



Update from the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance

## Advocating for the Social Service Workforce on World Social Work Day

World Social Work Day will be celebrated on March 16 and throughout this month to recognize the achievements of the social service workforce, as well as to call for greater support for the important role they play in the lives of individuals, families and communities every day of the year.

This year's theme is 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 service sector 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.



To support individuals and organizations in celebrating the day while advocating for this frontline workforce, the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance is collaborating with UNICEF ESARO to develop a toolkit of promotional materials. Keep an eye out for a dedicated email with links to download these materials coming soon so that individuals and organizations can plan how to incorporate these messages and materials within outreach activities.

The Alliance is also keeping a running list of events being held globally. Many of these events will be held online and are free to join. [Check out the list and notify us of events](#) being planned so we can share with this network.

## New Blogs

### COVID-19 and Beyond: Recognizing the Essential Role of the Social Service Workforce

As a key partner and supporter of the COVID 4P Log, the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance drafted a [blog outlining the important role of the social service workforce](#) for the Inspiring Children's Futures at the University of Strathclyde website. The blog highlights how responses shared by practitioners, policymakers and others working in the social service sector will help to shape support to the social service workforce during COVID-19 and beyond. The period for sharing replies through the app has now closed, but the project is now consolidating replies and information to develop reports with recommendations.



### Declaration on Strengthening the Social Service Workforce in ASEAN

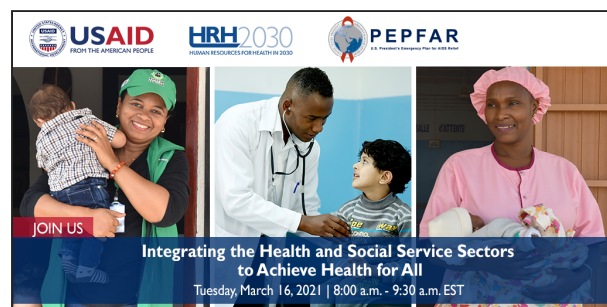
Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB) recently [posted a blog](#) by the Alliance illustrating how The Hanoi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community shows the critical role played by the social service workforce not only in reaching vulnerable groups but also in mitigating the impact of COVID-19. The Declaration lays out 11 steps and goals toward strengthening the social service workforce.



## Online Learning

### Integrating the Health and Social Service Sectors to Achieve Health for All

The Alliance is excited to be speaking on this webinar that will take place on March 16, World Social Work Day. Additional speakers from HRH2030, the World Health Organization and USAID will share how more integrated, more inclusive health and social service workforces can play a key role in protecting and investing in communities' health and well-being. [Register now](#).



### Violence against Children during COVID-19: Assessing and

## understanding change in use of helplines

Several months into the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers across the globe are attempting to find out how the health and socioeconomic crisis brought about by the coronavirus is affecting children's exposure to violence. Four articles published in the Child Abuse and Neglect Journal provide valuable insights. The findings will be presented in a series of webinars. This second webinar presented by UNICEF and the Global Partnership to End Violence will discuss the change in use of helplines. [Register now for the webinar](#) on March 9 at 08:00 ET.

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## Resources

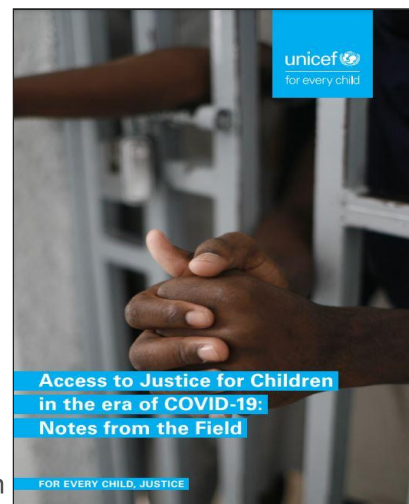
### Resource Database

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](#).

#### [Access to Justice for Children in the Era of COVID-19: Notes from the Field](#)

UNICEF, 2020

Access to justice is both a fundamental human right and an essential prerequisite for the protection and promotion of all human rights. Children's access to justice is therefore central to UNICEF's mandate to advocate for the protection of children's rights. This rapid analysis documents how UNICEF programming on access to justice for children is shifting rapidly to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its unique impacts on children in the justice system. It highlights additional training that may be needed and areas of opportunity for social service workers to support reunification of children and collaborate with the justice sector to support previously detained children or children in conflict with the law. Looking across all regions and countries where UNICEF operates, this analysis shares innovative and promising practices in increasing access to justice for children.



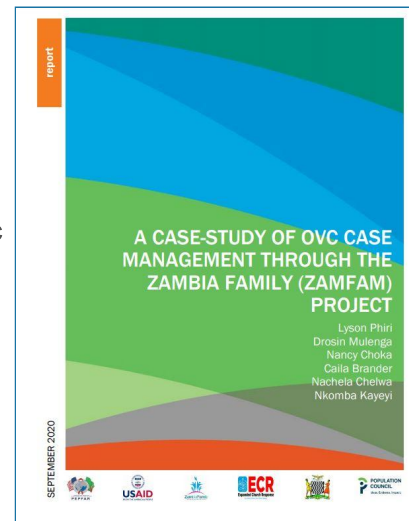
#### [A Case-Study of OVC Case Management Through the Zambia Family \(ZamFam\) Project](#)

Lyson Phiri, Drosin Mulenga, Nancy Choka, Caila Brander, Nachela Chelwa, Nkomba Kayeyi - Population Council, 2020

ZAMFAM used the case management approach which tracks the beneficiary from identification to graduation. The case management cycle involves a ZAMFAM methodology of scaled up community engagement from the first step of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) identification, followed by assessment, case opening, child and family support planning, support and referral services, monitoring and review and case closure. An assessment process is used to determine the specific needs of each child and household, creating an individualized care plan with action steps to address the areas of highest vulnerability. ZAMFAM directly provides or

delivers referrals to existing services to meet the basic needs of OVC through home visits and one-stop delivery points at community level by trained community volunteers (CVs). These services address primary health care which includes HIV prevention, care and treatment, education, psychosocial needs, child protection, nutrition, parenting skills and economic strengthening.

As the project comes to an end in 2020, ECR engaged Population Council (PC), to conduct a qualitative case study of the ZAMFAM program. Perspectives of beneficiaries and stakeholders were sought in addition to a detailed review of key program documentation to identify best practices and lessons for future programming. These best practices are discussed in detail in the report and recommendations are shared. The beneficiary home visitations from CVs, which provided a comprehensive service package, were hailed by beneficiaries and key stakeholders as a key to success of the program.



### [Making Best Use of the 'Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty'](#)

UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Region

In response to increasing concerns about the protection issues facing children in detention during the COVID-19 crisis, an Inter-Agency 'Technical Note: COVID-19 and Children Deprived of their Liberty' was published in April 2020. It contains recommendations for governments and other detaining authorities on the urgent release of juveniles. This brief shares the experiences of 16 countries in using this technical note and details positive outcomes within the country.



### [The Poverty of Policy: Examining Care Leaving Policy in Ethiopia](#)

Anduamlak Molla Takele, Messay Gebremariam Kotecho and Philip Mendes, Ethiopia

International research consistently shows that young care leavers' journey from care to emerging adulthood is characterised by adversities such as unemployment, poor academic performance, homelessness, involvement in criminal activities, mental illness and early parenthood. As research evidence points out, such negative outcomes are closely linked with the existence of multiple placements, lack of mentoring, limited connections with significant others, the absence of early preparation to leave care, and a dearth of or inadequate policy frameworks that entitle care leavers to use aftercare support schemes. In order to support care leavers' transition from care to emerging adulthood, Global North countries have implemented an independent care leaving policy framework whereas in countries in the Global South research is still in the early stages and limited frameworks exist.

Existing policy frameworks concerning children have failed to address the needs of Ethiopian care leavers despite the existence of over five million orphan and vulnerable children in the



country most of whom are placed in institutional childcare centres. This article presents the case for an independent care leaving policy in Ethiopia to address the multifaceted needs of children in care and improve the care leaving service in the country. Thus, the study will shed light on the state of care leaving policy in the world and lessons for Ethiopia to support Ethiopia's attempt to serve the most vulnerable children in care by developing its own care leaving policy.

### [Family Support Services in the Context of Child Care Reform: Perspectives of Ghanaian Social Workers](#)

Kwabena Frimpong-Manso, Ghana

In Ghana, different factors such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, parental and child disability, often lead to children becoming separated from their parents. As part of the current childcare reform, the system is focusing on preventing the institutionalization of children through family support services. However, there is little research evidence on the provision of family support services in Ghana and other lower-and middle-income countries (LMICs).

This report summarizes interview findings on the benefits of family support services and challenges that inhibit the gains from the services. Findings suggest that the provision of family support builds up the capacity of vulnerable families to care for children, promotes children's wellbeing and academic outcomes. Challenges that inhibit the impact of the family support services include inadequate funding, clients' attitudes and poor interagency collaboration. Implications of the findings for practice are discussed.

### [Act Now: Experiences and recommendations of girls and boys on the impact of COVID-19](#)

Rebekkah Bernheim, Karina Padilla, World Vision

In this report, children and young people share the impact that COVID-19 has had on their lives. It concludes by making several recommendations and calling for increased funding and policies for services and actors in the areas of child protection, MHPSS and social protection.



### [The Contribution Public Finance for Children can Make to Realizing Child Protection Objectives](#)

UNICEF Child Protection Programme Division

UNICEF is preparing to draft a new Child Protection Strategy to replace the 2008 Child Protection Strategy (the 2008 Strategy). As part of this process, a number of background technical papers have been commissioned as input to the decision-making. This technical paper explores the contribution Public Finance for Children (PF4C) can make to realizing child protection objectives. Firstly, it identifies areas that should be prioritized when planning PF4C-type studies and activities to effectively support the achievement of sector-specific objectives. Secondly, it describes strategies that UNICEF should consider implementing to incorporate PF4C more effectively into its child protection work, specifically proposing a sequence in which the PF4C tools might be applied. Specific recommendations are included for UNICEF to consider taking forward into the Child Protection Strategy.

## [Social Protection for Orphan and Vulnerable Children Advocacy Success 2020](#)

Save the Children, Nepal

In this briefing, Save the Children shares the process they used to successfully advocate to the government of Nepal to begin planning for and allocating annual funding for social protection programming for orphan and vulnerable children.

### [Characteristics of the Front-Line Child Welfare Workforce](#)

Frank Edwards and Christopher Wildeman, United States

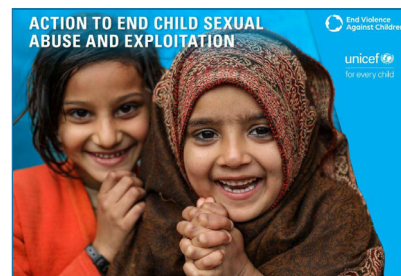
While many studies have evaluated how and why front-line workers choose to leave the child welfare workforce, few sources of data have been available to assess and compare child welfare workforces across jurisdictions and over time. This study describes and makes available a new data source that researchers and policy makers can use to explore the effects of workforce characteristics on child and family outcomes, and to evaluate factors leading to changes in the workforce over time. This paper provides an exploratory analysis of a new set of geographically and longitudinally comparable measures of worker tenure, worker turnover, worker caseloads, and workforce capacity relative to the at-risk population for 46 US states between 2003 and 2015.



### [Action to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation](#)

UNICEF, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

This brief outlines actions for preventing and responding to child sexual abuse and exploitation, including building capacity for services and investing resources to prevent and respond including in the areas of child protection.



### [The Development of a Computer-based Information System to Inform Social Work Interventions with Unaccompanied Minors](#)

Mara Sanfelici, Silvana Mordegia, 2020

This article describes the development of an information system, built in order to monitor the data gathered in the context of a pilot project for early child protection interventions with unaccompanied minors. The project included multidisciplinary expert teams, that carried out interviews with children and young people from the moment of their arrival on the Italian territory, assessing their strengths and needs. A comprehensive information system was developed with the extensive input of social workers, applying a participatory approach. Pre-existing forms for data



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collection and social work assessment tools had been analyzed and modified to include specific variables, addressing the unaccompanied minors' needs. The system included quantitative variables (characteristics of children and families, their journey to Italy and the child welfare interventions) and qualitative data (written professional evaluation). The goal has been the construction of a user-friendly information system, adaptable to other social services working with unaccompanied minors. It can improve the understanding of the phenomenon and support the evaluation of the child protection paths devoted to them.  
(Abstract)

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