

Call for papers on mental health and psychosocial support and the global climate crisis

Deadline for submissions: 31st October 2021

Intervention plans to devote a special section in the April 2022 issue to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and the climate crisis, accompanied by a webinar for practitioners. With this special section, *Intervention* aims draw attention to the psychological and psychosocial consequences of the climate and environmental emergency and the importance of MHPSS to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to these consequences.

The recently published Inter-Agency Standing Committee *Technical Note Linking Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Practical Tools, Approaches and Case Studies*¹ clearly articulated the state of the crisis as a rationale for better integrating MHPSS and DRR:

“Hazardous events and emergencies continue to dramatically affect millions of people every year, with natural hazards causing thousands of deaths and US\$ 2.6 trillion in total losses between 1994 and 2013 (CREED, 2015). Compounded by the developing global climate and environmental emergency, these damages are likely to increase, with an average of 25 million displaced annually by sudden-onset natural disasters since 2008 (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre/Norwegian Refugee Council, 2016) and predictions of more than 143 million people being forced to move/migrate by 2050 due to climate-related risks in just three regions – Latin America, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (Rigaud et al., 2018).”

In response to these challenges, researchers and public health officials have largely focused on the meaning for physical health, with far less attention paid to mental health and psychosocial well-being (Lawrence et al., 2021). However, recent efforts, such as the 2015 Lancet Commission and the later Lancet Countdown (Watts et al., 2018), have highlighted the importance of also understanding the *mental health and psychosocial impacts* of the climate crisis. Still, there remains a gap in translating this understanding into *practical MHPSS actions* in preparation for, response to, and recovery from climate-related emergencies and crises. Fortunately, concrete examples exist that can demonstrate effective MHPSS linked with climate action and in response to climate crises. Some programmes have explicitly linked these two concepts in their planning and implementation. Others may consider themselves unrelated at outset, but, in practice demonstrate critical links between MHPSS and other areas of work, such disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, or the triple nexus of development, humanitarian response and peacebuilding.

¹ Available from: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasec-reference-group-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-emergency-settings/technical-note-linking-disaster-risk-reduction-drr-and-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-mhpss>

Regardless of this status, all can demonstrate useful approaches and lessons learned.

We are inviting short **papers** (maximum word count of 5000 words, excluding the abstract and references), **field reports** (maximum word count of 4000 words) and **personal reflections** (maximum word count of 3000 words) that discuss the linkages between MHPSS and the global climate crisis, with a particular focus on submissions that demonstrate concrete examples or evidence from work in the field. Papers will be selected on criteria such as their relevance to the field, methodological rigour and level of innovation. Because this is a relatively new area of work, we do not wish to restrict the way in which we define linking MHPSS and climate change and instead welcome a diverse range of opinions, definitions and case for making this link. We also particularly welcome those who may wish to publish their work for the first time and in these circumstances, we offer support in writing for publication. A group of guest editors will be invited to join Wendy Ager, editor in chief, *Intervention*, in reviewing the submissions.

Funding for this special section has been provided by ARQ National Psychotrauma Centre, WHO, UNICEF and the MHPSS Collaborative.

Intervention is still open to any kind of collaboration on this special section, please contact Editor in Chief, Wendy Ager (w.ager@arq.org), for inquiries regarding this matter. For information on translations and permission to translate, please contact editorial assistant, David Nieuwe Weme (d.nieuwe.weme@arq.org).

- + Please submit your article to <https://review.jow.medknow.com/intv>
- + Information for authors on preparing a manuscript is available here: interventionjournal.org/contributors.asp

Intervention, the Journal of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Conflict Affected Settings, is an open access journal which is published twice a year. It is hosted by Arq International. We publish peer-reviewed articles that are relevant to individuals working in conflict affected areas and to those working with refugees from areas of conflict around the world. We also welcome papers on mental health and psychosocial support in settings with limited formal resources of chronic adversity that are not directly related to war or violence, as well as papers situated within complex humanitarian emergencies. We encourage submissions from a wide range of practitioners, researchers, academics and policymakers involved in mental health and psychosocial support.