

Who Cares: Increasing Knowledge and Partnerships on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Helpers in Pandemics and Conflicts

Project Fact Sheet, 2023-2024

CONTEXT

As MHPSS becomes increasingly important for helpers and responders in conflicts and pandemics, such as the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Ukraine, and COVID-19 pandemic, this requires:

- New forms of support for helpers
- Increase in knowledge exchange and networking on new forms of support

PROJECT PROFILE

Objectives

- 1) Ensuring evidence based MHPSS for helpers in conflicts and pandemics
- 2) Collecting evidence on MHPSS for helpers in conflicts and pandemics
- 3) Piloting training concepts to create a link between knowledge collected and capacity building
- 4) Bridging the gap between science and practice by building sustainable networks
- 5) Ensuring sustainability of the Who Cares library by transferring materials to the UCPKN Platform Knowledge Library

Target groups

Strengthened national and regional MHPSS networks, wider UCPM knowledge network, Austrian Red Cross, Armenian Red Cross, Georgia Red Cross, all helpers and responders

Key partners

University of Innsbruck (Coordinator), Austrian Red Cross, Armenian Red Cross, Georgia Red Cross, Ilia State University, Tbilisi State University, University of Kyiv

Associated beneficiaries

Emergency Management Service Georgia (EMS-G), Ministry of Emergency Situations Armenia (MES-A), IFRC Country Cluster Office South Caucasus, IFRC Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Duration

24 months
January 2023 – December 2024

Donors

European Union Civil Protection Mechanism
Austrian Development Cooperation

ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

- Knowledge will be generated by carefully planning and supporting research throughout the project
- Mixed-Methods will be used to assess needs, challenges and gaps as well as best practices in helper support during conflicts
- Specific risks will be addressed and knowledge from scientific approaches will be transferred through trainings
- Networks will be strengthened and ownership of network partners from academia, practitioners and authorities increased
- Networks with partners in Ukraine will be established.
- The Regional Networks in Ukraine will be linked to other Networks including the South Caucasus MHPSS Network
- Best-practices for MHPSS activities for helpers are collected in real-time while the pandemic and conflicts are ongoing
- Knowledge and best practices will be shared through the online media library, media and social media campaigns, and national conferences

DELIVERABLES

- ✓ Research guideline
- ✓ Report on national best practices, needs, challenges and gaps
- ✓ Outline for multiplier trainings
- ✓ Evaluation report of trainings
- ✓ Concept on creating a longer term MHPSS community of practice
- ✓ Campaign plan
- ✓ Transfer + update of online media library

CONTACT

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