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## Maternal and Child Mental Care (MCMC), a Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

### Summary:

Child mental health is an indicator for modernisation in any society. In Kurdistan, child mental health was introduced for the first time in 2001, when a [department of child mental health \(CMH\)](#) was opened at the Duhok university in collaboration with the Swedish Uppsala university.

Since this subject was new in the region, neither the local government nor the society in general were ready to prioritise. As a result, a member of the Local Advisory Committee suggested the project leader to open a private clinic to gradually introduce the subject to show and transfer its services to the governmental system to support and integrate into the current public health system. Accordingly, the [Metin Health House \(MHH\)](#) for prevention, early detection and treatment of mental health problems among children and adolescents was opened in the city of Duhok according to the Swedish model in 2008. Formal permission was obtained from the Ministry of Health and Investment authorities in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, and the first stage of the MHH was established providing its activities through two departments; a child psychiatric out-patient, and a preschool care.

Now, it is time to start the second phase of the MHH to provide the following activities:

- 1- Maternal Mental Care (MMC): to provide [regular check-up system for pregnant women](#) stating follow-up from gestation through whole pregnancy until birth.
- 2- [Child Mental Care](#): Milestone check-ups for mental care from birth up to the age of 18 years, including a school mental care system
- 3- [Healthy Original Food \(HOF\)](#): To provide all necessary materials to the pregnant woman, child or adolescent, according to the needs (such as special food for Diabetes, Hypertension, Obesity...etc).
4. Crisis Intervention Program for Children and Adolescents ([CIPCA](#)): To provide individual crisis intervention, or in groups up to 30 children or adolescents, in a single one hour session during any crisis situation according to the needs.

The structure of the MCMC is to be in PPP form. The MHH is considered as private sector providing the expertise, the design, the buildings and the services, while the government will pay the salaries, the rents and materials, and visiting fees.

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