



The MHPSS Hub: What to expect and how to support us –

Core services, strategic value and opportunities for collaboration, partnerships and funding

This document provides a concise overview of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement MHPSS Hub, including its core services, strategic value, and funding model. It is designed to give a clear understanding of how the MHPSS Hub supports National Societies, Movement partners, donors, and external collaborators working to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) globally. In addition, the document outlines ways to engage with the MHPSS Hub—through partnerships, project collaboration, or other forms of support—and highlights the benefits of doing so. Further information about the MHPSS Hub can be found at www.mhpsshub.org.

To effectively fulfil its mandate, the MHPSS Hub depends on strong collaboration and a shared understanding of its role, added value, and operational model. This document therefore aims to clarify how the MHPSS Hub works, demonstrate the advantages of coordinated engagement, and underline the importance of predictable and sustainable funding to maintain and scale its core functions.

By strengthening collaboration and reducing fragmentation, the MHPSS Hub enables Movement components and partners to deliver higher-quality, more efficient, and more sustainable MHPSS services, - maximizing collective impact worldwide.

1. 1. Introduction

The MHPSS Hub was established to serve the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement by supporting its actors, operations, and policy commitments in the field of mental health and psychosocial support. As a Movement-wide entity, it strengthens coordination, builds capacity, and promotes evidence-based and sustainable MHPSS approaches across diverse contexts.

Hosted by the Danish Red Cross and based in Denmark, the MHPSS Hub brings together a highly qualified, multicultural team with expertise spanning MHPSS service delivery, capacity and competency development, guideline development, programme management, technical advisory services, research, policy and humanitarian diplomacy, and communications. This integrated approach ensures both high-quality technical support and strong institutional credibility.

2. Core Services

In its unique role as a Movement-wide entity, the MHPSS Hub delivers core services to National Societies, the IFRC, and the ICRC, including:

Technical Support and Capacity Building: The MHPSS Hub strengthens National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC through technical guidance, capacity and competency development, supervision, and operational



support in programme design, monitoring, and emergency response. It provides tailored assistance via regional helpdesks, thematic guidance and toolkits, regional and global trainings/ workshops, and follow-up accompaniment open to all Movement components.

Knowledge Generation and Sharing: The MHPSS Hub supports knowledge generation and exchange across the Movement, facilitating regional and thematic Communities of Practice, co-chairing the MHPSS Research Network, and co-organizing research conferences that connect academics and practitioners. Further, the MHPSS Hub enhances monitoring and evaluation, conducts peer-reviewed analyses, maintains academic partnerships, and hosts an online MHPSS resource library in multiple languages servicing a global audience.

Humanitarian Diplomacy (HD) and Communications: In line with the Tripartite Partnership Agreement, the MHPSS supports stronger advocacy in high-level forums, organizes events like the MHPSS Momentum Conference, and coordinates with focal points in Geneva, Brussels, New York (Liaison Office to the UN), and Addis Ababa (Africa Union and Africa CDC) alongside all regional offices. It develops policy/ HD perspectives, talking points, and a variety of advocacy related communications materials - including videos, podcasts, graphics, and written content - while providing strategic support to National Societies, the ICRC and IFRC offices. The MHPSS Hub holds the delegated IFRC Co-Chair role of the IASC Reference Group on MHPSS in Emergency Settings.

3. Strategic value

The MHPSS Hub provides a centralised platform for expertise, coordination, and resources, enabling National Societies, the IFRC, the ICRC and partners, to achieve stronger outcomes in relation to their respective mandates while minimising duplication of effort. By pooling knowledge, technical support, capacity and competency-development opportunities, and undertaking/commissioning MHPSS research on behalf of the Movement, the MHPSS Hub maximizes collective impact, supporting sustainable, scalable and quality MHPSS services.

- *Efficiency*
National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC gain direct access to established frameworks, research, guidance, and tools. This ensures coordination and alignment and reduces the investment of time and resources. Research undertaken or commissioned by the MHPSS Hub remains open to Movement partners to avoid multiple Movement actors individually undertaking overlapping research or reproducing already existing insights and materials.
- *Quality & Consistency*
The MHPSS Hub promotes contextualised, evidence and experience-based approaches to MHPSS. This ensures services and approaches are consistent across diverse contexts, are in line with international guidelines and meeting external donor requirements for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. All resources are released under the MHPSS Hub logo and follow internal quality assurance procedures. Continuous learning and knowledge-sharing enhance the reliability and quality of programming.
- *Reach & Collaboration*
The MHPSS Hub leverages its extensive network and access to the entire MHPSS community of



practitioners, organisations, researchers and policymakers to promote learning and collaboration. As the IFRC Co-Chair of the IASC Reference Group on MHPSS, the MHPSS Hub plays a central role in advancing global standards, strengthening technical alignment, supporting humanitarian coordination and amplifying HD efforts. The unique position of the MHPSS Hub, combining the access to the voices of staff and volunteers in National Societies and high-level policy discussions, enables it to support the bridging of experiences and informed decision-making related to mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.

- *Localisation*

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is inherently local, rooted in community-based National Societies with deep contextual knowledge, volunteer networks, and long-term presence. The MHPSS Hub reinforces this comparative advantage by strengthening locally led capacity; we primarily work with the domestic or national departments of NSs. Our approach prioritizes building sustainable *national expertise*, enabling National Societies to design and deliver culturally appropriate MHPSS services embedded within existing branch offices and volunteer networks. By investing in local competency development and supporting peer exchange across contexts, the MHPSS Hub contributes directly to the localisation agenda and reinforces the National Societies auxiliary role to their respective public authorities.

- *Competency and Capacity Strengthening*

The MHPSS Hub invests in strengthening local and national capacities by offering tailored capacity and competency development, supervision, learning opportunities and facilitating peer learning. National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC can apply to participate in global and regional trainings/ workshops, while also accessing on-demand technical advice and resource materials – all of which remain open-source. We also build sustainable expertise at the local level through customised trainings and agreements e.g., building national staff and volunteer capacity to deliver MHPSS services in emergency settings.

- *Humanitarian Diplomacy, Advocacy & Influence*

The MHPSS Hub supports stronger advocacy for MHPSS services at national, regional, and global levels by listening to, consolidating and amplifying evidence from volunteers and staff, and linking this to discussions with State Parties, donors and policy makers. Its position within international coordination structures and high-level policy setting forums (inter-agency, Ministerial Mental Health Summits, United Nations, International Conferences) enables it to influence policy, funding priorities, and operational approaches.

- *Effectiveness*

MHPSS services and approaches supported by the MHPSS Hub achieve meaningful impact by combining high technical quality with efficient resource use. By offering hybrid support modalities (such as remote assistance combined with in-person workshops), the MHPSS Hub provides cost-effective alternatives to maintaining permanent in-country offices or relying on repeated external deployments (delegates). National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC benefit from a balance of global expertise and localized-cultural adaptation, ensuring that their health, social care, protection and emergency response and recovery programmes remain relevant, impactful, and sustainable.



- *Integration and Return on Investment*

To significantly increase overall programme effectiveness and sustainability and to reduce stigma, MHPSS services should remain an integral part of health programmes and furthermore be included in protection, disaster response, migration and social services. When MHPSS is embedded within existing service delivery structures rather than implemented as a standalone intervention, the return on investment is substantially higher, and it helps overcome the pervasive stigma associated with mental health.

4. How is the MHPSS Hub Financed?

Historically, the MHPSS Hub has relied predominantly on shorter-term project-based funding, primarily through research and capacity-development initiatives. Approximately 85% of its funding has come from projects with specific deliverables, with only 15% received as unrestricted funding. This funding model must shift to ensure the MHPSS Hub can effectively deliver on its mandate and implement the newly approved five-year strategy.

To sustain its core functions, the MHPSS Hub requires *at a minimum* 2 million CHF in annual funding. This funding supports 12-15 core staff positions - including key management roles - and enables the Hub to operate at a minimal yet effective and impactful level to support Movement components.

In addition to its core responsibilities, the MHPSS Hub is leading flagship projects through strategic partnerships. The MHPSS Hub continues to actively seek new partnership opportunities as a complementary approach to fulfilling its mandate and securing additional resources.

5. How to Support and Engage with the MHPSS Hub

The MHPSS Hub was created to strengthen the MHPSS capacity of Movement components and partners by providing services that would be difficult or costly to sustain alone. Through engagement, organisations gain access to global expertise, coordination platforms, and policy influence, while ensuring that resources are used efficiently and duplication is avoided. Supporting the MHPSS Hub is both an investment in the wider Movement and a way to expand the reach and quality of individual programmes.

There are several ways to support and engage with the MHPSS Hub, each designed to match different capacities, priorities, and funding pathways:

a. Strategic Partnership

Contribute directly to the MHPSS Hub's core functions through financial support or by seconding staff in specific technical areas.

- Example: Providing core funding to deliver the MHPSS Hub's strategy (Partnership Framework Agreement) or seconding staff on loan to strengthen MHPSS Hub expertise.
- Added value: This secures the MHPSS Hub's role as a sustainable global knowledge centre, ensuring quality, coordination, and impact across the Movement and beyond.

b. Project-Based Engagement

Work with the MHPSS Hub on specific initiatives, typically funded through project grants or consortium agreements.

- Example: The MHPSS Hub joins as a partner or leads in project consortiums with Movement components (e.g., EU4Health, Horizon Europe research calls).



- Added value: Shared projects expand reach, attract larger funding streams, and amplify results through collective visibility.

c. Consultancy Services

Engage the MHPSS Hub for time-bound technical support, advisory work, or capacity development tailored to your needs.

- Example: Commissioning support for programme design, training, or technical advice with National Societies, IFRC, or ICRC departments.
- Added value: This offers targeted expertise on demand, without the overhead of creating or maintaining in-house capacity.

d. Subscription Services (MHPSS Hub Line Support)

Establish a standing arrangement for regular, ongoing support, based on a set number of days per month over a longer period.

- Example: A National Society subscribing to MHPSS Hub Line Support to ensure continuous tailored support or sponsoring another National Society's subscription.
- Added value: Provides predictable access to specialised expertise, combining flexibility with continuity of support and accompaniment.

6. Benefits for Stakeholders

Engaging with the MHPSS Hub provides clear and immediate advantages:

- *Specialised expertise on demand*

Access a multi-cultural team with deep experience in MHPSS from basic psychosocial support through to specialised (clinical) mental healthcare, programme management, communications, and policy/HD, without the cost of permanent in-house staff.

- *Efficient and flexible support*

Engage in the way that best fits your needs - from targeted technical advice to long-term collaboration - ensuring resources are used effectively.

- *Quality assurance and consistency*

Services are developed and delivered in line with international standards and donor requirements, ensuring programmes are credible, reliable, and impactful.

- *Credibility and trust*

Align with global evidence and best practice, reinforcing confidence among donors, governments, and partners.

- *Influence and visibility*

Leverage the MHPSS Hub's role in global coordination and policy forums to amplify your voice and shape funding and policy priorities.