



Annual report 2023

Laguna Collective

info@lagunacollective.nl
www.lagunacollective.nl



TABLE OF CONTENT

Preface	3
Vision and Mission	4
Activities 2023	5
The organization	7
Vision for 2024	8

PREFACE

Laguna Collective has continued to grow in members and has started to receive more members from the international humanitarian community. We are happy that most restrictions due to the pandemic are over and that people are able to meet each other again. We are looking back at a year with different activities and new connections.

Presently, the Laguna Collective is counting 94 members as we have started to become more selective in adding new members to the collective.



Pim Scholte & Joriene van der Kolk

VISION AND MISSION

Laguna Collective is a platform organization where international experts meet to collaborate in generating and spreading knowledge and skills in the field of humanitarian psychosocial aid provision.

Our interest is the mental health of forced migrants, survivors of humanitarian crisis, and those living in low resource settings.

Our vision is that people's mental health is affected by social bonds, meaningful activities, and cultural and spiritual life as much as by psychological processes. Therefore, interventions should focus on strengthening existing and potential resources for psychological well-being across all these domains, and build bridges that transcend prevailing structures mostly based on one aspect of health promotion. Such psycho-social-ecological approach promotes both mental health and a community's social fabric.

Accordingly, Laguna Collective comprises experts from a variety of professional backgrounds (e.g., medicine, psychology, international health, conflict studies, anthropology, social work, law, arts). This enables the use of different perspectives to inform and take collaborative action. Most actors in the humanitarian arena have their own particular focus, expertise, or target group. Laguna Collective harbors this diversity within one organization, which enables greater alignment of activities.

We manage knowledge by learning from field experience, developing and researching innovative intervention methods, and providing training and advice. We seek to engage in long term collaborations to support populations with a psycho-social-ecological approach.

Note – we have the desire to revise our mission and vision in 2024, taking our experience from the past 4 years into consideration. In doing so, we will freely be offered professional assistance from McKinsey strategy and management consulting firm.



ACTIVITIES 2023

In 2023 Laguna Collective engaged in the following activities:

- Research on METS
Together with the Free University (VU) in Amsterdam we received funding from NWO for studying possible the outcomes of METS when provided for undocumented refugees. The research project started November 2023 with recruiting a research assistant and training future METS facilitators (volunteers and staff of the Amsterdams Solidariteits Komitee Vluchtelingen (ASKV)). The research team will meet monthly throughout 2024.
- METS Moldova
For the international NGO INTERSOS we provided a METS training in Chişinău, Moldova, for psychologists supporting Ukrainian refugees residing in Moldova. After the training we held online supervision sessions to support them in implementing the method.
- SH|FT, Athens
We attended and provided workshops on trauma and stress management at a conference in Athens organised by 'Safe Havens - Freedom Talks' (SH|FT), an international NGO supporting artists at risk due to political repression.
- ASOHUMA (Nicaragua)
We provided online trainings for ASOHUMA, an NGO in Nicaragua supporting families of humanitarian activists in detention.
- Global Survivors Fund (Geneva)
We provided online workshops on 'psychological factors impacting survival after sexual violence' and 'stress management, self-care, and setting boundaries', respectively.
- Boat Refugee Foundation (Netherlands, Greece)
On an ongoing basis we act as a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) advisor for Boat Refugee Foundation (BRF), a Dutch NGO providing medical and MHPSS care to refugees in Greek settings (in particular Lesbos and Athens).
- Salú pa Tur (Curaçao)
We payed a visit to 'Salú pa Tur', a free primary healthcare clinic for refugees and uninsured migrants in Curaçao, to assess whether and how to fulfill their request to help in adding a mental health & psychosocial care component to their program.
- FTK, Moshi (Tanzania)
As suggested by the Dutch FEMI Foundation, we made preparations to assess mental health needs and resources in the working region of FTK, a local NGO based in Lower Moshi, Tanzania, to take place early 2024.
- Frascati, Amsterdam
Within the framework of our collaboration with Frascati theatre and production house, our member Mallika Taneja created and gave the performance 'To Walk into the Song of Grief' in Frascati theatre.
- Arts & Specialist
At the request of Arts & Specialist we provided a presentation on 'acute mental crisis in refugees and asylum seekers' for medics working in asylum seeker centres.

- 'Yes We Care' Project with BRF and Mdm
Due to internal changes at one of our partner organizations in this project we prolonged some of our activities within the 'Yes We Care' project.
- People for People (Netherlands)
We started talks with the Dutch NGO 'People for People' to explore possibilities for future collaboration.

THE ORGANIZATION

Laguna Collective strives to be a hierarchically flat organization with a bottom-up approach. All members can propose initiatives and implement projects as long as they align with the mission and vision of the Foundation. Members can communicate openly with the directors about proposed activities under the flag of Laguna Collective.

New members can join at the request of the directors; they will then receive a formal invitation. After submitting a profile (Dutch & English) and a photo, membership is announced on the website. Members can of course nominate new potential members; this will then be followed by a brief introduction to the directors. Almost all members are employed elsewhere and join based on their affinity with the target groups. Since 2020, young professionals have also been included in the collective.

The board started with three members, including a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. In November 2021 a supervisory board was added, represented by:

Prof. Fransje van der Waals, physician
Pim Kraan, emergency manager
Heleen Terwijn, psychologist/psychotherapist
Siomara de Getrouwe-Spalburg, economist
Steven van de Vijver, physician*

* Steven van de Vijver moved from the board to the supervisory board, while Pim Scholte en Joriene van der Kolk stayed in the board, taking position as directors.



VISION FOR 2024

In 2024 the Laguna Collective wants to professionalize and to do so finding seed capital is a vital element of moving forward. To do this we would need to re-evaluate our Mission and Vision and strategy and will receive support from McKinsey strategy and management consulting firm in doing so.

Once this has been realized we hope to be able to reply faster to requests and funding opportunities and keep both Laguna Members and the world updated about our activities and projects. We also hope to find a treasurer and somebody to define a social media strategy.

Finally, we'll continue to engage our members through diverse opportunities and continue to build on a strong network.

