



Concept Note

Building Bridges in Displacement

Expert Meeting on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support & Gender-Based Violence across the Nexus

31st May 2023

German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Bonn (hybrid)

[Access livestream here](#)

It is vital to ensure the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing and protection of displaced persons and host communities in need. This can only be done successfully if action is taken all along the HDP-Nexus and through integrated, long-term approaches.

The expert meeting on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) interventions in emergency and displacement contexts brings together stakeholders working in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Across the thematic spectrum interventions and promising practices from policy, implementation, and research as well as ways of working on these topics across the HDP-Nexus are discussed.

The meeting is hosted by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with GIZ, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, UNICEF, and WarChild.

Aims

The event aims to bring together key stakeholders across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus in the field of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to achieve the following objectives:

- Strengthening wellbeing of displaced children and families by fostering cooperation across the HDP-Nexus
- Contributing to a feminist lens to displacement situations through lessons learned on MHPSS in displacement
- Discussing innovative developments on MHPSS and GBV and exploring the intersections between two to fostering linkages between actors for future collaborative projects
- Strategising advocacy points for the forthcoming second Global Refugee Forum and other relevant policy fora

This meeting will address the existing programmed frameworks and gaps across the continuum of interventions in this intersecting space, and how the distinct areas of work can contribute to a common goal. Building on the 2022 UNHCR-led ExCom Conclusions on MHPSS, the event aims to look at innovative developments on MHPSS and GBV in displacement towards the upcoming Global Refugee Forum and other relevant fora. It takes into consideration synergies with the important work of coordination mechanisms, such as the Inter Agency Standing Committee MHPSS Reference Group and GBV Area of Responsibility, MHPSS-GBV Task Team.

The livestreamed public segment is part of a two-day expert meeting delving into the intersections between Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the Nexus and highlighting implementation approaches.

Agenda

Facilitators: Dr. Stephanie Schell-Faucon, GIZ & Ann Willhoite, UNICEF

31 st May 2023	
09:30	<p>Opening Dr. Elke Löbel, BMZ & Tasha Gill, UNICEF</p>
	<p>Spotlight: Stories from Families in Crisis <i>Conversation with</i> Nadia Khouri, Tahaddi Lebanon & Samer Kurdi, Collateral Repair Project, Jordan</p>
	<p>Panel Discussion I: Wellbeing of Displaced Persons across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus <i>Opening:</i> Carmen Valle-Trabadelo, MHPSS Reference Group, Interagency Standing Committee <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joanna Darmanin, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), European Commission - Dr. Valentyna Mazhbits, Charité - Dr. Theresa Betancourt, Boston College
	Q & A
10:50 – 11:20	<i>Break</i>
11:20	<p>Reflection on Refugee Participation Shaza Alrihawi, Action Network on Forced Displacement & Global Refugee-led Network</p>
	<p>Panel Discussion II: Approaches to Feminist MHPSS and GBV in Crisis Settings <i>Opening:</i> Priya Joshi, GBV-MHPSS Task Team, GBV Area of Responsibility <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ananda Galappatti, mhps.net - Myriam Claire Baker, Anti-Racism Movement Lebanon - tbc
	<p>Spotlight: Addressing GBV & MHPSS Needs in the First Decade Meghan O'Connor, UNICEF</p>
	Q & A
	<p>Summary and Way Forward Dr. Elke Löbel, BMZ</p>
12:30	<i>End</i>