

MoM-MHPSS TF-North- 3

Date	Wednesday October 7 th , 2015	Venue	RESTART Center
Time	11:40-13:00	Minutes prepared by	Farah Kerdy
Organizations attending	Hariri Foundation, Himaya, ICRC, IMC, MoPH, MSF, UNICEF, UNHCR Utopia, RESTART Center.		
Agenda			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation by Restart Center on ER staff training project 2. Presentation by Restart Center on mental health challenges in places of detention 3. Presentation of the results of the WHO-AIMS (The WHO Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems) for Lebanon 4. General Updates 			
Discussion		Action / Decision / Suggestion	
1. Presentation by Restart Center on ER staff training project			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the UNHCR funded project “<i>Mental Health Services and Psychosocial Support to Syrian Refugees in T5</i>”, RESTART Center has provided three training modules to 15 ER medical staff and PHCs in the North area in August/September 2015. - A short presentation on the lessons learned and findings of this component was conducted during the meeting. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The PowerPoint presentation to be attached with the minutes. ➤ RESTART will present the findings of this component at the central MHPSS TF meeting in Beirut on October. ➤ IMC will be providing a 10 minutes’ presentation in the next North MHPSS TF meeting. 	
2. Presentation by Restart Center on Mental Health challenges in places of detention			
<u>List of challenges in prisons reported by Restart Center:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access of prisoners to health services is not optimal with many challenges faced. Mental Health services are mainly provided by NGOs. - Patients with tuberculosis and skin diseases are not receiving optimal care; which puts them at risk of developing mental health problems and disorders. - Provision of health services to prisoners should be integrated in the primary health care system. - The Lebanese prisons do not comply with the International standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners. - No screening or mandatory medical examination at entry/upon arrival. - No screening of mental health problems/disorders. Prisoners apply to programs by choice; accordingly some inmates are still out of reach. - Serious concerns in terms of personal hygiene in prison (75 inmates 			

share same toilet).

- Dual loyalty.
- Inmates needs the permission of their cells' "Shawish" to grant access to health services.
- The prison treatment framework is not appropriate for mental health services. Only a few number of psychiatrists approve to work in prisons due to security reasons. Also, the impact of psychotherapy is very limited due to the inappropriate treatment conditions.
- Inmates with mental disorders are not segregated from other inmates.
- No mechanisms for dealing with cases of suicidal attempts.
- Medical staff inside places of detention are appointed from the Internal Security Forces. They do not have medical backgrounds/are unable to manage the medical treatments of prisoners. Also, there are some concerns with regards to the credibility of those staff.
- Costs of mental health medications are high.
- Inmates in need of hospitalization/emergencies (referral to the blue house) are not receiving the appropriate service in a timely manner. This referral requires complicated and lengthy legal procedures for approval.
- Lack of medical equipment (inmates are at risk of dying due to shortage in means of transportation).
- Health in prisons is associated with the ISF; while it should be associated with the MoPH.
- The budget set for health services is the same for both inmates and ISF members.
- The majority of patients with mental disorders are women. Women, however, are not receiving any special assistance/care.
- High rate of recidivism among prisoners (since prisons are not rehabilitative).
- Ethics-related concerns.
- Profile of prisoners is changing with the influx of inmates charged with terrorism.

- RESTART Center will be implementing an EU funded project at Kobbeh prison in Tripoli including:
 1. Establishment of a mental health unit at the prison.
 2. Provision of medical screening for inmates upon entry.
 3. Response to emergencies in a timely manner.
 4. Maintenance of the dental clinic at the prison (established by RESTART Center).

- One of the objectives of the "Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy for Lebanon 2015-2020" is to "*Develop a strategy for mental health and substance use in prisons and detention centres in coordination with relevant ministries and actors.*" (Objective 5.5.1)
- The MoPH has begun working on the development of the strategy with a situation assessment of prisons.

3. Presentation of the results of the WHO-AIMS (The WHO Assessment Instrument for Mental Health Systems) for Lebanon

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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 tool comprises six domains that are interdependent, conceptually interlinked and that all need to be assessed to form a relatively complete picture of a mental health system: 1) Policy and legislation framework, 2) Mental health services, 3) Mental health in primary health care, 4) Human resources, 5) Public education and links with other sectors and 6) Monitoring and research.➤ The assessment took place between February 2015 and July 2015, and data retrieved is based on the year 2014.➤ The results of the assessment corroborate and quantify what we already know about the Mental Health System in Lebanon: that it is mainly private, under-staffed and that non-specialists are not equipped to provide mental health services. As such, this report further exacerbates the need for all actors to cooperate and collaborate for the successful implementation of the Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy for Lebanon which aims to address all the challenges and responds to the recommendations stemming from this report.➤ This assessment exercise will be repeated every five years. The next assessment will be in 2020 and will allow us to measure the impact of the Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy for Lebanon 2015-2020. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The report will be shared with all by email once published. |
|--|---|

4. General Updates

- The MoPH has been preparing for a national mental health campaign:
 - **Theme:** *Dignity in Mental Health*
 - **Slogan:** “My mental health is my right”
- The campaign was not officially launched in October to avoid overlap with the breast cancer campaign conducted by the MoPH during that month every year. The campaign will instead be officially launched in the beginning of November.
- Next year, the campaign will be launched in September and will end on October 10 (World Mental Health Day).
 - **Informational brochures** for patients and their families have been developed and include information around the rights of persons with mental disorders and information that clarifies the roles of the different professions related to mental health.
 - **A TV spot** will be aired featuring representatives of the Ministries of Public Health, Justice and Social Affairs, Presidents of the Lebanese Psychiatric Society, Order of Nurses, Order of Pharmacists, Syndicate of Psychotherapists and Lebanese Psychological Association, and the Head of the Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC), have all joined in this TV spot to emphasize all together that mental health has a whole system in the country that is being geared to ensure equitable access to all to quality mental health services; and that all people have the right to consult and seek treatment.
- Suggestion: to alternate the meeting location of the North MHPSS TF between Tripoli and Qobayat in order to ensure participation of mental health partners operating in Akkar area. UNHCR are willing to host meetings in Qobayat.

- Organizations interested in receiving brochure packages can send an email to Ms. Nour Kik (MoPH).
- Decision will be made during the next task force meeting to ensure that more organizations are informed and to ensure decision is made based on consensus.
- In preparation for next meeting, all participants are invited to **review the list of identified challenges and potential action points of the TF for 2016** from the first brainstorming session on the action plan. A second brainstorming session will take place during the next meeting in November.

Next meeting: Wednesday November 4, 2015 from 11:30 am to 12:45pm at Restart Center Conference Room (2), Tripoli