



Yanti Kusamawardhani

Education and Protection Specialist, Yayasan Sayangi Tunas Cilik, Partner of Save the Children Indonesia



Yanti's favorite aspect of her job is when there is an increase in the numbers of children with disabilities who are able to access services due to support from social service providers.



In her role, Yanti supervises 35 social service staff. This includes 15 para professional service providers, largely comprised of therapists who provide professional therapeutic services to children with disabilities in 196 villages, and 22 caseworkers who are primarily social workers working within a social work framework and approach. Their case work includes using case management in identifying the problem, addressing the social functioning issues, and identifying the immediate needs of children with disabilities and their families, empowering them along with their community, and referring them to services in their surrounding area. She assists in finance, logistics, human resources and procurement in advance of service provision.

As the service coordinator, Yanti manages about 180 integrated services each month for children with disabilities and their families in six districts that are provided in the Community Based Rehabilitation Services and delivered by professional service providers including social workers. Additionally, she collects and monitors the data inputs by caseworkers into the electronic system; reviews caseworkers' reports; plans and monitors interventions; builds collaboration with supervisors, universities and government; provides capacity building and counseling trainings for caseworkers and social workers; and ensures child safety and child rights guidelines are met. The overall goal is establishing a family-community based care approach.

Types of support or services and their impact

In response to the problem faced by children with disabilities, Save the Children developed the Facilitating Family-Based Care for Children with Disabilities project in six districts in West Java. The aim of this project is for more Indonesian children with disabilities and their families to gain support and fully attain their rights by accessing high-quality, family-based care, community-support and education. In Indonesia, there is a great deal of stigma resulting in many children with disabilities not receiving needed care or

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education. This program empowers communities to invite children with disabilities to receive services at Community-Based Rehabilitation Centers and aids families through development of parenting skills and knowledge on where/how to obtain services. The goal of involving the community is to ensure the sustainability of the project, as well as ensuring acceptance from the parents/families of children with disabilities to receive interventions. Through this program, professional service providers have also learned how to identify child protection issues.

As a result of this program in 196 villages over the last three years, Yanti and her team have reached 3,444 children with disabilities and their families. Because of these achievements the project is entering a second phase with an additional three years of funding.

Strengthening policies through collaboration

Yanti has worked with the Ministry of Education and Culture to develop guidelines on implementing inclusive education and facilitating the revision of national regulations on inclusive education as a way to ensure sustainable and wider impacts. She has also worked with the Department of Social Affairs on establishing a community-based child protection system and collaborated with government social workers on establishing and improving child protection systems. She has participated in revising the national regulation on inclusive education, especially for increased access to education for children with disabilities.

Training and skills development

Yanti attained a Bachelor's in Social Welfare in Indonesia and then pursued a Master's of Social Work in the United States. She has also pursued courses and trainings in child protection, case management, permanency planning, resiliency and attachment, supervision, positive discipline, disability training, community-based rehabilitation, parenting skills, inclusion education and education systems. Through membership in social work associations, she helps to maintain standards across the country and the exchange of ideas among social workers.



**“Improving the workforce.
Improving lives.”**

Who is the social service workforce?

The social service workforce is defined as being comprised of a variety of workers - government and non-government, paid and unpaid - who contribute to the care, support, promotion of rights and empowerment of vulnerable populations served by the social service system.

What is Social Service Workforce Week?

During this week, advocates will bring attention to and build support for the social service workforce as well as raise awareness about promising workforce strengthening efforts supported by stakeholders around the world. Organized around daily themes, the week is an opportunity for Alliance members and the public to engage in discussions and exchange ideas. Daily blogs, worker profiles and resources provide tools and innovative approaches for strengthening the workforce.

What is the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance?

The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance works toward a world where a well-planned, well-trained and well-supported social service workforce effectively delivers promising practices that improve the lives of vulnerable populations. Launched in June 2013, the mission of the Alliance is to promote the knowledge and evidence, resources and tools and political will and action needed to address key social service workforce challenges, especially within low- to middle-income countries.

The Alliance is funded by PEPFAR/USAID and the GHR Foundation. The Tides Center acts as host and fiscal sponsor of the Alliance.

Learn More

Learn more about Yanti and other social service workers! Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #SSWWeek, on our Facebook page and on the discussion boards on our website at www.socialserviceworkforce.org.