

78th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 13: Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030 (resolution WHA77.3 (2024) and decision WHA74(14) (2021))

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage

Committee A

Geneva, May 2025

Statement by

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The International Organization for Migration is committed to contributing to the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013–2030. We advocate for the inclusion of migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless individuals, and mobile populations in mental health policies and programs, as mandated by the call for universal health coverage and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Inclusive mental healthcare is essential for achieving positive social, economic, and cultural outcomes. To ensure inclusivity, mental health services must be community-based and accessible to all communities.

This requires:

- a) Legal availability of services for all migrants at every level of healthcare,
- b) Culturally competent healthcare systems, and
- c) Dedicated outreach and information dissemination.

For migrants and displaced persons, mental health issues often arise or get exacerbated from disrupted societal networks, fractured identities, social isolation, discrimination, and stigma, along with barriers to access timely diagnoses, treatment, psychosocial support and care. Our initiatives emphasize the vital link between mental health and social connection, and the need to ensure that mental health services are accessible to all.

In 2024 alone, IOM supported 76 government-led initiatives aimed at improving migrant access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, and trained over 25,000 health workers, migration professionals, and government officials globally.

Our manual on Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support outlines a community-based approach that prioritizes social connections as a key component of prevention and care for migrants.

Following WHO's call to action, IOM advocates for policies that promote social inclusion, ensure access to mental health services, and protect the rights of all migrants. By addressing the social determinants of mental health, we aim to create environments in which all individuals, irrespective of migratory status, can flourish.

Thank you.