



# Call for Papers

*International Workshop on*

## **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Interventions for Refugees**

February 2022

The global refugee population doubled in the last decade and there are currently over 26 million refugees worldwide. As the biggest humanitarian crisis the world has faced since WWII, Syria is the biggest refugee source country. The 10-year-old conflict has resulted in devastating impacts on individuals, communities, countries, and the region. Violence and instability in places such as Yemen, Sudan and Iraq are also triggering new waves of forced migration. Providing aid and protection to those who have been displaced, 3RP countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt) host approximately a quarter of the world's refugees. Among the 3RP countries, Turkey is currently the largest refugee-hosting country.

Refugees are at high risk for common mental disorders and psychosocial problems due to violence and trauma experienced in the country of origin, during migration and compounded by displacement stressors. Several systematic reviews have identified high rates of depression, anxiety, and PTSD among refugee adults and children. Forced migration also contributes to social losses due to family separation, change in family roles, and disruption in community connections. These experiences often negatively impact relationships within families and may result in the breakdown of social networks.

While there is an emerging evidence base of MHPSS interventions for refugees, there has been less focus to date on family and community-based interventions, prevention approaches, or interventions targeting social drivers. Moreover, promoting the uptake of EBIs is challenging in humanitarian settings, given the potential of ongoing conflict and limited mental health resources and services, and requires innovative strategies to overcome these obstacles.

This symposium will focus on strengthening research and practice on MHPSS interventions for refugees in the Middle East region and 3RP countries. This includes highlighting impactful MHPSS prevention and care interventions for refugees across the lifespan, challenges and opportunities associated with implementing and disseminating interventions, and innovative cross-institutional and system-level collaborations.

The workshop is hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent Academy and the University of Illinois Chicago, Center for Global Health. The submitted manuscripts will be published in the Special Issue of the TRC Journal of Humanitarian Action.

We invite interested organizations, researchers, and individuals who have experience in the field of MHPSS for refugees in the 3RP Region or Middle East region to apply with a brief abstract of 250 words and send them to [research@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:research@kizilay.org.tr) by December 1, 2021.

We are interested in data-driven research presentations, innovative program descriptions, theoretical contributions, and case studies in the following areas:

- 1) Family and/or community level interventions
- 2) Social, legal, and economic drivers and their impact on mental health
- 3) Social, legal, and economic drivers and how their impact can be addressed through prevention and care interventions
- 4) Interventions focused on mental health or the psychosocial aspects of COVID-19 (including digital interventions)
- 5) Strategies for promoting the uptake of mental health and psychosocial interventions
- 6) Interventions or workforce development strategies that incorporate non-specialists, volunteers, and refugee peer providers
- 7) Child and adolescent mental health
- 8) Lessons learned on MHPSS interventions

**Notes:**

- Venue: Virtual
- Language: English
- Web site: [www.iwom21.com](http://www.iwom21.com)

**Key dates:**

- Abstract submission: December 1, 2021
- Announcement of the accepted abstracts: January 5, 2022
- Workshop date: February 17-18, 2022

**Abstract submission guidelines:**

- **Title of presentation:** A brief title (maximum of 100 characters) that indicates the content of the contribution.
- **Authors:** Name, highest educational degree obtained, institutional affiliation, email address
- **Abstract:** The length of the abstract is expected to be no more than 250 words. Please provide the objective, methods, results, and conclusions.
- **Citations:** Include 2 relevant citations of your work or from the literature
- **Keywords:** Please indicate 3 keywords for your abstract.

**Manuscript writing guidelines:**

[https://trcjha.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/01\\_formatting\\_and\\_content\\_requirements\\_for\\_manuscripts.pdf](https://trcjha.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/01_formatting_and_content_requirements_for_manuscripts.pdf)

*A sample of a manuscript:*

[https://trcjha.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/04\\_main\\_document.pdf](https://trcjha.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/04_main_document.pdf)