



Delivery of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Services

Minimum Service Package for MHPSS in South Sudan

Country

South Sudan

Population

Malakal and Bor Counties

Duration

Dec 2021 – Sept 2022

Partners

Caritas Malakal
Collaborating with War
Child Holland

Background

South Sudan remains one of the most fragile, conflict and violence-affected countries in the world. Intercommunal violence and ongoing conflicts have caused massive human displacement, loss of life and livelihood and has inflicted widespread sexual violence, injury and trauma. In the last two years, the situation has further exacerbated due to renewed conflict, major flooding and the impact of COVID-19 on the population. Women and girls continue to face extreme levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and psychosocial distress. Loss of loved ones, kidnapping of children in armed groups, childhood abuse and neglect, child marriage, SGBV, food insecurity, loss of homes and assets including livestock, long-term physical health conditions and significant trauma have all contributed to increasing psychosocial distress and mental health concerns.

South Sudan's health systems are inadequate and fail to address the health, mental health and psychosocial needs of the population. One post-conflict study revealed 36% of sampled population met criteria of post-traumatic stress disorder and 50% for depression (BMC Psychiatry, 2009).

Project objectives

HealthNet TPO strives to reduce suffering and improve mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of those people affected by humanitarian crises.

The project focuses on the integration of MHPSS into the health sector and others sectors including protection and SGBV, that will have a cascading effects on interventions at the community level.

The project is an extension of current MHPSS activities under the Women, Peace and Security programme (Leaders of Peace) currently implemented in seven counties of five states (Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Lakes and Unity) to two new locations (Bor and Malakar). The project supports community groups and enhances knowledge of available MHPSS services, legal protection and SGBV services including strengthening the case management and referral services.

The project will support and strengthen the existing MHPSS Technical Working Group (TWG) to deliver the functioning of a single cross-sectional MHPSS TWG as a national platform for effective MHPSS programming. Interventions will complement the existing efforts of the national technical working group's inter-agency coordination and assessment for the MHPSS response.

Activities

- Create awareness on mental health and psychosocial issues affecting people for the population in Bor and Malakal counties.
- Selected 10 health facilities (2 hospitals and 8 primary health care centres) are equipped with tools and medical supplies to provide clinical treatment for people suffering with mental health diseases, and two safe and women-friendly spaces are established in the hospitals.
- 30 Psychosocial Focal Points (PFPs) are selected in the communities, trained and supported to provide psychosocial first aid and counselling while identifying and referring severe mental health conditions to the established facilities for appropriate management and follow-up.
- Clinical staff including doctors, nurses, clinical officers and midwives in the selected health facilities are trained using the mhGAP guideline of WHO to provide clinical care and management for patients suffering with severe forms of mental disease.
- Trained PFPs and clinical staff's capacity and skills are continuously enhanced through post-training follow-ups and regular supportive supervisions during which, on-the-job mentoring, coaching and guidance will be provided to ensure delivery of quality mental healthcare services to patients.

With support from



HealthNet TPO

is an international non-profit organisation that supports communities in fragile and conflict affected settings to regain control and maintain their own health and wellbeing. We believe that everyone has the inner strength to (re)build a better future for themselves and those around them.

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