

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services Provided to Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, and Migrants in Greece

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) published in 2007 the Guidelines on Mental health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings, which developed an intervention pyramid.

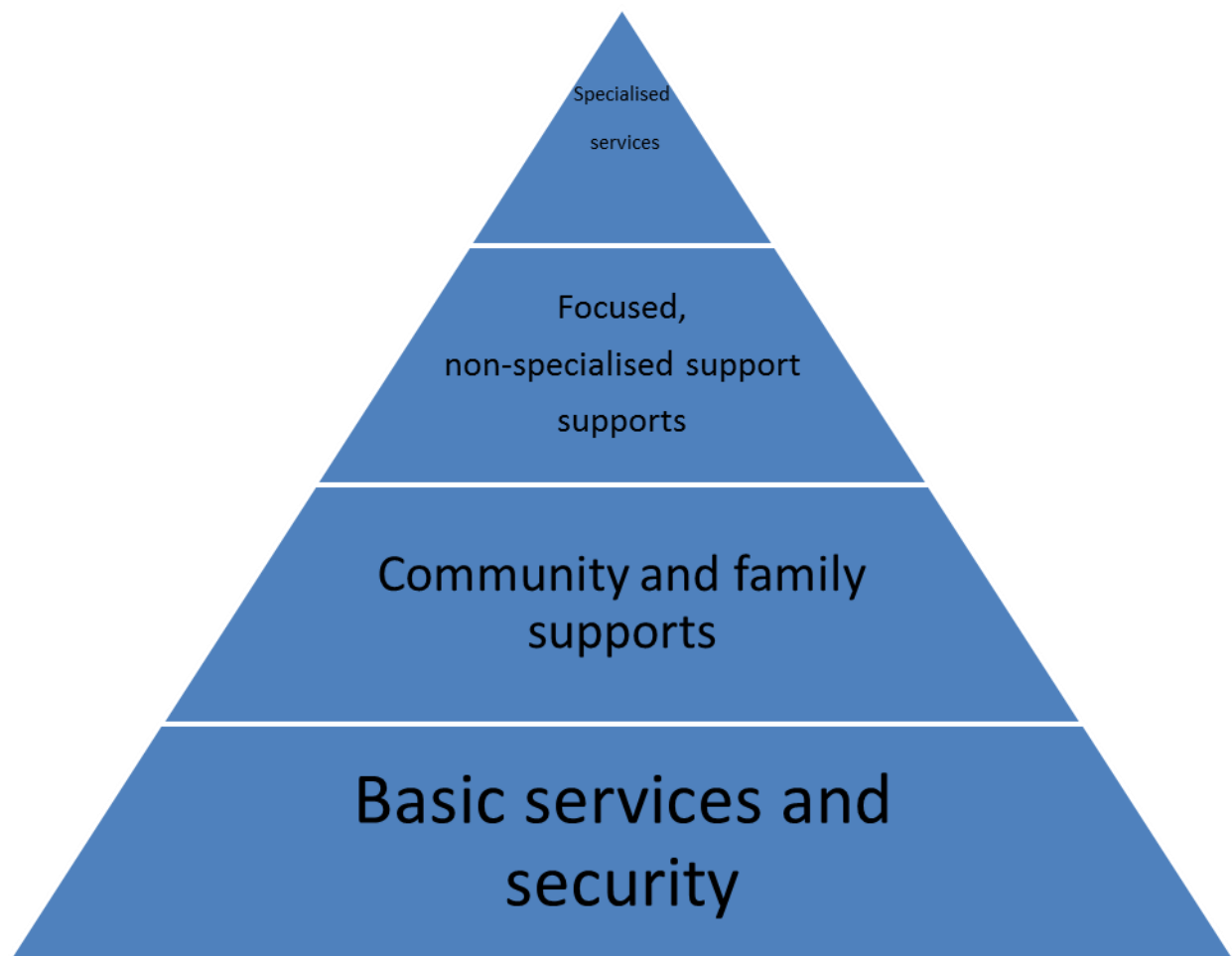


Fig.1 Intervention pyramid for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies.

In February 2016, International Medical Corps published a situational assessment of the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) across the Greek islands and Athens, in order to understand the needs of the asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants.

The report, is a good example of how the IASC MHPSS Intervention Pyramid is applied in practice, more specifically, to the situation of asylum-seekers and migrants present across the four islands, where the assessment took place (Lesvos, Samos, Leros, Kos).

Level 1: Social Considerations in Basic Services & Security

According to the study, all of the sites afford access to basic services, such as: food, shelter non-food items. These are provided by volunteer organization, NGOs and inter-governmental organizations.

Level 2: Community & Family Supports

Although, several organizations (Save the Children/ PRAKSIS, ARSIS, and Hellenic Red Cross) provide for Child-Friendly Spaces across many sites, and for Women-Friendly Spaces in two sites on Lesbos (ActionAid), there are no such supports for the youth population. Unaccompanied minors benefit from special services in many of the places mentioned in the report.

Level 3: Focused (person-to-person) Non-specialized MHPSS Services

Individual psychosocial support services are provided almost at every site, based on clinical case management model, by Greek and expat psychologists and/or social worker using interpreters, and generally provided at or near medical clinics. In addition to this, psychological first aid trainings were provided to the first respondents by different entities (UNHCR, War Trauma Foundation, Hellenic Red Cross).

Level 4: Specialized Services

The research conducted by International Medical Corps shows that psychotherapy is provided across three sites. However, there are no psychiatric services available on any of the sites. In this cases a referral mechanism is in place and the identified cases are handled by the Greek psychiatrists at public hospitals. Nevertheless, there were signaled some challenges regarding the identification of the persons in need of these specialized services and lack of interpreters at the psychiatric public hospitals.

Source: International Medical Corps, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Situational Assessment Needs, Services, and Recommendations for Support to Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Migrants in Greece

<https://mhpss.net/?get=284/IMC-Greece-MHPSS-Assessment-Final.pdf>

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