

Call for Abstracts



Mental health in context

4 - 5 OCTOBER 2023

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

The theme for the 7th Regional PSS Forum is “Mental Health in Context”.

The forum will explore the social, cultural, geographical, economic determinants of mental health. Taking into consideration the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the forum will interrogate the correlation between mental health outcomes, mental health interventions and services, and other priority wellbeing outcomes for all African children and adolescents in a world that is recovering from the impact of COVID, impacted by war and climate change. Key thematic issues for discussion will include Child Rights and Protection, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Prevention and Management, Education, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Disability Inclusion, technology and pandemics.

The forum will emphasize the importance of locally designed solutions to ensure sustainable access to essential Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services for children and youth.

The forum provides a platform for stakeholders to share innovations, collaborate, influence policy formulation, and enhance programming and networking.

The forum will be hybrid, with the main physical event taking place in South Africa. Children and youth will also have the opportunity to participate in a pre-forum to share their experiences and solutions for improving their resilience and mental health.

The forum welcomes broad participation from partners in the region and internationally, including national governments, civil society, academia, international cooperating partners, media, local leaders, community caregivers, children and youth, and all those with practical and scientific experiences related to mental health and psychosocial support.

Abstract submissions are open from 10 April 2023 to 30 July 2023 through an online system. A technical review panel will be established to evaluate all submissions. To submit your abstracts, please use this link <http://bit.ly/3McFJ9b>

Tracks for abstract submission for the PSS Forum 2023:

1. Social, Cultural and Geographical Determinants of Mental Health:

This track invites abstracts that explore the impact of social, cultural, and geographical factors on mental health outcomes for children and adolescents in Africa. Abstracts should consider the intersectionality of these determinants and how they contribute to the risk and protective factors for mental health.

2. Climate Change, Humanitarian Response, and Peacebuilding:

This track seeks abstracts that examine the impacts of climate change on mental health and wellbeing among children and adolescents, and innovative approaches to addressing these impacts through humanitarian response and peacebuilding efforts. Topics may include integrating mental health support into climate-related emergencies, promoting climate resilience through sustainable development, and collaborative approaches to addressing these challenges in promoting the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing children and adolescents in Africa.

3. Love, care and protection for every child:

This track seeks abstracts that examine the link between mental health outcomes and other priority wellbeing outcomes for African children and adolescents. Abstracts should focus on topics such as Child Rights and Protection, Violence Against Children, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Prevention and Management, Education, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Disability Inclusion, technology and pandemics.

4. Policy and Advocacy:

This track welcomes abstracts that focus on policy and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing for African children and adolescents. Abstracts should showcase successful policy initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and efforts to influence the formulation, review, and implementation of policies related to mental health.

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to the advancement of mental health and psychosocial support for children and youth in Africa. Submit your abstract today and join us at the Regional Psychosocial Support Forum 2023! To register for the forum, use the link <http://bit.ly/3McH93v>

REPSSI is also inviting partners to co-host or support the forum, offering opportunities to support specific tracks, delegates, presenters, and conference funding. For more information, please contact pssforum@repssi.org