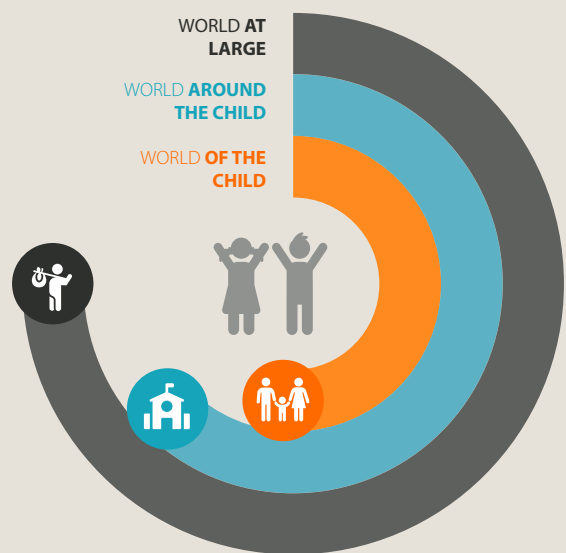




**Children’s mental health is a critical component of their overall well-being, affecting their ability to learn, grow, and thrive. In Ukraine and Moldova, the mental health of children is a growing concern due to forced migration and economic instability in the backdrop of the ongoing armed conflict.**

Recognizing the impact of children’s social ecology on their overall well-being, World Vision implements a range of child-centered, community-based MHPSS programmes in Ukraine and Moldova to respond to the mental health and psychosocial needs of young people, their families, and their communities.



**WORLD OF THE CHILD**

- Individual assets and behaviours
- Parents, carers, families

**» AROUND THE CHILD**

- Safety, security and healthy attachment in schools, community and online

**» AT LARGE**

- Social determinants (poverty, disaster, conflict, discrimination, migration)



**154**

**Child Friendly Spaces and Play and Learning Hubs established and supported**



**6,128**

**individuals trained on Psychological First Aid and Protection issues including safeguarding**



**117,238**

**individuals benefited from community-based MHPSS activities**

Our capacity in MHPSS is built on a foundation of evidence-based practices, culturally sensitive approaches, and a deep understanding of the local operational contexts.

World Vision and its partners have a team of skilled and trained professionals, including psychologists, social workers, counselors, teachers, and community workers who are equipped to conduct comprehensive assessments and provide a range of MHPSS services.

We have cultivated strong partnerships with local organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders to enhance our programming and ensure comprehensive, coordinated, and sustainable solutions to mental health and psychosocial needs in communities. We take a holistic approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of mental health with other aspects of well-being, such as social protection, education, and economic empowerment.





# Our Capabilities

---



## **Assessment and Response**

World Vision has dedicated teams of trained MHPSS workers who conduct comprehensive assessments to understand the unique needs of individuals and communities. Based on these assessments, we develop tailored MHPSS interventions that encompass psychological first aid, trauma-focused care, community-based psychosocial support, and capacity-building activities.

## **Partnerships and Localization**

World Vision collaborates with local authorities, non-government actors, and service providers to ensure an integrated response to MHPSS needs. We actively engage with community leaders and stakeholders to strengthen local capacities and promote sustainable solutions. Our partnerships demonstrate our mandate to help build a thriving civil society in the countries where we work.

## **Capacity Building**

We invest in building the capacity of local staff, state personnel, and community members as our contribution to strengthening available systems for MHPSS. Through training sessions, workshops, supervision, as well as coaching and mentoring, we empower individuals to provide safe and quality support and care to those affected by the ongoing crisis.

## **Advocacy and Awareness**

World Vision advocates for the prioritization of mental health and psychosocial well-being in humanitarian response efforts while exploring prospects for long-term development opportunities. We raise awareness about the importance of MHPSS, reduce stigma surrounding mental health issues, and promote inclusive and rights-based approaches to care.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning**

We employ rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of our MHPSS programs and ensure accountability to the communities we serve. By collecting data, analyzing outcomes, and soliciting feedback from beneficiaries, we continuously improve our interventions and enhance our effectiveness.

# Our Approaches



## Child-centered

World Vision places children and their well-being at the center of MHPSS interventions. We strive to meet the emotional, social, and psychological needs of children and families exposed to challenging situations through services tailored to their specific developmental stages, experiences, and capacities. To the extent possible, we involve children in decision-making processes about their own care and empower them to express their thoughts and feelings in a safe and supportive environment.

## Community-based

We prioritize community-based approaches, engaging with local stakeholders and building the capacity of community members to support one another’s mental health and well-being. MHPSS services are provided in community spaces, rather than in traditional clinical or institutional settings. This helps reduce stigma associated with mental health issues, increase access to care for vulnerable populations, and promote mental health and well-being at the grassroots level.

## Faith-sensitive

Faith-sensitive MHPSS recognizes the significance of faith and spirituality as important aspects of human experience and seeks to promote mental health and well-being by engaging with these dimensions in a respectful and inclusive manner. Our interventions are designed in a way that respects and incorporates the religious and spiritual beliefs of individuals and communities. This approach leverages existing faith-based resources, networks, and practices following the beneficiaries’ own religious and spiritual persuasions.

## Multisectoral integration

We integrate MHPSS interventions across various sectors, such as child protection, education, and livelihood, to ensure a comprehensive response that addresses the multi-layered and interconnected needs of individuals and communities. By bringing together expertise, resources, and perspectives from various sectors, intersectoral MHPSS helps ensure that MHPSS services are integrated into broader development and humanitarian efforts, leading to more effective and long-lasting outcomes.

## Trauma-informed

World Vision recognizes and responds to the widespread impact of trauma on individuals and communities in an intentional manner. We seek to understand the prevalence and impact of trauma, integrate knowledge about trauma into our procedures and practices, and actively strive to avoid re-traumatizing individuals who are receiving MHPSS services.

## On the Humanitarian-Peacebuilding-Development Nexus

World Vision is a global leader and a trusted partner in promoting mental health and psychosocial well-being, and we are dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of children, families, and communities through our MHPSS programs both in emergency and non-emergency settings. We stand ready to collaborate with local stakeholders, national counterparts, donors, and partners to further enhance our capacity and reach in this critical area of work.

# Our Project Models



## Psychological First Aid (PFA)

PFA is a humane, supportive and practical assistance to persons who recently suffered exposure to serious stressors. World Vision promotes the capacity building of staff, faith-based leaders, community leaders and community members in PFA to respond to people in distress in an appropriate and sensitive manner.

## Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) / Play and Learning Hubs (PLH)

During humanitarian emergencies, children in our service hubs benefit from an enhanced package of psychosocial activities, an activity catalogue, that help foster normalcy and prevent distress and suffering from developing into more severe conditions. These activities facilitate peer social engagement, stress management and problem solving, and providing space for arts, games and physical fitness among children and adolescents.

## Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

SEL is one of the strategies to integrate MHPSS in the education sector. Through structured SEL sessions, young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

## Problem Management Plus (PM+)

PM+ is a brief, individual, and group intervention for adults (e.g., caregivers). It aims to help people improve their management of practical (e.g. unemployment, interpersonal conflict) and common mental health problems (e.g., depression, anxiety, stress or grief). The “plus” refers to the evidence-based cognitive-behavioural strategies added to problem-solving counselling to create PM+. These include approaches for managing stress, managing problems, to get going and keep doing (known as behavioural activation), and strengthening social supports.

## Multidisciplinary Mobile Team (MMT)

World Vision and its partners organize a cohort of psychologists and social workers able to access hard-to-reach locations to provide essential psychosocial support. They provide pertinent information to affected populations and where necessary facilitate linkages to tailored and specialized service providers. This model effectively fills the gaps in service delivery by formal actors.





## Coordination

World Vision collaborates with the National and Regional MHPSS Technical Working Groups in Ukraine as well as the MHPSS Technical Reference Group in Moldova. We also work with national counterparts to build the capacity of multisectoral MHPSS workforce and help strengthen available systems.



@WVUCR



@WVUkraineResponse



@WVUkraineCrisisReponse



@wvukraineresponse



@WVUkraineCrisisResponse



Emergencies/Ukraine

For more information, please email

**Aladin Borja**

MHPSS Technical Advisor

aladin\_borja@wvi.org