

This document serves as a resource highlighting various UN agencies and their mental health related activities. The information provided was gathered largely via public information, and United for Global Mental Health will be reaching out to organisations for further input. This document does not contain information regarding the specific agency's COVID-19 response, for this information see our COVID-19 funding brief, and if you want to learn more about specific UN pooled funds, see our UN Pooled Funds brief.

World Health Organization (WHO)



According to data from the [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation](#), the WHO channelled USD \$28.4 million in development assistance to mental health (DAMH) in 2018.

The WHO's [Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020](#) sets out the indicators to step up action and improve mental health globally, and has been extended to 2030. WHO monitors the progress of each country towards the achievement of the goals, targets and indicators in the [WHO Mental Health Atlas](#).

The WHO's [Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health](#) (2008-2017) and Mental Health Action Plan (2013-2020) outline relevant principles, objectives and implementation strategies to promote good mental health in the workplace. To assist organisations and workers, WHO produced the "Protecting Workers' Health" series which provides guidance on common issues such as harassment and stress that can affect the health of workers. The WHO plans to work with Wellcome Trust, and the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** to [create new guidelines](#) to address the actions required to help prevent, manage and overcome mental health conditions.

The WHO is the leading agency in technical advice on mental health and emergencies and co-chairs the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings.

The WHO is spearheading the [Special Initiative for Mental Health](#), which aims to support access to quality and affordable community based mental health care for 100 million more people in 12 countries. The first group of countries that will be included in the initiative include: Paraguay, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Jordan, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

The WHO has created various [global guidelines](#) about mental health and substance abuse, and hosts an online platform, [MiNDbank](#), bringing together international resources and national policies and laws covering mental health, substance abuse, disability, general health, human rights and development.

The WHO's [QualityRights](#) initiative aims to promote the human rights of people with mental health conditions while improving their access to high quality services. The [QualityRights tool kit](#) provides countries with practical information and tools for assessing and improving quality and human rights standards in mental health and social care facilities. The Toolkit is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is designed for use in low-, middle- and high-income countries.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) is an institutional priority for UNICEF, is core to UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and remains a fundamental part of [UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children \(CCC\) in Humanitarian Action](#), revised in 2020. UNICEF and its partners provide MHPSS to children, adolescents, and caregivers across sectors and in different settings, with a special focus on low resource and humanitarian settings.

In line with [UNICEF's Technical Note on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#), UNICEF incorporates MHPSS approaches across sectors to support children, adolescent, and family's mental health and psychosocial well-being, with strategic results on nurturing care for the first 1000 days, child protection, violence prevention, maternal and child health, and early childhood education as crucial accelerators for good mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.

The [Operational guidelines on community based mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian settings: Three-tiered support for children and families](#) were developed to guide field level action, through an operational framework that emphasizes engaging actors at all levels (children, caregivers, families and community service providers) to design and implement MHPSS strategies that are locally relevant, comprehensive and sustainable in order to more effectively restore, strengthen, and mobilize family and community supports and systems with the ultimate goal of supporting child and family wellbeing in humanitarian settings.

UNICEF has co-chaired the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) MHPSS Reference Group (RG)** for over 6 years, and supported the implementation of key priorities for improving MHPSS response in emergency settings, including the development of the [IASC MHPSS guidelines](#) in emergency settings in 2007 and a common [M&E framework for MHPSS in humanitarian settings](#).

In partnership with WHO, UNICEF is *supporting and accelerating key strategic efforts* to address the significant gap in MHPSS for children and families in both humanitarian and development settings. Key global projects include:

1. **Helping Adolescents Thrive (HAT)** guidelines and intervention package for promotion of mental health, prevention of mental health conditions, strengthening of protective factors, and reduction of risk behaviors among adolescents;
2. **A costed Minimum Services Package priority MHPSS** actions and interventions to be carried out through Child Protection, Education and Health by humanitarian actors responding to initial MHPSS needs in both new emergencies and ongoing protracted conflict settings;

UNICEF supports [Makani](#) (My Space) centres across Jordan. Makani is an integrated education, child protection and youth engagement programme that provides services to marginalized children and their caregivers.

UNICEF is currently developing a data collection tool, Measurement of Mental Health Among Adolescents at the Population Level ([MMAP](#)) that will gather data on adolescent mental health in low and middle income countries.

The [Adolescent Kit for Expression and Innovation](#), developed by UNICEF, is a package of guidance, tools and supplies to encourage creative responses among adolescents aged 10

to 18 affected by conflict and other crises. It has been utilised in 21 countries around the world, reaching 160,000 children.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



The integration of mental health and psychological and social support in healthcare systems is a key element of UNHCR's work. As highlighted in the [Global Appeal 2020-2021](#), UNHCR continues to support partners with tools and capacity-building to integrate mental health care into general health care and introduce scalable psychological interventions. This includes providing an integrated response for refugees that are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), including psychosocial support, linking MHPSS in the Middle-East North Africa protection response strategy, and supporting the development of the **Minimum Services Package** with **WHO** and **UNICEF**.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



In the publication, [Mental, Sexual & Reproductive Health](#), UNFPA calls for mental health to be integrated into sexual and reproductive health policies, strategies, programmes, services, statistics, training and publications. UNFPA also works in emergency settings to provide psychosocial care for GBV survivors and developed a [Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies](#) to assist with GBV survivors in attaining access to MHPSS.

[UNFPA's Humanitarian Overview for 2020](#) calls for the expansion and integration of MHPSS in humanitarian programmes. Interventions supported by UNFPA include psychological first aid, safe spaces for women and girls that provide psychosocial activities, focused case management support for GBV, mobile teams of psychologists, and referrals to specialized mental health care.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



The primary role of UNDP is to support country-led efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNDP has been working in various capacities to support mental health programmes globally. This includes support to [Ukraine](#) since 2015, assisting with procuring medicines for children with mental disorders, in [Gaza](#) working to build back better educational facilities for children with child friendly spaces; and mental health support, and assisting response workers and Ebola survivors in [Liberia](#) with psychosocial support. UNDP also operates in humanitarian contexts, and works on development issues that require multisectoral action across economic, social and environmental issues.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the empowerment of Women (UN Women)



UN Women manages the [UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women](#) and operates in humanitarian contexts, co-chairing and serving as the Secretariat of the Reference Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action, part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Mental health care is one of the six essential services for addressing the needs of survivors of violence (developed by various UN agencies), and UN Women continues to champion mental health services for survivors of violence.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)



UNRWA has contributed to the welfare and human development of Palestine refugees and operates in the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. The Protection Division provides strategy for the implementation of MHPSS. The UNRWA [MHPSS framework](#) serves as a guideline for MHPSS interventions and their impact across the agency.

UN AIDS



UN AIDS is working to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the [2016-2021 Strategy](#), UN AIDS recognises the importance of integration of mental health in HIV/AIDS programmes. The organisation has published [documents](#) on this theme and has advocated for integration at key global moments, including [World Mental Health Day](#).