



www.viennafamilycommittee.org
Digital Networks:
www.10yearsIYF.org
www.civilsocietynetworks.org
www.20yearsIYF.org

Quarterly Bulletin of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

Dec. 2024, No.132
Deadline for contributions: 15.02.2025

Vienna NGO Committee on the Family
VALERIA FOGLAR-DEINHARDSTEIN, M.Sc.
LIECHTENSTEINSTRASSE 111-115
A-1090 VIENNA
AUSTRIA
EMAIL: CONTACT@VIENNAFAMILYCOMMITTEE.ORG



Dear readers of Families International,

Issue 132 focuses on a variety of topics regarding children, mothers and families. The first text from the Department for Family Policy at the Federal Chancellery of Austria gives a brief overview on Austria's past initiatives.

As the year comes to an end, this issue includes two texts to sum up the present state and challenges society is confronted with. One is from ICW about ongoing problems faced by children and families regarding war, economics, gender equality and violence, the other is UNICEF's yearly summary detailing the current state of the world's children.

Issue 132 also includes one text from a member organization of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family, Make Mothers Matter (MMM), about activities to promote the roles and rights of mothers. Finally, one can find a list of upcoming events concerning families, children and more.

Sincerely,

Julia Birner B.A., B.Sc.

Executive Editor

Table of Contents

From the Department for Family Policy at the Federal Chancellery of Austria Celebrating 30 Years of the International Year of the Family Austria's Initiatives in 2024, by Regina Hartweg-Weiss, Carmen Ruf	3
From ICW – International Council of Women 2024 Report on Family and Children Issues, by Loreta Kelbauskaite – Serpyte	8
From UNICEF The State of the World's Children 2024 – The future of childhood in a changing world.	11
From Member Organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family	
<u>Make Mothers Matter</u> MMM Activities to Promote Mothers' Role and Rights – MMM @ the UN Summit of the Future	23
Upcoming Events	30
Impressum	31

From the Department for Family Policy at the Federal Chancellery of Austria

BKA; Abt. VI/9

31.10.2024

**Celebrating 30 Years of the International Year of the Family
Austria's Initiatives in 2024**

Regina Hartweg-Weiss, Carmen Ruf

On November 4, 2024, the Department for Family Policy at the Federal Chancellery of Austria delivered a presentation at the International Forum of the NGO Committee on the Family, offering an overview of Austria's celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+30). This article provides a comprehensive summary of the key content presented at that event.

The International Year of the Family

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family (IYF) to highlight the central role that families play in society. Since then, an anniversary has been celebrated every ten years (2004, 2014, and now in 2024). The IYF and its anniversaries have repeatedly served as catalysts for family policy initiatives and innovations in Austria.



One significant initiative that emerged from IYF 1994 was the establishment of the Austrian Institute for Family Studies (OIF).

Moreover, the 2004 anniversary laid the foundation for the founding of Family & Work Management LLC (Familie & Beruf Management GmbH in German) in 2006, which aims to coordinate and facilitate family-friendly measures.

**The 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024**

In 2024, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. In preparation for this anniversary, the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has focused on major global megatrends, such as technological changes, migration, urbanization, demographic trends, and climate change. These trends have a significant impact on families and their well-being.

Recognizing these trends, Austria aimed to use the 30th anniversary as a platform to underscore the vital role of families in society and to advance a more family- and child-friendly environment in Austria and Europe. A wide range of activities and measures were introduced throughout 2024.

BKA; Abt. VI/9

31.10.2024

Austria Celebrates the IYF+30

The opening event of the 30th anniversary celebrations took place in January 2024, marked by a discussion on the theme “Focusing on Family (Friendliness) – 30 Years of the International Year of the Family.” At this event, Professor Wolfgang Mazal, Head of the Austrian Institute for Family Studies, presented the development of family-related indicators in Austria since 1994. This was followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Bernadett Humer, Director General for Family and Youth at the Austrian Federal Chancellery. Experts from various Austrian family organizations, including the Family Federation, the Catholic Family Association, and the Austrian Platform for Single Parents (ÖPA), shared their perspectives on future challenges in family policy.

International High-Level Conference

The highlight of the year’s celebrations was the High-Level Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Family Affairs, held in Vienna on June 13, 2024. The conference was hosted by Austria’s Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration, and Media, Susanne Raab, and brought together ministers and high-ranking political representatives from 13 European countries. The conference focused on the theme “The Importance of Families in Society” and aimed to facilitate the exchange of best practices and foster mutual learning. Participants discussed the best ways to support families and children, addressed demographic challenges, and explored strategies to reduce poverty, improve access to education and childcare, promote work-life balance, and enhance overall health and well-being.

A keynote speech was delivered by Annemie Drieskens, who was the President of COFACE Families Europe¹ at that time, emphasizing the challenges currently faced by families across Europe.

The conference began with a visit to the Vienna International Centre on June 12, where participants engaged in opening discussions that preceded the following day.

Declaration “The Importance of Families in Society”

One of the most significant achievements of the High-Level Conference was the adoption of a Declaration titled “The Importance of Families in Society, A European Agenda for Family Well-being: Priorities and Solutions.” The Declaration, signed by 15 EU Member States, is a clear commitment to a family-friendly Europe. It aims to strengthen family-friendliness, facilitate the balance between work and family life, and support a good family life in general.



Scan the QR code to
access the declaration.

¹ COFACE Families Europe is a pluralistic network of family organisations from across Europe that works with and for families and children to promote their well-being, health, and security in a changing society.

BKA; Abt. VI/9

31.10.2024

Enhanced Exchange on Family Policies

Following the high-level conference, Austria continued to be actively engaged in discussions on family policies at the European level. In September 2024, the Department for Family Policy at the Federal Chancellery of Austria attended an expert meeting in Vilnius, organized by COFACE Families Europe. This meeting, focused on work-life balance strategies, offered an opportunity to deepen the discussions initiated at the Vienna High-Level Conference.

Moreover, in October 2024, Director General Bernadett Humer participated in the High-Level Conference on Children, Youth, and Family, hosted by the Romanian Ministry of Family, Youth, and Equal Opportunities. This event served as a further platform for the exchange of best practices and the development of comprehensive policies to address the pressing challenges facing children, youth, and families today.

It is a pleasure that the Austrian High-Level Conference served as a catalyst for increased exchange among EU countries on family policy issues.

National Conference

A national conference was held in Vienna on June 14, 2024, titled "The Importance of Family for Society." Around 120 participants, including experts, stakeholders in family policy, and public officials, attended.

The conference featured presentations by renowned experts such as Dr. Karin Jurczyk, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ulrike Zartler, and Dr. Margit Schratzenstaller, who explored topics ranging from the social and economic significance of families to demographic trends and policy challenges.

Highlights from Karin Jurczyk's Presentation: The Concept of "Doing Family"

Karin Jurczyk highlighted in her presentation that it is no longer taken for granted that individuals will establish their own families, nor the form that family life will take. Today, you do not just "have" a family; you have to "do" it – this is the core message of the concept of "Doing Family", which Karin Jurczyk has helped to shape. This concept encompasses the creation of family as a cohesive group, emphasizing its self-definition and presentation as a unit. The focus is on nurturing relationships between generations and genders.

BKA; Abt. VI/9

31.10.2024

Highlights from Ulrike Zartler's Presentation: Development of Some Family-Relevant Indicators Since 1994

Ulrike Zartler discussed the development of families in Austria from both behavioural and normative perspectives. Since the United Nations proclaimed the International Year of the Family in 1994, families have undergone significant changes in several areas. Over these three decades, the age at first marriage has increased by 5.5 years for women and 5 years for men. Additionally, the proportion of cohabitating unmarried partnerships among all families has risen by ten percentage points, from 7.6% to 17.6%. The age at first childbirth has also increased by 4.9 years, while the average fertility age has risen by 3.6 years.

Highlights from Margit Schratzenstaller's Presentation: Economic Significance of Families and Key Challenges

Margit Schratzenstaller highlighted the economic significance of families. Families play a crucial role in fulfilling various economic functions. They contribute a substantial amount of unpaid labour and are essential to the development of human capital and the financing of the welfare state. However, there are several challenges for families and family policy, including demographic shifts, the unequal distribution of paid and unpaid labour between women and men, and the intergenerational transmission of social inequality.

The conference also included four engaging workshops, offering participants the opportunity to delve deeper in important aspects of family policy and societal development.

Workshop 1: "Desire for Children and Population Development" explored the complex relationship between individual aspirations for parenthood and broader demographic trends.

Workshop 2: "The Environment as a Responsibility across Generations" highlighted families as key "change agents" in addressing the climate crisis.

Workshop 3: "Life Worlds and Generations" emphasized the importance of family-friendliness as both a challenge and an opportunity for communities and society as a whole.

Workshop 4: "Family-Friendly Work Environments" addressed the need for workplaces to adapt to the evolving needs of families.

All presentations and discussions have been summarized in a conference report.



Scan the QR code
to access the
conference report.

BKA; Abt. VI/9

31.10.2024

Further Activities and Anniversaries Celebrated in 2024

Family organisations play a vital role in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family by organising their own activities. Through informational campaigns, the family organisations represented on the Family Policy Advisory Committee work to raise awareness about the importance of families in society.

In addition to the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family, Austria marked several other important milestones in 2024. These included the 50th anniversary of funded family counselling, a vital service that has provided support to families in difficult situations, and the 10th anniversary of UNICEF Child-Friendly Communities in Austria. Since 2014, over 350 communities in Austria have earned a certification as “Child-Friendly Community”, demonstrating their commitment to upholding children's rights at the local level.

Useful Links

- Federal Chancellery of Austria: www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at
- Family Portal: www.familienportal.gv.at
- Familie & Beruf Management GmbH: www.familieundberuf.at/en
- Austrian Institute for Family Studies (OIF): www.oif.ac.at
- COFACE Families Europe: www.coface-eu.org
- UNICEF Austria: www.unicef.at

From ICW – International Council of Women

2024 Report on Family and Children Issues

By Loreta Kelbauskaite – Serpyte

Child and Family advisor, ICW

Family remains a cornerstone of individual well-being and societal stability, shaped by evolving economic, demographic, political, and social factors. According to the UN's *Women in the World 2024* report, women represent nearly half of the global population (49%) but continue to face systemic discrimination and inequality in access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. This aligns with **#SDG 5** (Gender Equality) and **#SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities), which emphasize the importance of gender equity and equal opportunities for all [Source: United Nations, *Women in the World 2024* report].

Current Global Challenges

As of the last quarter of 2024, families globally face significant challenges exacerbated by geopolitical tensions, economic instability, and the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These issues disproportionately affect women and children, particularly in war zones such as Ukraine. Over **5 million Ukrainian children** have been displaced, with many facing barriers to education and social integration in host countries [Source: UNHCR, 2024]. This situation is closely related to **#SDG 4** (Quality Education) and **#SDG 16** (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), as it calls for improved access to quality education for all displaced children and the promotion of peaceful societies.

Economic Pressures and Inflation

Geopolitical conflicts have intensified global inflation, with **1 in 5 families in Europe** facing financial distress and struggling to meet children's basic needs [Source: Eurostat, 2024]. Addressing this economic disparity aligns with **#SDG 1** (No Poverty) and **#SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Historical Comparison

Compared to previous years, the rate of financial hardship has escalated, emphasizing the need for stronger social protection policies. This trend supports **#SDG 1** and **#SDG 10** by calling for actions to alleviate poverty and reduce inequalities across regions.

Impact of the Israel-Hamas War

The Israel-Hamas war, which escalated in October 2023, has had severe humanitarian consequences for families and children in the region. By late 2024, the UN estimates that over **2 million people in Gaza**, including **1 million children**, are in critical need of humanitarian aid [Source: UNOCHA, 2024]. This crisis reflects the urgent need to achieve **#SDG 16** (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) to ensure safety and support for affected families.

Sectoral Breakdown of Humanitarian Impact:

- **Education:** Over **400 schools** in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed, affecting **400,000 children** without access to formal education [Source: UNICEF, 2024]. This aligns with **#SDG 4** (Quality Education).

- **Healthcare:** Limited access to healthcare, food, and clean water due to blockades has resulted in **1 in 3 children** in Gaza suffering from malnutrition [Source: WFP, 2024], aligning with **#SDG 2** (Zero Hunger) and **#SDG 3** (Good Health and Well-being).

Mental Health: Reports from UNICEF indicate heightened emotional distress among children in conflict zones, with symptoms of anxiety and depression becoming prevalent. Addressing this aligns with **#SDG 3** by promoting mental well-being for affected populations.

Gender Inequality and Work-Life Balance

Gender disparities in unpaid and paid work continue to disproportionately burden women. A survey by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) reveals that **45% of women** spend more than four hours daily on childcare for children under 12, compared to **25% of men** [Source: EIGE, 2024]. This inequality in unpaid labor relates to **#SDG 5** (Gender Equality) and **#SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth), as equitable work distribution can improve productivity and reduce economic disparity.

Regional Comparison and Economic Impact

The ILO estimates that the burden of unpaid labor on women reduces global productivity by about 5%, highlighting the need for policies supporting gender equality and economic participation [Source: ILO, 2024]. This is also tied to **#SDG 10** (Reduced Inequalities).

Reproductive Rights and Legislation

Access to reproductive health services remains contentious worldwide. According to the Center for Reproductive Rights, **24 countries enforce total abortion bans**, affecting nearly **90 million women of reproductive age** [Source: Center for Reproductive Rights, 2024]. Ensuring reproductive rights aligns with **#SDG 3** (Good Health and Well-being) and **#SDG 5** (Gender Equality), as it supports women's autonomy and health. Surveys show growing support for reproductive rights in most regions by emphasizing women's health and equal rights.

Child Labor and Abuse

Despite ongoing efforts, child labor remains prevalent, with the ILO estimating that **160 million children** are engaged in child labor globally [Source: ILO, 2024]. Addressing this issue is crucial to achieving **#SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and **#SDG 16** (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), as reducing child labor enhances economic development and societal stability.

Child Abuse Statistics

UNICEF reports that **1 in 4 girls** and **1 in 13 boys** experience sexual abuse before age 18, highlighting the need for stronger child protection systems [Source: UNICEF, 2024]. This aligns with **#SDG 16** by emphasizing the importance of safeguarding children and ensuring peaceful societies.

Conclusion

As we close 2024, the landscape for families and children remains complex, with both progress and persistent challenges. Efforts to address economic inequality, child labor, and gender disparities

contribute directly to achieving several SDGs, including **#SDG 1** (No Poverty), **#SDG 5** (Gender Equality), **#SDG 8** (Decent Work), and **#SDG 16** (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The ongoing wars underscore the urgent need for humanitarian aid and policy measures that protect vulnerable families in conflict zones.

Recommendations

1. **Enhance Refugee Support:** Strengthen integration programs for refugees, focusing on education and healthcare access. This aligns with **#SDG 4** (Quality Education) and **#SDG 3** (Good Health and Well-being) [Source: UNHCR, 2024].
2. **Promote Gender Equality:** Develop policies for equitable work distribution, supporting **#SDG 5** (Gender Equality) and **#SDG 8** (Decent Work) [Source: EIGE, 2024].
3. **Protect Reproductive Rights:** Ensure access to safe and legal abortion services, supporting **#SDG 3** (Good Health) and **#SDG 5** (Gender Equality) [Source: Center for Reproductive Rights, 2024].
4. **Strengthen Child Protection Measures:** Invest in resources to prevent child abuse, aligning with **#SDG 16** (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) [Source: UNICEF, 2024].
5. **Eradicate Child Labor:** Enforce penalties for companies employing child labor, aligned with **#SDG 8** (Decent Work) and **#SDG 16** [Source: ILO, 2024].
6. **Address Humanitarian Needs in Conflict Zones:** Focus on health, education, and psychological support, supporting **#SDG 3**, **#SDG 4**, and **#SDG 16** [Source: UNOCHA, 2024].

Compiled by Eleonore Hauer-Rona, ICW Main Representative to the UN in Vienna, with input from Loreta Kelbauskaite-Serpyte, ICW Advisor Child and Family.

From UNICEF

unicef 
for every child

The State of the World's Children 2024

The Future of Childhood in a Changing World

Executive Summary

The State of the World's Children 2024

1

We are creating the future now

The demographic trends of today will shape tomorrow's population patterns. The carbon we pour into our atmosphere today will shape tomorrow's climate. The technologies we develop and govern today will influence not only how future generations learn, work and communicate, but also the well-being of children for years to come.

As we near the end of the first quarter of the twenty-first century, *The State of the World's Children 2024 (SOWC 2024)* looks ahead to the year 2050. It asks: How can we best secure a future where the rights of every child are realized – a world where all children survive, thrive and meet their full potential?

This report examines three powerful, long-term global forces – megatrends – that will profoundly affect children's lives between now and 2050: demographic shifts, climate and environmental crises, and frontier technologies. By understanding these trends and their implications for children, we can better grasp the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The CRC has transformed millions of children's lives and remains our compass for navigating the complex challenges we face.

Young voices

Children have the right to express their views – including on matters that affect them. Throughout this SOWC about the future of childhood, we share the perspectives of children and young people in their own words.¹

Drawing on the megatrends and other socioeconomic indicators, *SOWC 2024* models how several potential pathways could shape how children experience the world of 2050. These scenarios are possible outcomes, not predictions: The future is ours to shape.

As we envision a better world, we must be guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted 35 years ago. This landmark treaty has transformed millions of children's lives and remains our compass for navigating the complex challenges we face.

These principles matter even more today as the world witnesses backsliding in child rights, especially the rights of girls. Decades of progress – including legal protections – are under threat. Reaffirming our commitment to the CRC is crucial as we chart the course to 2050 and beyond.

Young voices

“By 2050, we need empathy, communication and policies that promote new activities and sustainable jobs. Leaders, build an inclusive and prosperous future.”
U-Reporter, 16, female, Ecuador

Executive Summary

2

Three megatrends shaping children’s futures

Demographic transition

By the 2050s, the global child population is projected to stabilize at around 2.3 billion, similar to today’s levels. But this global figure obscures regional shifts: While South Asia will remain one of the regions with the largest child populations, it will be joined by Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as West and Central Africa. These regions already struggle to meet children’s basic needs, while also facing significant climate risks and lacking adequate digital infrastructure.

The share of children in the population will decline in every region, but some will still have a high proportion of children, while others will have many more adults. For example, while the share of children is expected to fall below 40 per cent in Africa (from about 50 per cent in the 2000s), it will fall below 19 per cent in East Asia, Western Europe, North America and various high-income countries, including Australia, the Republic of South Korea and Singapore.

These shifts can create opportunities and challenges. Some regions may benefit from a ‘demographic dividend’ – a potential boost to economic growth – as their working-age populations grow. With fewer young dependents relative to workers, more resources could be freed to support children and boost the economy. Countries with a greater proportion of older persons, meanwhile, will need to care for them while maintaining child-focused services and policies.

Demographic shifts can create opportunities and challenges.

Young voices

“By 2050, new generations will have grown up with the decisions we make today. We must take responsibility for [building] a prosperous and sustainable future for all.”

U-Reporter, 19, female, Algeria

Climate and environmental crises

We are facing an unprecedented planetary crisis. Nearly half the world’s children – about 1 billion – live in countries that face high risk of climate and environmental hazards. Amid climate destabilization, biodiversity collapse and widespread pollution, threats are intensifying globally. Children are confronting a more unpredictable, hazardous environment than any previous generation.

Children’s developing bodies are uniquely susceptible to these hazards. From before their first breath, children’s brains, lungs and immune systems are vulnerable to pollution and extreme weather. Air pollution is especially harmful to children; its impact on their respiratory health and development can last a lifetime. Rising temperatures increase mosquito populations, spreading diseases like malaria, dengue and Zika. Floods contaminate water supplies, leading to waterborne diseases, which are a major cause of death for children under 5 years of age. Extreme weather limits food production and access, increasing children’s risk of food insecurity. Climate-related disasters can also cause feelings of helplessness, trauma and anxiety in children.

Young voices

“Protect the environment, human lives and maintain peace without war.”

U-Reporter, 17, female, Ukraine

The climate and environmental crises affect many other aspects of children’s lives. Climate shocks can close, damage or destroy schools. Since 2022, 400 million students around the world have experienced school closures due to extreme weather. In addition to violating child rights, inhibiting learning stifles economic growth. Climate and environmental hazards also displace children from their homes.

Protecting children’s rights in these crises requires immediate action to reduce emissions, transition to clean energy and implement climate adaptations. Governments and the global community must prioritize children’s well-being in climate policy and action to safeguard the future of childhood.

Frontier technologies

Frontier technologies – including artificial intelligence (AI), neurotechnology, next-generation renewable energy and vaccine breakthroughs – could significantly improve childhood in the future. To harness the benefits of these technologies while mitigating risks, we need to ensure equitable access, robust regulation and child-centric design.

Digitalization can empower children. It allows them to create, learn and connect with friends while laying the foundation for their future economic prospects. But it can also expose children to online risks, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

Nearly half the world’s children – about 1 billion – live in countries that face high risk of climate and environmental hazards.

Young voices

“We must ensure that AI development is guided by ethical principles. It is crucial to mitigate risks, protect privacy and prevent biases that could deepen existing societal divides.”

U-Reporter, 23, male, Rwanda

Yet many children cannot access these digital opportunities at all. Over 95 per cent of people in high-income countries are connected to the internet, compared with barely 26 per cent in low-income countries. Infrastructure limitations, high costs and permission barriers continue to impede progress. This digital exclusion threatens to exacerbate existing inequalities, especially in regions with rapidly growing child populations such as those in Africa.

Emerging technologies such as AI and neurotechnology facilitate personalized education, improved health care and other enhancements to children’s lives. Yet without adequate governance, they carry risks related to cognitive liberty, privacy and algorithmic bias. These issues disproportionately affect marginalized groups and children with disabilities, potentially reinforcing systemic discrimination.

Breakthroughs in vaccine development and green technologies offer hope. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinvigorated vaccine investment and research, including in messenger RNA (mRNA) technology, which can speed up the development of novel life-saving vaccines. Meanwhile, renewable energy innovations are rapidly gaining market share and helping expand children’s access to clean energy.

Digital exclusion threatens to exacerbate existing inequalities, especially in regions with rapidly growing child populations.

Executive Summary

Children in the world of 2050

Future scenarios analysed by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital offer insights into how these megatrends will converge with other forces to shape childhood in 2050.

The scenarios in the *SOWC 2024* are based on several potential global trajectories, analyzing decadal averages from the 2000s through the 2050s.² ‘Business-as-usual’ assumes a continuation of current trends; an accelerated development pathway means faster progress through increased social investment and a sustainability focus; and a delayed development track entails slower progress due to underinvestment and greater global fragmentation.

Findings from the scenario analysis cover seven areas: child survival and life expectancy; climate and environmental hazards; socioeconomic conditions; education; gender equality; conflict exposure; and urbanization.

The emerging picture offers us signposts towards a better future for children. In areas like climate and environmental hazards, it reveals the potential costs of maintaining the status quo. Across all domains – including education and urbanization – the analysis highlights where intervention and resources are most urgently needed. Ultimately, these findings illuminate where strategic, evidence-based investments could unlock a brighter future for every child.

While the full analysis considers three potential futures, the projections that follow are based on the business-as-usual trajectory. By exploring this path, we illustrate the potential costs of inaction while also highlighting areas of opportunity to improve children’s lives.

A business-as-usual pathway to the 2050s

Child survival and life expectancy

A continuation of historic drops in newborn and child mortality is reason to be optimistic about the future. But when it comes to child survival, even one death is too many.

Our analysis projects that in the 2050s:

- Newborn survival rates globally increase by nearly 4 percentage points from the 2000s to over 98 per cent.³
- The probability of a child surviving to the age of 5 – given surviving as a newborn – rises by 1 percentage point from the 2000s to 99.5 per cent.
- Life expectancy increases from 70 years for girls and 66 for boys born in the 2000s, to 81 years and 76, respectively.



4

These findings illustrate where strategic, evidence-based investments could unlock a brighter future for every child.



Climate and environmental hazards

Children are uniquely vulnerable to the planetary crisis, with risks escalating as climate and environmental threats intensify.

By the 2050s, significantly more children are projected to be exposed to extreme climate hazards compared with those in the 2000s. In the business-as-usual scenario comparing these decades, *SOWC 2024* finds that:

- ~8 times more children are projected to be exposed to extreme heatwaves.
- 3.1 times more children exposed to extreme river floods.
- 1.7 times more children exposed to extreme wildfires.
- 1.3 times more children exposed to extreme droughts.
- 1.2 times more children exposed to extreme tropical cyclones.

Young voices

“Imagine ... a future where climate change and harsh conditions will lead schools to turn into night mode, forcing everyone to only study at night because of unbearable conditions during daytime.”

Mamadou Doucoure, 24, Youth Foresight Fellow, Mali

Socioeconomic conditions



While children will make up a shrinking proportion of the world population, *SOWC 2024* projects significant growth in the numbers of children living in today's low-income countries in the 2050s.⁴ Our analysis finds that:

- 23 per cent of the world's children are projected to live in the 28 countries currently classified as low-income – more than double the share in these countries in the 2000s (11 per cent).
- At the same time, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is projected to more than double in East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia from the 2020s to the 2050s.

Education



The last century's remarkable expansion in children's access to education is projected to continue through mid-century, opening the door to better health, child empowerment, poverty reduction and economic growth:

- By the 2050s, 95.7 per cent of children are projected to have at least a primary education (up from 80 per cent in the 2000s), while 77 per cent are projected to have at least an upper secondary education (up from 40 per cent in the 2000s).
- To match student-teacher ratios and enrolment rates of high-income countries,⁵ Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa would need to add another 31 million teachers by the 2050s.
- The gap between girls and boys in educational attainment globally is projected to narrow slightly in the 2050s compared with the 2000s, with more girls than boys projected to complete upper secondary education in some regions.⁶

Gender equality



Gender equality is key to building a better future for children. It enhances child well-being and development while helping drive economic growth. *SOWC 2024* finds that:

- At the global level, gender inequality is projected to be a less prominent part of children’s world in the 2050s than it is today.⁷
- Still, many children are projected to live in societies with considerable levels of gender inequality in the 2050s, particularly in Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa – two of the three regions where most of the world’s children will live.
- In West and Central Africa, a gender gap of about 11 percentage points in upper secondary completion is projected to persist through the 2050s.



Conflict exposure

Armed conflict presents one of the world’s greatest risks to the rights, lives and well-being of children around the world. Our analysis finds that:

- Globally, fewer children are projected live in areas with a high risk of prolonged subnational conflict.⁸ The number of children living in these areas is projected to drop from more than 833 million in the 2000s to 622 million in the 2050s.
- However, in Eastern and Southern Africa, the number of children at risk of facing prolonged subnational conflict is projected to increase from 71 million in the 2000s to 97.8 million in the 2050s, and from 5.1 million to 69 million in West and Central Africa.



Urbanization

With more children living in cities in the coming decades, ensuring urban areas are healthier and more secure is essential to building a better world for future generations. We find that:

- Nearly 60 per cent of children globally are projected to live in urban settings in the 2050s, up from 44 per cent in the 2000s.
- Latin America and the Caribbean are projected to maintain the highest share of children in urban settings in the 2050s (84 per cent), while Eastern and Southern Africa are on track to remain the least urbanized (45 per cent).
- In West and Central Africa, the number of children living in urban areas is projected to more than triple, from 63 million in the 2000s to 209 million in the 2050s.

Young voices

“If we can focus on vocational education, we can help young people gain the practical skills they need to thrive in the future economy.”
May Phyu Phyu Aung, 24, UNICEF Youth Foresight Fellow, Myanmar

The State of the World's Children 2024

The future is ours to shape

Rather than make predictions, SOWC 2024 provides a vision of what is possible for the future while emphasizing our power to shape it. Our ability to create a world where every child thrives rests on adhering to the CRC. States have committed to promoting and protecting the rights it recognizes and guarantees to all children, including ensuring non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child. These obligations must underpin our response to each of the megatrends we face.

UNICEF recommends that governments and the public sector, businesses, non-governmental and human rights organizations, and civil society mobilize to meet the megatrends outlined above and secure the best future for children. Urgent action is needed in three key areas.

SOWC 2024 is a call to action for all who have a stake in our collective

7

Young voices

"I had to leave my small island for education. I want to figure out how we can provide quality education for all, so that child who is born in 2050 doesn't have to leave their islands to study."

Fathmath Zahanath Zuhury, 23, Youth Foresight Fellow, Republic of Maldives

1. Prepare for demographic transitions:

- Invest in early childhood, primary and secondary education; expand teacher training and job creation for youth.
- Expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including paid parental leave and universal child benefits.
- Ensure access to maternal, newborn, child and adolescent healthcare, along with sexual and reproductive health and family planning services.
- Create child-responsive cities with safe and nurturing spaces, infrastructure, and support for marginalized children, including children with disabilities.
- Maintain equitable access to services in rural areas experiencing depopulation.
- Ensure intergenerational equity in ageing societies and prioritize children's rights and public services.

Young voices

"Our future hinges on your decisions today. Embrace renewable energy, protect biodiversity, and invest in healthcare and education. Let's build a world where prosperity is shared equitably, and where every individual can thrive."

U-Reporter, 20, male, India

Executive Summary

2. Invest in climate and environmental adaptation, mitigation and education:

- Integrate climate resilience into local planning and infrastructure, including schools, healthcare systems, social supports, and water, sanitation and hygiene services.
- Invest in climate education to equip children to build a sustainable future.
- Ensure children’s needs are addressed in National Adaptation Plans and, Nationally Determined Contributions and other climate strategies.
- Invest in renewable energy and promote solutions to cut emissions by 43 per cent by 2030.
- Implement large-scale ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management practices.
- Strengthen waste management and combat pollution.

3. Deliver connectivity and safe design for every child:

- Ensure digital equality through infrastructure investments and addressing barriers to full usage.
- Promote digital literacy and skills among children and educators to complement traditional teaching.
- Strengthen legislation to protect children’s rights in digital environments, including new types of crimes.
- Adopt ethical guidelines for technology development, focusing on privacy, data protection and accountability.
- Implement rights-based governance for new technologies, with oversight mechanisms to anticipate risks.

Young voices

“We need to create spaces for children and young people to imagine the world they want. Every child deserves a say in shaping the future.”
Fisayo Oyewale, 27, Youth Foresight Fellow, Nigeria

As we look to 2050, we face a choice. We can continue on our current path, risking a future where millions of children are left behind, their potential unrealized and their rights unfulfilled. Or we can choose a different course – one where every child survives, thrives and shapes the world around them.

SOWC 2024 is a call to action for all who have a stake in our collective future. It challenges us to think beyond the immediate horizon, anticipate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and act now to secure a better world for every child.

Endnotes

- 1 SOWC 2024 gathered these perspectives from a UNICEF U-Report global survey (<https://ureport.in/>), as well as from the 2023 Youth Foresight Fellows – a group of young foresight practitioners working with UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight (<https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/youth-fellowships>).
- 2 SOWC 2024 analysis uses Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs), a set of scenarios used to explore potential future global socioeconomic trends, particularly in the context of climate change. Each scenario includes assumptions about economic development, population growth, technological advancements and climate emissions. Rather than predict specific outcomes, SSPs acknowledge long-term uncertainty by examining a range of plausible futures.
- 3 This outcome holds true across all three scenarios in the analysis.
- 4 Refers to countries categorized as low-income by the World Bank as of the 2023–2024 revision.
- 5 Refers to student–teacher ratios in high-income countries as of the year 2000.
- 6 Reversing historical patterns, slightly more girls than boys are projected to complete upper secondary education in 2050 in Eastern and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa.
- 7 These projections for SOWC 2024 are based on the United Nations Development Programme’s Gender Inequality Index (<https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII>) – which includes measures of reproductive health, representation in government, educational attainment and labor force participation – and the SSPs. However, various factors influence gender inequality including violence and discrimination, lack of legal protections, and harmful societal norms, like child marriage, which can restrict opportunities and perpetuate inequalities.
- 8 Estimates of children’s exposure to subnational conflict were calculated based on Hegre, Håvard, et al., ‘Forecasting Civil Conflict Along the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways’, *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 11, no. 5, 25 April 2016, <10.1088/1748-9326/11/5/054002>. This work calculates the probability of subnational conflict under the SSPs based on countries’ history of conflict, the heterogeneity and size of their population, and the level of socioeconomic development.

About us

UNICEF, the United Nations agency for children, works to protect the rights of every child, everywhere, especially the most disadvantaged children and in the toughest places to reach.

Across more than 190 countries and territories, we do whatever it takes to help children survive, thrive, and fulfil their potential.

Before, during, and after humanitarian emergencies, UNICEF is on the ground, bringing lifesaving help and hope to children and families. Impartial, non-political, and neutral, our focus is protecting every child and safeguarding their lives and futures.

UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight tackles the questions of greatest importance for children, both current and emerging. It drives change through research and foresight on a wide range of child rights issues, sparking global discourse and actively engaging young people in its work.

UNICEF Innocenti equips thought leaders and decision-makers with the evidence they need to build a better, safer world for children. The office undertakes research on unresolved and emerging issues, using primary and secondary data that represents the voices of children and families themselves. It uses foresight to set the agenda for children, including horizon scanning, trends analysis and scenario development. The office produces a diverse and dynamic library of high-level reports, analyses and policy papers, and provides a platform for debate and advocacy on a wide range of child rights issues.

UNICEF Innocenti provides, for every child, answers to their most pressing concerns.

Published by

UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight

Via degli Alfani, 58 50121,

Florence, Italy

Tel: (+39) 055 20 330

Email: innocenti@unicef.org

Social media: @UNICEFInnocenti on LinkedIn

For more information and access to the full report visit:

<https://www.unicef.org/reports/state-of-worlds-children/2024>.

ISBN: 978-92-806-5614-5

© United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), November 2024

To access a compendium of vital statistics that track progress towards global goals for women and children, follow this link or scan the QR code below: <https://uniceflink.org/sowcdata24>.



for every child,

Whoever she is.

Wherever he lives.

Every child deserves a

childhood. A future.

A fair chance.

That's why UNICEF is there.

For each and every child.

Working day in and day out.

In more than 190 countries and territories.

Reaching the hardest to reach.

The furthest from

help. The most

excluded.

It's why we stay to the end.

And never give up.

From Make Mothers Matter

November 2024



Make
Mothers
Matter

MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

MMM @ the UN Summit of the Future

Make Mothers Matter has been actively engaged in the negotiation process around the *Pact for the Future*, which was adopted at the beginning of the **UN Summit of the Future** held in September 2024 in New York, providing initial written input as well as commenting on the zero draft, and participating in online consultation meetings. We regret the Pact's weak commitment to care, whereas **care is at the heart of what the world needs most: care for people and our planet.**

Read MMM's input [here](#).

On 20 September, the **Caring Territories for the Future: Feminist Municipalism for Equality, Climate Action, Democracy and Peace** event, organised by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UN Women and the Government of Mexico for the Local and Regional Governments Day ahead of the UN Summit of the Future, discussed how local and regional governments, in alliance with key partners, can advance a paradigm shift on care as a transformative lever to achieve the 2030 development agenda.

At the event, Jacqueline Leduc, MMM main representative to the UN in New York, highlighted the many ways in which local governments can contribute to recognising, redistributing and supporting unpaid care work – and the mothers behind it.

Her **key points**:

- Unpaid care work IS work, indispensable work, that sustains families, communities, society and the economy – and that benefits us all.
- Because it benefits us all, everyone, every stakeholder, should take its share of responsibility. And that includes local governments, which can and must contribute to the recognition, redistribution and support of unpaid care work.
- First of all, local governments are key stakeholders for the provision of quality public infrastructure and services supporting unpaid care caregivers, including health services, childcare and other care services, transportation, education, social housing, etc.
- But **local governments** can and must do more in helping to develop a comprehensive care system.

They can:

- Push local companies to implement family-friendly policies that support caregivers – working mothers in particular.
- Organise programmes to promote the involvement of men/fathers in caregiving to redistribute unpaid care and domestic work more fairly within the home – existing programmes have a proven track record of benefits for mothers, children and fathers alike.
- Ensure that urban planning (including transportation, housing, public infrastructure, etc.) facilitates the living conditions for unpaid caregivers and optimises their time.
- Produce data to better understand the needs and realities of mothers and other unpaid caregivers, in relation to unpaid care work.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) – Paris, France

Contact: mami@makemothersmatter.org – makemothersmatter.org



Make
Mothers
Matter

MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

- Support civil society actions – mother centres, promoted by our associate member [MINE](#), the Mother Centers International Network for Empowerment, are an example of good practices: mothers centres have a proven track record in empowering and connecting mothers to build caring communities across the world.
- Follow the lead of the city of Bogota in Colombia, whose 'Care Blocks' concept is another example of good practices: the main objective is not only to bring care and other support services close to caregivers, but also to offer them opportunities for leisure, sport, education and socialisation.

The principle of co-responsibility is vital when applied to local governments. They are key stakeholders in redressing the unpaid care work-related social and economic injustices suffered by women – in particular when they are mothers, and in caring for and supporting those caregivers. By nurturing the carers and working together, we are in a position to build more caring societies, and a new social contract.

Access the full article [here](#).

Mothers' Voices @ the UN Human Rights Council

MMM brought the perspective of mothers to multiple discussions that took place during the **57th session of the Human Rights Council**, which took place from 9 September to 11 October 2024 at the UN in Geneva, including on the right to water, the right to development, the role of education for peace, as well as the protection of the human rights of family members.

Read a full report on our oral statements and other activities [here](#).

International Day on Care and Support on 29 October 2024: MMM Calls for Change

Despite their decisive role in caring for their children and for the future of our societies, mothers are yet to be fully supported or recognised as positive contributors to societal and developmental challenges.

Worldwide, women who are mothers are poorer than others. They face more penalties in their professional lives, their mental and physical health and their ability to participate in public life.

The motherhood penalty, parental burnout ... these are very real issues that are increasingly being recognised but not addressed. Why?

Look at the **statistics**:

76.2% of the total amount of unpaid care work, 16 billion hours per day globally, is performed by women, mostly mothers. That's 3.2 times more than men.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) – Paris, France

Contact: mami@makemothersmatter.org – makemothersmatter.org



Make
Mothers
Matter

MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

- 7.7 million women across the EU are kept out of the labour market due to care responsibilities, compared to 450,000 men. In 2018, 606 million women were unavailable for employment due to unpaid care work compared to only 41 million men. This has a huge impact on their ability to access social protection and an adequate pension in old age.
- 649 million women (34% of women of childbearing age) still lack adequate maternity protection worldwide, including income security during maternity leave.

The urgent issues facing mothers around the world are numerous and they all have an impact on the future generation: food insecurity, poverty, climate change, physical and mental health, armed conflicts, work-life imbalances.

It is our mission to fight on their behalf, to defend their rights and their ability to make decisions for themselves and their families, and to enable them to take action.

For all that they do, it is time to care for the carers of the future. Because when empowered and informed, mothers have the power to re-shape our world.

Watch the MMM President's video message [here](#).

Breaking the Intergenerational Cycle of Poverty by Investing in Children and Their Families

Make Mothers Matter participated in the conference **Investing in an inclusive and fair future for Europe. European Child Guarantee: from engagement to reality**, organised 2–3 May 2024 within the framework of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union. It was inaugurated by the Belgian Minister for Social Integration and Poverty Alleviation, Karine Lalieux. The presence and participation of Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of Belgium underscored the Conference's significance in combating child poverty across Europe.

Three years after the adoption of the European Child Guarantee by the EU Council in June 2021, stakeholders assessed the progress of its implementation. The discussion centred on Member States' initiatives to ensure access to quality education, healthcare, adequate nutrition and housing.

The event included representatives of the EU Commission, the EU Parliament, the European Child Guarantee national coordinators, and NGOs (specifically, members of the [EU Alliance for Investing in Children](#), of which MMM is a member).

The Conference presented the Member States' advancements in tackling child poverty, given the alarming statistics: **nearly 20 million children face poverty or social exclusion in the EU** ¹.

¹ UNICEF 2024 Report: [The State of Children in the European Union](#)

November 2024



Make
Mothers
Matter

MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

On this occasion, the EU Alliance for Investing in Children presented its [joint statement](#), which emphasizes **the pivotal role of national social safety nets and the European Child Guarantee in combating child and family poverty.**

The challenges encountered by European Child Guarantee coordinators, as well as their mitigation strategies, along with the mid-term reporting process, were pivotal topics during the afternoon discussions. A considerable number of European coordinators shared insights and explored pertinent evaluation tools, underscoring the necessity for coordination and communication for effective implementation.

Here are some of the **key points of the joint statement** that the Alliance brought to the table:

- Over the last few years, child poverty has been exacerbated and has disproportionately affected vulnerable families and children.
- Children from marginalised groups, including Roma and other racialised children, those in institutional care, single-parent households, children with disabilities and children with a migrant background, are particularly vulnerable to poverty and its consequences.
- While the Child Guarantee presents unique opportunities, significant challenges remain in Member States to identify and reach the most vulnerable.
- We still lack adequate funding, robust and disaggregated data collection, integration with broader EU instruments, and stakeholder engagement.
- Some of the national plans submitted to the European Commission by the Member States only catalogue pre-existing programmes and some Member States have not yet started implementing the planned measures.
- Civil society organisations face significant hurdles in engaging with this process due to the lack of formalised procedures.

Access the [full statement](#).

MothersCan – Bringing Mothers Back to Work

MMM is working on the project [MothersCan – Bringing mothers back to work](#), a European partnership between six countries (Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Romania, Spain and Greece). The project aims to support mothers' empowerment, professional development, acquisition of entrepreneurial competences and their reintegration into the labour market, alongside awareness-raising and training activities for hiring managers.

A [Eurostat publication](#) (1 May 2020) about working parents with young children in the EU confirmed that only one third of adults lived in households where both parents were working full time. Around one in five lived in households where both parents were working, but with at least one of them working part-time. Furthermore, two in five lived in households where at least one parent was not working, while 7% lived in households where none of the parents were working.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) – Paris, France

Contact: mmmi@makemothersmatter.org – makemothersmatter.org

November 2024



Make
Mothers
Matter

MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

It is usually the mother who chooses to quit her job or reduces her working hours. Surveys reveal that fewer than one in five of all new mothers, and 29% of first-time mothers, return to full-time work in the first three years after maternity leave, with the percentage dropping to 15% after five years. Compared to men, where only 4% leave employment within five years following the birth of a child, over 17% of women leave their job in the same timeframe.

In terms of household earnings, in the year before childbirth, the man is the main earner in 54% of couples, increasing to 69% three years after birth.

Regarding equal access to a fair job, mothers who leave employment completely are three times more likely to return to a lower-paid or lower-responsibility role than those who do not take a break.

Within this context, the project focuses on women's ability to return to work after childbirth. In order to contribute to this objective, the project puts in place concrete actions in the targeted countries:

1. An empowerment scheme tailored to mothers in or after pregnancy, increasing their self-sufficiency by providing them with skills and competences and supporting them in their integration into the labour market
2. An awareness-raising and training package for hiring managers, enabling them to create more inclusive environments for mothers
3. A training course in the form of Open Educational Resources (OERs) to increase entrepreneurial skills tailored to mothers who wish to become self-employed

Read MMM's full article [here](#).

Time Poverty and the Motherhood Penalty: Unveiling Economic and Social Injustices

At the recent event organised by the Time Use Initiative ([TUI](#)), MMM explored the interconnected issues of time poverty and the motherhood penalty, highlighting their impacts and suggesting steps for redress.

Unpaid family care work

Mothers play an essential role in families by ensuring their loved ones are nourished, educated and healthy, but their unpaid care work often leads to economic and social injustices, known as the motherhood penalty.

In Europe, women, primarily mothers, perform the majority of unpaid work. According to the [European Institute for Gender Equality \(EIGE\)](#), 79% of women do daily housework for an hour or more, compared to 36% of men. Women also bear the brunt of specific care activities, with 49% providing personal and physical care versus 6% of men. This imbalance affects mothers' pay, pension rights, employment opportunities, career advancement, professional skills, social activities, education, health and that of their children.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) – Paris, France

Contact: mami@makemothersmatter.org – makemothersmatter.org



Make
Mothers
Matter

MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

The motherhood penalty and time poverty

The economic penalties and discriminations women encounter when having children are usually referred as the motherhood penalty. The gender gaps start with the arrival of the first child and increase as the number of children increases. And time poverty further adds to the motherhood penalty.

In fact, time poverty, or the lack of sufficient time to balance paid work and unpaid care work, exacerbates this penalty. In the EU, the gender pay gap stands at 12.7%, and the pension gap at 29%, increasing women's likelihood of poverty as they age. Moreover, 40% of women in the EU face obstacles in education and training due to family responsibilities, and 57% cannot change their work schedule.

Addressing inequities

EU parliamentarian Lina Gálvez Muñoz's 2022 [Report on women's poverty in Europe](#), to which MMM contributed, highlights that the unequal division of unpaid work reduces women's labour force participation and increases their involvement in precarious employment. She stresses that poverty, worsened by time poverty, arises from many interconnected factors, not all monetary.

Vulnerable groups at higher risk of poverty include single mothers, with 85% of single-parent families headed by women and 42.1% of single-parent households at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2020, and mothers of retirement age, who face higher poverty risks due to reduced working hours or labour market exit for caregiving.

Recognising and valuing care work

While providing care, mothers develop valuable soft skills enhancing social inclusion, personal development, and employability, but these skills are undervalued. Governments, civil society, and businesses must work collectively to recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work.

Some of **MMM's recommendations** to support mothers and their families include:

1. Implementing longer and adequately paid leaves: To allow parents to care for their children without economic or professional penalties
2. Promoting active fatherhood: Ensure fathers can take an active role in child-rearing by addressing factors like compensation, childcare availability, and cultural norms
3. Flexible working arrangements: Enforcing the right to request flexible working arrangements for mothers and fathers
4. Providing accessible, affordable and high-quality childcare services and supporting other forms of childcare that are family-centred and respectful of families' choices and children's development (e.g. community-based childcare services, nannies, childminders)
5. Care credits for pension entitlements: Introducing care credits to account for employment breaks due to caregiving, ensuring fair pension entitlements
6. Life-cycle approach to employment: Supporting a non-linear career approach allowing re-entry into the labour market without penalties

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) – Paris, France

Contact: mmmi@makemothersmatter.org – makemothersmatter.org



MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

7. Incentivising family-friendly policies: Encouraging employers to adopt family-friendly policies and certification programmes. Such as the initiative for family-friendly companies, [Be Family](#), and the certificate in conciliation from [Mas Familia](#)
8. Validating caregiving skills: Developing mechanisms to recognise and value parental skills in the labour market
9. Collecting comprehensive data: Designing a gender-sensitive European Time Use Survey to collect data on paid and unpaid care work
10. Recognising unpaid care work: Defining “work” holistically, combining paid and unpaid work, and ensuring access to social rights.

MMM advocates for a comprehensive set of solutions to reimagine our priorities and enhance the lives of mothers and all caregivers, and to acknowledge the indispensable role of care in our societies and address the numerous injustices faced by mothers.

As MEP Lina Gálvez Muñoz stated in the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Committee Hearing on Women’s poverty, 15 June 2021, “the fight against women’s poverty is not just about equality and social justice, it is a path to fight against childhood poverty and therefore work for a dignified future for everyone.”

It is therefore time to address the motherhood penalty and the time poverty of mothers. Supporting mothers and fathers in their caregiving roles should not be viewed as expenses to be minimised but as vital investments that contribute to the well-being of individuals and the planet.

Read MMM’s full contribution [here](#).

Compiled by Irina Pálffy-Daun-Seiler, MMM Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, with input from Valérie Bichelmeier, Vice-President and Head of MMM UN Delegation, and Johanna Schima, Vice-President and Head of MMM European Delegation.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) – Paris, France

Contact: mmmi@makemothersmatter.org – makemothersmatter.org

Upcoming Events

All upcoming events can be attended digitally. Many events also take place on multiple dates (see <https://waset.org/>).

January

- 09. – 10.; Bali, Indonesia: 19. International Conference on Children, Women, and Social Studies
<https://waset.org/children-women-and-social-studies-conference-in-january-2025-in-bali>
- 16. – 17.; Zurich, Switzerland: 19. International Conference on Child Protection and Family Support
<https://waset.org/child-protection-and-family-support-conference-in-january-2025-in-zurich>
- 30. – 31.; Sydney, Australia: 19. International Conference on Family Studies and Human Development
<https://waset.org/family-studies-and-human-development-conference-in-january-2025-in-sydney>

February

- 03. – 04.; Lisbon, Portugal: 19. International Conference on Marriage and Family
<https://waset.org/marriage-and-family-conference-in-february-2025-in-lisbon>
- 03. – 04.; Havana, Cuba: 19. International Conference on Family Medicine and Primary Care
<https://waset.org/family-medicine-and-primary-care-conference-in-february-2025-in-havana>
- 17. – 18.; Manila, Philippines: 19. International Conference on Bullying, Cyberbullying and Family
<https://waset.org/bullying-cyberbullying-and-family-conference-in-february-2025-in-manila>
- 17. – 18.; Mumbai, India: 19. International Conference on Family Business and Regional Development
<https://waset.org/family-business-and-regional-development-conference-in-february-2025-in-mumbai>

March

- 03. – 04.; Rome, Italy: 19. International Conference on Clinical and Health Psychology of Children and Adolescents
<https://waset.org/clinical-and-health-psychology-of-children-and-adolescents-conference-in-march-2025-in-rome>
- 03. – 04.; Rome, Italy: 19. International Conference on Population, Family and Reproductive Health
<https://waset.org/population-family-and-reproductive-health-conference-in-march-2025-in-rome>
- 17. – 18.; Paris, France: 19. International Conference on Child, Adolescent and Family Behavioral Health
<https://waset.org/child-adolescent-and-family-behavioral-health-conference-in-march-2025-in-paris>
- 24. – 25.; Kuwait, Kuwait: 19. International Conference on Psychology of Family
<https://waset.org/psychology-of-family-conference-in-march-2025-in-kuwait>

Impressum

Projects of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family are supported by:

- ❖ Austrian Federal Government
- ❖ Bank Austria
- ❖ Berndorf Gruppe
- ❖ Country Womens Association in Lower Austria
- ❖ E.F.T. Transportagency GmbH
- ❖ European Commission
- ❖ Government of Germany
- ❖ Government of Liechtenstein
- ❖ Government of Luxembourg
- ❖ Government of Spain, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands
- ❖ International Non-Governmental Organisations
- ❖ Lower Austrian State Government
- ❖ Lower Austrian Insurance AG
- ❖ OMV Energy Group
- ❖ Rotary International
- ❖ Schoeller-Bleckmann Oilfield Equipment AG
- ❖ Shell Austria AG
- ❖ Siemens
- ❖ United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities

'Families International' is published by:

Vienna NGO Committee on the Family:

Office of the Chairperson:

VALERIA FOGLAR-DEINHARDSTEIN, M.Sc.
LIECHTENSTEINSTRASSE 111-115
A-1090 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

EMAIL: CONTACT@VIENNAFAMILYCOMMITTEE.ORG

Web: <http://www.viennafamilycommittee.org>

Editorial Committee:

Valeria Foglar-Deinhardstein M.Sc.– Chairperson
Julia Birner B.A. B.Sc., Christin Kohler M.A., Karin Kuzmanov M.Sc., Hannah Prüwasser B.A. – Editors
Peter Crowley Ph-D. – Deputy Editor
Julia Birner B.A. B.Sc. – Executive Editor & Layout Current Issue No. 132

If you do not wish to be informed when a new issue of our Quarterly Bulletin 'Families International' is online and available to download, please just send an E-Mail, indicating such, to: contact@viennafamilycommittee.org