including diagnosis and treatment, physical rehabilitation, psycho-social, educational and vocational rehabilitation. • Ensure the process of social integration of the disabled. • Promote and support the rights of the disabled. ○ Services offered: PHC, Physiotherapy, PSS, Ergo therapy, Radio, MRI, Panoramic, Laboratory, EEG... ○ Overview of MHPSS services offered: Psychomotor therapy, Psychological/ Psychiatric services, Assessment, Education Rehabilitation... ○ Overview of programs and activities. ○ Services are provided for all beneficiaries from all nationalities. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The presentation will be shared with all by email with the minutes. ➤ Beit Atfal Assoumoud will be presenting their programs during next meeting. 	

2. Presentation of the Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy for Lebanon 2015-2020

- The presentation included a background description of the mental health system in Lebanon prior to 2014, a summary of the process of development of the strategy and an overview of the key strategic objectives under each of the five main domains of action of the strategy.
- The strategy document, launched in May 2015, is the result of a participatory exercise involving all actors in the field of mental health and substance use in Lebanon as well as international experts. The strategy, comprising all national priorities identified by the main actors, underwent many stages of consultations that concluded with a national consensus-building meeting in April 2015 to approve its final draft.
- The document, which was shared with all by email, includes the vision, mission, values and guiding principles of the strategy; domains of action with specific goals; and strategic objectives under every domain to achieve the set goals. Objectives are presented at the end of the document by target year of achievement.
- Next steps:
 - 2015 targets: most of them have been already met; the implementation of a couple of objectives is ongoing.
 - Two of the objectives that have been achieved were:
 - 5.13.1 Develop an annual action plan for the MHPSS TF
 - 5.13.2 Update the MHPSS TF log-frame every six months
 - ➔ An action plan for the year 2015 was developed for the MHPSS TF and was updated after 6 months (in July).

3. Presentation of the action plan of the MHPSS TF for 2015.

- The Action plan of the MHPSS TF for 2015 that was developed by the TF in Beirut and which was updated in July was presented.
- The actions that have been completed are:
 - Finalization of “The “4Ws” in Lebanon: Who’s doing What, Where and Until When in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support” interventions mapping exercise report.
*The report was published in April 2015.
The data collection process is now being computerized to improve the timeliness of future reports publication. Every organization in the TF will be asked to assign a focal person to enter online the required data for the “4Ws” annual assessment.*
 - Rolling-out of mhGAP advanced trainings
A series of advanced trainings was rolled out in May 2015 on the mental health Gap Action Program- Intervention Guide (mhGAP-IG) which is a technical guide developed by WHO to train non-specialized primary health care staff on identifying, managing, and referring mental health cases. Three two-day trainings were conducted in Beirut and were attended by a total of 57 medical doctors, nurses and social workers from 31 centres across Lebanon.
 - Rolling-out of Psychological First Aid (PFA) trainings
Fifty nine nurses and social workers from around 36 centres located in Beirut, the North and the Bekaa participated in this training, which is designed to orient helpers to offer PFA to people following a serious crisis event.
 - Initiation of regular monthly regional MHPSS TF meetings.
Monthly meetings of the MHPSS TF have been started in the North and in the South.
 - Liaison with the Child Protection Working Group
A focal person from this working group is attending the MHPSS TF meetings and providing updates on the activities of the working group.

➤ The actions that are still ongoing are:

○ Conduction of a “Staff care assessment”

A sub-committee of the TF is taking care of the planning and implementation of this assessment. A proposal of the comprehensive occupational health assessment was prepared and funding was received from UNICEF and ABAAD. The staff care assessment will be conducted at an organizational and individual level in order to have a clearer picture of the staff care needs of front-line staff conducting MHPSS interventions. The aim of the project is to shape up the minimum standards and general guidelines for staff care – drawing on local and international practice and ideas. The recruitment phase has currently started and data collection will begin by the end of September.

○ Maintenance of a regularly updated training matrix for all organizations within the TF

An online training calendar will be developed for the TF. The calendar will allow all TF members to stay updated on all trainings/workshops that are taking place and will avoid the overlap of trainings in the same areas.

○ Building a good referral system

The funding for the establishment of a referral system was received from the Fundacion Promocion Social de la Cultura (FPSC). The concept note of the project was shared with all TF members by email. The project will begin this month.

○ Liaison with the SGBV TF

Contact has been established with the chair of the SGBV TF to ensure adequate liaison with the MHPSS TF.

➤ The calendar online platform will be presented during the next meeting of the TF in October.

➤ Before that, an official email will be sent to every organization in the TF for the nomination of a focal person who will be responsible of entering all the relevant details of trainings on the training calendar.

➤ In preparation of the development of the South MHPSS TF action plan for 2016, a brainstorming session will be held during the next meeting of the South TF in October to discuss potential action points to be included in the plan.

➤ Until then, to ensure a fruitful discussion during next meeting, all organizations in the TF are asked to

think of the challenges that are being faced in MHPSS work in the South and of potential solutions the TF can work on to address these challenges.

4. General Updates

Special meetings of the MHPSS TF:

- A special meeting on medications was held on August 18th to discuss and harmonize the first-line and second-line medications that are being prescribed or distributed by organizations. These lists will be shared with experts from the WHO, UNICEF and YMCA before they are finalized and shared with all. It is recommended for donors to follow these lists. It is very important to ensure harmonization from one organization to another so that if the patient goes from one location to another, the continuity of medication is preserved.
- A special meeting on the referral system project was also held on August 18th. The concept note of the project and the minutes of that meeting were shared with all by email. It was recommended to change the location of the project from the South to the Bekaa of Lebanon as the Bekaa Valley is the governorate in Lebanon hosting the highest number of displaced Syrians yet the lowest concentration of activities per 100000; and only one NGO is currently offering limited psychiatrist services.

REMINDER:

- Embrace (AUBMC) is organizing the second annual suicide memorial walk “Into the Dawn” under the patronage of the MoPH on September 13 at 5am from Beit Wared to Raouche rocks.
- The walk is to remember those we have lost to suicide and acknowledge the pain for those left behind. It aims to provide a community support environment for those who have been affected by suicide.

World Mental Health Day:

- This year’s theme is “Dignity and mental health”.
- The MoPH is developing a press release that clearly highlights key messages around dignity and mental health to all the public.
- The document will be circulated to all NGOs working in mental health for their feedback. All actors involved and wishing so will have their logos put on the press release.
- The messages in the press release can be used by all organizations in their communications for WMH Day so that their transmission can be reinforced.

WHO-AIMS Report for Lebanon

- The World Health Organization Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems (WHO-AIMS) was used to collect information on the mental health system of Lebanon.
- The report is being finalized and its results will be presented during the next TF meeting in October.

Updates from present organizations:

- MSF are currently concentrating in the South on PSS and on counseling.
- Blue Mission Organization have 3 projects in preparation:
 1. Child friendly space and PSS in Blue mission Saida (Syrian refugees, and host communities)
 2. Psychological treatment for age group 17-35 which will be implemented in November
 3. PSS and Psychological support for treatment
- TDH are working on a training calendar in Saida and Sour
- IMC will conduct an mhGAP training in the South on September 28, 29 and 30. Invitations will be sent to all organizations in the TF.

Next meeting: Tuesday October 6, 2015 at 10am in Blue Mission Organization, Saida.