

A Call to Action for Strengthening the Social Service Workforce to Better Protect Children and Achieve the SDGs has been launched to provide country and global level recommended actions for greater planning, development and support to this frontline workforce. The below organizations have added their logo in a show of support for the Call to Action and are already taking steps toward realizing a stronger social service workforce.

### **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. As a network, the Alliance convenes stakeholder groups to advance knowledge and advocate for workforce-supportive policy reform.

**Global Child Advocates** recognizes the need for an increase in social service workforce capacity to provide family support services and assistance to orphanages seeking to shift their care model to family-based care for all child victims of abuse and trafficking. GCA is supporting social service workforce strengthening as a critical component to facilitating care reform in a safe and sustainable way so that more children have the chance to grow up in a safe, loving family.

**The Centre for Excellent for Looked After Children** in Scotland's (CELCIS) international work aims to promote the implementation of Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children. CELCIS shares the understanding that the social service workforce, encompassing social workers and social pedagogues, carers and multiple other professionals and volunteers, play a pivotal role in reforming and improving current care systems and identifying resources to strengthen knowledge and practice skills in child and

family social work in specific countries where professional social work is a new or recently developed profession, or where it has recently expanded.

**The Together for Girls partnership** aims to raise awareness, promote evidence-based solutions and galvanize coordinated action to end violence against girls and boys through TfG is contributing to knowledge exchange and cross-cultural learning through a variety of resources, including launching the "Every Hour Matters" campaign, which aims to increase awareness about the critical importance of quickly accessing post-rape care and calls on national and community leaders to ensure comprehensive services are available in all communities.

**Helping Children Worldwide** is supporting a Child Rescue Centre (CRC) in Bo, Sierra Leone that is transitioning child welfare programs from institutional care and orphanage model settings to family-based care within the community. Together, they are working closely with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare and Gender Affairs as well as with other child-focused NGOs in the region and in the country, by meeting regularly to share knowledge and best practices.

### **Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care**

in Zimbabwe supports the Call to Action because it aligns with their mission of protecting children through strengthening the social service workforce. Shanduko helps children to thrive in difficult circumstances through provision of psychosocial support services to physically and sexually abused children. They support drop in centers in the region and consult with child protection committees, recognizing the key role of social service providers in this work.

**FICE International** is a network of organizations and individuals with the common goal to improve the quality of child and youth care around the world. FICE organizes conferences and congresses for child and youth care professionals to connect, exchange knowledge, good practices and information, and to increase their capacities to discuss and establish best practices for working with children without parental care, refugee youth and unaccompanied minors, education and learning challenges of children.

**HealthProm** trains social service professionals working in the health, social care, and education sectors in areas ranging from child protection to inclusive education for children with disabilities. In Tajikistan, HealthProm works with UNICEF and the Tajik Government to advance training and legislature in child protection.

### **Better Care Network**

believes that a strong social service workforce is critical to meeting the needs of children without adequate family care. To help achieve this, BCN and Save the Children have co-facilitated the Tracking Progress Initiative to enable national-level actors to determine the extent to which their state or region has effectively implemented the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and the priorities for change still ahead, through a strengths-based diagnostic and learning tool.

### **The Asia Pacific Forum on Families International**

(APFAM) realizes the central role of the social service workforce in building stronger families to contribute to the balanced development of children, self-reliance and financial sufficiency.

To fulfill **Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative's** (REPSSI) vision of all girls, boys and youth enjoying psychosocial and mental wellbeing, REPSSI country programs are encouraging government and other partners to establish or reinvigorate national level workforce leadership groups, or national Social Services Workforce task teams. REPSSI is committed to professionalization of the community level social service workforce and collaborates with national academic institutions to achieve this.

**IntraHealth International** has been able to act on the learning from situational analysis and support government system and workforce strengthening efforts at the national level in Botswana. Working with other NGOs and government, action has been taken to form a technical leadership team to assume ownership of national level efforts, complete an assessment of the existing system of enrolling children in social protection/welfare services (such as cash transfers and OVC grants), and determine which gaps to address within structures, systems and procedures.

**Bantwana World Education Initiative** works closely with government, policy makers, local NGOs, faith-based organizations and other stakeholders in the countries where they work using multi sectoral approaches to advance the social service workforce. They test and implement cost

effective case management and service delivery approaches that strengthen the system as a whole- from community to national levels.

**Maestral International** supports systemic, holistic and cross-cutting approaches to addressing violence, exploitation and abuse of children. Maestral is a member of the Changing the Way We Care consortium that includes CRS and Lumos. The initiative will promote the development and strengthening of the social service workforce and case management assessments and referrals based on the particular needs of each child in Guatemala, Kenya, Moldova and Zambia.

### **SOS Children's Villages**

believes a properly skilled, resourced and supported child care workforce is key in ensuring quality care. To increase recognition, remuneration and training in rights-based gender-sensitive training, SOS is collaborating with international and national partners to develop a set of national policy recommendations on how training for care professionals working with care leavers can be sustained.

Many other stakeholders are supporting the country level and global level recommended actions with the Call to Action. These groups include: American International Health Alliance, ChildHub International, Children of the World Foundation, CORAFID, Faith to Action, Family Care First, GHR Foundation, The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, International Association of Schools of Social Work, Make Me Smile Kenya, National Association of Social Workers US, Proteknon, RIATT-ESA, Save the Children, Social Services Cambodia, Stahili, Terre des hommes, TPO Uganda and UNICEF. For more information, visit [www.socialserviceworkforce.org](http://www.socialserviceworkforce.org).