

VIRGILIU HANGAN Social Evaluation and Family Reintegration Coordinator Partnerships for Every Child, Moldova



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Overview of role

I work to make sure children in the process of family reintegration receive the support they need. I make sure they are psychologically prepared to return home and avoid any potential trauma. I also assist the families in making sure they are ready to receive their children. This involves evaluating the families, covering their financial needs, mediating any contact with the children prior to their reintegration and supervising the families after reintegration. I also work with others who will interact with the children, such as classmates and teachers, to avoid any potential negativity towards the children.

Tasks and responsibilities

My typical daily tasks include evaluating children and families during the reintegration process; conducting trainings for social service employees with the purpose of strengthening the process; supervising community social workers; and participating in the development of training materials.

Training and education

I have a bachelor's degree in foreign languages and business administration. I have also completed a large number of trainings in social work. Currently, I am completing a master's degree in social assistance.

Motivation

I firmly believe that children should grow up in a family environment, which ensures their proper development. Unfortunately, sometimes families find themselves in disadvantaged situations and need support when it comes to raising their children. Over the years, Partnerships for Every Child has helped a large number of children from residential institutions reintegrate or get placed in alternative family-based care. I consider our greatest achievement to be that children have been able to grow up in a family environment.

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Changing role due to COVID-19

Due to the pandemic, residential institutions were closed to outsiders for a period of time and we could not conduct child assessment. We, therefore, had to teach and mentor the institution staff so that they could perform the assessments.

Also, the pandemic has caused authorities to allot more time to healthcare needs, but they have ignored social needs. To prevent this, non-governmental organizations have had to maintain constant contact with authorities and make sure they are aware of the needs of disadvantaged families.

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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 wellbeing 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 Marcela 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.