

PARAGUAY



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

01

345,000 more people for whom mental health services are available

02

Creation of a National Directorate for Mental Health, with its own budget integrating both mental health and substance use programmes

03

11 Long-Stay Patients discharged in the last quarter of 2023, which allowed the merger of two wards, and the closure of one. New halfway homes have been created and plans are underway for the creation of Paraguay's first Community-based Mental Health Center.

04

Scale up of the mhGAP programme, using both the mhGAP Intervention Guide and the mhGAP Community Toolkit

05

Elaboration of the Organizational Manual of the Mental Health and Addictions Network

ACTIVITIES



Capacity building

454 new people trained in mental health and psychosocial support

30 specialists (20 psychiatrists and 10 psychology graduates) participated in the third training course for facilitators of the mhGAP program for mental health professionals

34 people, including personnel from primary health centres in the departments of Asuncion and Central, as well as volunteers from the Paraguayan Red Cross and UNICEF, participated in the first course of the mhGAP Community Program for training of trainers



Scaling up mental health services

Implementation of the **mhGAP Program (Guide for Non-specialists and Community)** continued; improving access for people with mental health conditions to receive care at primary health care levels in the Departments of Presidente Hayes, Central and the capital, and increasing access to mental health services



Advocacy

Strategic alliances were established for joint actions on mental health; with Paraguay's Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Health, the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, and with cooperation from civil society organisations, including UNICEF, OHCHR and the Paraguayan Red Cross

Strategic alliances between the National Directorate of Mental Health, the Psychiatric Hospital (HP), the National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Addictions (CENPTA), the Directorate of Primary Health Care (DAPS) and the National Institute of Health (INS) were formed to jointly implement the mhGAP program

The participatory validation of the National Mental Health Policy and Plan 2024-2030 by representatives of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and civil society organisations, together with scientific societies, was undertaken during various workshops

Integration of Mental Health and Addictions - **Launch of SUMAR: National Action Plan against Drug Abuse**

Mission of the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health – Visit to the San Francisco de Asís Substitute Home – March 20, 2023

PRIORITIES FOR 2024

Continued capacity building in the mhGAP program through training for non-specialist personnel in primary health care, in coordination with the National Institute of Health and the National Directorate of Mental Health

Ongoing transformation of the National Psychiatric Hospital of Asuncion, and the provision of housing for the rehabilitation and recovery of discharged long-stay patients

Implementation of the Mental Health and Addictions Service Network through Family Health Units (FPHC), Community-based Centers for Mental Health and Addictions, General Hospitals and Specialized Hospitals

Improve the mental health information system through the creation of the National Mental Health Observatory



World Health Organization

75 HEALTH FOR ALL