2019-2020 Global Report

- Protecting children and reuniting families across borders since 1924 -

Photo by Mathieu Ricard:
“Smiles from the Himalaya”
ISS was born out of a simple idea, 96 years ago. Following large-scale migrations from Europe and the Middle East towards the Americas in the aftermath of World War One, ISS provided a family reunification service for those who became separated from their families along the migration routes.

ISS’ mission remains the same today: providing assistance to migrating families and children separated by borders. ISS is an agile and flexible organization with professionals and volunteers applying agreed-upon standards set forth by international children’s rights conventions. ISS provides, as its historical core business, cross-border social-legal services for the benefit of the families and children it supports.

Familiar with both international conventions and local customs, ISS professionals tailor a solution, providing practical, psychological and socio-legal advice to achieve a durable resolution for beneficiaries.

ISS uses its wealth of global experience to design direct support and training programs and advocate for policy development in child protection. ISS has established itself in its more than nine decades of service as a trusted global partner in social work.

2020, with its many challenges including working in a remote environment during an ongoing pandemic, has inspired much creativity and adaptation. ISS has created recommended guidelines for remote assessments, and many ISS members are enhancing their services with new technologies. ISS is exploring how to modernize its processes into its 100th year by researching new ways to work together using technology and how to improve its core service, cross-border case management through Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).

With only 4 years until our 100th anniversary, ISS is embarking on a major revision of its strategic priorities in order to transform the way we serve cross-border children and families.

JEAN AYOUOB  
SECRETARY GENERAL & CEO

SUSAN JACOBS  
CHAIR GOVERNING BOARD
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ISS 100TH ANNIVERSARY
Geneva - General Secretariat HQ

The ISS General Secretariat has been based in Geneva, Switzerland, since 1924. It is a legal entity recognized under Swiss law as a non-profit international association.
The ISS General Secretariat is in charge of oversight tasks for the network, that include:
- Developing and strengthening the operational capacity of the network’s members.
- Organizing the communication and knowledge sharing of the organization and promoting the coherence within the network.
- Representing and advocating for the organization at an international level.

West Africa - Regional office

International Social Service - West Africa office (ISS-WA) was created in 2012 and it is located in Dakar, Senegal with a staff composed of professionals from all over West Africa. ISS-WA handles all cross-border casework for the network internationally and within its region.

Asia Pacific - Regional office

The regional office was reintroduced in 2018 and it is fully supported by ISS Hong Kong. Its main activity is to identify, recruit and train ISS future members in the Asia-Pacific region.
Our members

Europe
Belgium
Bulgaria
France
Germany (Berlin)
Germany (Frankfurt)
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Malta
Moldova
Portugal
Romania
Serbia
Switzerland
The Czech Republic
The Netherlands
The United Kingdom

Africa
Kenya
Cape Verde
South Africa
**Americas**

Canada
The United States of America
Venezuela

**Asia and Oceania**

Australia
Bangladesh
Hong-Kong
Israel
Japan
Lebanon
New-Zealand
Pakistan
The Philippines
Our working partners

**Americas**
- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Cayman Islands
- Chile
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Puerto Rico
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uruguay

**Europe**
- Albania
- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Estonia
- Finland
- Kosovo
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Monaco
- Norway
- Poland
- Russian Federation
- Slovenia
- Spain
- The Slovak Republic
- Ukraine

**Africa**
- Algeria
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Ivory Coast
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- The Republic of Congo
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**Asia & Oceania**
- Afghanistan
- Cambodia
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Laos
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Palestine
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- The Republic of Korea
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Vietnam
Within these difficult times, ISS continues to be a trusted global partner that has the ability to mobilize not only its partners but other social networks around the world including government agencies, international organizations as well as professionals committed to finding solutions for children and families separated by borders.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I want to express our deep appreciation for all that ISS accomplished in 2019 and for the extraordinary work done during the pandemic.

**SUSAN JACOBS**
AMBASSADOR (RETIRED), CHAIR OF THE ISS GOVERNING BOARD

*What was your ISS experience during COVID times?*

“Our 2019-2020 International Social Service Global Report comes at a very opportune time. While we are in the midst of a global pandemic of devastating proportions, it is good to be able to look back and reflect on all the work accomplished by the entire Network and by the General Secretariat.

During these difficult times, ISS continues to be a trusted global partner that has the ability to mobilize not only its partners but other social networks around the world including government agencies, international organizations as well as professionals committed to finding solutions for children and families separated by borders.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I want to express our deep appreciation for all that ISS accomplished in 2019 and for the extraordinary work done during the pandemic.”

**MARTIN LAU**
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE

*What is ISS for you?*

"ISS for me means connection and collaboration. ISS strives every best effort to help the individual, especially children and families in the cross-border context. It makes ISS as a very unique INGO in the global development.

Our networking development is trying to spread our efforts to different countries. We believe that the collaboration in ISS network can provide the best protection to the children and families on the move!"
The International Social Service provides cross-border assistance to children and families facing social and legal difficulties as a result of migration. Interventions include services addressing: migrant children and their families, international family matters, international child abduction, child protection issues, pre and post-adoption care, search for origins, family reunification and more.

Above other considerations, ISS is committed to the protection of the child’s best interest and promotes the rights of children and families. We value independence, neutrality, transparency, confidentiality, and impartiality, respect for diversity in race and culture.

These values constitute a commitment shared by every member of the ISS Network and contribute to the realization of its vision and mission.
"Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. The above definition may be amplified at national and/or regional levels." (ISFW definition)
LAMA YAZBECK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ISS LEBANON (HIMAYA)

What is ISS for you?
"I started working with ISS in 2014-2015. Why ISS? I consider the mission of ISS to be particular among other networks and it has helped ISS to position itself and differentiate itself from other networks.

It is not just a network developing tools and resources, it has specific focuses that are becoming essential to respond to the increasing needs of children nowadays and in the future: alternative care, cross border case management, adoption etc.

In order to respond to those needs in Lebanon, joining the ISS network has been very beneficial and has helped himaya provide the necessary support to assist children in cross-border case management and work on the alternative care systems in Lebanon with other actors."

JULIE ROSICKY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ISS USA

What was your ISS experience during COVID times?
"Effective March 13, I closed the ISS-USA office, organized work from home for 25 staff and interns, while hunkering down against a terrifying and unknown virus. I knew we were all in this TOGETHER when we started having bi-weekly check-ins with colleagues from 20 plus countries, (using webcams to actually see each other) daily messages of hope from the secretary general, and we used tools that we have used for 95 plus years. “creativity and sheer determination” in order to prevent COVID, border closings and lockdown from becoming barriers to family reunification.

While we do amazing work each and every day, the solidarity of being part of this international network has been a source of joy, comfort and hope during dark times. Now, months in, nothing seems impossible, and together, we truly make a difference on behalf of the children, adults and families we serve."
ISS members and partners, with their long and rich grassroots experience, their linkages to all relevant actors, bring about transformative change to society and keep ISS informed about society’s needs.

These are the characteristics ISS looks for when “recruiting” new partners to expand the network. Training is available for all our new partners and established members based on the ISS Casework Manual. This Manual was developed more than 50 years ago and revised several times, the last being this year in 2020. Training is oriented towards ISS professionals and other actors from partner organizations to build and adapt their skills and capacities working day after day for the protection of children and families.

ISS expects its partners to provide top-notch cross-border case management in a timely and structured manner.

A Code of Conduct and several policies and guidelines govern our work and enhance it. From its presence in 120+ countries today, ISS ambitions to grow further to reach 175 members by 2024. Its 100th anniversary.

A dedicated network development and training team of staff and volunteers, based in Geneva or remotely, is at the helm of this substantial effort with the support of ISS directors and casework coordinators.
RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

Promoting the rights of children and families continues to be the main focus for ISS and is an ongoing integral part of our daily work. Through its cross-border casework, ISS also advocates for strong protection of more than 75,000 families every year. Building on this expertise, ISS conducts advocacy at multiple levels. It primarily aims to impact key stakeholders and decision makers through targeted projects. Advocacy partners include government authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, international organizations and professionals.

Similarly, ISS research capability draws on nearly 100 years of experience managing individual cases. ISS publishes specialized papers and guidelines that target professionals and the public at large to provide information about rights and responsibilities in cross border situations.

Guided by international public and private law related to human rights and children’s rights, ISS uses relevant benchmarks of international standards to implement all activities and influence decision makers.
WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY LOOKING FOR NEW PARTNERS

Our network development officers would love to have a conversation with you about possible future cooperation!

Please email to express your interest at cooperation@iss-ssi.org
Today, an ever-increasing number of children and young people are on the move to escape poverty, conflict, abuse and the consequences of environmental hardship. For the estimated 40 million international migrants under the age of 20, the life they find can often be more traumatic than the one they left behind.

ISS advocates for the treatment of every child with full respect of their rights – under all conditions. Implementing these rules requires strong and stable collaboration between States and child protection agencies, NGOs and grassroots organizations. To support this, ISS published the manual *Children on the Move – From protection towards a quality sustainable solution*.

The guide proposes an eight-step process for developing a well-connected, transnational network of child protection professionals:

1. **Arrival, detection and identification**
2. **Immediate support and care**
3. **Assessment of the situation of the child on the move**
4. **Temporary integration and quality care arrangements in the host country**
5. **Evaluation of the situation in the country of origin**
6. **Determination of a sustainable solution in the best interests of the child on the move**
7. **Implementation of the sustainable solution**
8. **Monitoring and follow-up**
CATERINA PARODI  
CASEWORKER, ISS ITALY (DCI ITALY)  

What is ISS for you?  
"DCI Italy is a grass-roots organization, increasingly committed in mainstreaming a child-rights based approach, while promoting child-safeguarding and well-being. Although working closely with the ISS on cross-border casework management for many years now, this year we had the pleasure of assisting the GS on the development of the ISS Standards and Orientations on Child Safeguarding and Well-being.

Entirely formulated during the quarantine, the work ran smoothly and well articulated, with the active participation of some ISS Members. We believe these standards will not only contribute to an increased protection of children, but will also reinforce the ISS network as a whole. In particular, I thank Jean and Lama for the engaging and inspiring discussions. It is very rewarding to be part of such a powerful network of organizations, working together for a safer and better future for every child!"
In many cases, children with disabilities cannot be taken care of by their families. Those children may be placed and grow up in institutional care without being offered alternative solutions. ISS believes that, if the appropriate measures were taken some children could reintegrate into their families or be cared for by a foster or adoptive family preferably in their own country.

ISS collaborates with Child Protection Authorities to:

- help professionals in care institutions to better understand the needs of children with disabilities to improve daily care;
- promote and encourage a systematic evaluation of children with disabilities in institutional care;
- elaborate a permanent family life project for every child;
- encourage and accompany authorities to develop alternatives to institutional care for children with disabilities;
- ensure the continued existence of the project through the identification, training and follow-up of local partners.

ISS collaborates on this project with governments of: Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Haiti and Vietnam.
The International Reference Centre for the rights of children deprived of their family (IRC) is a program of the ISS General Secretariat. Introduced in 1993, the IRC has been actively developing and implementing international standards relating to 1. the alternative care of children deprived of their family or at risk of being so and 2. adoption. The IRC promotes the exchange of knowledge, experience, and dialogue between professionals of governmental and non-governmental agencies throughout the world.

The IRC's founding principles are to inform and equip alternative care and adoption professionals with the appropriate resources and promising practices. Likewise, the IRC aims to raise awareness of the necessity to protect children's rights within the framework of international standards in an ever-changing and very challenging environment. More than 5000 professionals worldwide benefit from our services.

Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC) and the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption of 1993 (THC-1993), the IRC developed a specific competency in the area of adoption. In the broader context, this also covers the prevention of unnecessary family separations, alternative care and support to families of origin and the respect of children placed in foster care and in institutions. The work of the IRC also covers promoting the effective implementation of the 2009 UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children through its regular and thematic publications, country analysis, evaluation and training missions as well as multi-agency projects.
Some of our people

GABRIELLA GALLIZIA
CASEWORK COORDINATOR, ISS ITALY (DCI ITALY)

What is ISS for you?

"In many occasions we verified how relevant is ISS activity for children’s life. Thanks to the care and attention of ISS members in handling transnational cases some situations can reach a solution very quickly, helping children’s life to take a direction and avoiding useless delay that in many occasions causes sufferance and infringement. I am happy to be part of this network because I can see the difference it makes every day."

SABINE BENISCH
DIRECTOR, ISS GERMANY FRANKFURT (FAMILY INTERNATIONAL FRANKFURT)

What is ISS for you?

"I am with ISS since 1996, being social worker and, jointly with my colleague Heidemarie, director of ISS Germany Frankfurt - family international Frankfurt.

What makes the ISS work so unique for me is the daily cooperation with colleagues around the globe, the appreciation and openness towards other cultures and the chance to find cross-border solutions for people and families. While we all experience quite a degree of separation due to Covid, the pandemic has another, rather positive effect on the network: The network moved closer together, benefitted from the unique daily editions of the GS and the efforts of the working groups to support and "see each other" (e.g. two virtual CC meetings with 27 colleagues from 24 countries!).

Since 2017 I had the chance, as Deputy Chair of the Caseworkers, to work together with the colleagues on the needs and request of social work in the network. We focused on bringing the CC's together (personal-virtual meetings and starting regional calls). The main achievement in our time was the review of Manual. Once our successors will be elected, I will be happy to support them to the best of my abilities!"
ISS CORE CROSS-BORDER SOCIAL SERVICES

Child Protection

- Child abuse alert/notification
- Child welfare assessment/report (for placement)
- Birth-parent assessment/report (for placement)
- Kinship assessment/report for placement
- Foster placement assessment/report
- Residential care assessment/report
- Assessment/report for visitation and/or access (child in care)
- Post-placement child welfare assessment/report
- Obtain documents (birth certificate, school records, etc.)
- Prior involvement record check (foster care/kinship, child protection)
- Child trafficking

Child Abduction

- Child abduction alert/notification
- Child welfare assessment/report
- Pre-mediation
- Mediation
- Prevention & Counselling (including legal)
- Obtain documents

Family Welfare / Custody & Access

- Cross-cultural counselling
- Pre-mediation
- Mediation
- Advise and support to (re-) establish access/contact & custody
- Tracing
- Family Reunification
- Assessment/report for custody/access/maintenance
- Obtain documents
**Adult Protection**
- Adult abuse alert
- Adult placement assessment/report
- Migrant, asylum seeker, refugee support
- Identify/notify curator for adult/legal guardian
- Transfer of social benefits
- Obtain documents

**Children on the Move**
- Tracing
- Reunification
- Obtain documents (ex: birth certificate, passport)
- Repatriation/Reintegration
- Legal support and counselling
- Psychological support and counselling
- Assessment/report for planning (on child or for possible placement)

**Surrogacy/Donor Conceived Person (DCP)**
- Counselling family
- Assessment/report of prospective parents
- Tracing
- Family reunification

**Pre & Post-Adoption Care**
- Suitability assessment/report of prospective adoptive parents (PAPs)
- Counselling and preparation of PAPs
- Post-adoption follow up and/or support
- Post-adoption tracing and family reunification
- Relative adoption (In-family)
- Obtain documents
AIDAN WATERSTONE
ADVISOR, TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL, EU AFFAIRES

What is ISS for you?

"It is important for me to participate in and contribute to ISS for a number of reasons:

- We are living in an increasingly global environment which impacts our lives in many ways. This has been most recently emphasized by the Covid-19 pandemic which has demonstrated the closeness of the links between countries and continents (I have family members living in 8 countries and 5 continents).
- The impact of a global economy living under World Trade Organization protocols favours developed countries at the expense of developing countries, removing the protection that these countries need, retaining high agriculture tariffs in the EU and US, ignoring the impact of GDP growth on the environment and enabling the domination of multinational companies which reduce cultural diversity and tend to swamp local industries and firms. This, in combination with access to the internet and mobile communication has facilitated the migration of people to countries where there is access to resources. This is also exacerbated by the impact of conflict.
- ISS is the only social service child care agency with a global reach which has the potential to support vulnerable children across borders and continents and to advocate on their behalf at governmental and international levels."

MAURICIO GARCÉS SEPÚLVEDA
COORDINATOR ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE, ISS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

What is ISS for you?

"It is the pursuit of happiness, an activity that brings me fulfilment in my work, while allowing me to be part of a major project based on human and professional qualities put at the service of a general interest."

CASE DISTRIBUTION (2019)

Child's Rights Protection

- 12% CHILDREN ON THE MOVE
- 9% CHILD ABDUCTION
- 3% SURROGACY/DCP
- 10% PRE & POST-ADOPTION CARE
- 14% FAMILY WELFARE/CUSTODY & ACCESS
- 31% CHILD PROTECTION

18% Adult Protection

ISS handles an average of 75'000 cases and enquiries every year.
ROSE HABCHI DAHER
DEPUTY CHAIR CASEWORK COORDINATOR GROUP AND CASEWORK COORDINATOR, ISS LEBANON (HIMAYA)

What is ISS for you?

"ISS is simply for me the restless act of International Sustainable Solidarity. I got engaged with ISS network three years ago when I got engaged with Himaya. although I am married, go figure... :)

COVID pandemic has brought me more confidence that the quality of ties and linkages between the persons of this network are of quality and are not conditioned by the modality.

Our ties grew stronger in the lockdown, which allowed us still to deliver pertinent and quality support through virtual means."

MARIE JENNY
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, ISS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

What is ISS for you?

"Before joining the ISS GS, I dreamt to work for this organization and the opportunity came, this was nearly ten years ago. Over the time, I have grown up as a professional within the GS who always trusted and supported me despite sometimes challenging times.

I can rely on committed and inspiring colleagues in the GS and in ISS network with whom I feel stronger to achieve projects for children with disabilities left behind in residential care institutions. Besides the love for my daily work. I am driven by the powerful legacy let by our predecessors over the last 96 years and I feel privileged to bring my humble contribution. to continue ISS history."
“Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely daydreaming but vision with action can change the world.”

“To every child – I dream of a world where you can laugh, dance, sing, learn, live in peace and be happy.”
Some of our people

TAYYBA JAVAID
DIRECTOR, ISS PAKISTAN (SANJOG)

What is ISS for you?

"Sanjog started working with ISS in 2016 as correspondent for Pakistan. ISS through its General Secretariat and through CFAB built the capacity of Sanjog’s staff and enabled the organization to handle ISS’s cross border casework. In 2018, Sanjog became a member of ISS and named as “ISS Pakistan.”

Today ISS Pakistan’s team is able to handle cases across the borders independently. ISS aims to provide quality services at minimum cost to their clients that is why it focuses on capacity building of its members to make them able to deliver services up to the mark. I, being a head of this organization, learnt a lot of being a part of ISS. Top most, in this Covid-19 times, how to stay motivated and keep delivering services remotely."

SYLVIE LAPOINTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ISS CANADA

What is ISS for you?

"I fell in love with the organization’s values and what it stands for in August of 2001! I felt that I had found an agency that embraced all that I believed in. Human rights, equality, working for those who did not have a voice, permitted families to be reunited, and more! This was not just a feel good agency or anywhere close to the social work I had practised in the past; this was difficult, challenging work and complicated cases that no one wanted to take on. kind of agency. And somehow, we managed to make a difference.

Now that I am Executive Director of ISS Canada, I try to continue the tradition of the amazing people that have come before me. Recently I have had the pleasure of training members and new members (and their staff) in the casework methodology. Why? Because I believe that we need to work together using the same tools, the same method and impeccable quality of work in order to make this amazing network, even better. In that regard, I also got involved in reviving the case work manual. Case work coordinators did not find our main working tool to be useful any more, so we needed to update it. And we did. Much hard work, discussions, revisions, but I think that the version that will soon be available, will be fantastic, because many of us worked on this TOGETHER!"
ISS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
2020-2024

As we redirect most available resources to our cross-border casework activities, we need to identify additional funds to work on recruiting new members, training and growing talent. We need to invest as well to establish solid governance models, build technical capability and measure impact of ISS globally.

1 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE
Strengthen the capacity of current and new members to carry out transnational social services and measure their effectiveness. Recruit new partners for priority need countries and expand ISS presence. ISS will integrate state-of-the-art technology in its day to day work to learn, capture experience and train.

2 MEASURE SOCIAL IMPACT
In adopting AI and Machine Learning capabilities and setting forth Key Performance Indicators, ISS nationally and globally can measure its social impact on beneficiaries and communities and place itself as a key professional, efficient and competitive actor among peers and external partners.

3 EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION & COOPERATION
Broaden the visibility, recognition and understanding of ISS work and its worldwide impact through a structured and aggressive communication strategy with an appropriate social media presence network wide. This entails as well developing and maintaining a diverse and sustainable funding base.
4 INTERNAL COMMUNICATION & COOPERATION

Redefine intra-network cooperation and strengthen internal communication and information sharing using top scale communication and knowledge management platforms.

5 LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTIBILITY

Develop, implement and model effective leadership and governance and leadership across the network.

6 ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

Promote ISS positions on key topics, to increase our ability to effectively take positions and disseminate knowledge. This include leveraging hundred of linear meters of valuable archives in our chapter to be digitalize and offered as substantial data for researchers and students alike.

7 RECRUIT & TRAIN TALENT

Consolidate existing skills, recruit based on identified needs and train accordingly.
TSISANA SHAMLIKASHVILI
PRESIDENT, MOSCOW CENTER FOR MEDIATION AND LAW, ADVISOR, ISS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

What is ISS for you?

"I, myself, and the Center for Mediation and Law have almost 10 year experience of collaboration with ISS. ISS is a Century old organization always staying young helping people from all over the global and diverse world to coop with unavoidable problems in their personal lives. It is due to its great staff and management.

One of the recent initiatives of ISS was to help to establish solid ground for cross-borderer mediation in family matters. First steps of the project already gave fruits - set of documents worked in collaboration and approved by professionals from more than 50 jurisdictions.

We all hope that this project will continue and ISS and all its endeavours will have more and more attention and support."

PAULA ATTRILL
GENERAL MANAGER, ISS NEW ZEALAND

What was your ISS experience during COVID times?

"We consider ourselves one of the most fortunate countries on the planet as we have managed to stamp out COVID-19 in New Zealand and so far our efforts to contain the virus at the border have been successful. This was achieved through hard and fast action on the part of our government and the co-operation of our team of 5 million who stuck to the rules during lock down. The economic impact of our border restrictions is starting to be felt, but we enjoy freedoms that many countries do not. We consider ourselves very lucky but are under no illusion that COVID-19 remains a very real threat. Every day our thoughts are with our colleagues around the world as you work to support children and their families."
CONTINUE
Network Development & Training:

ISS will maintain its focus on recruiting new members according to our committed strategic expansion list of imperatives thus expanding our global outreach while consolidating worldwide presence. From 2020, ISS’ global online training system will become the standard. Continuous training and refresher will become compulsory. This ability to rapidly deploy new training programs will create ever more informed teams and allow us to bring AI based innovations thanks to a dynamically trained workforce.

CREATE
Knowledge & Research Cloud:

Anchored in Geneva with a worldwide outreach, the "research cloud" will integrate decades of experience from tens of thousands of ISS conducted cross-border cases into its operational know how by building IT systems inspired by past casework details and outcomes. Hundreds of linear meters of archives will be digitalised and integrated into an existing digital database to enhance research and publication capacity in support of ISS advocacy programs and influence child protection policy work worldwide. With the troves of digitalized data, the ISS "Research cloud" will be well positioned as an open source organization for the promotion of international justice and social welfare.
INTRODUCE
Artificial Intelligence to Social Work:

In recent years, AI has demonstrated transformative capabilities in most aspects of daily life where numerous industries and organizations have been able to better serve and assist users and deliver new and superior products through the adoption of myriad AI based tools. The same AI technology will be leveraged by ISS to bring sweeping improvements to our current social work service delivery methodology, leveraging organizational history of casework to eliminate repetitive work, cut cost, free up time for caseworkers and allow them to remain focussed on our beneficiaries.

INSTIGATE
Social Impact:

Harnessing the power of the ISS Network inevitably demands that ISS is able to quantify and qualify its global social impact starting from the national level. Through the years, ISS has collected substantial data on the number of cases and beneficiaries of its interventions.

Today, ISS constituents need adapted tools and training to structure available data into social impact measurement. The benefits of ISS being able to demonstrate social impact and potentially social return on investment are numerous and presented in a separate document.

ENHANCE
External Communication & Fundraising:

ISS thrives to develop a capacity to reach larger public, diversify and maintain the funding base. Targeted communication through various channels enables ISS to deliver its message to different audiences, such as public at large, donors, partners, and beneficiaries.

Communicating on ISS activities, vision and mission is critical in order to help different audiences, including internal to ISS, understand the value and impact of the organization. It will in turn create opportunities for ISS to have strategic partnerships with various partners.

While communications and fundraising go hand in hand, they need different competencies and skills; the fundraising expert’s main tasks would be around recruiting new donors and nurturing relationships with them.
MIA DAMBACH
COORDINATOR ADVOCACY AND DEVELOPMENT & DIRECTOR IRC, ISS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

What is ISS for you?

"I have now had the privilege of working with ISS for over ten years, advocating for children’s rights in alternative care, migration, adoption and surrogacy. I love the endless opportunities for collaborating with like-minded organizations. UN treaty and regional bodies and of course colleagues in multiple country contexts to develop global training tools reaching thousands, draft international standards and to provide technical assistance in these fields."

DILETTA DELI
CONSULTANT, ISS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

What is ISS for you?

"ISS is more than an NGO. It is a passionate living organism formed by amazing people who strive to help minors and families across the world. It is support, collaboration, and motivation to achieve new goals, continuing to improve the rights and living conditions of all children. ISS is a friendly and stimulating environment to work in, with a General Secretariat that despite its extension to more than 120 countries remains attentive to the needs and well-being of all its workers and contributors.

ISS core values have been particularly evident during the last few months, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it concentrated on safety, health and support first. In ISS, collaborators are not just a number, but rather resourceful individuals determined and stimulated to make a difference by empowering and helping others through highly personalized assistance; this is what makes ISS so unique."
## 2020 Numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core funding</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Revenue from Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Membership fees</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pledges Solidarity Fund</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cost sharing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>341'163.-</td>
<td>10'000.-</td>
<td>563'209.-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td><strong>Regular Donations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Consultancy and Expertise</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>378'425.-</td>
<td>86'500.-</td>
<td>100'000.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fundraising</strong></td>
<td><strong>Revenue from Projects</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>719'588.-</td>
<td>96'500.-</td>
<td>663'209.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Earmarked Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>COVID-Contingency</strong></td>
<td><strong>Contributions’ Receivables</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted project funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>Income-based credit line</strong></td>
<td><strong>Contributions Receivables to be recovered from previous year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129'126.-</td>
<td>89'600.-</td>
<td>9'963.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RHT Subsidy</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142'000.-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>271'126.-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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MUKETE TAHALE
PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER, ISS PARTNER IN CAMEROON (REWAC)
What is ISS for you?
"On the 25th of May 2020, Refugee Welfare Association Cameroon (REWAC) acquired the status of membership into the ISS Network as evidenced by their co-operation agreement. The quint-essence of the co-operation is mainly on inter-country casework to solve the social, psycho-social, administrative and/or legal problems of individuals and families that require intervention in and/or from Cameroon.

Amidst the excitement of pursuing these lofty ideals is the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has shown the fragility and vulnerability of institutions, society and the global economic system. With the continuing pandemic, the whole world is at a crossroads, fighting for alternative survival tactics.

There is the need to re-awaken our consciences, to adapt community tailored strategies in addressing the pandemic. Understandably, the interest of children and the elderly especially those in conflict areas, deserve our attention due to their vulnerability. That’s our collective challenge."

CHRISTINA BAGLIETTO
REGIONAL ADVISOR FOR LATIN AMERICA, ISS GENERAL SECRETARIAT
What is ISS for you?
"ISS is an organization, whose relevance is demonstrated on a daily basis, bringing together and closer those people and services that safeguard the rights and respond to the needs of families separated for a variety of reasons.

The network and its members are committed and have proven that physical distancing and a global pandemic have not stopped it from complying with its mission worldwide. In Latin America, we have continued to strengthen the capacity of professionals, to contribute to regional initiatives and to work with key partners."
"No one has ever become poor by giving."

Anne Frank

For the life and success of an organization like ISS, donor support, both private and institutional, is crucial to allow us to fulfil our mission and ambition. A special word of thanks to ISS General Secretariat donors.

EVERY DONATION COUNTS!

**IBAN:** CH5800279279C01457310  
**BIC:** UBSWCHZH80A

Five years of sustained support will accompany the ISS 5-year strategy (2020-2024) leading the ISS organization into its 100th anniversary. It will also help ISS design its next 100 years of dedicated services to children and families.
We respect the wish of private individual donors to remain anonymous.
International Organizations

African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
Better Care Network
Child Rights Connect
European Parliament Group on Children’s Rights
European Union and European Council
Family for Every Child
Fundamental Rights Agency
Hague Conference on Private International Law
Hope and Homes for Children
InterAmerican Court for Human Rights
International Federation of Social Workers
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
International Institute for the Rights of the Child
Médecins du Monde
RELAF (Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento Familiar)
Save the Children
SOS Children’s Villages
Spoon Foundation
UN Committee on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ECOSOC)
UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
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Webster University
ANDRIJANA RADOIĆIĆ
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK, ISS SERBIA (ATINA)

What is ISS for you?
“By becoming an appreciated member of the International Social Service, which has a century long history and tradition, the organization Atina has been enriched, and strengthened to endure these tempting times, that were brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. For Atina, International Social Service symbolizes a vast potential for the improvement of social protection, care, and work.

This networking represents a much-needed strength in developing essential services, and timely responding to the needs of those who are on the far margins of society. It is a great honour to be a part of this network and to spread awareness in the Republic of Serbia about the importance of partnerships and bringing an actual change to those who need it the most. As a young professional in this field, I look forward to the opportunity to continue learning and to give my best for the networks achievements.”

LOURENÇA TAVARES
PRESIDENT, ISS CAPE VERDE (ACRIDES)

What is ISS for you?
“The international Social Service is an organization of people, who is beyond borders, are looking to help and to heal families and children in vulnerable social situations. ISS seeks to serve, teach, include, reunite and share the love, care and expertise of its workers without any distinctions between races, colour, culture and religion.

ISS seeks to help, listen to, cherish, and comfort children and families, who see their lack of fundamental needs become a priority in the midst of a pandemic. Through this pandemic, ISS, with representatives on every continent, is looking to give every child and every family the conviction that tomorrow will be a better day. Thank you to everyone helping ISS contribute to the well-being and happiness of families everywhere.”
Guidance on conducting remote assessments:

Based on the work of multiple ISS members, the casework coordinators issued guidelines on how to conduct remote assessments through virtual and other means. In these challenging times, ISS advocates for a specific focus on urgent cases, involving for example suspected abuse, neglect or violence committed against a child, for which in-person assessments should continue, with the necessary precautions in place.

In addition, ISS has issued recommendations for children themselves, parents and legal professionals in the context of cross-border family conflict cases.

Training of child protection and social work professionals:

Infectious diseases like COVID-19 disrupted the environments in which children grow and develop. This is detrimental to children's well-being, development and protection and puts them at heightened risk. In turn, it affects the ability of those working to protect children. With easy access to webinars and online courses, ISS has contributed to different training initiatives aimed at equipping professionals with available tools on how to ensure qualitative intervention adapted to the new environment.

Adapting Child Protection Case Management - Massive Open Online Course Covid-19:

With Covid-19 impacting the way ISS provides timely and effective child protection case management for individual children at risk, ISS teamed up with CELCIS, at the University of Strathclyde and other leading international humanitarian and child rights organizations to develop an innovative free half-day training course. This course targets professionals and caregivers with responsibility for responding to the protection and care of children.
Ad-Hoc trainings and online conferences:

While ISS General Secretariat provided training for child protection in various contexts (e.g. Mexico, Burkina Faso) during Covid-19, other ISS members such as ISS Portugal organized a video-conference in June 2020 to explore ISS casework methodology in extraordinary times. This conference included discussion of child mental health during confinement. The conference was attended by both social work professionals and graduate students.

Knowledge generation and sharing catered to Covid-19:

ISS experts contributed to important tools aimed at generating knowledge on child rights topics during the pandemic (e.g. ISS New Zealand, DCI-ISS Italy, himaya - ISS Lebanon). At the ISS General Secretariat’s Research and Publication Unit, constant knowledge generation and sharing on topics such as alternative care, adoption and child migration continued to be possible (e.g. monthly reviews, articles, comparative studies and other publications).

Refocused programming to cater the needs of vulnerable children and families:

In some contexts, ISS programme work continued with adapted approaches (e.g. ‘A better future is possible’ project in Burkina Faso; ISS-UNICEF project in Morocco on Children on the move). In addition, with the support of the ISS General Secretariat, ISS members such as ISS in Cape Verde (ACRIDES) and ISS in Honduras (Familias Solidarias) started fundraising campaigns to initiate a COVID-19 targeted response to urgent needs within the population (food and non-food as well as responses to rising domestic violence). These special programmes adopt an innovative approach combining ISS traditional social work with humanitarian relief.

For further information, please refer to the Covid-19 Section on the ISS GS website. ISS teams up with an innovative crowdfunding social platform.
During my 12 years working for ISS Australia, I have had the great privilege of being a part of the amazing global ISS family. It is an honour to collaborate with such dedicated ISS members throughout the world, all working to ensure the rights, safety and well-being of children are paramount and protected across international borders.

ISS’s post adoption support has also been life changing for many adoptees and biological family, through locating and reuniting family members separated by international borders, and facilitating contact (when appropriate) in a supportive, respectful and empathetic manner. I look forward to supporting more children and families affected by cross-border issues, through ISS cooperation!

Volunteering at the ISS General Secretariat has been an enriching experience, as it has opened my eyes to the amount of work and dedication that goes into maintaining and strengthening ISS’ global network. Working alongside Jean and his team has taught me how crucial the relationships between the General Secretariat and its partners all over the world are. In order to offer the best care for children everywhere and to cater to every unique situation.

I have also had the opportunity to work on this Global Report, which has given me an overall vision of ISS as an organization, as well as its desire to improve over the next few years and to become more technologically advanced and efficient. I am grateful for the time I have spent as a volunteer and can largely credit the GS team for the positive experience."
In memoriam

Ms Connie Nxumalo
18 February 1967 - 22 August 2020
Deputy Director General: Welfare Services South Africa
ISS Governing Board Member - 2014-2020

"Connie Nxumalo was a valued member of ISS Governing Board, one who could always be counted on to bring a fresh perspective with good will and a spirit of cooperation. Connie was a great defender of children and a strong advocate for their rights. We will miss her warmth, her intellect, her voice and most of all, her infectious smile."

Ambassador (retired) Susan Jacobs, Chair ISS Governing Board

"Always a smile, a laugh even. She had great ideas and I will miss her so much. A great loss for ISS. Connie. Rest in Peace my friend. 🌼"

Jean Ayoub, ISS CEO and Secretary General
In 2024, ISS will be celebrating its centennial anniversary. ISS is committed to continuous development in order to meet the ever-increasing demand for services.

Join the ISS Centennial Committee!

The ISS Governing Board has established a Committee to oversee the celebration of the 100th anniversary of ISS in 2024. We are looking for ideas to make this event special and you are welcome to join the brainstorming Committee.

CONTACT
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jean.ayoub@iss-ssi.org
and
Chair Centennial Committee, Member ISS Governing Board
Ms Marise Dunlop-Stewart-Haefner
marisedsh@me.com