



News, Events and Resources | June 2021

Secretariat News

New Staff

This month we are very pleased to welcome two new staff members to our team:

Alena Sherman joins us as the new Communications and Advocacy Manager for the Alliance. She will be responsible for supporting the Alliance in developing and deploying strategies to communicate with Alliance members and external audiences and engage them in efforts to jointly build knowledge and advocate for the social service workforce. Alena holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in international human rights, with a focus on humanitarian assistance. She comes to us with over six years of experience designing and implementing strategic communication initiatives for nongovernmental organizations focused on international development and humanitarian assistance.



Emily Kaplan joins us as our new intern. She will be assisting with a range of our ongoing projects as well as supporting longer-term organizational goals. Emily holds a B.A. from Barnard College and is currently in the final semester of pursuing her MSW at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service, with a focus on macro-level practice. She brings a decade of nonprofit fundraising experience and currently works for the development consultancy Advance NYC, which provides a combination of big picture strategy and hands-on tactical support for nonprofits in and around New York City.



Opportunities

Consultancy to Develop Guidance on Social Service Workforce Ratios and Costing Tool

The Alliance is seeking to hire a consultant, pair of consultants or small team of consultants, to develop guidance on recommended workforce ratios, and a costing tool, for the social service workforce. Interested applicants / teams must apply by **midnight GMT on June 15th, 2021**. Individual applicants may choose to be considered for one part of the assignment (i.e. ratios or costing), or for the whole assignment. [View the terms of reference and details on how to apply.](#)

Call for Action

The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance Endorses IFSW Call for Action on Equal Access to Vaccines

Equal access to vaccines requires political will to work with communities and health, primary care and social professions to find a global solution to a global crisis. The G7 countries meet in England on June 12th, 2021. All are countries that have delivered vaccines to their own populations ahead of others and have committed to support COVAX,



but still the COVID virus takes many thousands of lives. The UK government will be encouraging G7 health leaders to endorse a 'Health Declaration' to respond to longer-term challenges and to build an international health response. This is a start, but the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is concerned that without the input of communities and health, primary care and social professions, the 'Health Declaration' may not be far reaching or effective.

The IFSW Call for Action asks that individuals, especially those in countries in the G7 group contact the government officials who are actively engaged in preparing the Health Declaration and inform them that:

- Our collective experience, with our health colleagues, is that inequality and ill-equipped health and social protection systems are key exacerbators of this pandemic.
- Co-working with communities, political leaders and informed health, primary care and social work professionals are fundamental to getting this pandemic under control.
- Creating future strong health and social protection systems will prevent future pandemics causing the destruction to people's well-being and global economies.

[View more information about the summit and IFSW's Call to Action.](#)

Online Learning

Recording | SACSSP Child and Youth Care Work Summit

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work hosted a virtual summit on May 6 as part of International Child and Youth Care Work Week 2021. The theme of the summit was “The crisis in the child and youth care sector in South Africa and its impact on the welfare of children and youth”. [View the recording of the full summit.](#)

Virtual Conference | Breaking the Cycle: Protection, Resilience and Recovery for Street Connected Children

Street connected children and youth are one of the hardest to reach populations in society. They have often been forced into the harsh environment after escaping serious issues at home such as neglect, poverty, physical and sexual abuse, family

breakdown and violence. Once on the streets, they experience further harm, often from adults, which makes it even harder for them to trust service providers who are genuinely trying to help them. On **June 24 and 25** Railway Children Africa will host a virtual conference to share experiences in gaining that trust, and working to address the root causes of children running away to the streets. The conference will bring together other professionals and organisations from the sector to share innovative, ground-breaking interventions across the two days. There will be a series of sessions led by local and international experts and practitioners in the field as well as opportunities to identify potential initiatives for joint programming. More information on, and the ability to register for, specific sessions will be available in the coming days. [View more details and register.](#)



Virtual Conference | What Social Work Does the World Need Now?

On **June 28th** the Social Work Futures? Research Group at Glasgow Caledonian University will host a conference focused on the thought that challenges social work scholarship to engage in the contemporary technological, biological and environmental concerns. Presenters are based across the world and bring the nuance of their different social and political contexts to this

question. The event is scheduled in three blocks to be accessible across time zones.

Presentations will also be recorded and posted online. [View more details and register.](#)



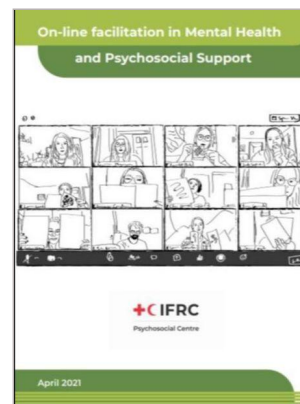
Resources

All of the resources below can be found in our [Resource Database](#). For resources specific to COVID-19, be sure to view our [COVID-19 Resources](#) page. If you have a new resource to share, [please contact us](#).

Training Guide | On-line facilitation in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

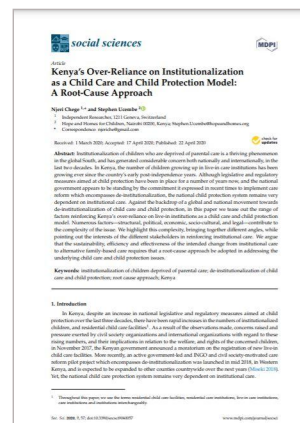
This guide reflects and builds on experiences from the IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial

Support with conducting its participatory on-line mental health and psychosocial support trainings. The guide offers tools on how to transform participatory and scenario-based face-to-face trainings to a digitally inclusive experience. It is written to encourage the use of online trainings that enhances the learning outcomes for participants combining technical skills with social-emotional learning. [Access the guide.](#)



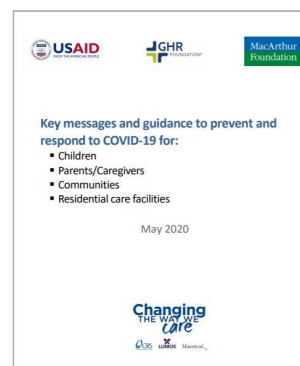
Article | Kenya's Over-Reliance on Institutionalization as a Child Care and Child Protection Model: A Root-Cause Approach

Institutionalization of children who are deprived of parental care is a thriving phenomenon in the global South, and has generated considerable concern both nationally and internationally, in the last two decades. In Kenya, the number of children growing up in live-in care institutions has been growing ever since the country's early post-independence years. Although legislative and regulatory measures aimed at child protection have been in place for a number of years now, and the national government appears to be standing by the commitment it expressed in recent times to implement care reform which encompasses de-institutionalization, the national child protection system remains very dependent on institutional care. Against the backdrop of a global and national movement towards de-institutionalization of child care and child protection, in this paper the authors tease out the range of factors reinforcing Kenya's over-reliance on live-in institutions as a child care and child protection model. Numerous factors—structural, political, economic, socio-cultural, and legal—contribute to the complexity of the issue. The authors highlight this complexity, bringing together different angles, while pointing out the interests of the different stakeholders in reinforcing institutional care. They argue that the sustainability, efficiency and effectiveness of the intended change from institutional care to alternative family-based care requires that a root-cause approach be adopted in addressing the underlying child care and child protection issues. [Access the article.](#)



Guidance Document | Key Messages and Guidance to Prevent and Respond to COVID-19

This document features key messages including critical information about keeping children safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The content addresses the psychosocial concerns and increased child protection risks that can occur as a result of measures put in place to prevent the spread and negative impact of COVID-19. The messages are designed for use by country child protection actors, such as public child protection officers, directors of residential care facilities and government and civil society actors that work with vulnerable children and families. The information included herein should guide targeting of activities and services for vulnerable children and families. These messages have been informed by existing guidance provided by the World



Health Organization, UNICEF, and others, and were originally drafted by an inter-agency Technical Working Group convened by the National Council for Children's Services and UNICEF in Kenya. The content is framed by applicable international standards, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and the 2019 Child Protection Minimum Standards. [Access the full document.](#)

Guidance Document | 2021 UNHCR Best Interests Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners support the strengthening or establishment of comprehensive child protection systems, which includes providing individual children at risk with targeted, timely, systematic and coordinated support in their best interests. These Guidelines focus on this crucial element of the UNHCR child protection mandate. The primary objective of the BIP Guidelines is to support UNHCR and partner staff in improving the protection outcomes for refugee children by: i) situating the best interests of refugee children within a comprehensive child protection system and ii) strengthening child protection case management for all refugee children. These Guidelines replace all previous guidelines, including the 2008 BID Guidelines and the 2011 Field Handbook, and the 2018 BIP Guidelines.

[Access the full document.](#)



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