

[WEBINAR] TELEMENTAL HEALTH IN MHPSS: LESSON LEARNED AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Wednesday May 20, 2020, 2:00-3:30 (Bangladesh Local Time)

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WHO has declared the COVID 19 as a pandemic since March 11, 2020. Since March, People are in fear, uncertainty, psychological distress, tension and commit suicide due to many social, economic and psychological stressors.

To response this public health response, many mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) staffs are scare and reluctant to provide the support in person. To reduce this gap and response this crisis, telemental has come forward as an alternative solution and continuing the MHPSS to people. Still many challenges, ethical issues, treatment procedure is questionable to health policy makers, MHPSS professionals and practitioners. To learn those questions' answers encouraging to you to attend this webinar and share your creative idea, thoughts and criticism.

Introducing the webinar, Shailendra Gujarathi, Head of Department for Mental Health, Care Practices, Gender & Protection with ACF Bangladesh, will give a brief overview telemental initiatives which has taken by his organization for host and refugee community.

Alex Ssimbwa, PSS Delegate- Danish Red Cross, Bangladesh, will focus on Remote PFA, the experience of Red Cross and Red Crescent movement in Bangladesh.

Finally, three tele counselors from SKUS, IOM and FIVDB will join focus on their personal experiences managing cases by using tele platform.

About the presenters

Shailendra Gujarathi, Clinical Psychologist, currently Head of Department for Mental Health, Care Practices, Gender & Protection with ACF Bangladesh has 12 years of industry experience in Mental Health programming. Shailendra brings to humanitarian effort core MHPSS and clinical skillsets for management of community-based emergency programs, interventions related to maternal & child health, early childhood development, and adolescent mental health with critical focus on trauma-informed individual and group psychotherapies. He has been Gender Champion with ACF in India, Middle East, and Bangladesh for International Gender Unit since 2016.



Alex Ssimbwa works with the Danish Red Cross in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh as a Psychosocial support delegate since March 2018. He is a social worker by profession with over 19 years of field experience

working with community bases psychosocial support in different countries like Uganda, Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone. He has worked as a technical PSS delegate in response to epidemics, natural disasters, and civil conflicts. Alex has a master's Arts Degree in Social Work and Bachelors in Education.

Tele Counselor



Sayeda Jhinu Nasrin, Sr. Counselor, IOM

Sayeda Nasrin Jinhua is Psychologist from Bangladesh, and working as a Sr. Counselor with IOM since July 2018. She has experience in tele counseling more than one and half year. As a response of COVID-19, she is providing tele-mental health service for refugees and host community. She is also MHPSS field focal in Camp-9.



Tariqul Islam, PSS Coordinator, SKUS

Tariqul Islam is a psychologist working with SKUS (www.skus-bd.org) as a PSS coordinator since 2018 in Cox's bazar to Rohingya response. SKUS integrated MHPSS program with child protection and education program in camp and host community. To COVID-19 response, SKUS has recently started a tele-counselling services for Rohingya and host community people, Tariqul Islam is playing a role as a tele counselor and responsible for this program also.



Mousumi Akther Santa, Technical Specialist-Clinical Psychologist, FIVDB

Mousumi Akther Santa has started working with FIVDB since October 2019. She is providing mental health and psychosocial services in host community (Ukhiya and Teknaf) and Rohingya community (camp-14 and camp-21). Due to pandemic situation, FIVDB has changed work modality and started Tele-counseling services and referral services for host community from 1st May 2020.

About the moderator:

Mahmuda, a psychologist from Bangladesh, is Assistant MHPSS Officer with UNHCR in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh. She has been working with Rohingya refugees more than 7 years, initially with the INGO Action Against Hunger (ACF) and subsequently with UNHCR for more than 5 years. Before, she was a research assistant in a project of Johns Hopkins University and Government of Bangladesh. She has degrees in Psychology and Public Health.

Other questions about the webinar:

If you have any queries regarding the webinar, please contact via [e-mail at mhpsscox@gmail.com](mailto:mhpsscox@gmail.com).