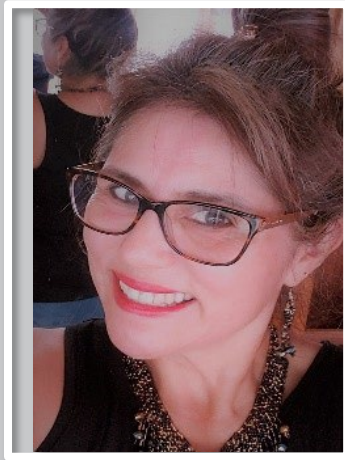




Lilian Leonora López Ruano

Psychology Specialist
Catholic Relief Services, Guatemala



“My main motivation is to see a family become united again.”



Overview of role

My main role is to provide support and guidance to families, children and adolescents, who are or who have been in residential care. I support families through the reunification and reintegration process, linking them to essential social services and supporting their adaptation to a healthy family and community environment. I also follow-up with families and children and provide positive parenting trainings to families to help them identify the needs of their children and strengthen their bonds, as this is essential for the future of their relationships with their children.

Typical tasks

My typical tasks include completing psychological evaluations, conducting case management processes, visiting families and their children, and implementing care plans to ensure the permanence of children within a family environment.

Training and skills

I am a clinical psychologist with more than five years of experience working with children and adolescents who have experienced a violation of their rights. I also have extensive experience working with children who are victims of sexual violence. My experience has allowed me to provide more effective support to families, empowering them in parenting and providing education to their children.

Motivation

My main motivation is to see a family become united again because they have become better people and have made positive changes related to their parenting and can now provide their children with love and security.

What I like most about my job is interacting with children and adolescents since they are transparent. This allows me to identify their needs, interests

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and desires as well as validate everything they feel.

Changing role due to COVID-19

Because this work is so personal, COVID-19 has been a challenge. With children it is very important that you interact personally and show empathy and it is also important that you visit the families to help with the family strengthening process.

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Who is the social service workforce?

While capturing any one definition of the social service workforce is challenging, it can be broadly defined to describe a variety of workers – paid and unpaid, governmental and nongovernmental – who staff the social service system and contribute to the care and well-being of children, youth, adults, older persons, families and communities. Social service workers engage people, structures and organizations to: facilitate access to needed services, alleviate poverty, challenge and reduce discrimination, promote social justice and human rights, and prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and family separation.

What is Social Service Workforce Week?

Every year, the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance hosts Social Service Workforce Week. The week serves as an opportunity for advocates to 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 focused on areas of practice, the week will allow Alliance members and the public to engage in a dynamic platform of information exchange and advocacy through various forms of social media.

What is the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance?

The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance works towards a world in which a well-planned, developed and supported social service workforce engages people, structures and organizations to strengthen and build individual, child, family and community well-being and resilience. To achieve this, we work to build and channel the political will, actions, resources and structures necessary for a social service workforce that is knowledgeable, capable, critically reflective, resilient and committed.

The Alliance is an inclusive network of more than 3,000 individual members affiliated with a range of organizations and institutions across 145 countries. The Alliance is currently funded jointly by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), under the Partnerships Plus project implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., and by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) through projects at global, regional and national level. The Alliance is a fiscally sponsored project of Tides Center, a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Learn more

Learn more about Ala and other social service workers! Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #SSWWeek and online at www.socialserviceworkforce.org/

Improving the workforce. Improving lives.