

# Challenges in Field Operations

## IMC MHPSS experience

IMC MHPSS program- Lebanon

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# OUR MISSION

To build **sustainable local capacities** and provide comprehensive, integrated and **community based mental health services** and **psychosocial support activities** that promote the resilience and overall wellbeing of vulnerable refugees, internally displaced people and host populations

# Overview of MHPSS activities in Lebanon

- **Integrated Mental Health and Psychosocial Services** provided by case management teams including **case managers, psychotherapists and psychiatrists** as well as trained PHC providers
- **Community Education and Awareness** activities around mental health, psychosocial and protection issues.

# Overview of MHPSS activities in Lebanon

- **Advocacy, Mapping & Coordination** provided through our support to the national mental health programme and MHPSS taskforce working groups

# Challenges affecting the implementation

- Lack of **sustainable multi-year Funding** can threaten programs sustainability and the ability to initiate development-oriented programming

# Challenges affecting the implementation

- We must continuously advocate for MHPSS with donors and different sectors – sometimes not seen as major need
- Significant delays gaining authorization to continue or to start new programmes involving psycho-social support

# Challenges affecting the implementation

- Lack in the adaptation of activities to local context can affect the outcomes, and the ability to meet community needs
- Lack of coordination can result in Duplication of services.

# Challenges affecting the implementation

- Conducting training of trainers without **follow-up supervision** can affect the capacity building of future trainers



# Recommendations to ensure sustainability and coordination

- 1) Integration of **mental health services** into **primary healthcare** that will improve the availability, quality, acceptability and accessibility of mental healthcare, while reducing costs and stigma towards service users.

Focusing on evidence based PSS interventions and brief therapy approaches

# Recommendations to ensure sustainability and coordination

2) Participation of **families and community** in the **design** and **implementation** of various constructive activities and ensuring adaptation to local context

# Recommendations to ensure sustainability and coordination

- 3) Building the capacities of local NGOs and trainings of community members** in facilitating community based activities through training of trainers and a peer leadership model.

# Recommendations to ensure sustainability and coordination

4) Develop and use monitoring and evaluation systems, tools, and core indicators, for measuring outcomes of mental health programming and integration

# Recommendations to ensure sustainability and coordination

**5) Coordinating Services and referral mechanisms**  
between agencies, involved ministries/local actors and  
on sector level is critical to meet the needs of  
beneficiaries and avoid duplication

# Recommendations to ensure sustainability and coordination

6) Regularly promote MHPSS at the global and national levels meetings with governments, international organizations, policy makers and donors

# Recommendations to ensure sustainability and coordination

In Lebanon, we've been supporting the National Mental Health Programme within the Ministry of Health in the development and implementation of their national mental health strategy since 2015 to build sustainable interventions that will have positive benefits far into the future.

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# Conclusion

## Opinion piece from IMC HQ global MHPSS program

- “If we truly aim for development through health, we need stronger investment in effective, integrated and low cost MHPSS programs.



# Thank You

## Q/A