



Update from the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance

2021 World Social Work Day Theme Announced

Every year, World Social Work Day is celebrated the third Tuesday of March, and events are organized throughout the month of March. The day is an opportunity for social workers and others in the social service sector to celebrate their achievements as well as to raise awareness and support for the important role that social workers play in the lives of children, families and communities. The day calls attention to the need for further planning, development and support to the profession and social service sector.



In 2021, World Social Work Day is on March 16. The theme for 2021 has just been announced - Ubuntu: I am Because We are – Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness. This is the first theme of the 2020 to 2030 Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. Ubuntu originates from the indigenous peoples of South Africa and was popularized across the world by Nelson Mandela. Ubuntu: 'I am because we are' is a word, concept and philosophy that resonates with the social work perspective of the interconnectedness of all peoples and their environments. It speaks to the need for global solidarity and also highlights indigenous knowledge and wisdom.

If you will be conducting activities in March, [please let us know](#) so we can share with the network, as well as share advocacy messages, posters and calls to action. As we learn of events, we will post them to our [World Social Work Day webpage](#). We will also share materials that are developed for use and replication globally, including the global poster. For event ideas, please review [activities and materials from prior years](#).

Opportunities

Consultant State Coordinator - Developing a Framework for Child Protection Workforce Development and Case Management in India

The Child Protection Section of UNICEF India has engaged the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance to map and undertake a comprehensive human resources and capacity gap assessment of the existing child protection workforce in five states in India, and then propose a framework for strengthening this workforce, with special emphasis on case management. There will be five Coordinators working at State level, one in each of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam and West Bengal. They will work as part of the Alliance national consultancy team for this project (consisting of the National Coordinator, State Coordinators and a consultant developing training of trainers materials on case management). This is expected to be completed over 28 days between February - December 2021. [Please review the full TOR and details for applying](#). Applications close January 18.

OVC Task Force Co-Chair Positions

The OVC Task Force is seeking two candidates to join the Task Force as Co-Chairs. Nominees must be currently working for organizations that have a significant OVC portfolio and have significant experience in the design, implementation and evaluation of OVC programs in developing country contexts. [Review the position descriptions and requirements](#) for the co-chair roles. [Nominations can be sent by email](#) and should include Name, Title, Organization, Brief Bio, Interest in becoming a Co-Chair and CV by Thursday, January 14, 2021.

Case Management Consultancy in Nigeria

Plan International is seeking a [Community Engagement in Case Management \(CECM\) Field Consultant](#) to conduct a review on the roles of community volunteers within the case management process in Nigeria that includes their roles, experiences, capacities and limitations. Following the review, the consultant will develop and test resources to support the roles of volunteers according to the review in collaboration with the project team. The consultancy is expected to be conducted over 50 days between January through July 2021.

Share Your Work

The Global Social Service Workforce Alliance is seeking success stories and case studies from members and their networks for upcoming blogs and to inform the content of the upcoming State of the Social Service Workforce Report. This is an opportunity for individuals and organizations to widely share examples of their work with others, raise awareness, exchange knowledge and increase uptake of new tools or innovative approaches.

The Alliance is interested to hear both about work that is underway and upcoming initiatives. These blogs, or ideas for blogs, should reflect the important role and impact of the social service workforce, or ways in which the workforce is being strengthened through planning, development or support.

In addition to prior areas of social service workforce strengthening and thematic areas of work which remain of interest, we are also seeking to share successful examples of practice innovation, policy development or advocacy for the workforce's role during the current pandemic, and protection for communities and individuals that is enabling them to respond to and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. These examples could be in relation to both the direct impacts of the pandemic and to wider issues of social justice and structural inequalities, highlighted or exacerbated during the pandemic.

[Please email your topic ideas](#) and the Alliance will follow up with you.

Webinars and Events

OVC and HIV Coordination

A webinar will be held on January 13 from 08:00-09:30 New York / 12:00 GMT to discuss 'What Works? Effective coordination between OVC and HIV clinical partners to improve pediatric HIV case finding, retention and viral load suppression.' The webinar will feature the experiences of three distinct programs and country contexts that illustrate effective approaches for building strong partnerships between community OVC and clinical HIV programs and will highlight relevant data-driven solutions that close critical gaps across the pediatric HIV cascade. [Register now](#).

Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children

The INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children technical package is a collection of evidence-based recommendations on how to prevent and respond to violence against children. A series of webinars are being held to review the strategies. This second webinar in the series will present the first INSPIRE strategy "implementation and enforcement of laws" in more depth. [Register now for the webinar](#) to be held on January 19 at 15:30 CET.

Resources

Science of Love in Childhood

In this ground-breaking new series by UNICEF, Laura Mucha – author, poet and children's advocate – interviews some of the world's leading experts to share why love is so important in childhood. The series sets out to cover how adversity impacts us as children and the adults we become; what we can do to protect and improve young people's mental health; and why safe and loving relationships are so vital for children's health, development and wellbeing throughout life.



[View the video interviews](#) upload to date from the following speakers:

- Cornelius Williams, Associate Director and Global Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF
- Aaron Greenberg, Senior Regional Advisor for Europe and Central Asia, Child Protection, UNICEF
- Dr. Bernadette Madrid, Director of the Child Protection Unit of the University of the Philippines Manila, Philippine General Hospital
- Dr. Vikram Patel, Professor of Global Health, Harvard Medical School
- Dr. Daniel Siegel, child psychiatrist, professor and author

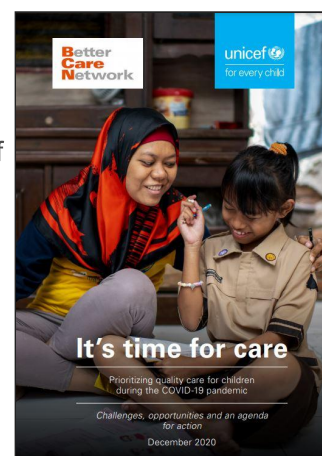
Resource Database

Visit our website for [COVID-19 resources and tools](#) on topics relevant to the roles of the social service workforce, including mental health and psychosocial support, child protection, case management, alternative care and separated children, gender-based violence, working with communities, communications/key messages and webinars. If you have a new resource to share, [please contact us](#).

[It's Time for Care](#)

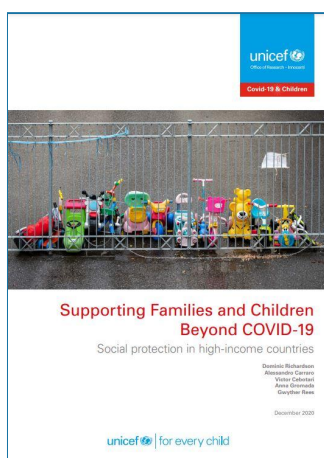
Better Care Network and UNICEF, 2020

If children are to be at the heart of the COVID-19 response and recovery plans, care and caregivers must be prioritized as a matter of urgency. This discussion paper outlines the extraordinary challenges facing children and families across the globe, and the steps that can be taken to ensure their inclusion in COVID-19 recovery plans. The five-point agenda for care offers an important roadmap to guide the immediate response to ensure quality care for children as well as the long-term investments required to build back better by making children, families and communities more resilient today and tomorrow.



[Supporting Families and Children Beyond COVID-19 - Social protection in high-income countries](#)

Dominic Richardson, Alessandro Carraro, Victor Cebotari, Anna Gromada, Gwyther Rees, UNICEF, 2020



High-income countries have very limited experience of dealing with health crises, having their health and human services stretched beyond capacity, restricting the travel of their populations or having to close workplaces and schools – let alone experience of all of these things combined. These unique conditions create new and serious challenges for the economies and societies of all high-income countries. As these challenges evolve, children – as dependents – are among those at greatest risk of seeing their living standards fall and their personal well-being decline. Research on what the crisis – and the response to the crisis – could mean for children is both necessary and timely. Child-sensitive approaches to

crisis recovery – ensuring that children are protected from harm, that their services are ring-fenced, and that they are seen as a priority group in the response – are not simply driven by good intentions, but should be seen as vital to ensuring that future generations are equipped to avoid crises such as COVID-19. As a second wave of COVID-19 hits, and immunizations are beginning to be rolled-out, many high-income countries can still do more to manage the recovery of the crisis in ways that do not exacerbate inequalities for children and families, and in so doing, can protect children's futures.

[Training Manual for Caregivers of Children with Disabilities](#)

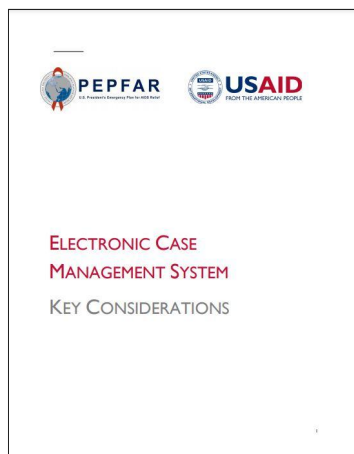
The Department of Social Welfare of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and UNICEF Ghana, 2020

This Training Manual for Caregivers of Children with disabilities has been developed to equip caregivers of children with disabilities (which include biological parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, caregivers in institutions, caregivers in day care centers, healthcare providers, teachers of special needs schools, etc.) with the needed knowledge and skill in order for them to be able to provide the required quality of care for the children for them to grow and develop well and become productive in society despite their disabilities.



[Electronic Case Management: Key considerations](#)

Resource from PEPFAR/USAID, 2020



Electronic case management systems streamline the reporting of OVC indicators, provides greater visibility and accountability for partners, and allows service providers to monitor program performance and outcomes. An electronic case management system is proven to be effective in storing key beneficiary information, tracking routine supporting service data, and tracks the progress towards completion of an individual's care plan. The purpose of this document is to offer interagency country teams a general systems consideration when designing, deploying, and maintaining electronic case management systems in support of OVC programming and reporting.

[Children with Disabilities - Ensuring their inclusion in COVID-19 response strategies and evidence generation](#)

UNICEF, 2020

Several months into the COVID-19 crisis, the questions above remain largely unanswered. However, evidence is beginning to emerge that points to increased risks for children with disabilities as well as reduced access to services. Understanding such risks and assessing the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic are key to shaping a response that takes into account the needs of all children. Disruptions to services, ranging from education to child protection, have been documented, with disproportionate effects on the most vulnerable children and families. In

many cases, governments have responded creatively and adapted services to address critical needs. Documenting such disruptions along with mitigation measures is central to spotlighting the immediate and long-term interventions that must be put in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all children.



[Modelling the Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Violent Discipline Against Children](#)

Camilla Fabbri, Amiya Bhatia, Max Petzold, Munkhbadar Jugder, Alessandra Guedes, Claudia Cappa, Karen Devries, 2020

This study estimated the anticipated effect of COVID-19 on violent discipline at home in the countries of Mongolia, Nigeria and Suriname using multivariable predictive regression models. This study is motivated by concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic has potentially increased children's risk of experiencing violence. The pandemic has led to the disruption of formal and informal child protection systems responsible for identification of and response to cases of violence. The paper aims to discuss the benefits and challenges of approaches to address risk factors for violent discipline depending on the level of lockdown.

[Preservation and Reunification for Families of Young Children: Case file review of a home-visiting program](#)

Rebecca Giallo, Holly Rominov, Catherine Fisher, Kirsty Evans & Ali Fogarty, 2020

The Home Parenting Education and Support (HoPES) programme is a new intensive 8-week home-visiting intervention supporting the preservation and reunification of families with young children (aged 0–4 years) receiving child protection services following child abuse and/or neglect in Australia. This study aimed to review the program, how it was supporting families, major challenges and generate evidence to inform further development of a trauma informed and culturally sensitive intervention.



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