

Psychosocial Adaptation of Syrian Communities Using Community Learning Groups

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Project Overview and Questions

This project explores the use of a train-the-trainer model with a local Syrian community to build the community's capacity to support the mental wellbeing among Syrian refugees.

This project aims to answer the following questions:

1. What psychosocial challenges and needs do different Syrian refugee community members identify during early years of settlement?
2. What psychosocial strengths and adaptation processes do different Syrian refugee community members utilize during early years of settlement?
3. What are the processes involved in developing and implementing community empowerment learning groups?
4. How do community-identified solutions affect different groups' integration pathways?

Theoretical Models

1. Adaptation and Development After Persecution and Trauma (ADAPT) Model
2. Core Domains of Integration Conceptual Framework

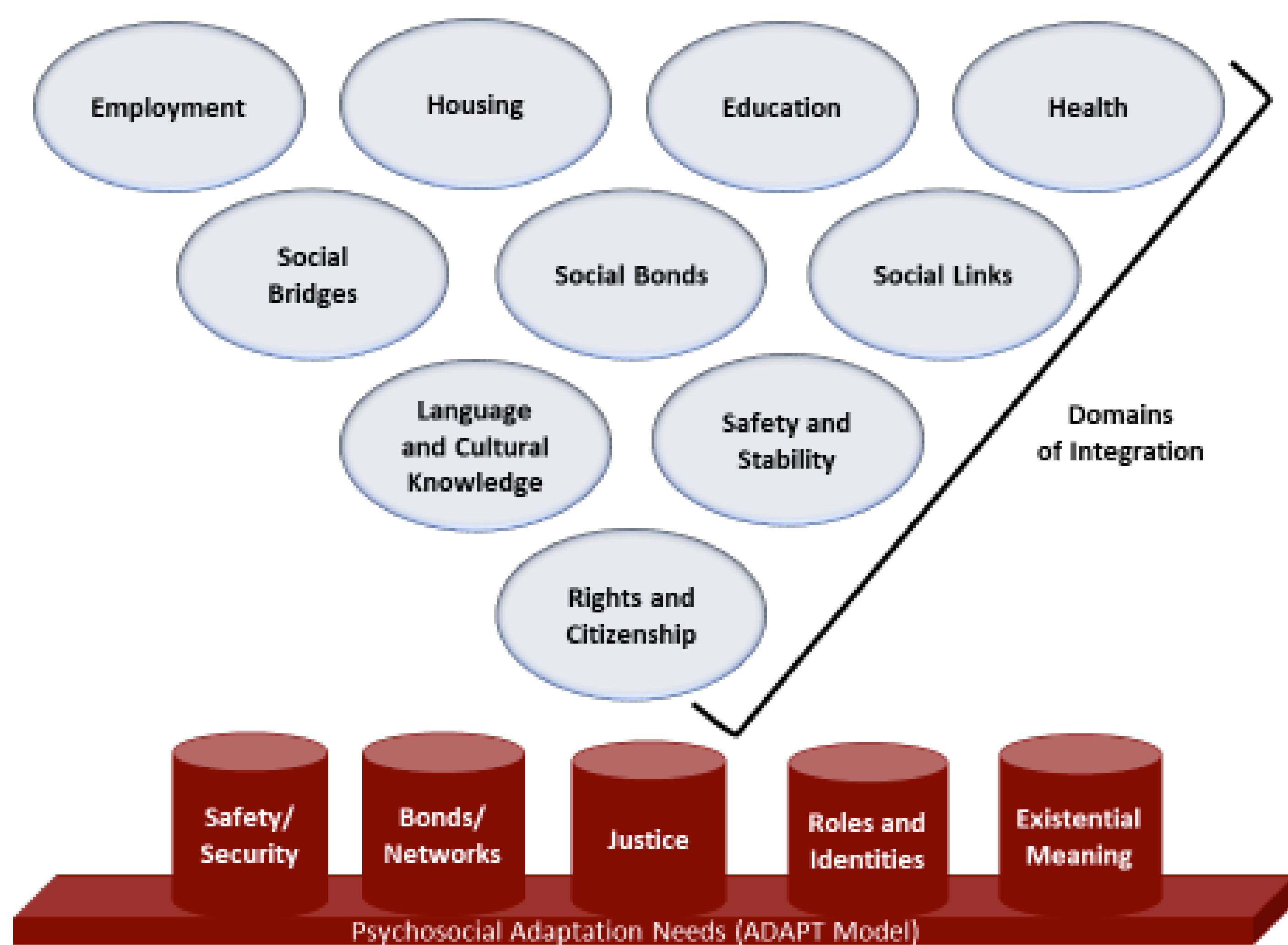
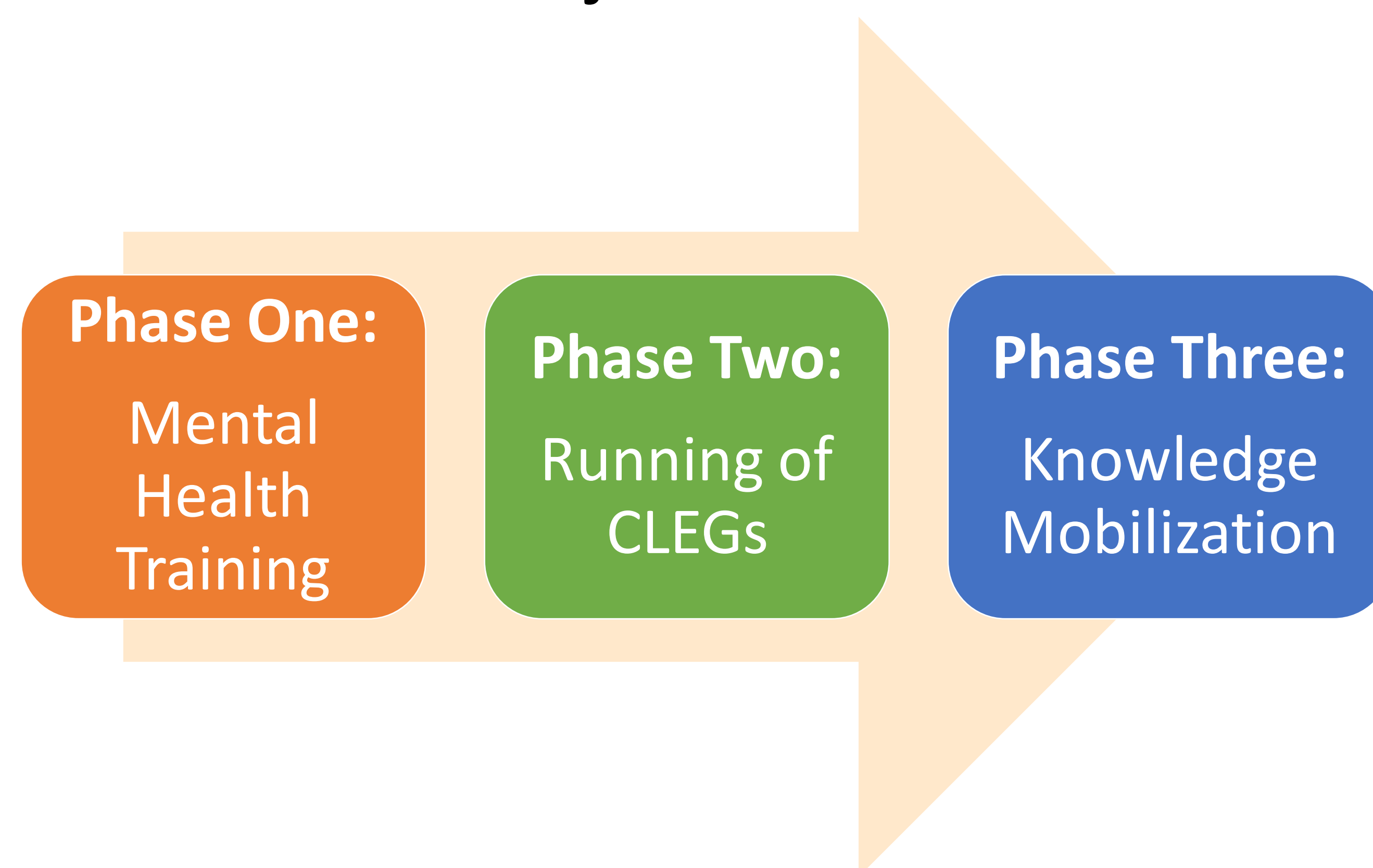


Figure 1. Domains of Integration Model (Ager & Strang, 2008) and ADAPT Model (Silove, 2013)

Project Phases



Phase One:

Trauma-Informed Mental Health Training

- Creation of a team of cultural brokers and community leaders
- Training of the cultural brokers and community leaders in the ADAPT model
- Recruitment of community members (60-80 men, women, youth, seniors of diverse Syrian religions and ethnicities)
- Development of facilitation modules for the community leaders to lead community-learning empowerment groups (CLEGS) with community members
- Writing of two scoping reviews on mental health and psychosocial adaptation of Syrian adults and children in resettlement countries.

Phase One Goals

- Team Development
- Training of the Team
- Recruitment of Community Members
- Development of Facilitation Modules
- Scoping Reviews

Phase One Progress

- Complete!
- 5/9 meetings complete
- Completion: Apr. 27/19
- Most groups are formed
- 2/5 modules fully researched
- Writing in progress
- Fully researched
- Writing in progress

Phases Two and Three

Phase Two: Running of CLEGs

Implementation of CLEGs (8 groups; 60-80 community members)
Focus Groups with CLEG Leaders
Data Collection and Analysis



Phase Three: Knowledge Mobilization

Continued Data Analysis
Model Resource Development
Knowledge Mobilization at Conferences and Through Publications

Project Outcomes

- Resource Manual
 - Focus: implementing a trauma-informed community empowerment model of psychosocial adaptation support
 - Available in Arabic and English
- Public Sharing of the Community Empowerment Model
 - Syrian Community Forum
 - Stakeholder Meeting

References

- Ager, A., & Strang, A. (2008). Understanding integration: A conceptual framework. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 21(2), 166-191.
- Silove, D. (2013). The ADAPT model: A conceptual framework for mental health and psychosocial programming in post conflict settings. *Intervention*, 11(3), 237-248.

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