

Building Evidence for Social Service Workforce Strengthening Interest Group Description

The purpose of the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance Interest Groups is to advance knowledge, discussion and tools related to a thematic area of concern to the Alliance members. They are task-focused and result-oriented groups of Alliance members who have expertise in the thematic area. Interest Groups are launched by the Steering Committee and facilitated by two co-chairs who manage the implementation of activities or the development of products on behalf of the Alliance.

Based on member feedback, there is broad interest in building a body of evidence to support workforce strengthening and monitor the impact of workforce strengthening efforts – both the impact on the social service workforce as well the impact on the system and ultimately on vulnerable populations. For this reason, the Alliance has decided to launch an Interest Group to implement activities and/or develop products to advance knowledge, discussion, or solutions related to this topic (see Interest Group General Description).

The group may determine any number of areas to be covered, such as addressing one or more of those areas of enquiry listed below for illustrative purposes:

- What sort of impact do we ultimately hope to achieve through workforce strengthening efforts, and how are we currently measuring this impact?
- What frameworks, indicators, and other tools existing to support this measurement? How might we refine or improve the way in which we articulate and measure impact?
- What might some appropriate and/or common workforce strengthening input, output and impact indicators that could be measured across social service workforce strengthening efforts to compare impact or monitor efforts at the global level?
- What evidence is already available to demonstrate the impact of workforce strengthening efforts – including evidence on social service workforce strengthening efforts in low income, middle income and high income countries, as well as evidence from related workforce strengthening efforts (such as the health workforce, the education workforce, etc...)?
- What are the most critical evidence gaps and what potential research questions or studies might help to address those gaps?

What are potential research opportunities – including funding, available research teams, etc... - and how can the Alliance and its members be engaged in these opportunities?

For more information, please contact the Interest Group Co-chairs: Maury Mendenhall (mmendenhall@usaid.gov), Mark Canavera (mccanavera77@gmail.com) or Mari Hickman (mhickmann@futuresgroup.com)