A ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT COMMITMENTS ON ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS 2020 - 2023

PHYSICAL CO-LEADS WORKSHOP

TAKING STOCK OF THE PROGRESS OF THE ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION

Copenhagen (Denmark), September 2022

WHAT ARE THE WORKING GROUPS DOING IN THE END OF 2022 AND BEYOND?

WHAT IS THE ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

In December 2019, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopted a set of commitments addressing mental health and psychosocial support needs. These commitments are set out in Resolution 2 of the 33rd International Conference and Resolution 5 of the 2019 Council of Delegates, including the Movement policy. The policy and resolutions have been operationalized into a Roadmap for implementation which identifies six Priority Action Areas and outlines the outputs and outcomes expected by 2023. Five Working Groups (WG) were established in 2021 and continue to support the IFRC, the ICRC and the National Societies (NS) in their commitments to the Roadmap for Implementation and its six priority action areas.

WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE PHYSICAL CO-LEADS MEETING AND WHAT WERE THE MAIN TAKE AWAYS FROM THE WORKSHOP?

The Physical Co-leads meeting was a 3-day workshop internal to the Movement and organized by the Interim Coordination Structure, which is comprised of representatives from the ICRC, IFRC and the IFRC PS Centre and co-hosted by the Danish Red Cross. Each Working Group (WG) has two co-leads which were invited to join the workshop to look back at the achievements of 2022 and to plan for the coming year together with the Interim Coordination Structure. The agenda included interactive peer support sessions with focus on learning and progress, space for discussions around challenges and needs, as well as synergies between the Working Groups in their 2023-planning, among other areas. The programme further invited two inspiring, external presenters; Mark van Ommeren, Head of the Mental Health Unit within the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance, presenting the World mental health report: transforming mental health for all and a session on global advocacy with Elisha London, advisor to leading global companies, donors and investors on mental health, founder and CEO of Prospira. Lastly, the physical meeting was an opportunity for new and old members of the Working Groups and Interim Coordination Structure to get to know one another beyond the borders of a computer screen.
Priority Action Area/Working Group 1:

Plan for 2022/2023 is to **continue the mapping of basic psychosocial courses, monitor & evaluation basic tools and key contacts/networks** using spreadsheets. In 2023 a special focus will be on **stigma resources**.

Another aspect of the PAA 1 is to **ensure integration across sectors**, hence the next step is to reach out to the identified and prioritized networks and contacts and ensure integration of the resources across sectors.

Priority Action Area/Working Group 2:

The outputs so far are a **Memorandums of Understanding** (partnership level) and a **project document for the integration of MHPSS** (technical level). The next steps are **field testing** the documents and present the findings incl. lessons-learned and recommendations. In 2023 former priority contexts will be invited to join the WG2 monthly meetings with a focus on how the previous partnerships came about and lessons learned.

Priority Action Area/Working Group 3:

The **e-learning module** is being worked on until the end of 2022 and will be hosted at the IFRC Learning platform once it is finalized. The E-Learning has three aims: 1) raise awareness, 2) motivate the leaders to act upon MHPSS needs, 3) be a toolkit including practical suggestions and links to further reading. A specialized e-learning company will develop the nugget and the content will be based on the input of the working group members among other actors.
Priority Action Area/Working Group 4:

A series of four webinars on Assessment, Monitoring & Evaluation, Research & Cultural Adaptation is planned for 2023. This will be an opportunity to showcase good practices of NS. WG4 will also support two research projects: Firstly, to investigate the challenges NS face when implementing and contextualizing M&E and to provide recommendations. Secondly, to promote MHPSS research in the Movement a consultant will identify and establish a set of “how to” resources for NS.

A subgroup with a focus on digital MHPSS services is identifying and mapping promising digital approaches that help guarantee a basic level of psychological support to more people and to protect/promote the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of staff/volunteers. Through collaborative development this Digital MHPSS Workgroup aims to finalize a toolkit with practical guidance on how to develop digital MHPSS services in the Movement.

Priority Action Area 5&6/Working Group 5:

The continuous goal for 2023 is to identify outreach opportunities in collaboration with NS and to prioritize key high-level events so as to ensure MHPSS in the Movement is represented. Further, the plan for 2023 is to engage with the top 10 MHPSS donors identified and strategize with NS on the best way forward to strengthen the resource mobilization for MHPSS.

MHPSS in the Movement Podcasts:

Eva Svoboda, Deputy Director of International Law, Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy, ICRC, and co-lead of WGs, shares her reflections on how to advocate for MHPSS in this podcast. Listen here!

Dr Sarah Davidson, Head of MHPSS at British Red Cross, and Sarah Harrison, Technical Team Lead at the IFRC PS Centre, share how MHPSS can be integrated across sectors. Listen here!

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