

Mental Health For All

Psychosocial support (PSS) for people in need in emergency contexts

Background

Mental health and access to mental health care are basic human rights. As an acknowledgement of this, the Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly adopted the WHO's Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 in May 2013. In 2019, the action plan was extended until 2030 by the Seventy-second World Health Assembly. One of its objectives is to provide comprehensive, integrated and responsive mental health and social care services in community-based settings. Notably, the plan highlights the necessity of widely available mental health services and community psychosocial supports when planning for humanitarian emergency response and recovery. However, a significant gap of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) has long been recognized in humanitarian settings. The importance and value of MHPSS has been underestimated.

According to the WHO, among people who have experienced war or other conflicts in the previous 10 years, over one in five (22%) will have depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia, and an even higher rate of trauma-related psychological problems can be seen in children. The relationship between emergencies and mental health is clear.

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Still, in recent years, natural disasters and conflicts have rapidly increased the demand for mental health services. Events like the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, forced displacement from natural disasters, and armed conflicts and wars, such as the ongoing Russo-Ukraine War, all further drive the need for MHPSS.

Mental health conditions contribute to poor health outcomes, premature death, and human rights violations; therefore, to ensure universal health coverage, mental health must be an integral part of any larger health plan. Different approaches must be taken in emergency contexts to bridge the gap by raising awareness, providing PSS first aid, and enhancing local capacities and mobilizing resources, so that mental health care can be strengthened to better help people in critical and vulnerable conditions.

Objective

To share knowledge and experiences of how we could better assist people in need by providing psychosocial support in emergency contexts.

Date: May 22nd, 2023

Times: 18:00-19:35, Geneva Time

Venue: Paris meeting room Inter Continental Genève

Registration: <https://reurl.cc/6NR4ar>



Registration

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Date: **May 22 , 2023**

Time: **18:00–19:35 Geneva Time**

Venue: Paris meeting room, InterContinental Genève, 7-9 Chemin du Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland

Refreshments shall be served

Agenda

18:00–18:10 **Registration**

18:10–18:15 **Opening remarks**

Dr. Jui-Yuan Hsueh

Minister

Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan

18:15–18:25 **Panel introduction by Moderator**

Ms. Blerta Spahiu

Head of Child Protection Sector

Terre des hommes Foundation

18:25–18:40

**Keynote:
Taiwan's experience of
strengthening mental health
in the COVID-19 pandemic**

Dr. Shur-Fen Gau

Vice-Superintendent

National Taiwan University Hospital

18:40–18:50

**1. Including MHPSS within
humanitarian response and
existing health care systems**

Dr. Peter Kaiser

Global Mental Health Adviser

Malteser International

18:50–19:00

**2. Investing in MHPSS:
TaiwanICDF's new approach to
humanitarian assistance**

Ms. Cathy Wang

Director of Humanitarian Assistance Department

TaiwanICDF

19:00–19:10

**3. Global partnership: Building
sustainable MHPSS in
humanitarian crises**

Dr. SEONG Ha Eun Marcellino

Representative

Good Neighbors International Cooperation Office,

Geneva

19:10–19:25

Q&A Moderation

Ms. Blerta Spahiu

Head of Child Protection Sector

Terre des hommes Foundation

19:25–19:30

Closing remarks

H.E. Amb. Timothy T. Y. Hsiang

Secretary General

TaiwanICDF



Registration