



World Family Summit +7

Families in Balance: Working our way towards Sustainable Development - Making Decent Work and Social Protection a Global Reality for All Family Members

Abu Dhabi – December 5-7, 2011.

Program

Day 1 – December 5th 2011

8:30 - 17:30 Registration

Morning Session

9:30 – 10:30 Opening Ceremony

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:30 **Ministerial Roundtable**

11:30 – 12:15 **NGO Roundtable**

12:15 – 14:00 Lunch

Afternoon Session

14:00 – 15:30 **Success Stories – Session I**
Moderator: Dr. Elie Mekhael - Lebanon
 Advisor, World Family Organization

Success Story I: USA - Family Focused Solutions for Work-Family Balance
 Mrs. Joan Stevens
 Mouvement Mondial des Mères

Success Story II: Brazil – The impact of Family Health Programs on Local Communities
 Mrs. Tania Santa Barbara Rehem
 Health Family Program, Brazil

Success Story III: Spain – Monoparental Families in Risk of Social Exclusion
 Mrs. Cristina Beltrán
 AMASOL

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15 **Success Stories – Session II**
Moderator: Mr. Eric De Wash - Belgium
 Advisor – World Family Organization

Success Story I: Syria - Superior Knowledge by Intensive Labour Learning Schemes
 Ms. Leena Rammah
 Education Specialist and Early Childhood Development Specialist

Success Story II: Brazil – Social Incubators as a tool for Family Economic Development
 Mrs. Maria Lúcia Carraro Smaniotto
 ASSAMI

Success Story III: UAE
 Dr. Jamila Suliman Khanji
 Advisor, Research and Studies - Family Development Foundation

Evening

20:30 Official Welcome Dinner offered by the General Women's Union
Emirati Night - Cultural Fashion Show and Traditional Presentations

Day 2 – December 6th 2011 – Morning Session

08:30-10:00 PLENARY SESSION I

Eradicating poverty and hunger – a new economic context with enduring challenges.

Justification:

Over the period 2008-2009, the world suffered the worst financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. According to United Nations estimates, the annual growth rate in global output fell from about 4 per cent during the period 2006-2007 to 1.6 per cent in 2008. The rate of growth in output dropped even further in 2009, to -2 per cent, when 95 countries experienced declines in average per capita income. As unemployment has risen globally, so too has families' vulnerability to poverty. Various estimates suggest that between 47 million and 84 million more people fell into, or were trapped in, extreme poverty because of the global crisis. Despite advances made in eradicating poverty and hunger over the last decade, the global economic and financial crisis has placed renewed pressure on the capacity of governments and NGOs to meet the targets set out in MDG 1.

This Session will discuss the impacts of the global economic and financial crisis on families and their communities, how the progress towards achieving the targets set out in MDG 1 has been affected, and what governments and civil society can do to eradicate poverty and hunger in these new economic and social circumstances.

Moderator: **Mr. Nedim Kaya - Turkey**
Advisor, World Family Organization

Keynote I: **Wanda Engel Aduan, Ph.D. - Brazil**
Executive Superintendent of Instituto Unibanco

Theme: **The impact of the crisis: How the international economic and financial crisis has impacted families at the local level.**

Justification: As a result of the crisis, global unemployment rose sharply from 178 million persons in 2007 to 205 million in 2009. While increased unemployment has been the dominant social impact of the crisis in developed economies, the unemployment situation in developing countries has been less obvious. While the informal economy and peasant agricultural sector have absorbed much of the impact of formal sector job losses, much larger numbers of workers are now subject to more vulnerable employment in developing countries.

The global economic downturn has had wide-ranging negative social outcomes for individuals, families, communities and societies. Poverty and unemployment have been linked to crime, gender-based violence, substance abuse and mental illness, including depression and suicide. During times of financial and economic crisis families often adopt coping strategies, such as making changes in household expenditure patterns. However, these spending changes can negatively influence education, health and nutrition outcomes, which may lead to lifelong deficits for the children affected and thus perpetuate intergenerational poverty within families.

Keynote II: **Dr. Mohamed Diab, Ph.D. - Sudan**
Country Director, UAE - World Food Program

Theme: **The rising cost of food: The short- and long-term impacts of higher food prices on families and the achievement of MDG 1.**

Justification: The impact of volatile and high food prices, diminishing incomes and rising unemployment are slowing progress towards reducing hunger and improving nutrition. The sharp rise in global food and energy prices in 2007 and 2008 further undermined the welfare of the world's poor, forcing more families to rely on underfunded public food assistance programs, skip meals, consume less or substitute nutritious foods with cheaper, less healthful alternatives. Food prices started rising once again in 2009, primarily because of persistent problems with global food production and supply, exacerbated by the demand for bio-fuel production and greater speculation in commodity futures. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the number of people living in hunger in the world rose to over a billion in 2009, the highest on record. The continuing food crisis has serious implications for political and social stability in poor food-importing

countries.

However, increasing food prices cannot be explained only by recent events. Over the last three decades, food security and agriculture have been weakened by reduced funding for investments in agricultural infrastructure, support institutions and research, as well as by the effects of trade liberalization. A strong commitment by governments and civil society to reverse these trends is required in order to ensure the number of families living in hunger is reduced, their nutrition is improved, and the targets set out in MDG 1 are met.

Discussion

Recommendations

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 **PLENARY SESSION II**

Ensuring that sustainable jobs-centered growth is at the heart of recovery strategies, in line with the Global Jobs Pact and the Decent Work Agenda.

Justification:

Work is central to people's well-being. In addition to providing income, work can pave the way for broader social and economic advancement, strengthening individuals, their families and communities. However, this progress depends on work that is decent. To this end, the International Labor Organization (ILO) has developed the Decent Work Agenda, which is implemented via four strategic objectives, with gender as a cross-cutting objective: creating jobs, guaranteeing rights at work, extending social protection and promoting social dialogue. The Decent Work Agenda is based on the understanding that work is a source of personal dignity, family stability, peace in the community, democracies that deliver for people, and economic growth that expands opportunities for productive jobs and enterprise development.

To address the social and employment impact of the international economic and financial crisis, in June 2009 the International Labor Conference, with the participation of government, employers' and workers' delegates from ILO's member States, unanimously adopted the Global Jobs Pact. The Global Jobs Pact promotes a productive recovery centered on investments, employment and social protection, with the objective of providing an internationally agreed basis for policy-making designed to reduce the time lag between economic recovery and a recovery with decent work opportunities.

This Session will discuss the importance of embracing sustainable jobs-centered growth as the heart of economic recovery strategies, via the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda and the Global Jobs Pact, in order to enhance the capacity of current and future generations of families to escape poverty and to achieve MDG 1.

Moderator: **Mrs. Teresa Maia - Portugal**
Advisor, World Family Organization

Keynote I: **Prof. Neziha Labidi Zouabi - Tunisia**
Director - Directorate of Women issues, Ministry of Women, Family, Children and the Elderly Affairs

Theme: **Decent Work for All: Empowering families to permanently escape poverty via the provision of decent work for all.**

Justification: Unemployment and underemployment lies at the core of poverty. For families living in poverty, labor is often the only asset they can use to improve their well-being. The creation of productive employment opportunities is therefore essential for achieving poverty reduction and sustainable economic and social development. The Global Jobs Pact includes a range of recommendations to foster job creation and ensure all families are able to benefit from the jobs created. For example, investing in workers' skills development, skills upgrading and re-skilling to improve employability, in particular for those having lost or at risk of losing their job and vulnerable groups; implementing a supportive regulatory environment conducive to job creation through sustainable enterprise creation and development; and using public employment guarantee schemes for temporary employment, emergency public works programmes and other direct job creation schemes which are well targeted and include the informal economy.

In addition to increasing the number of job opportunities available to families, it is equally important to ensure this work is decent. Decent work is defined as opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Particularly during times of economic downturn, when families

are increasingly desperate to find work and businesses are pressured to reduce costs, promoting and upholding international labor standards should be a key concern.

Keynote II: **Eng. Raouf Dabbas - Jordan**
Senior Advisor – Ministry of Environment

Theme: **Decent Work and the Green Economy: How families can benefit from sustainable jobs creation in the green economy, and the measures that are required for a smooth and equitable transition.**

Justification: One of the themes of the Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is 'a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication'. In the move towards a 'green economy' it is important to ensure that families from all income levels and backgrounds are able to participate in, and benefit from, this development.

At a minimum, it is estimated that the move towards a green economy will create as many jobs as 'business as usual'. As new jobs are created in 'green' sectors and existing jobs in environmentally unsustainable sectors are reduced or phased out, an employment shift will inevitably occur. In order to ensure this shift results in benefits for all families, appropriate public policies will be required to facilitate a smooth and equitable transition to employment in the 'green economy', as recognized in the 'Just Transition' framework adopted by ILO.

Many existing jobs, which are 'green' in principle, are not 'green' in practice because of the environmental damage caused by inappropriate practices. Moreover, the evidence shows that green jobs do not automatically constitute decent work, as employment tends to be precarious (e.g. in the recycling industry) and incomes are low. It is therefore essential to ensure the jobs created in the green economy, and those which already exist, constitute decent work, and do not result in further marginalization of vulnerable families.

Discussion

Recommendations

12:00-13:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session

13:30-15:00 **PLENARY SESSION III**

Engaging with youth – eliminating harmful child labor and ensuring financial stability for the next generation of families.

Justification:

As more families face unemployment and reduced wages, one coping mechanism, particularly among the poorest, is to take children out of school in order to save on educational expenses and enable children to contribute economically to household welfare. However, when children are taken out of school they are unlikely to return and will suffer life-long deficits in terms of lost potential, educational attainment, productivity and income. The global economic crisis is expected to lead to more girls than boys being taken out of school, a phenomenon that will widen the gender gap in enrolment. In addition to an expected increase in child labor, evidence indicates that, on average, youth have been more seriously and immediately impacted by job losses induced by the crisis compared to adults. This suggests that young people are more disadvantaged with regard to job placement, wages and job security.

This Session will discuss strategies to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and to ensure children remain in school, as well as the importance of maximizing employment prospects for youth once they have completed their education.

Moderator: **Mrs. Marina Klamas Tanigushi**
Consultant in Social Education for Income Generation Programs – WFO Latin America Region

Keynote I: **Dr. Ayman A. Abulaban M.D. MPH, Ph.D. - Jordan**
Representative for Turkey, UNICEF

Theme: **Eliminating harmful child labor: Public policies to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and encourage children to remain in school.**

Justification: The elimination of child labor is an important facet of the Decent Work Agenda. Child labor not only prevents children from acquiring the skills and education they need for a better future, it also perpetuates poverty and affects national economies through losses in

competitiveness, productivity and potential income. Withdrawing children from child labor, providing them with education and assisting their families with training and employment opportunities contribute directly to creating decent work for adults. Experience has shown that focusing on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor is an effective way to mobilize governments and civil society to address the problem of child labor in general, and that successful measures against the worst forms often have a multiplier effect that benefits other working children.

Developing and promoting effective public policies against the worst forms of child labor is particularly relevant in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis, as families are increasingly vulnerable to poverty, and the risk of children leaving school and performing child labor is greater.

Keynote II: **Mr. Ignacio Socias - Spain**
Director General - International Institute for Family Research

Theme: **Ensuring youth employment to secure families' futures: Providing decent work opportunities for youth and managing the transition from school to jobs.**

Justification: There are several issues associated with youth employment and decent work, all of which reinforce the importance of a jobs-led recovery from the global economic and social crisis. First, the number of young people entering the workforce each year is increasing. ILO reports that 45 million young people are entering the workforce annually, which means that 300 million new jobs need to be created between now and 2015 just to keep up with the growth in the labor force. Second, as the crisis resulted in severe increases in youth unemployment, ILO has warned of the risk of a 'lost generation' comprised of young people who have dropped out of the labor market, having lost all hope of being able to work for a decent living. Among young people, young women find it more difficult to find work compared to men. Youth unemployment, exacerbated by the crisis, can have long-term effects on the social trajectory of youth, their families and their communities.

As the economic and social stability of future families depends on providing decent work opportunities to young men and women, youth employment needs to be a key focus of jobs creation strategies. In addition to creating decent work opportunities for youth, adolescents also need to be taught the appropriate skills to facilitate a successful transition from school to the workforce. In particular, this means that education and skills development should align with work opportunities, in order to avoid a mismatch between school-leavers' skills and the skills that are required to secure decent work.

Discussion

Recommendations

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 **PLENARY SESSION IV**

Decent Work for All – ensuring job creation strategies are inclusive, gender sensitive and supportive of community-led initiatives.

Justification:

There are a variety of characteristics, which result in certain families, or family members, being particularly vulnerable to poverty. These include families living in rural areas and urban slums, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples and women. The dominant reason for this vulnerability is a lack of access to decent work opportunities, due to factors such as discrimination, caring responsibilities, difficulties associated with physical access and lack of education, among others. In order to reduce poverty among families, including the most vulnerable, it is therefore essential to consider these factors when designing job creation strategies.

This Session will discuss the importance of providing decent work opportunities to all families and family members, which requires an inclusive and gender-sensitive approach when implementing the Decent Work Agenda and the Global Jobs Pact. Furthermore, a variety of employment scenarios should be included, in order to provide families with flexible and appropriate working conditions that meet their needs and allow them to participate in the workforce.

Moderator: **Mrs. Rachel Aird - South Africa**
Advisor, World Family Organization

Keynote I: **Prof. Jamilah Ariffin, Ph.D. - Malaysia**
President, Asia-Pacific Forum on Families

Theme: **Decent Work for Women: Providing decent work opportunities for women.**

Justification: Women bear a disproportionate burden of the world's poverty. Statistics indicate that women are more likely than men to be poor and at risk of hunger, and are currently over-represented in unemployment figures and participation in the informal sector. Poverty implications are widespread for women, leaving many without even basic rights such as access to clean drinking water, sanitation and medical care. Women are often paid less than men for their work, and face persistent discrimination when they apply for credit for business or self-employment and are often concentrated in insecure, unsafe and low-wage work. In addition to discrimination, the division of labor within households, which usually assigns the majority of housework and family responsibilities to women, is a key contributor to these outcomes, as is their reproductive role.

The inclusion of women in decent work opportunities therefore requires a multi-faceted approach. Not only do issues associated with lack of access to decent work opportunities as a result of discrimination need to be addressed, but also the impact of the division of labor within families and its impact on women's ability to participate in the labor force. As research shows that families significantly benefit from the re-investment of income earned by women, and as the number of female-headed households increases, ensuring decent work opportunities for women is not only essential to reduce the number of women living in poverty, but also the number of families.

Keynote II: **Mr. Victor Jorge - Portugal**
President, APSHSTDC

Theme: **Community-based growth: The importance of micro finance, cooperatives and entrepreneurship, and the role played by NGOs and local governments.**

Justification: It is important to recognize that there is a wide range of employment structures that can provide decent work opportunities for men and women, many of which have evolved from local family- and community-based initiatives. For example, it is estimated that the global cooperative movement directly provides productive self-employment for several hundred million workers-owners of production and services cooperatives, as well as the non-member employees and other cooperative enterprises. Cooperatives contribute to poverty reduction by typically placing more emphasis on job security for employee-members and employees' family members, paying competitive wages, promoting additional income through profit-sharing, distribution of dividends and other benefits, and supporting community facilities such as health clinics and schools. Self-employment and entrepreneurship can also provide families with a means of productive employment, as well as flexible working conditions, which are increasingly important to facilitate women's entry into the workforce.

In order for families to fully benefit from the decent work opportunities that can be provided by cooperatives and other income generating activities, governments have an important role to play in providing an enabling regulatory environment for the establishment and operation of these types of businesses. In addition, NGOs, micro-finance institutions and local community leaders, including local governments, can play an important role in capacity building to provide families with the know-how to successfully establish and operate community-based enterprises.

Discussion

Recommendations

20:30 Official Sponsored Dinner
Video presentation on the Achievement of MDG 1

Day 3 – December 7th 2011 – Morning Session

08:30-10:00 PLENARY SESSION V

Universal Social Protection – an essential investment to reduce the number of families experiencing poverty and inequality in the long-term.

Justification:

Investing in a Social Protection Floor is investing in social justice and economic development. Social protection schemes are important tools to reduce poverty and inequality. They not only help to prevent individuals and their families from falling or remaining in poverty, they also contribute to economic growth by raising labor productivity and enhancing social stability. The global financial and economic crisis proved how key a role social protection plays as an automatic economic stabilizer. The Global Jobs Pact

specifically calls on countries to give consideration to build “adequate social protection for all, drawing on a basic social protection floor including: access to health care, income security for the elderly and persons with disabilities, child benefits and income security combined with public employment guarantee schemes for the unemployed and working poor”.

This Session will discuss the essential role that universal social protection plays in reducing poverty and enabling families to benefit from decent work opportunities, and the importance of including social protection measures in government responses to the global economic and financial crisis.

Moderator: **Dr. Alzira Guimarães – Brazil**
Vice President for Technical Activities, World Family Organization

Keynote I: **Dr. Maria do Rosário Fidalgo - Portugal**
Gender Advisor to the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality

Theme: **A complementary relationship: why social protection measures are an integral part of ensuring families can benefit from decent work opportunities.**

Justification: Social security represents an investment in a country’s ‘human infrastructure’ no less important than investments in its physical infrastructure. Access to essential social security transfers and social services in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education and housing supports families’ ability to benefit from decent work opportunities and escape poverty in the long term. For example, child benefits facilitate access to education which, in turn, help break the intergenerational poverty cycle; access to health care helps families remain above the poverty line by relieving them of the financial burden of medical care; and income support avoids poverty and creates the security people need in order to seize opportunities and invest in their own productive capacity.

The maximum benefits of decent work opportunities will only be realized if a country has an educated, healthy and productive workforce. Universal social protection is the most effective means of enabling families to seize decent work opportunities, participate in the workforce and escape poverty in the long term.

Keynote II: **Mrs. Lara Hussein - Jordan**
Vice President for Family Policy – World Family Organization

Theme: **Responding to the crisis: including social protection measures as part of government response strategies.**

Justification: Under crisis conditions, providing social assistance and paying security benefits to unemployed workers and other vulnerable recipients act as social and economic stabilizers. Such actions help people to avoid falling further into poverty, and also limit the fall in aggregate demand, thereby curtailing the potential depth of the recession. While cash transfer programmes may help address short-term crisis effects in terms of poverty and a lack of social security, social transfers are most valuable as a systemic component of an overall national poverty reduction strategy. In particular, in countries that currently lack strong social security and income support programmes, a basic package of state-financed social transfers – as part of a wider social floor – would mitigate the poverty fall-out of the crisis while at the same time providing a significant stimulus to the economy.

Despite the benefits of including social protection measures in poverty reduction strategies and the positive flow-on effects for men and women already in, or seeking to enter, the workforce, government spending as a percentage of GDP has been reduced for social protection in the face of reduced fiscal space, rising public debt and a policy shift by governments towards fiscal austerity. A strong message needs to be sent to all governments about the importance of including social protection measures in crisis response strategies, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups, to reduce poverty and inequality among families and maximize the benefits of job creation strategies in both the immediate future and in the long term.

Discussion

Recommendations

10:00-10:30 Coffee Break

10:30-12:00 **SPECIAL PLENARY SESSION VI**

Theme: **Supporting the peaceful settlement of international disputes by encouraging mediation and avoidance of conflict and violence at the family level.**

Justification:

Peace and security are fundamental to human dignity and development. In any culture, sustainable development, including the creation of decent work opportunities and universal social protection, is easily threatened by poverty and conflict.

The President of the UN General Assembly for its 66th Session, Nasir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar, opened the annual session by outlining four main areas of focus for this year's session, the first of which is the peaceful settlement of disputes, a need that has become more relevant and urgent than ever. The President has stated that, "It is my view that the General Assembly should, through its revitalization, become more engaged and empowered on issues of mediation, so that it can fulfill its role as the world's preeminent peacemaker at the major juncture in international relations".

As phenomena such as drug and people trafficking, organized crime and terrorism have become intertwined in some cases with traditional political conflicts, it is becoming increasingly complicated to address these conflicts solely through political-negotiated means. It is therefore equally important to ensure the peaceful mediation of disputes and avoidance of conflict and violence occurs at the international, national, local and family levels. This Special Plenary Session will discuss the most effective ways to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes at the family level, including family mediation and the need to eradicate domestic and sexual violence, in order to support and strengthen the international peace agenda.

10:30 - 10:45 Introduction by: Dr. Hanifa Mezoui - Permanent Representative to the United Nations and ECOSOC, AICESIS

10:45 - 11:45 SPECIAL PLENARY SESSION

Speaker: Dr. Deisi Kusztra – President, World Family Organization

Speaker: Ms.Elissar Sarrouh - UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in UAE

Speaker: Dr. Alzira Guimarães – Vice President for Technical Activities – World Family Organization

Speaker: Mrs. Lara Hussein – Vice President for Family Policy – World Family Organization

11:45 - 12:00 CONCLUSION

12:00-13:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session

13:30-15:00 PLENARY SESSION VII

Conclusion and Recommendations

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 Closing Ceremony

Presentation of the World Family Summit +7 Declaration

WFO Award Ceremony 2011

Presentation of the World Family Summit +8

20:30 Official WFO Farewell Dinner

Background Papers:

[Click here for the Background Papers](#)