



MHPSS YLAS

MHPSS Youth Leadership Assessment Scale

Published by the MHPSS Collaborative, 2024

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Acknowledgements

This research project is the result of the combined efforts of many individuals and organizations. First and foremost, a big thank you to the young leaders and professionals who took the time to share their experiences and insights with us. Your contributions have been essential in shaping this study and ensuring its relevance. We also appreciate the guidance and support from our academic mentors at the Geneva Graduate Institute. Their expertise and feedback have been invaluable in guiding our research process. Lastly, thanks to everyone who supported us in various ways throughout this project. Your encouragement and belief in the importance of this work made all the difference.

About the MHPSS Collaborative

The MHPSS Collaborative is a global hub for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), research, innovation, learning and advocacy. We connect key academic and humanitarian actors with local civil society to give children, youth and families in fragile and humanitarian settings the possibility to thrive. Our vision is a world that protects and cares for the mental health and wellbeing of children, youth and families. The MHPSS Collaborative is hosted by Save the Children Denmark.

Learn more at www.mhpsscollaborative.org

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Suggested citation: MHPSS Collaborative: *Report on Integrating Youth Leadership into Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Responses in Humanitarian Emergencies*; Copenhagen 2024.

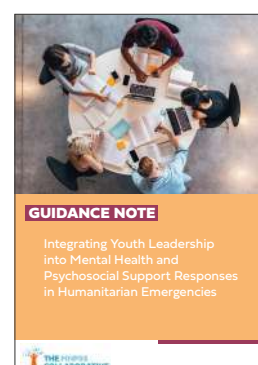
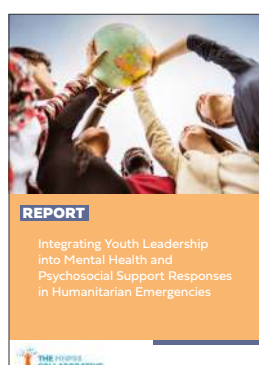
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MHPSS YOUTH LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT SCALE

The MHPSS Youth Leadership Assessment Scale (MHPSS YLAS) is a self-assessment tool designed to help organizations reflect on their current practices and identify areas for growth in engaging young people as leaders in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) responses in humanitarian emergencies. This tool offers a structured way to evaluate your organization's current approach across key areas such as organizational commitment, training and support, youth safety, decision-making involvement, partnerships, funding, recognition, feedback mechanisms, and accountability. The assessment helps identify opportunities to better empower young leaders and foster a more inclusive, youth-driven approach to MHPSS. However, it's important to note that this scale is not an exhaustive evaluation but rather a starting point for deeper reflection and strategic action.

This tool is part of the *Integrating Youth Leadership into Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Responses in Humanitarian Emergencies* collection. The collection includes a report from the research, a guidance note and this **assessment scale**. They can be accessed on www.mhpsscollaborative.org



Instructions

Please rate your organization on the following aspects using the scale provided:

0 = **Not Aligned**: This practice is not currently implemented or prioritized in our organization.

1 = **Partially Aligned**: We have taken some initial steps towards implementing this practice, but it is not yet fully integrated or consistently applied.

2 = **Fully Aligned**: This practice is fully integrated into our organizational culture, policies, and programs, and we actively prioritize it.

Item	Sub-item	Score
Policy commitment and internal capacity building	Our organization has designated staff responsible for youth engagement (e.g., youth focal point, youth officer).	
	We have formal policies that explicitly support youth leadership in programming, advocacy, and research.	
	We actively partner with youth-led organizations in the MHPSS and humanitarian sector.	
	Our organizational culture values and trusts young people's perspectives and contributions.	
	We include training on youth engagement and collaboration in our staff development programs.	
Training and support for youth	We provide training and mentorship opportunities for the young people we work with to develop their leadership skills and MHPSS knowledge.	
	We invest in strengthening the capacity of youth-led partner organizations working in the MHPSS sector.	
	We integrate youth capacity strengthening as part of emergency preparedness and response initiatives.	

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Item	Sub-item	Score
Young people’s safety and wellbeing	We prioritize the safety and well-being of young people involved in our MHPSS work through clear safeguarding policies and procedures.	
	We provide regular supervision, mentoring, and support to young leaders in MHPSS roles.	
	We offer opportunities for peer support and connection among young people involved in our MHPSS programs.	
	We ensure that young people have adequate breaks and rest to prevent burnout and promote mental well-being.	
Young participation in decision-making	We actively seek and value the input and feedback of young people in MHPSS decision-making processes.	
	We include young people as members of decision-making bodies, such as steering committees and advisory boards.	
	We foster long-term relationships with young people and youth-led organizations, valuing their ongoing participation.	
Partnerships with youth-led organizations	We actively build relationships with youth-led organizations working in MHPSS and related fields.	
	We collaborate and formally partner with youth-led organizations on MHPSS projects and initiatives, recognizing their expertise and contributions.	
	We provide financial and technical support to youth-led MHPSS organizations to strengthen their capacity and sustainability.	
Accessible funding for youth-led initiatives	We have dedicated funding mechanisms or grant opportunities specifically for youth-led MHPSS initiatives.	
	We provide guidance and support to young people and youth-led organizations in navigating the funding application process.	
	We involve young people in decision-making regarding the allocation of funding for MHPSS projects.	
	We streamline reporting requirements for youth-led organizations.	
	Youth engagement is a key criterion in our funding eligibility requirements.	

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Item	Sub-item	Score
Compensation and recognition	We provide fair compensation to young people for their time, expertise, and contributions to our work.	
	We offer opportunities for professional development, skill-building, and networking to young leaders involved in our work.	
	We publicly recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of young people involved in our MHPSS programs.	
Feedback, evaluation, and improvement	We have established clear and accessible channels for young people to provide feedback on our MHPSS programs and services.	
	We regularly evaluate the impact of our youth engagement efforts and use feedback to inform program improvements.	
	We openly share information with young people about how their feedback has influenced our work.	
Accountability, transparency and advocacy	We publicly report on our progress in integrating youth leadership into our MHPSS work and share our learnings with others.	
	We are transparent about our successes and challenges in engaging young people in MHPSS.	
	We actively advocate for the importance of youth leadership in MHPSS within our networks and the wider humanitarian community.	

Scoring System

1. **Total your scores** for each statement. Given that there are 32 statements, and each can receive a maximum score of 2, the maximum possible score is 64, and the minimum is 0.
2. **Interpret your score** using the following categories:
 - **0–21:** Your organization has significant room for improvement in integrating youth leadership into your MHPSS responses. Focus on developing foundational practices, policies and capacity.
 - **22–42:** Your organization has made some progress in integrating youth leadership, but there are still opportunities for growth. Strengthen existing practices and expand youth involvement in decision-making.
 - **43–53:** Your organization has a good level of youth leadership integration but could still enhance your approach. Refine existing practices and explore innovative ways to empower young people.
 - **54–64:** Your organization demonstrates a strong commitment to youth leadership. Continue to prioritize youth engagement, share your best practices, and seek new ways to deepen collaboration.

Important Considerations

- This scale is a guide, not a definitive measure of success. Each organization's context is unique, and the most important outcome is to use this assessment for meaningful reflection and action.
- This scale is a self-assessment tool and should be used as a starting point for reflection and discussion.
- The questions are designed to be comprehensive, but you may find that some are more relevant to your organization than others.
- Consider focusing on specific areas for improvement rather than solely on the overall score. Identifying specific strengths and weaknesses can help guide targeted action plans.
- Regularly reassess your organization's progress using this scale to track changes and ensure continued growth in youth leadership integration.