

# Integrating MHPSS: Lessons from a Multi-Sectoral Initiative

Viktorya Sargsyan, Jane Rachell F. Cari  
World Vision International

World Vision

**MHPSS is not an add-on:  
It is a system-strengthening  
approach that improves outcomes  
across sectors**

## BACKGROUND

Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) is essential for resilience and sustainable development, yet often remains siloed.

World Vision developed a multi-sectoral framework to embed psychosocial support across all sectors.



## WHY IT MATTERS

- MHPSS is often treated as standalone and siloed
- This creates missed opportunities across sectors
- Increasing need in fragile & humanitarian contexts

## FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Safer, more supportive environments for children and adolescents
- Stronger emotional wellbeing, learning, coping with stress, and healthy development – especially in fragile and crisis-affected contexts

## APPROACH: HOW WE DID IT

Multi-sectoral MHPSS Framework:

- Participatory & iterative design
- Faith-sensitive, rights-based, community-driven
- Cross-sector integration



## WHAT WE DID

### Integration pathways

- Caregiver wellbeing in early childhood development (ECD)
- Stress-sensitive livelihoods
- Dignity in WASH

### Co-creation & testing

- Piloted tools across contexts
- Cultural & language adaptation

### Monitoring & accountability

- Indicators: wellbeing, emotional regulation, connectedness
- Feedback mechanisms

### Capacity building

- Training for non-specialists
- Basic psychosocial support skills

### Resource mobilisation

- Positioning MHPSS in donor priorities

## RESULTS

Integrated MHPSS leads to:

- ↑ Child learning outcomes
- ↑ Caregiver wellbeing
- ↑ Family resilience
- ↑ Community cohesion
- ↑ System effectiveness

## WHAT MAKES THIS DIFFERENT?

- Embedded (not vertical)
- Scalable across sectors
- Strengthens systems, not just services

## CHALLENGES

- Competing sector priorities
- Capacity of non-specialists
- Harmonising tools across contexts

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- MHPSS is a cross-cutting system function
- Integration improves multi-sector outcomes
- Non-specialists can deliver with proper support
- Model is replicable and scalable

Questions? Contact: [viktoria\\_sargsyan@wvi.org](mailto:viktoria_sargsyan@wvi.org)  
[jane\\_cari@wvi.org](mailto:jane_cari@wvi.org)

