



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
78th Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA 78)
19-27 May 2025 / Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda 13.2 Mental Health and Social Connection

The Philippines supports prioritizing social connection within the WHO's public health agenda and integrating it into frameworks like the Mental Health Action Plan, recognizing it as a global, cross-sectoral priority. We affirm the proposed action areas, which address policy integration, collaboration, capacity building, research, and equity, particularly for marginalized groups.

Guided by Philippine Council for Mental Health, key implemented initiatives are, the Medicines Access Program that ensures availability of essential medication nationwide thru geographically-distributed treatment sites, integration of the WHO-partnered Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) at the primary care level, and conduct of Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Psychological First Aid response during and post- emergencies and disasters.

We urge the Secretariat to accelerate technical guidance, and support countries in localizing and scaling effective SBC interventions. Social connection should be explicitly linked to technological shifts, social trends, mental health, and aging. Key strategies include strengthening youth mental health and suicide prevention, and community-based interventions.