



WHO
SPECIAL
INITIATIVE
FOR MENTAL
HEALTH

Investing in and supporting health systems-development for mental health, **remarkable progress** can be achieved.

From 2020 to 2024*, WHO's Special Initiative for Mental Health has:

- Facilitated access to community-based **mental health services for 72.3 million more people**
- **Trained 39,000+ individuals** in practices related to mental health and psychosocial support
- Provided **treatment for at least 1.1 million children and adults** living with mental, neurological and substance use conditions; most for the first time.
- **Engaged with more than 1,300 organisations**, including people with lived experiences
- Updated mental health laws, strategies and policies
- Increased awareness about the rights of people living with mental health conditions, with nearly 20,000 people completing WHO's QualityRights e-training
- Discharged long-stay hospital patients for community integration, and closed several institution wards
- Successfully advocated for government restructure to improve oversight and coordination of mental health services
- Supported inclusion of mental health in national insurance and essential medicine strategies
- Updated health information systems
- Increased services for perinatal women, children and adolescents
- Integrated mental health with other health programs (e.g., HIV, TB, NCDs)
- Developed curricula for mental health pre-service training
- Included mental health and psychosocial support in emergency responses and pandemic preparedness plans (PPRs).

*Data as of January 2025, from Argentina, Bangladesh, Ghana, Jordan, Nepal, Paraguay, the Philippines, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

^Figures are likely higher - countries are only tracking service uptake in selected facilities