

GLOBAL SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

OVERVIEW

WHO IS THE SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE?

The social service workforce is comprised of a variety of workers – paid and unpaid, governmental and nongovernmental – who staff the social service system and contribute to the care, support and promotion of rights and empowerment of vulnerable populations. Social service workers create protective environments for healthy development and well-being by tackling poverty, reducing discrimination, promoting social justice and providing needed services to care for and support those who need it most.

WHY SUPPORT STRENGTHENING EFFORTS?

In a world where too many people are made vulnerable due to poverty, social exclusion, inequality and social injustice, a strong social service workforce is urgently needed. A well-planned, well-trained, supported workforce is better able to address the needs and enhance the resources of vulnerable populations, including children and families. When strong planning, training and support processes are in place, social service workers are better able to coordinate with efforts in health, justice, mental health and education, and, ultimately, to promote well-being and prevent and respond to a variety of risks, including violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and family separation.



GLOBAL
SOCIAL SERVICE WORKFORCE
ALLIANCE

Improving the workforce. Improving lives.

WHO ARE WE?

Mission and Vision

The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance envisions 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. 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.

Our History

The Alliance was conceptualized during a conference in Cape Town in 2010 that brought together multi-sectoral stakeholders from 18 countries to identify challenges and successes in building social service workforce capacity. Participants recognized a need to continue dialogue and information sharing across borders and sectors. The Alliance was officially launched as a network in 2013.

Our Structure

Since 2013, the Alliance network has grown to include more than 1,100 individuals from NGOs, government, UN agencies, donors, academic and research institutions and professional associations spanning nearly 90 countries. The Alliance is a non-profit entity funded by PEPFAR/USAID and GHR Foundation and is hosted by the Tides Center. The Secretariat of the Alliance is based in Washington, DC, and a globally representative Steering Committee provides strategic guidance. Alliance Ambassadors help to advocate for workforce-inclusive policies nationally and regionally.

Join us now at: www.socialserviceworkforce.org

How can you get involved?

Membership in our network is free to anyone who is interested in supporting efforts aimed at strengthening the social service workforce. There are many ways members can engage with one another and the global community to help strengthen the workforce through the three primary roles of the Alliance.

| | WHAT WE DO | HOW YOU CAN HELP |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Convene and Connect | The Alliance is a forum to convene members for networking and collective learning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend topics and join in webinars and annual symposia• Participate in workforce-focused panels in conferences• Exchange ideas in online discussion boards• Connect with members through an online directory and private messaging |
| Advance Knowledge | The Alliance advances knowledge by producing, organizing and disseminating critical evidence-based materials informed by members. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in member-led thematic interest groups to collectively develop new tools and resources• Utilize resources, tools, research and case studies from the Alliance resource database• Initiate or join conversations via blogs and social media |
| Advocate | The Alliance brings members together to advocate for greater attention, funding and workforce-supportive policies at the local, national and global levels. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Champion efforts for greater recognition and inclusion of the workforce in national policies• Add your voice to support Social Service Workforce Week• Contribute to and circulate annual State of the Social Service Workforce Reports and other workforce data to stakeholder groups• Encourage more people to become a part of our growing network |

Learn more about the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance and how you can be a part of this exciting new movement toward strengthening this vital workforce.

Join us at socialserviceworkforce.org

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