

What to Expect in 2026

A Year of Breakthroughs for Global Child & Adolescent Mental Health Worldwide

Launching the First Universal Youth Mental Health Assessment System

Problem & Why it Matters: No globally consistent, culturally adaptable youth mental health assessment exists, which can create critical barriers to care.

What to Expect in 2026:

- Assessment coverage of 30+ mental health domains.
- Free access for schools, clinics, and researchers worldwide in 12+ languages.
- Early integration planning into our core countries' health and education systems.

First International Data Consortium for Mental Health in Children

Problem & Why it Matters: Countries cannot plan or invest effectively without reliable, comparable data. Most available data are outdated and come primarily from high-income settings.

What to Expect in 2026:

- The first-ever coordinated probabilistic consortium with up to 30,000 interviews in Greece, Brazil, and South Africa.
- Reliable, population-level data to guide service planning for the above countries.

Leading National and Global Efforts on Mental Health Support in Schools

Problem & Why it Matters: Educators often observe early signs of distress but lack training and clear response pathways. Many schools lack a framework for effective student mental health support.

What to Expect in 2026:

- One of the largest studies identifying the best format for delivering psychosocial support training in schools.
- Embedding mental health training into teacher onboarding and certification pathways starting in South Africa and Brazil.

Leading Global Dialogue on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Through High-Impact Convenings

Problem & Why it Matters: Global mental health discussions often lack meaningful youth leadership.

What to Expect in 2026:

- SNF Global Center participation in SNF Nostos 2026 in Athens, Greece.
- Global Summit on Youth Mental Health during UNGA, featuring youth leadership.



SNF Global Center Youth Council in South Africa preparing for the Expert Gathering in Cape Town in November 2025.

Greece: A Fully Empowered National Mental Health System

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Initiative (CAMHI) in Greece was the first country supported by the Child Mind Institute to develop training materials for professionals to provide mental health support to young people. The materials developed for Greece have since been adapted for use in Brazil and South Africa.

Problem & Why it Matters: Fragmented capacity across sectors delays early identification and limits consistent support for youth.

What to Expect in 2026:

- Scaling up trainings for up to 1,600 educators, and 700 pediatricians and family physicians.
- Early integration of CAMHI training into the Greek Education, Health, and Justice systems.

Expanding Mental Health Care Access Through National Virtual Psychotherapy Clinics

Problem & Why it Matters: Most youth are unable to access evidence-based psychotherapy due to workforce shortages and geographic barriers. This can leave millions of young people without vital evidence-based care during critical developmental phases.

What to Expect in 2026:

- Delivery of virtual psychotherapy clinics in South Africa and Brazil to conduct randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to measure the effectiveness of psychosocial materials for educators.
- Evaluation of clinical outcomes, feasibility, and cost.
- Development of government scale-up strategies.

Addressing the Lack of Child Mental Health Professionals Through South-South Clinical Fellowship Programs

Problem & Why it Matters: Many countries face severe shortages of trained child mental health specialists, researchers and communicators. This workforce gap can prevent timely diagnosis and treatment, while hampering the development of culturally appropriate solutions and research advancements.

What to Expect in 2026:

- Kenya–South Africa Partnership: 3 new Clinical Fellows.
- Brazil–Mozambique Partnership: 3 new Clinical Fellows.
- Global call for two new Research Fellows.
- Global call for two new Communicator Fellows.

Expanding Public Awareness and Mental Health Literacy

Problem & Why it Matters: Stigma and low mental health literacy reduce early help-seeking and recognition of symptoms. This knowledge gap could lead to the worsening of treatable conditions, while perpetuating harmful misconceptions.

What to Expect in 2026:

- Partnerships with mental health advocates and influencers.
- Expansion of the library of materials available on country-specific platforms (camhi.gr, camhibr.org, camhi.co.za).



Sikelela Rollom, SNF Global Center Junior Communicator Fellow – South Africa



Scan to learn about our global impact and partnerships