

Oslo Open Pledge 2026

From Response to Resilience - Strengthening the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of affected populations before, during and after emergencies



Preamble

The Nordic Network on MHPSS in Humanitarian and Fragile Settings was established in 2022 at the inaugural Nordic Conference in Copenhagen. At this conference, an MHPSS Declaration was endorsed, and included in the launch of a [Nordic Roadmap for 2022–2030](#). Since then, network actors are convening biannually to assess progress against the Roadmap, exchange learning, and strengthen joint advocacy for the right to mental health and psychosocial support before, during and after emergencies.

The Network is governed by the Nordic MHPSS Network Steering Committee, which comprises two representatives from each of the national MHPSS networks in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway, as well as representatives from the youth network, Mental Health Youth Alliance (MHYA). In addition, the Steering Committee includes two country focal points representing Finland and Iceland. The Network has also benefitted from two global advisory roles, held by the RCRC Movement MHPSS Hub and the MHPSS Collaborative.

In 2024, the second Nordic Conference was held in Malmö, Sweden. The conference featured four thematic tracks focusing on innovation and digitalisation, the climate crisis, gender equity, and the integration of MHPSS into health systems. It resulted in a non-binding open pledge with recommendations initiated and supported by participating agencies and endorsed by both the Steering Committee and the Networks.

Building on the priority action areas of the Nordic Roadmap and the recommendations from the [Malmö Pledge](#), this document presents a set of recommendations, actions, and proposed indicators co-created for the third Nordic Conference, held in Norway in June 2026. They are based on an online survey, the virtual conference pre-event and the consolidated work of the conference's Open Pledge Working Group and the Mental Health Youth Alliance.

Recognising mental health and psychosocial wellbeing as essential societal infrastructure that underpins resilience, recovery, peacebuilding and sustainable development, the Oslo Open Pledge is created to guide ongoing MHPSS research, practice, policy, and grant-making. All Nordic MHPSS Network actors and conference participating agencies are encouraged to use it as a tool for guidance, collaboration, and advocacy—within countries, across the Nordic region, and beyond.

Recommendations

In support of and solidarity with populations worldwide affected by conflict, disasters, climate change and health emergencies, with particular attention to those discriminated against on any ground such as sex, race, colour, disability, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status such as internally displaced person, refugee, asylum seeker or stateless person, we recommend that all Nordic actors...

1. From Response to Resilience: Commit to long-term, flexible and diversified funding that strengthens country systems—shifting from short-term response to long-term resilience—and supports locally led, integrated, and evidence-based mental health and psychosocial services for all, across sectors and levels of care.

Sub-actions:

1. Mobilize diverse, multi-year, pooled, and flexible funding—including blended humanitarian-development financing, development banks, regional bodies, national government, private sector actors—to support not only service delivery but also preparedness, scale-up, system integration, and the continuum of care.

Proposed indicator: Number and types of funding mechanisms engaged

2. Gradually increase direct and equitable funding to local and Global South actors—including informal, lived-experience-led, women and youth-led groups—while simplifying administrative requirements, recognizing local and lived experience as expertise and shifting decision-making power to community level.

Proposed indicator: % of funding going to local and Global South actors

3. Fund programmes and policy that integrate MHPSS into primary health care, education, protection services, DRR and climate action and community platforms, alongside investment in workforce development, task-shifting, supervision and quality—moving from fragmented service delivery towards functioning ecosystems.

Proposed indicator: number of programmes funding multi-sector interventions

4. Invest in robust M&E, research, and evidence-informed advocacy to demonstrate impact, support policy integration (health, education, protection, climate), and reinforce accountability of donors, governments, and multilateral actors.

Proposed indicator: Number of research and evaluation products produced and used for policy influence

2. Climate & Nature: Integrate climate- and nature-responsive MHPSS across humanitarian, development, DRR, AA, health, education, livelihoods, and climate action, ensuring that affected communities and local actors—especially those most impacted by climate change—shape and lead contextually grounded, evidence-informed, and sustainably financed approaches before, during, and after crises.

Sub-actions:

1. Support the integration of MHPSS into climate adaptation frameworks, anticipatory action, humanitarian preparedness, response, recovery, and national/local DRR plans through cross-sector collaboration between climate, health, protection, education, livelihoods, and MHPSS actors.

Proposed indicator: Number of Nordic climate, AA, DRR, or humanitarian frameworks and plans that include MHPSS.

2. Promote, scale and invest in community led and nature- responsive models, addressing climate-related psychosocial impacts, including livelihood stress, displacement, climate anxiety, eco-loss, and cultural loss, through approaches such as school-based DRR, livelihood-linked psychosocial support, nature-based activities, and integration of indigenous and local knowledge.

Proposed indicator: Number of programmes or communities (supported by Nordic partners) implementing climate-related MHPSS activities.

3. Provide flexible, multi-year financing for integrated climate and nature MHPSS programming, learning, and evidence generation including locally led monitoring, participatory learning, and documentation of approaches that strengthen psychosocial wellbeing, protection, resilience, and social cohesion in climate-affected settings.

Proposed indicator: Amount of Nordic funding allocated to climate-responsive MHPSS programmes.

3. Children & Education: Co-build community-based systems for child mental health and psychosocial support by strengthening the capacity and well-being of those closest to children, including caregivers, teachers, and frontline workers, through existing structures and systems to ensure sustainable support and safety nets for children and young people.

Sub-actions:

1. Promote co-built and locally led approaches by ensuring child and youth voices, caregivers, communities, and local actors meaningfully shape the design, implementation, and adaptation of mental health and psychosocial support programmes, moving beyond top-down programming approaches.

Proposed Indicator: % of overall yearly budget allocated to locally led MHPSS approaches that meaningfully engage children and young people, caregivers, communities, and local actors in programme design, implementation, and adaptation.

2. Strengthen evidence-based, knowledge-informed and contextually grounded action by strengthening local understandings of mental health and psychosocial support; investing in contextualized data collection and learning systems; and using

community- generated evidence, including through participatory and play-based methods, to guide programming and policy for children and young people.

Proposed Indicator: % of MHPSS programmes that use community-generated evidence, including participatory and child-friendly methods, to inform programme design, adaptation, and evaluation.

3. Invest in sustainable community capacity and knowledge sharing by strengthening the skills, well-being, and collaboration of caregivers, teachers, frontline workers, and community actors through existing structures and systems to ensure accessible, inclusive and sustainable support networks for children and young people.

Proposed Indicator: % of yearly budget invested in strengthening the skills, well-being, and collaboration of caregivers, teachers, frontline workers, and community actors through existing community structures and systems.

4. Innovation: Support the shift of MHPSS innovation from short-term pilots to locally led, evidence-informed, rights-based, safe and ethical approaches with clear pathways to scale, sustainability and system integration before, during and after emergencies. Nordic actors should leverage funding, diplomacy, partnerships and technical expertise to identify, adapt and scale innovations that promote mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, identify new areas of need (e.g substance abuse, elders etc) prevent distress, expand equitable access, and protect children, caregivers and frontline workers. These innovations should strengthen community resilience and become sustainably embedded within health, education, child protection, climate/DRR and social protection systems across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Sub-actions:

1. Reform innovation financing models to reduce risk aversion and enable locally led MHPSS innovation to move from pilot to sustainable scale. This includes advocating for national, governmental and other investment alongside multi-year, pooled and adaptive financing, staged financing approaches, shared risk mechanisms, and investment in evidence, supervision, workforce capacity and system readiness to responsibly absorb, adapt and scale innovation. Prioritise proven and promising MHPSS innovations that expand equitable access through task-sharing, school- and community-based delivery, caregiver and two-generation models, and digital-enabled delivery, training and supervision. Digital-enabled approaches should be rights-based, safe, ethical and adapted to diverse and low-resource contexts. [Donors and Governments]

Proposed Indicator: Number and proportion of Nordic-supported MHPSS innovation investments that apply adaptive or risk-sharing financing approaches and support locally led scale and system integration pathways.

2. Embed scalable MHPSS innovations into national and local systems by planning for scale, local ownership and long-term sustainability from the design stage rather than developing parallel projects, assessing new roles and working methods for civil

society. This includes accredited and supported non-specialist workforce models, supervision structures, referral pathways, and integration into education, community and primary care systems. Ensure local actors and youth lead across design, implementation and monitoring and strengthen national and local systems to responsibly absorb, adapt and scale innovation in diverse and fragile contexts. [Governments, UN agencies, NGOs and Local Actors]

Proposed Indicator: Number and proportion of countries/programmes where MHPSS innovations are formally integrated into national or sub-national policies, workforce strategies, education plans, referral systems, or preparedness and DRR frameworks.

3. Establish a shared MHPSS innovation learning and accountability mechanism to capture what works, why, for whom, in which contexts and at what cost. This should include rights-based, ethical and do-no-harm standards for digital and non-digital innovation, child and youth participation, equity, safeguarding, cost-effectiveness, and enable public reporting and shared learning. [Nordic Network, Academia, Implementers, Youth Networks and Private/Digital Actors]

Proposed Indicator: Annual public progress report or scorecard produced, including data on impact, reach, equity, quality and safeguarding, cost-efficiency, and scale-readiness of priority MHPSS innovations.

5. Youth Network: Shift power and resources to locally led youth initiatives by embedding meaningful youth leadership and agency across MHPSS systems through a whole-of-program perspective, ensuring that interventions are contextually grounded, protection-focused, sustainable, and responsive to intersectional identities of young people and adolescents.

Sub-action:

1. Invest in youth participation, including youth leadership programming, in places affected by armed conflict and forced displacement. The meaningful participation of young people is a protective action. *Meaningful* pertains to direct involvement in feasibility studies, design, implementation, and evaluation of programming. Young people who are supported to meaningfully participate are more confident to express views, report concerns, act to keep themselves and others safe, and become active leaders in their communities. Meaningful participation also supports positive mental health, as young people working in groups and collectives foster a sense of understanding, belonging and overcoming feelings of hopelessness. If left unaddressed in conflict and crises situations, these emotions could have significant adverse effects on the mental health of individuals and communities.

Proposed indicator: the amount and percentage of funding used for youth participation programs that include quality participation and decision-making power.

2. Support the meaningful engagement of young people who are, or have been, directly impacted by crises. It is essential that those with lived experience, who understand both what is needed and how responses and support systems can be improved, are empowered to act as partners, leaders, and drivers of solutions rather than merely

beneficiaries. Young people must be actively involved in designing support systems, including safe youth spaces that foster peer support, connection, and skills development. At the same time, youth leaders who sustain these processes must be adequately supported so that they do not carry the pressure alone. Structured support can include psychosocial support, supervision, and adequate compensation. Support networks should also embed intersectionality in responding to challenges that young leaders face.

Proposed indicator: the number of youth participation programs that demonstrably incorporate young people with lived experiences into leadership while ensuring that they are adequately supported in the process.

3. Protect the budgets and resources for meaningful and sincere youth-led participatory programming, as the inclusion of young people is an essential part of response in fragile and conflict spaces, and not simply complementary nor optional.

Proposed indicator: The amount and proportion of funding that include youth leadership budget lines for youth-focused MHPSS and crisis-response programming.