

Responding to the mental health and psychosocial needs during EVD outbreaks

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Emergencies



MHPSS identified as a priority during COVID-19 response



World Health Organization

UNSG
UNICEF
UNHCR
IOM



Mental health is a priority

Maintaining essential health services:
operational guidance for the
COVID-19 context

Interim guidance
1 June 2020

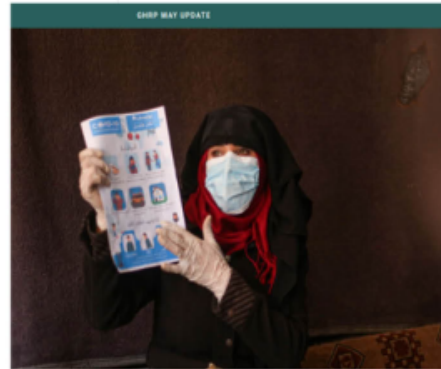


World Health Organization

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN COVID-19

UNITED NATIONS COORDINATED APPEAL
APRIL – DECEMBER 2020

GHPR MAY UPDATE



"Inclusion of mental health and psychosocial support as integral and cross-cutting component in public health emergency responses."



Policy Brief: COVID-19 and the Need for Action on Mental Health

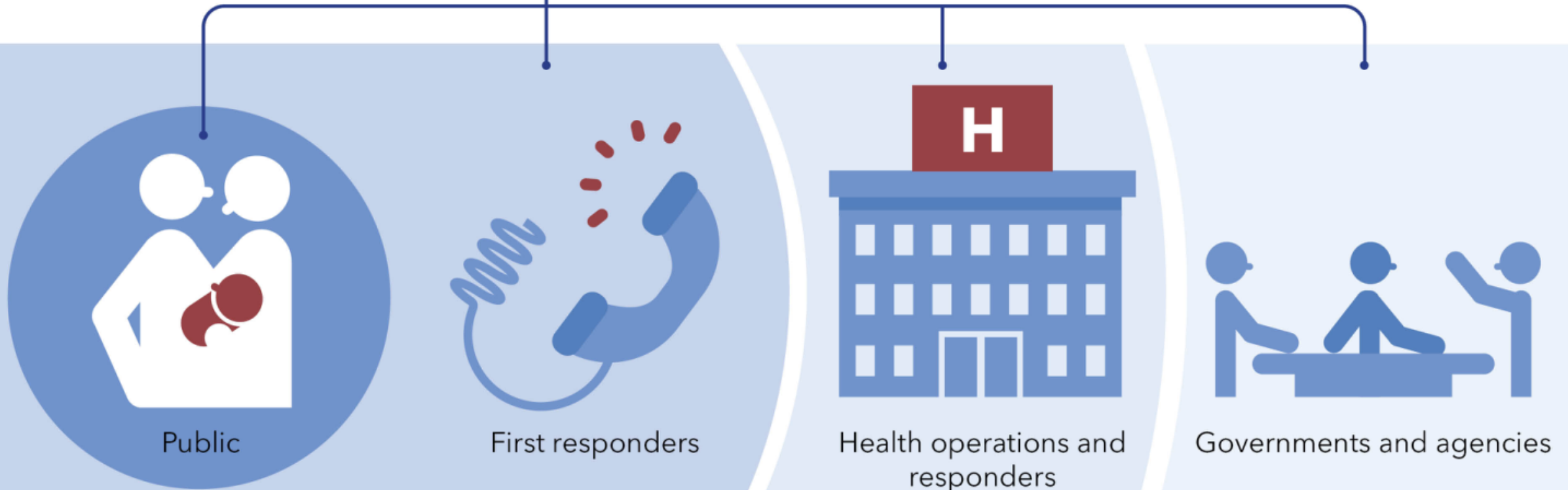
13 MAY 2020

United Nations

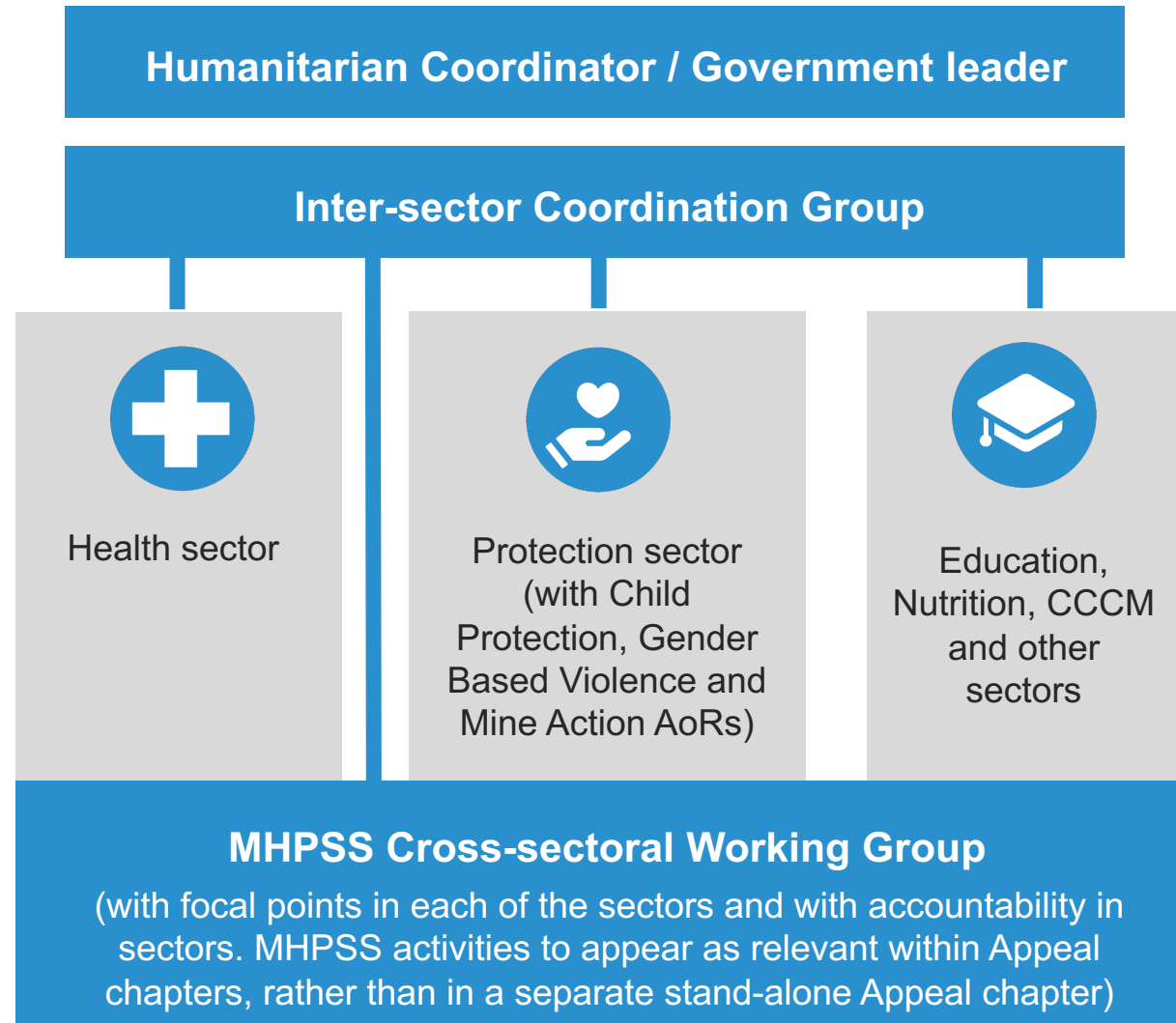


MHPSS is a crosscutting area within public health emergencies

WHO approach, providing comprehensive support at multiple level

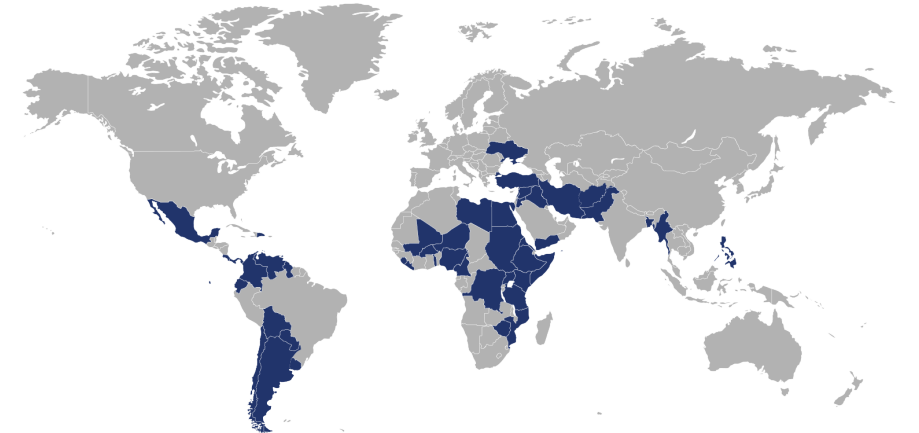


WHO support multisectoral country-level coordination of MHPSS through the IASC MHPSS Reference Group



Support to MHPSS Technical Working Groups:

- IASC MHPSS Reference Group Teleconferences at beginning of emergencies to coordinate MHPSS response
- Country support missions
- Annual retreats for MHPSS TWG co-leads
- Inter-agency surge support (Dutch Standby partner)
- Practical operational tools



Challenges

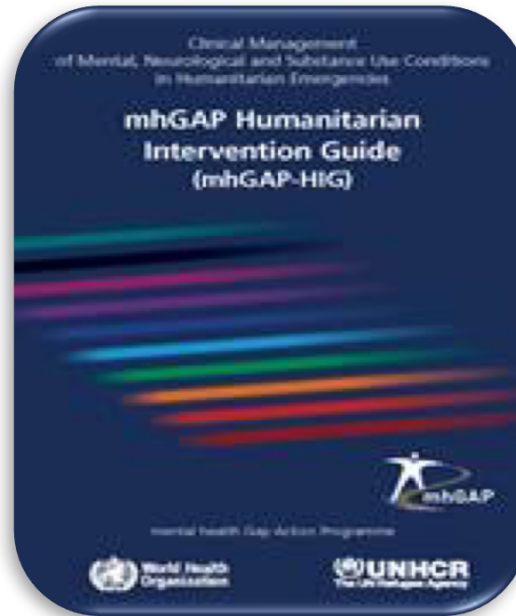
- MHPSS is a neglected area
- Absence of a budget code for MHPSS in the Financial Tracking System

key resources for humanitarian responders

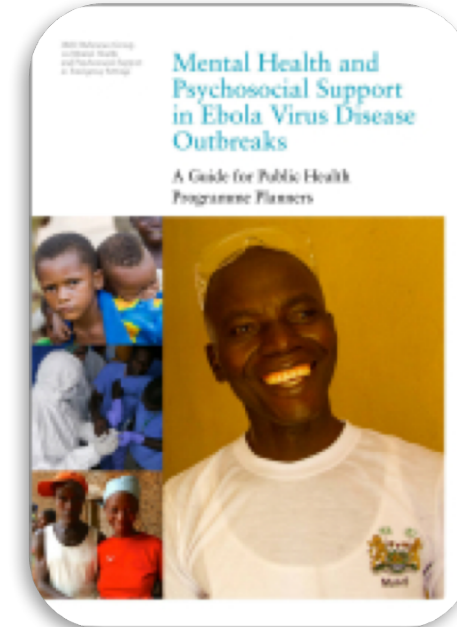
Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs in EVD outbreaks



For field level
workers and
volunteers



For General
Health Workers

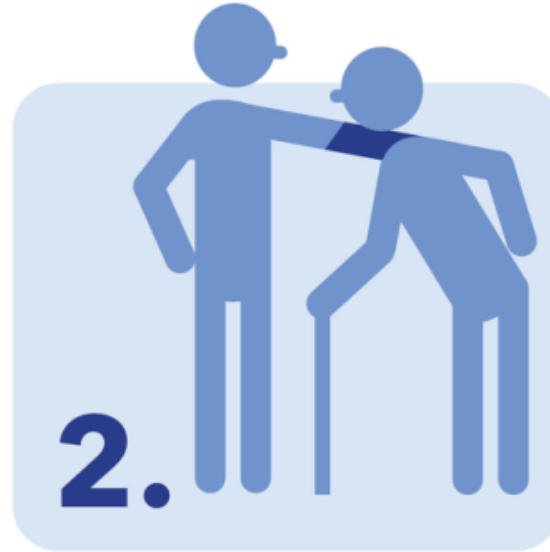


For public health
programme
planners

The way forward: 1- Apply a whole-of-society approach to promote, protect and care for mental health:



Including mental health and psychosocial considerations in emergency risk reduction and management strategies across sectors and emergency phases.



Responding proactively to reducing pandemic-related adversities (for example, social isolation and unemployment).



Crafting all COVID-19-related communications in accessible formats to reach at-risk and marginalized people.

The way forward 2- Ensure widespread availability of emergency mental health and psychosocial support:

