TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S CARE GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM WEBINAR SERIES

Webinar #1: It's Time for Care

24 March 2021

WELCOME

- This is the first in a series of webinars from the Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform

- The platform establishes more strategic sector-wide collaboration

- Sign up at the link in the chat to join the platform and receive updates about future webinars

HOUSEKEEPING

- This webinar is being recorded and the recording will be made available to you.

- Please feel free to introduce yourself in the chat.

- You can ask questions using the Q & A at any time and also upvote and comment on the questions of other attendees.

- We will be using polls at several times during the webinar. Please respond while the webinar is in progress.

- Those accessing the webinar from their internet browser will not be able to see polls but are encouraged to respond in the chat.

AGENDA

- Moderator's remarks
- Brief presentation on 'It's Time for Care' paper
- Moderated panel discussion
- Questions from attendees submitted via Q & A

POLL #1

Which region are you joining from today?

- Africa
- Americas and Caribbean
- Asia
- Europe
- Middle East
- Oceania

MODERATOR

Ramya Subrahmanian, Chief of Child Rights and Protection at UNICEF-Innocenti

IT'S TIME FOR CARE: PRIORITIZING QUALITY CARE FOR CHILDREN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND AN AGENDA FOR ACTION

PRESENTER

Gillian Huebner, Independent Consultant and Author of *It's Time for Care*

COVID-19 and Care:
A global crisis

725 million children in poverty (up 15%)

168 million children out of school for 1 year

40 million children missed ECCE / pre-school

More than 1 million children have lost a parent/caregiver

More parents (primarily women) out of work, in unpaid caregiving roles and with fewer supports

4 billion people without social protection, with 2 out of 3 children without access to child or family benefits

Increased incidences and risk of violence, abuse and neglect of children

What does care mean to you?

Child care

Pre-school

Nurturing care

Protection

Alternative care

Care reform

Social protection

Labor/workforce policies

Informal or unpaid caregiving

Medical care

Nutrition

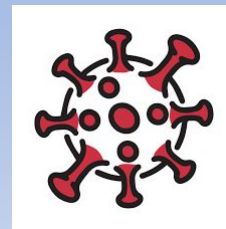Mental health / psychosocial support

Caregivers –

The invisible backbone holding up strong and resilient families, communities and economies

"Research has shown that the **single most important factor** in the development of resilience in children is the existence of at least one stable and committed relationship, with a **supportive parent, caregiver, or other adult**. Children who do well in the face of hardship typically have strong relationships with significant adults in their family and community.

Despite this, the role that parents, family members, and other caregivers play in children's lives has often been **undervalued** in national and global policies and programs.

… including and especially during COVID-19…

Parents, families and other caregivers on the front lines

Wrap around caregivers with a multidimensional & shock-responsive system of care

Health, nutrition, ECCE, education, protection, MHPSS, social protection

The ultimate breakdown: Children without family care

- Without support, increased risk of neglect and child-family separation

- Increased risk of COVID-19 infection in congregate care settings, including residential care and detention facilities

- Rapid closures and returns without preparation and support

- Inadequate investment in and support for kinship care

- Weak regulatory systems

- Limited data

Prevent a breakdown
Focus on protective factors

Services often kick in too late, when a family is already in crisis.

Shift focus to strengths-based approaches.

Children, families and communities know what they need. Engage them in developing solutions.

Invest in social services and community-based supports.

Help families withstand and recover from shocks.

We are heading in the right direction

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – preamble (1989)
- UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2009)
- The Nurturing Care Framework (2018)
- The Key Recommendations (2019)
- UNICEF Global Social Protection Framework (2019)
- UNGA Rights of the Child Resolution (2019)

The 2019 Rights of the Child Resolution
creates an unprecedented opportunity to advance the care agenda globally.

The **COVID-19** crisis has underlined the real value of the most important work in the world: caring for children and those who are vulnerable.

There will be no recovery for individuals, families, communities, or economic systems without addressing the essential role of care in the response to risks and shocks.

Quality care for children must be the highest **priority** for strategic investments, policies and programs.

Ensure a child- and family-centred response

- Ensure all children and families have access to access **high-quality essential services**, including food, childcare, ECCE, education (including distance learning).

- Support parents and caregivers through **family resource centres** that build upon strengths and enhance protective factors.

- Increase access to **mental health and psychosocial support services**.

- Target **specific services** to vulnerable families with children.

Create an economy that values care

- Scale up **workforce/labour policies to support caregiving** responsibilities (parental/sick leave, flexible schedules, engagement of fathers).

- Support **childcare workers as essential** frontline workers (salary continuity, job protections, benefits).

- Scale up **child-sensitive, gender-responsive and inclusive social protection** programmes (child benefits, tax allowances, cash transfers, etc.) linked to community-based services.

Build caring systems and an effective workforce

- Invest in **robust social service, child welfare and protection systems**.

- Fund and support a **professional workforce** and designate it as **essential**.

- Strengthen **inclusive community-based networks, schools, peer support groups and safe places** for children, youth and caregivers.

Enhance resources for family-based care in the community

- **End the institutionalization and detention of children** and **prioritize family-based care and community-based services.**

- Increase resources for **care-strengthening and reform** and **redirect resources** to a range of high-quality care options.

- Establish and strengthen **effective case management** (registration, oversight and accountability mechanisms, licensing, assessments, gatekeeping, referral systems).

Collect data on children's care

- Invest in **data collection** (better use of census and socio-demographic data, including where/with whom children live, care arrangements, quality of care, outcomes).

- Ensure **privacy protections** and **firewalls** while also making data **publicly accessible**.

- Establish **monitoring/evaluation systems** and promote use of **data to guide policy**.

- Engage finance institutions to support child-centred, inclusive and shock-responsive social protection.

- Develop and strengthen global policies, coordination mechanisms, and information-sharing platforms.

- Create and fund inter-agency technical teams with expertise in family-strengthening and care reform.

- Engage communities and support local-level action and responses.

Moving forward towards better care

POLL #2

Which aspects of care are you involved in? (select all that apply)

- Early childhood development
- Child welfare/protection
- Social protection
- Gender equity and caregiving
- Other

PANEL DISCUSSION

PANELISTS

 Cornelius Williams, Associate Director & Global Chief of Child Protection, Programme Division, UNICEF

 Rachel Moussié, Deputy Director, Social Protection Programme, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

 Dominic Richardson, Chief, Social and Economic Policy, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti

 Elizabeth Lule, Executive Director, Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN)

POLL #3

Would you be interested in participating in a follow-up discussion on establishing a more integrated and central approach to children's care and supporting care giving?

- Yes
- No

THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

Please see the chat box for a link to learn more about the Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform and find out how to join.

We will be sending you a link to the webinar recording and slides in a follow-up email shortly. If you have questions, comments or recommendations for future webinar topics, please send them to:

contact@bettercarenetwork.org

Join the next webinar on the new guidance on Public Expenditure and Children's Care on 13 April. Register at the link in the chat.