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Dear Readers of 'Families International',

This 120th issue of 'Families International' takes a look at the last International Forum that took place in November 2021 by including the paper of presenter Phillip Sinner and principal investigator Ingrid Paus-Hasebrink. The paper reports about a qualitative longitudinal panel-study (2005 – 2020) on child and later adolescent socialisation in socially disadvantaged families and sheds light on their leap into young adulthood.

Also, the Sustainable Development Goal 13, which says to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts is discussed in a text by UNICEF.

Furthermore, three member organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family have contributed to this issue: The International Federation for Family Development (IFFD) focuses on the wellbeing of workers and their families while Make Mothers Matter (MMM) informs about their current activities, particularly concerning women's and childrens rights. Moreover the report of the International Council of Women (ICW) that is dealing with family issues is included.

Finally, FI No. 120 is completed by a list of recent and upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Christin Kohler, M.A. Executive Editor

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From the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

**15 Years Panel Study on (Media) Socialisation
The Children of Yesteryear are now Young Adults**

By

**Ingrid Paus-Hasebrink (Principal Investigator) and
Philip Sinner (Speaker at the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family)**

1 Introduction

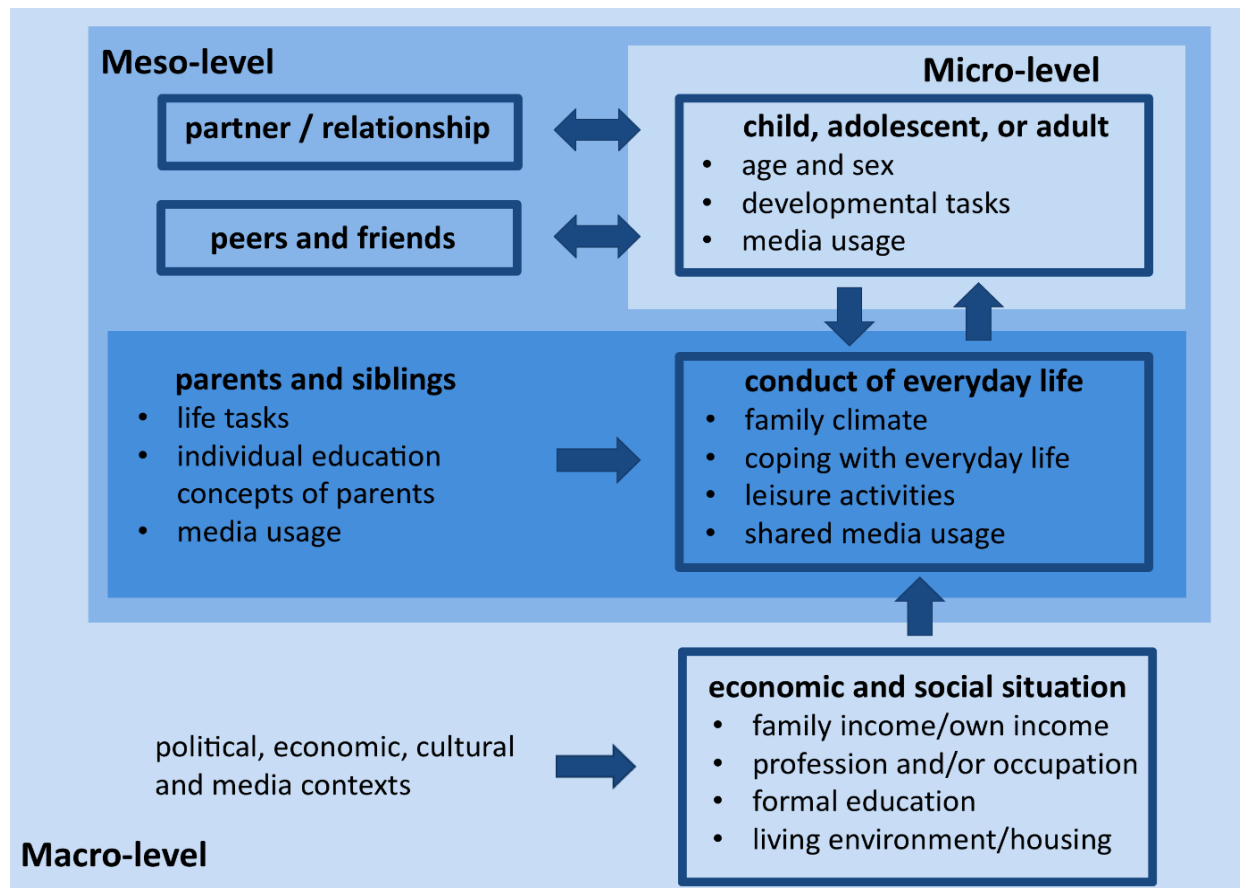
The present paper reports about a qualitative longitudinal panel-study (2005 – 2020) on child and later adolescent socialisation in socially disadvantaged families and sheds light on their leap into young adulthood. The study was financed by The Anniversary Fund of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) in three separate peer-reviewed projects from 2005 until 2017. The whole study is dedicated to the ideal of Norbert Elias, according to which research is obligated to serve humanity (Elias, 1987) and has to hand back benefits to the society. In our understanding, this goes hand in hand with the strong belief that socially disadvantaged people, and minors, adolescents and emerging adults in particular, deserve the support of the whole society, including all stakeholders involved, e.g. local and national authorities, associations and advocacy groups, political parties, citizens' initiatives and the general public, but also foreign and international organisations. But academia must also play its part in making society a success by addressing crucial challenges. Since it is not possible to report all the results of such a qualitative 15-year project at this place, we decided to use the present paper for two purposes: On the one hand, we will provide an overview of the study, including the further developed theoretical framework, the adapted methodical approach, and key findings on selected aspects with highest relevance. On the other hand, we will use the paper as a curated reading guide or enhanced table of content that names reference in English and German language for further reading.

2 Background of the study

After a robust economic development in the 1990s and the euphoria that followed the turn of the millennium, the first decade of the new century turned out to be a period of unexpected economic

crises and uncertainty (Berger, 2012; Austrian Economic Chamber, 2021), e.g. oil price shock, epizootic diseases in Europe, low domestic demand and critical questioning of globalization, crash of the IT-sector (new market), and 9/11 2001 and the consequences sent shockwaves around the world. In addition, this decade was a time of rapidly proceeding technological change and digitisation. This went hand in hand with social change, both in professional and private life. Socially disadvantaged people seemed to be primarily affected by the negative consequences, as they lacked the corresponding options for action and perspectives. A few examples are: Cutting and relocating jobs abroad, rising unemployment rates and a shortage of low-skilled jobs, difficulties in social participation and care of adolescents (in order to get a broad overview, see Federal Agency for Civic Education, 2021). During this period and in the years that followed, studies showed that the gap between rich and poor was widening. Even in rich countries, as Austria and Germany, characterised by a strong welfare state, the level of inequality was rising. In this context, social disadvantage has an impact on initial conditions and future prospects in general, but also on access to and use of media in particular. It became evident that certain groups were especially at risk: low-income and single parents, parents with a lower formal education, extended families, and such with migration background. In the sense of Elias, the starting point and the intention of the study was to explore the life worlds and media activities of these groups and to give them a voice that can be heard.

For further reading on this, see Paus-Hasebrink, Ingrid (2021), Chapter 1 – Social Inequality, Childhood and the Media (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019), but also Kapitel 6 – Zusammenfassung, Diskussion und



Konsequenzen (Paus-Hasebrink & Sinner, 2021; in German language) and the recently published article (Medien-Sozialisationsprozesse aus praxeologischer Perspektive. A praxeological perspective on media socialization processes (Paus-Hasebrink 2021).

3 The aim of the study

The study explains how children, adolescents and young adults but also their parents make sense of media within the context of their everyday life over 15 years and it provides a unique perspective on the role of different socialisation contexts. Hence, we are not only concerned with the use of media. Instead, we rather discuss their life circumstances, their opportunities to participate in society, the process of their socialisation and, in this context, the role of media, in order to better understand the specific challenges facing them as they grow up and live in a rich country like Austria. This includes persona as parents, siblings, and further relevant persons (family, peers, friends, partner), infrastructural conditions as regions and areas of living, housing, labour market and income, but also aspects of the educational

system (kindergarten, school, training company, AMS – Austrian labour market service agency). A structural overview of the field of research is given in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Contextual Factors of Socialisation (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019, adapted)

This is condensed in the central research question of the entire study:

How do socially disadvantaged children (and later on adolescents and young adults) use media in order to make sense of their everyday life and to cope with individual and social challenges?

With regard to the seventh survey wave, the research question is concretised by the following sub-question:

How do the young people surveyed succeed in taking the step into young adulthood?

The past six years have been turbulent times in Europe. From 2015 onwards, the continent experienced a so-called *refugee crisis* on an unprecedented scale, which required joint action by all member states of the European Union. Austria and Germany in particular were at the centre of the happenings. Since 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has kept not only Europe but the whole world on tenterhooks. The effects of the pandemic and the governmental countermeasures influence all areas of society, but especially adolescents and the socially disadvantaged. In order to scientifically address these crisis situations and shed light on them within the framework of a qualitative study, specific sets of questions were integrated into the guidelines in both the sixth survey wave in 2016¹ and the seventh survey wave in 2020. Again, both the young people and their parents (mothers) were confronted with these questions in order to be able to recognise different perspectives as well. With a focus on the Covid-19 pandemic, in this paper we also draw attention to the following question:

How do the young adults and their parents experience the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions associated with it, and what significance do media offerings have for them (2020)?

4 Theoretical framework

The study is based on a praxeological approach that has been developed by Ingrid Paus-Hasebrink during the project. It should be emphasised that it is not only an approach to research the media socialisation of socially disadvantaged adolescents, rather it is an adaptable approach allowing to deal with different target groups and to investigate various everyday practices. In this understanding, socialisation has to be seen as a dynamic and interlinked process which is connected to both,

the individual and the relevant social contexts like family, peers, institutional contexts such as kindergarten and school, and non-institutional recreational contexts. The interactions of these contexts have to be systematically analysed, in order to understand how adolescents and young adults make sense of their life and, in this context, of the media within their everyday lives. The approach is based on three theoretical starting points: 1) Bourdieu's field theory (Bourdieu, 1996) and theory of practice (Bourdieu, 1977), 2) the praxeological perspective on the role of media in socialisation through a combined analysis of both the subjective and structural components of practice (Weiß, 2000; 2001) and 3) Havighurst's (1972) concept of developmental and life tasks. "A developmental task is a task which arises at or about a certain period in the life of the individual, successful achievement of which leads to his happiness and to success with later tasks, while failure leads to unhappiness in the individual, disapproval by the society, and difficulty with later tasks" (Havighurst, 1972, p. 2).

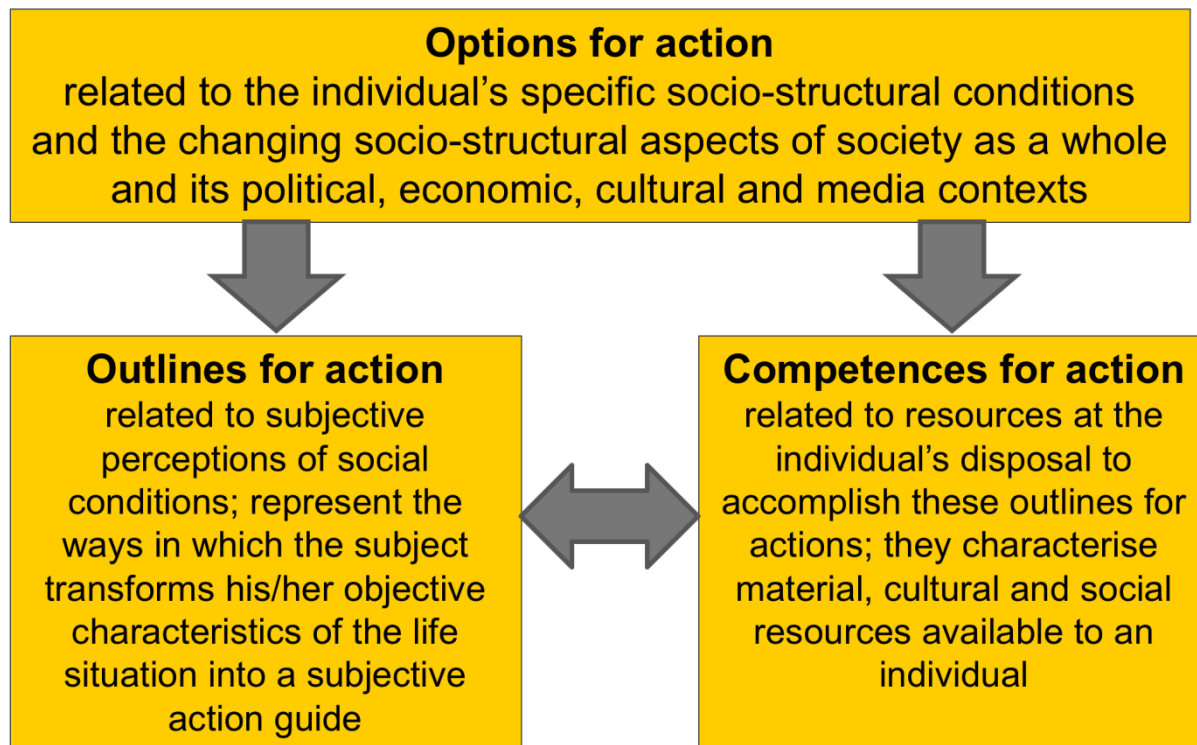
Against this backdrop, Ingrid Paus-Hasebrink (2018) developed her praxeological approach built on three analytical concepts (see Figure 2) for reconstructing everyday practices which led the survey and the analysis:

- *Options for action*
- *Outlines for action*
- *Competences for action*

However, development never stands still, certainly not in the development of theory. From the beginning, the development and refinement of the theoretical framework was an integral part of the entire study. On the one hand, this approach served to broaden the perspectives, but on the other hand, the development of the children, adolescents and young adults interviewed also had to be considered. In the last wave of the survey, the aim was to record the

¹ Answers to the question *How do the socially disadvantaged adolescents and their parents experience the so-called refugee crisis and what significance do they assign to the media coverage (2016)?* can be found in Chapter 6 – Socialisation in Different Socialisation Contexts (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019) and in Kapitel 4.1 – Perspektiven sozial

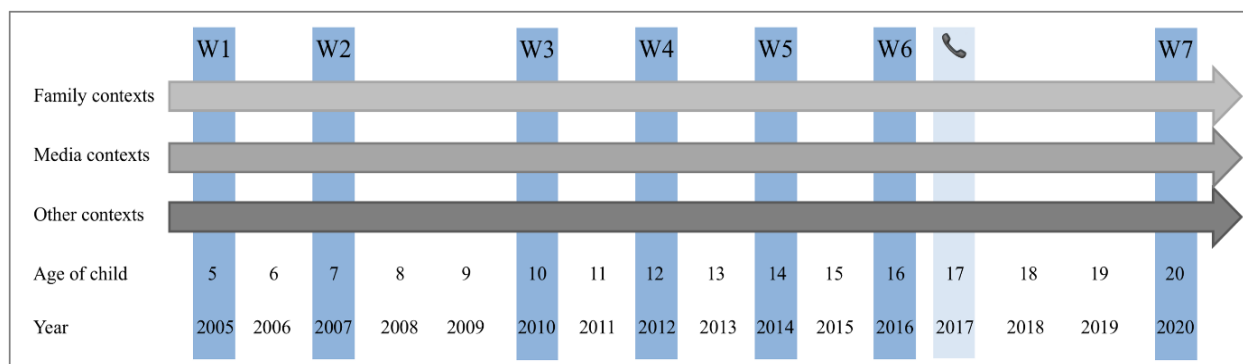
benachteiligter Familien auf Geflüchtete (Paus-Hasebrink & Sinner, 2021). A more extent paper, also in German language, has been published by Ingrid Paus-Hasebrink (2020) in the Open Access Journal *kommunikation.medien: Perspektiven sozial benachteiligter Familien auf Geflüchtete und die Rolle von Medien*.



new positioning of the young people interviewed and to make it accessible for research. The adolescents of 2016/2017 were now young adults and had to be addressed accordingly, as well as their living conditions and typical developmental tasks in this phase of life. Accordingly, the developmental tasks in early adulthood ("frühes Erwachsenenalter", Krampen & Reichle, 2008) were incorporated into the theoretical foundation, an approach that can be found in English-language research under the term "emerging adulthood" by Jeffrey Arnett (2000; 2004; 2016) and was also covered (see also Hurrelmann & Quenzel, 2016; Rudan-Gugelhör, 2012). This phase of life is a time to develop relationships and a sense of responsibility (Krampen & Reichle, 2008, p. 338). This applies equally to personal and social contexts, especially in private life such as partnership and friendship, but also in widened social groups and at work. In order to meet the challenges of technological change and the diffusion of mediated communication in society, a close link was established with mediatization research (Krotz & Hepp, 2013). Accordingly, increasingly complex media environments had to be recorded and analysed. Using the concept of media repertoires (Hasebrink & Domeyer, 2012), the approach of the study was to focus on the entire personal repertoire compiled by media users and how they integrate different new media offerings into their existing repertoires according to their needs.

Figure 2 Analytical Concepts, developed by Ingrid Paus-Hasebrink (2018)

To learn more about the theoretical framework of the study, the praxeological approach and the analytical concepts please read the most recent Chapter on the theoretical and methodological foundation of the study: *Kapitel 1 – Theoretische und methodische Basis* (Paus-Hasebrink & Sinner, 2021; in German language). Furthermore, read the article *The role of media within young people's socialization: A theoretical approach* (Paus-Hasebrink, 2018), Chapter 3 – *The Role Of Media Within Young People's Socialisation. A Theoretical Approach* of the book *Social Inequality, Childhood and the Media. A Longitudinal Study of the Mediatization of Socialisation* (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019) or the German Chapter *Zur Entwicklung der praxeologischen Perspektive auf die Rolle von Medien in der Sozialisation* (Paus-Hasebrink, 2017) in the edited volume *Langzeitstudie zur Rolle von Medien in der Sozialisation sozial benachteiligter Heranwachsender. Lebensphase Jugend*. We will refer to these three named books, which are



the most recent ones from the project, also in the following. But there are two further key publications from the project that should be highlighted: *Mediensozialisationsforschung*.

Theoretische Fundierung und Fallbeispiel sozial benachteiligte Kinder (Paus-Hasebrink & Bichler, 2008) reports on the outcomes of the first two waves of research and *Praxeologische Mediensozialisationsforschung. Langzeitstudie zu sozial benachteiligten Heranwachsenden* (Paus-Hasebrink & Kulterer 2014) deals with the third and fourth wave of research (both in German language).

5 Longitudinal panel design from 2005 until 2020

The project was conceived as a qualitative panel study with 20 families. Since the second wave of research in 2007 until the preliminary end of the study in 2017, 18 families remained on board. In the seventh and most recent wave, conducted in spring and early summer 2020, 17 families took part once again. Only one young woman and her mother had to decline participation, due to “bad experiences” within the life world of the family. We investigated one socially disadvantaged child (later adolescent and young adult) per family and the respective parents and carers, in most of the cases the mother. Naturally, we talked with the parents not only about the interviewed child but also about her or his siblings and the whole family. This approach enabled us to draw a picture of the *doing family*, understood as the relationship between the members and behavioural patterns.

Concerning the selection of the families we conducted a “purposeful sampling” (Rapley, 2014, p. 56) in order to select typical and “information-rich cases” (Patton, 2002, p. 230, emphasis in original) in our field of research.

To operationalise social disadvantage, we used apparent markers following the model of Hradil (1987; 1999). Hereafter, our used characteristics are listed for better understanding: low income (defined as relatively poor, less than 50% of the national median income, and as at risk of poverty, less than 60% of the national median income), unemployment, lower formal education, single parent families, large families (more than five children) and nuclear families, migration background, bad housing conditions, deprived neighbourhoods, areas with poor infrastructure, urban, suburban and rural areas of living.

Figure 3 Waves of Data Collection

In a total of seven waves of data collection (see Figure 3), we covered relevant phases of development from kindergarten over mid-childhood and late-childhood to adolescence, and finally young adulthood (2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020). Between the preliminary last wave of the survey and the supplementary seventh wave of the survey, we conducted an additional telephone call back in 2017 in order to bring up-to-date our data.

6 Data collection and steps of analysis

To survey the participants of our study, we used a broad repertoire of qualitative methods. The approach of the study may be named a rich design which is characterised “as one that is not restricted to one theory and method, or one set of categories or instruments, but which embraces diverse and multiple perspectives brought together with coherence and harmony. It is more than a multi-method design per se” (Paus-Hasebrink, Prochazka & Sinner, 2013, p. 23).







Guided in-depth interview with the child (semi-structured)  	Child
Self-drawn network maps, concerning media and relationship structures	
Thinking aloud, concerning one self-selected social networking tool	
Self-made photos (favourite spot, place of work, preferred spot for media usage)	
Guided in-depth interview with the parents / one parent (semi-structured)  	Parent(s)
Standardised questionnaire, concerning conditions of living (self-completion)	
Observation protocol as a report of the visit, conducted by the interviewers	Family

Figure 4 Methods of Data Collection (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019, adapted)

Parents were asked to complete a standardised questionnaire concerning the housing situation, family members, finances and formal education. We visited all families at home and observed their everyday life. In order to structure this information, we used observation protocols. The heart itself consisted of guided face-to-face interviews with both, children and parents, conducted at the same time in different rooms of the flat, in order to prevent mutual influence. In the fifth and sixth wave of research we used additional observation schemes: photographs of bedroom and favoured places for work and media usage, personal network maps concerning reference persons and media as well as the thinking aloud method concerning the favourite social network sites of the adolescents. The seventh survey wave required some adjustments: Due to the pandemic situation and the contact restrictions in place, home visits to families were not possible in

spring and early summer 2020. Therefore, we decided to focus on the guided face-to-face

interviews and conducted them via Skype, Zoom, and WhatsApp-Call. Again, we interviewed the young adult and her or his mother in two separate conversations, using an adopted guideline which includes further questions concerning the Covid-19 pandemic and reflections on the 15-year process of research. Finally, the concessions to the pandemic situation and the chosen approach resulted in 34 high-quality interviews being conducted. The use of videoconferencing software not only corresponds to the state of the art in qualitative research (Archibald et al., 2019; Schulz & Ruddat, 2012), but also meets the advanced technical capabilities of the panellists. The data collection approaches are illustrated in Figure 4, methods applied in the seventh wave are marked with  

The data analysis was carried out in an integrative six-step process in which the individual steps are closely interlinked and build on each other (see Figure 5).

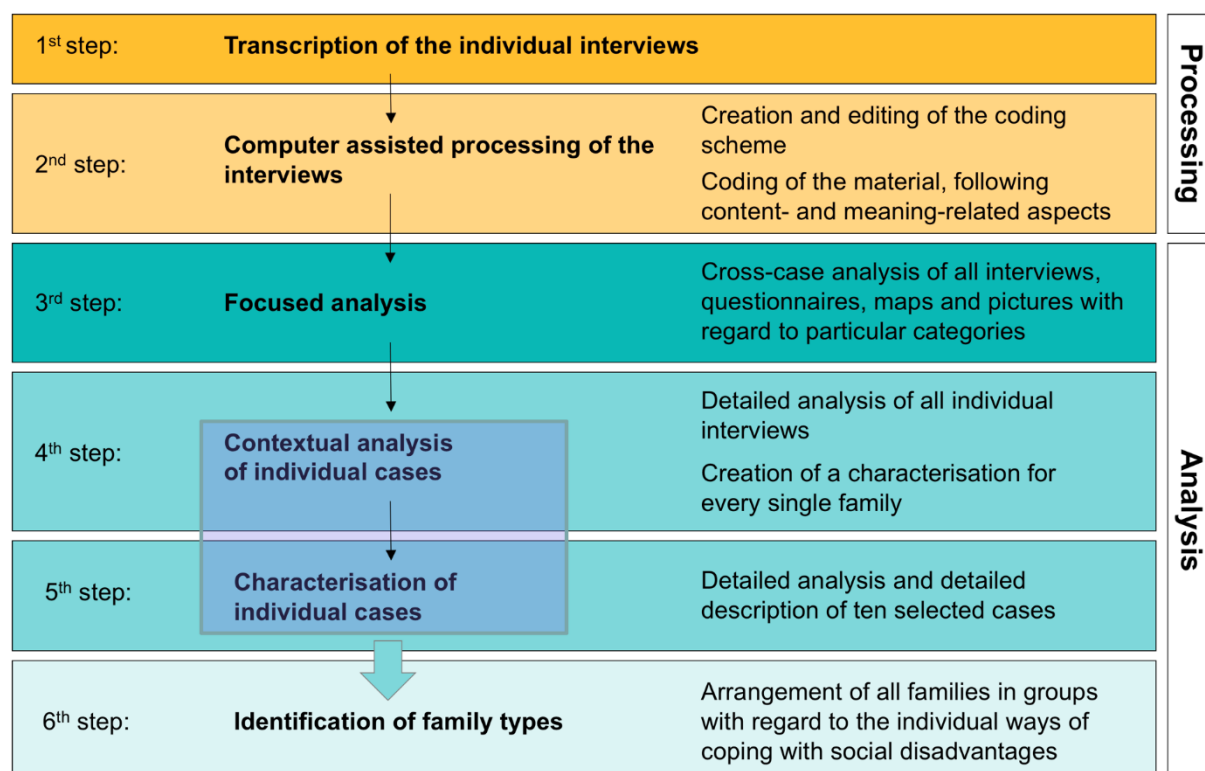


Figure 5 Steps of Analysis (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019)

Further information may be found in *Kapitel 1 – Theoretische und methodische Basis* (Paus-Hasebrink & Sinner, 2021; in German language), Chapter 4 – *The Methodological Approach of the Long-term Study* (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019) and in the German Chapter *Methodologische und methodische Herausforderungen: Zum Design der Langzeitstudie* (Paus-Hasebrink, Sinner, Kulterer & Oberlinner 2017). An additional article in German language, *Auswertungsstrategien für qualitative Langzeitdaten* (Paus-Hasebrink, Sinner, Prochazka & Kulterer, 2018) focusses on the processing of qualitative long-term data.

7 General findings of the entire study and typology of socially disadvantaged families

We can summarise, the adolescents and now young adults in the sample grew up in very dynamic and heterogeneous contexts. Each family displayed patterns of factors unique to it and shaping the everyday life experiences of all its members, and especially the adolescents'. Not all social disadvantage is alike. We can identify a strong interlinkage of socio-economic and socio-emotional factors and parents' (coping) practices. In this context, changing

conditions (for example, divorces or removals into other towns, regions or countries, but nowadays also new or first jobs, first own flats and partnerships) have a great influence on the families' or young adults' conduct of everyday life. After 15 years, we have to state that many families in our panel remained socially disadvantaged. Unfortunately, in some cases the living conditions of families have taken a turn for the worse, in particular in single-mother families. But we can highlight that social disadvantage is not a one-way-street, climbing up the social ladder is possible as some cases proof. In particular the seventh wave showcases this for the young adults. Many of them were already able to finish school and vocational training and to successfully start into their professional life. However, often external or institutional support was needed (e.g. AMS or youth aid) to achieve these successes. Unfortunately, we also have to state that some of the young adults are still looking for their way and partly lack perspectives.

In order to structure or data and making it more tangible, we have chosen to construct a typology following the approach of Kluge (2000) to the construction of qualitative types. It is based on the main dimensions available for characterising the families, these are: the *socio-economic situation* of the family (for example, their

finances, employment and their standard of living), the *socio-emotional climate* (for example, the relationship between family members, the observable conduct of family members with regard to each other and so on) and the identifiable *coping strategies* (how each family was able to deal with everyday challenges resulting from social disadvantage). We first developed our typology in 2014 and revised it in 2016 after the sixth wave of research. The result is a typology including four family types (see Figure 6).

socio-emotionally and relatively competent in their coping strategies.

- Type 4: Families in socio-economic circumstances no longer strained and with unproblematic socio-emotional relationship structures: These families are the competent social climbers.

This is only a very brief overview and in a qualitative study it is important to keep an eye on every single case. To read more about the typology and about each of the families please see Chapter 8 – *The Typology of Socially*

Family type	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4
Characteristics				
Socio-economic background	Very strained	Not strained anymore/hardly strained	Strained	Not strained anymore
Socio-emotional circumstances and family climate	Very strained	Very strained	Less strained	Not strained
Coping strategies	Unable to cope	Unable to cope	Fairly competent	Fairly competent

Figure 6 Four Family Types - Typology 2016
(Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019)

Disadvantaged Families (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019), Kapitel 2 – Die

The four family types can be summarised as follows:

- Type 1: Massive socio-economic problems as the result of multiple forms of deprivation: These families are overwhelmed in all respects.
- Type 2: These families are no longer, or to a lesser degree, strained socio-economically but still with problematic socio-emotional relationship structures.
- Type 3: These families are strained socio-economically, but they are stable

Fallbeschreibungen – die jungen Menschen der Panel-Langzeitstudie auf dem Weg zum Erwachsenwerden und wie sie heute leben (Paus-Hasebrink & Sinner, 2021) with continued case descriptions for all 18 families, and the German Chapter *Familientypen als Sozialisationskontexte* (Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Oberlinner, 2017).

8 Selected findings of the seventh survey wave

Living arrangements

All young adults are now 19 to 21 years old, and it is a time of transition (Niemand, 2020, p. 68: "Alltagsumbrüche"). Many have gone their way

and finished school and vocational training. Some already started successfully into their professional life. Others are still pursuing their school career (to achieve Matura) or professional trainings (master class) or vocational training abroad. However, higher education (tertiary sector) at a university or university of applied sciences is only intended by three young women. However, a few are still seeking for their career path, but for different reasons: A young man lacks almost all prospects due to his limited cognitive but also structural opportunities. Another went through a serious crisis in his life and first had to make a new start before he could focus on future development. A young man has successfully completed his schooling and training, but for many years he has been unable to decide in which direction he would like to go professionally. A large majority wanted to start into professional life as soon as possible, instead of pursuing a tertiary education: Mentioned reasons are to start “real work”, “independency”, “earning own money”, and “stability and security to have a good living”. All this reflects the insecurities they experienced in their youth. Besides socio-economic difficulties, many children were burdened by strained socio-emotional circumstances. In the seventh survey wave it becomes clear that the young adults do not only seek for economic welfare but also for socio-emotional stability and close ties. Young women in particular already have long-term relationships (six out of seven). The partners are well-known and accepted by their parents, however, some of them are following more modern approaches (like a *friendship+*). Marriage and children are often mentioned as plans for a (close) future. Only one young woman is single – she “prefers to be a friend of someone, instead of being a girlfriend”. In contrast to this, only four young men (out of ten) are in a relationship. However, these are very long-lasting and based on strong ties. Three of them are already living in shared flats with their girlfriends. One young man prefers to keep his own flat for reasons of independency, while his girlfriend already wants to move into a flat together. While own households are named important goals in many cases, only two young adults temporarily preferred to stay at home.

Media and their importance

As in previous survey waves, the young adults also have individual media repertoires and information repertoires (see Hasebrink & Dörmeyer, 2012). However, we can frequently find comparable results with national (e.g. JIM-Study 2020; Germany) or regional surveys (e.g. Upper Austrian Youth Media Study 2021). But nevertheless, in some aspects we can find (strong) deviations in our panel. In some cases, these are strongly related to (former) socio-economic backgrounds. Most of the young adults had to realise, that being adult costs a lot of time. Nowadays they have to use their smartphones and laptops not only for leisure activities, but also for their jobs. Preferred media content now competes with office hours and relationships. While smartphones are named by far the most important devices, streaming is in the lead to receive content: YouTube, but in particular Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney+. Communication tools, most frequently mentioned are WhatsApp, Team Speak, and telephone, are keeping friendships alive. But during the pandemic some of them also made use of applications like Houseparty, in order to arrange low key meetings with their friends they could not meet anymore. All in all, social media retain an important role: WhatsApp is named indispensable, while Instagram is considered the most important network. YouTube is often used for information and entertainment. Compared to former years, Facebook, but also Twitter, Kik and Snapchat lost massively in importance. A bit surprisingly, TikTok is not used among the young adults – it is seen as an application for younger people. Social media are mostly used for relationship and information management, while self-presentation and identity management lost in importance in 2020. With regard to entertainment media, there is a noteworthy finding: Many young men still watch content they loved when they were younger. Talking about the series *American Dad*, one young man said: “I know that I am too old, but it gives me good feelings and I can relax before I fall asleep.” Similar to this, also well-known video games are still beloved leisure activities, in order to spend a good time and to meet friends online – however, these games have to compete with many other activities now. In particular young men are attracted by such games, however, also women

include video games in their media repertoire and into their relationships.

A fundamental change concerns the financing of media devices and streaming services: In earlier years, this involved a great deal of financial effort. The children and adolescents were well equipped, but many wishes had to remain unfulfilled. In particular, it was often not possible to purchase high-priced or prestigious equipment. 2020, many of the young adults now have their own income. And they are very willing to spend a lot of money on expensive hobbies and media devices. Among these are high-end devices, such as new iPhones from Apple, numerous paid streaming services, but also smart home applications. Several times, reference is made to their importance as status symbols that one can now afford.

This is only a very brief summary. For further and more detailed information on the development in the panel please read the most recent case descriptions as well as the results of the cross-case analysis (focused analysis). This content can be exclusively found in chapters 2 & 3 of the German-language Open Access publication (Paus-Hasebrink & Sinner, 2021).

9 Perspectives on the Covid-19 pandemic

In spring 2020, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic changed all areas of life. Schools, universities, shops, service facilities and restaurants were closed, events were cancelled, travel and social contacts were strictly regulated, and in some cases completely prohibited. It turned out very quickly that the socially disadvantaged are particularly affected by Covid-19 and the by the consequences of the governmental countermeasures (see Steiber, Liedl & Molitor, 2020, p. 2; Blom, 2020). Plenty of them are working in the service sector and remote work is not an option in many cases. Cramped living conditions also had an aggravating effect. Single parents in particular were and are exposed to great burdens.

Overall, the governmental countermeasures and hygiene rules were widely accepted by the panel members and the families arranged themselves with the situation – with some crucial exceptions. However, we conducted the survey wave during the first lockdown – the development in Winter 2020/2021 and again in Autumn and Winter

2021 was unthinkable for the interviewees at this time. Concerning the lockdown, we found differences for young men and women: Most of the young men “made the best out of the situation”: sports, relaxing time at home and meeting with friends online via WhatsApp, video games, and the application Houseparty. Young women instead, they felt more burdened and missed the personal meetings with their friends. In our panel, they were much less likely to use digital communication channels. In previous waves of the survey, media use in the panel was strongly linked to entertainment. But now, information media made their big appearance: (Online) newspapers, local media, and TV news (public service broadcaster) became very popular. Furthermore, radio had a big revival, as all-day long information source and during car rides. Even trustworthy social media turned out to be relevant sources of information: While many switched to the public service news offering ZIB2 on Instagram, the YouTube channel Mister Wissen2go became a popular informant. Also, the Federal Government of Austria made successfully use of YouTube and produced a wide-reaching channel that was promoted on the starting page.

However, we were also confronted with conspiracy narratives and the rift in a family. Some representatives of Type-1 families truly believed in conspiracy narratives. One mother and her son named Covid-19 “just the flu” and expressed harsh criticism of the government and its “foreigner-first” strategy. Due to cancelled treatments at the hospital, they felt deprived and related this strongly to themselves and their disadvantaged living conditions, just as they did during the so-called *refugee crisis*. Another young man, but not his parents, described Covid-19 and the measures as a “government plan to destroy the domestic economy”. However, he was not able to explain on what information his statements were based. Another crucial case concerns a Type-4 family of social climbers. In particular in this family, the members (parents and children) achieved higher formal education (Matura) during the study. When the lockdown started, the 20-year old son arranged himself with the situation, even though he was affected by short-time work. He was not happy about the restriction, of course, but recognised them as the appropriate and inevitable course of

action. In order to stay informed, he used a broad media repertoire, paying special attention to double check of sources, in particular in social media. However, he preferred the local newspaper as well as radio and TV news published by the public service broadcaster ORF. In contrast to this, his mother pretty soon stopped to believe and to accept the reporting of ORF. She showed sympathy for conspiracy narratives and preferred group communication on Facebook that might be called suspicious. However, she estimated herself as “well reflected and moderate”, compared to her circle of acquaintances. The case of this social climber family highlights how quickly the mood can change and conspiracy narratives take hold in the middle of society.

A detailed evaluation can be found in chapter 4.2 – Perspektiven auf die Covid-19-Pandemie im Kontext sozialer Benachteiligung (Paus-Hasebrink & Sinner, 2021).

10 Conclusion

This study shows that there is a need for social action on many levels and that society needs to make a great effort, not only financially, to guarantee children in socially disadvantaged families the right to development, integration and participation. This is a right they are entitled to – like other children and young people. It is overdue to create constellations that make it possible for this legal right to be realised in the first place. Every single member, in particular socially disadvantaged people, deserves attention and support from society (governments, NGOs, science, and so on).

The qualitative longitudinal approach of the study has proven to be adaptable and very productive over 15 years in order to investigate the life worlds of socially disadvantaged families and their needs on the one hand, and to uncover interconnections with their patterns of media use on the other. In addition to persistent social disadvantage and, in some families, deterioration, many families and today young adults have succeeded in improving their situation in the long term. Besides personal changes and the establishment of new family constellations, education and vocational training have emerged as crucial factors for young adults in particular to get ahead. Though, especially

deprived families need special attention – external stimuli or even interventions of authorities turned out to initiate changing processes, e.g. youth aid, supervised shared flats, and the sustainable support provided by AMS proved to be important measures. In this context, particularly boys and young men need low-entry offers and access to support and male role models or contacts – in many cases, families cannot offer this.

To conclude, the study on (media) socialisation is dedicated to the ideals of Norbert Elias (1987) and considers itself to be engaged social science. Therefore, please read more about the derived societal consequences from 15 years of longitudinal research with socially disadvantaged families, children, adolescents and today young adults (Paus-Hasebrink & Sinner, 2021, Kapitel 6.4; Paus-Hasebrink, Kulterer & Sinner, 2019, Chapter 9.6).

11 Further reading and recommendations

As already mentioned in the introduction and conclusion, the project has also a social concern. It intends to draw attention to, and raise awareness of, the situation of socially disadvantaged families and children, their needs and rights. It is not only addressed to academia but also to different stakeholders in politics, in administration and in civil society. To achieve these objectives, there are not only publications but also a project website. It contains summaries, presentations and detailed information about the methodology but also a database with an extended literature review and recommendations for further reading.

Please see <https://www.plus.ac.at/mediensozialisation>

Media usage today is very often digital media usage. Therefore, we would like to recommend also the project websites of the EU Kids Online project and the CO:RE project. On these websites you will find numerous publications concerning the internet, children, adolescents, opportunities, risks and safety. But you will also find stakeholder information and recommendations for a better internet usage. Among many other contents, the CO:RE websites offers a searchable database that includes the best research (2014-2020; in English language) concerning children,

adolescents and young adults and online concerns from all countries in Europe and beyond. Please see www.eukidsonline.net & <https://core-evidence.eu/>

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From UNICEF

The climate crisis is a child rights crisis

Executive Summary

The climate crisis is the defining human and child's rights challenge of this generation, and is already having a devastating impact on the well-being of children globally. Understanding where and how children are uniquely vulnerable to this crisis is crucial in responding to it. The Children's Climate Risk Index provides the first comprehensive view of children's exposure and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change to help prioritize action for those most at risk and ultimately ensure today's children inherit a liveable planet.

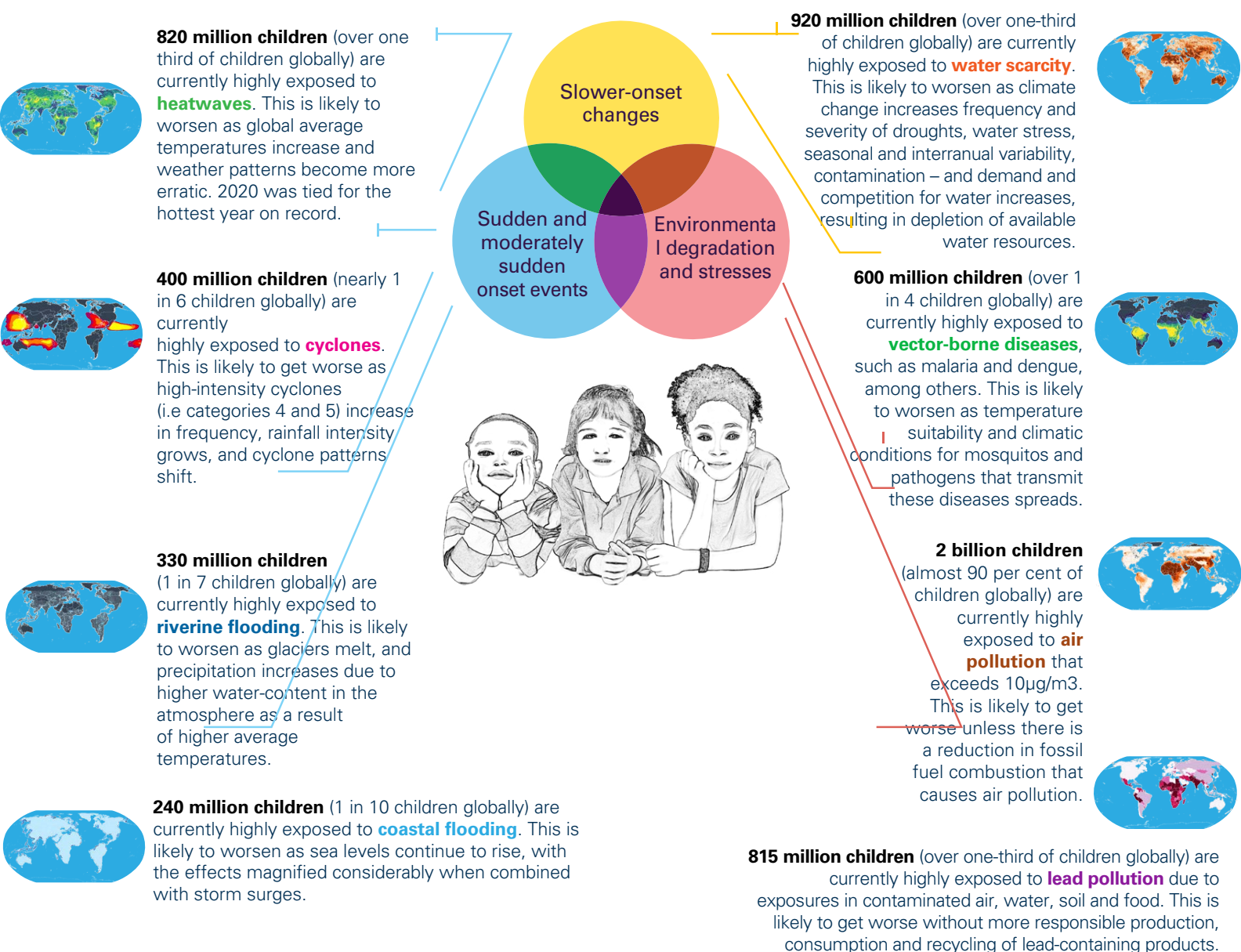
We are up against, and crossing, key planetary boundaries.

We are crossing key boundaries in the Earth's natural system, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and increasing levels of pollution in the air, soil, water and oceans. Climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses are already having devastating impacts on the well-being of children globally. As these boundaries are breached, so too is the delicate natural balance that human civilization has depended upon to grow and thrive. The world's children can no longer count on these conditions, and must make their way in a world that will become far more dangerous and uncertain in the years to come.

And as a result, the climate crisis is creating a child's rights crisis. It is creating a water crisis, a health crisis, an education crisis, a protection crisis and a participation crisis. It is threatening children's very survival. In all these ways, it is infringing on children's rights – as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Unfortunately, this is only the beginning. According to the IPCC, global greenhouse gas emissions need to be halved by 2030 and cut to zero by 2050 to avoid the worse impacts, but most countries are not on track to meet these targets. Only with such truly transformative action will we bequeath children a liveable planet.

Utilizing high-resolution geographical data, this report provides new global evidence on how many children are currently exposed to a variety of climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses



- They are physically more vulnerable, and less able to withstand and survive shocks such as floods, droughts, severe weather and heatwaves.
- They are physiologically more vulnerable. Toxic substances, such as lead and other forms of pollution, affect children more than adults, even at lower doses of exposure.
- They are more at risk of death compared with adults from diseases that are likely to be exacerbated by climate change, such as malaria and dengue.
- They have their whole life ahead of them – any deprivation as a result of climate and environmental degradation at a young age can result in a lifetime of lost opportunity.

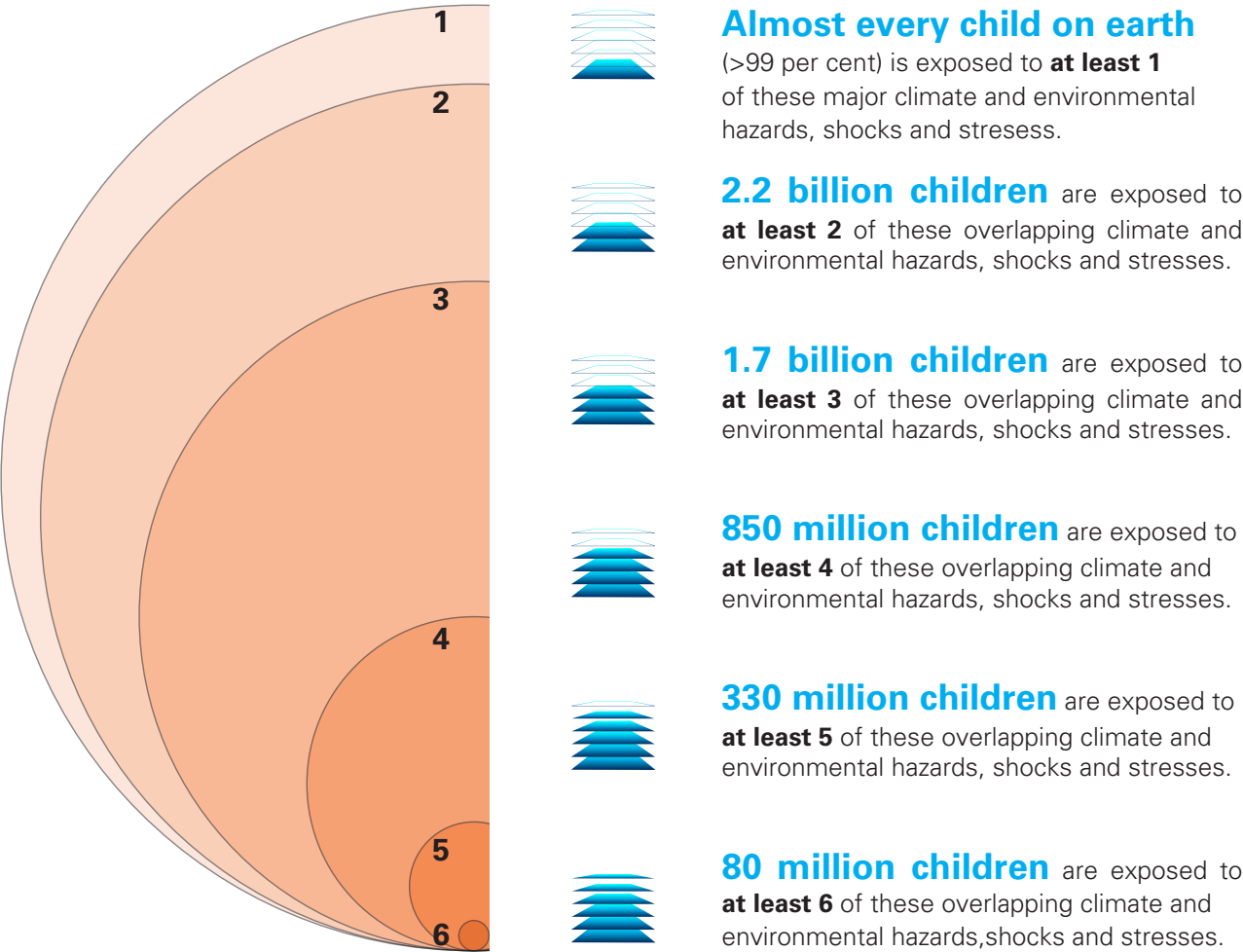
This report also examines for the first time how many children live in areas that experience multiple, overlapping climate and environmental hazards:

A particularly concerning aspect of these hazards is that they overlap each other. These climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses do not occur in isolation. Droughts, floods and severe weather, coupled with other environmental stresses, compound one another. These hazards can not only exacerbate each other, but also marginalize pockets of society and increase inequality. They also interact with other social, political and health risks, including COVID-19. Overlapping hazards ultimately make certain parts of the world even more precarious and risky places for children – drastically reducing their future potential.

11

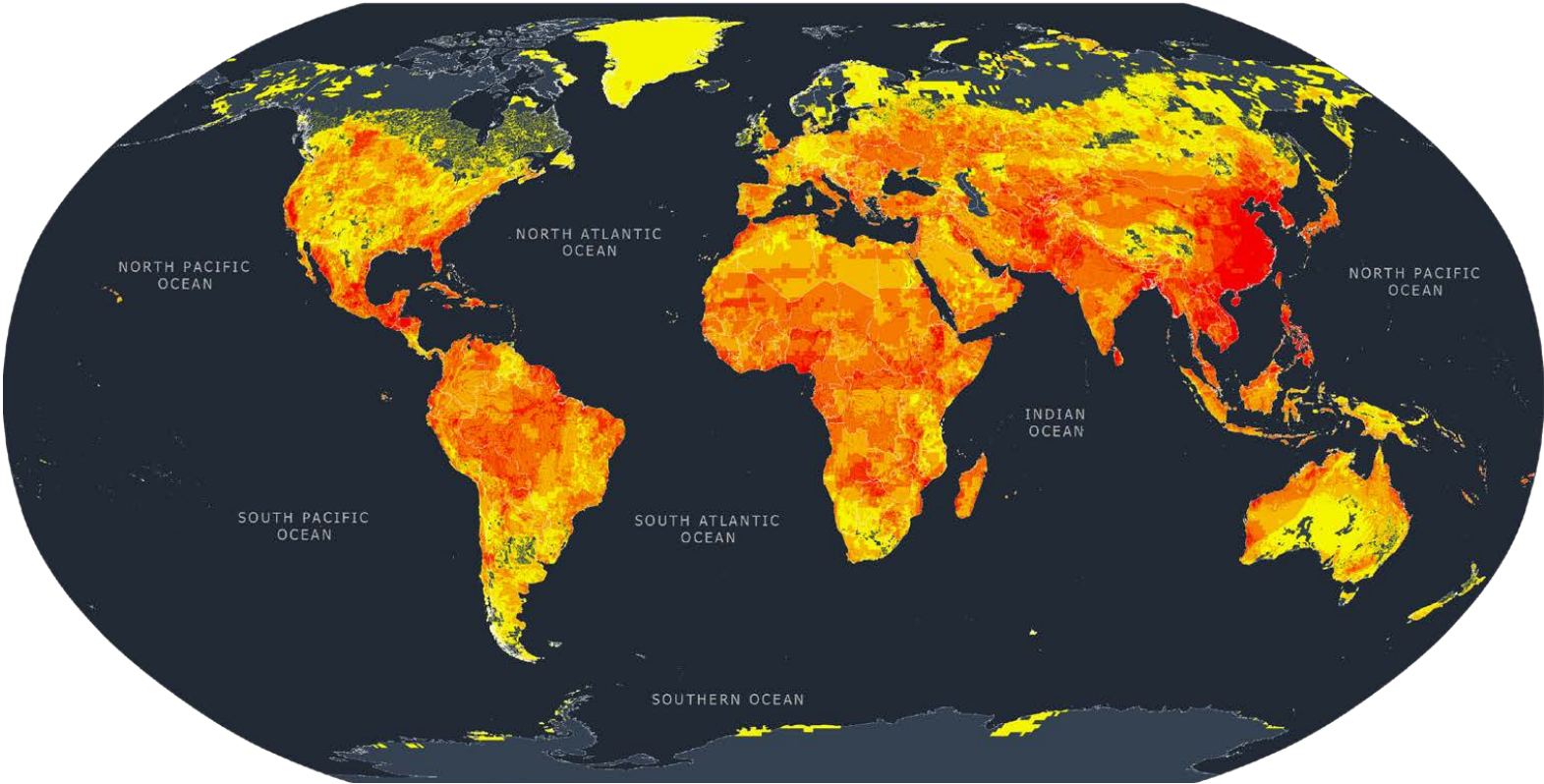
Figure 1: Overlapping climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses.

Executive summary



INTRODUCING THE CHILDREN'S CLIMATE RISK INDEX

Map 1: Overlapping Climate and Environmental Hazards, Shocks and Stresses



Number of Hazards,
Shocks or Stresses

- Extremely High (≥ 5)
- High (4)
- Medium-High (3)
- Low-Medium (2)
- Low (1)

Source: This map combines data from: the World Resources Institute (WRI); United Nations Environment (UNEP); The Global Assessment Report, UNDRR; The Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN); The Malaria Atlas Project; Messina et al.; Kraemer et al.; The Climate Research Unit, University of East Anglia; The Atmospheric Composition Analysis Group; and UN World Population Prospects (2019 revision). See methodology for full details

Children's lack of access to essential services, such as in health, nutrition, education and social protection, makes them particularly susceptible.

Not only do climate and environmental hazards negatively affect children's access to key essential services, but children's lack of access to key essential services also reduces their resiliency and adaptive capacity, further increasing their vulnerability to climate and environmental hazards. Thus, a vicious cycle is created, pushing the most vulnerable children deeper into poverty at the same time as increasing their risk of experiencing the worst and most life-threatening effects of climate change.

The only long-term solution to the climate crisis is a reduction of emissions to safe levels – reaching net-zero by 2050 in order to stay on course for warming that does not exceed 1.5°C. However,

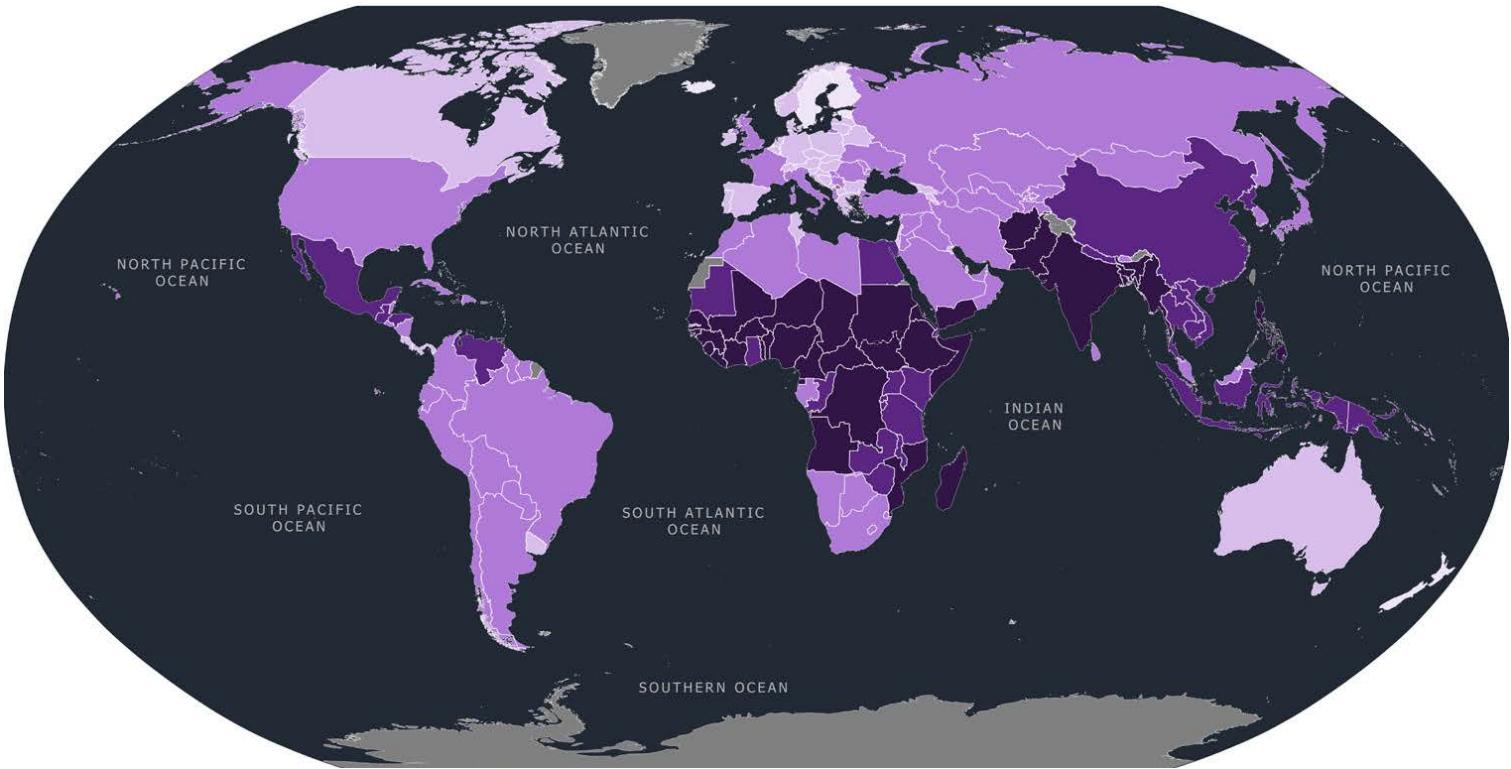
climate dynamics are such that mitigation efforts will take decades to reverse the impacts of climate change, and for the children of today, this will be too late. Unless we invest heavily in adaptation and resilience of social services for the 4.2 billion children born over the next 30 years, they will face increasingly high risks to their survival and well-being. Any adaptations must be based on

a careful assessment of both the type and nature of the climate and environmental hazard, shock or stress, as well as the degree to which children are vulnerable. Understanding children's vulnerability is critical to understanding the full extent to which climate and environmental hazards are likely to impact their well-being, and even their very survival. This report provides a conceptual framework, a tool and an initial assessment at a global level of children's exposure and vulnerability to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses – in order to help prioritize action for those most at risk.

Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI): This report combines this growing body of new evidence with data on children's vulnerability to introduce the first comprehensive view of climate risk from a child's perspective.

Globally, approximately 1 billion children (nearly half of the world's children) live in extremely high-risk countries, according to the CCRI.

Map 2: The Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI)



Source: The CCRI is composed of many indicators across climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses, as well as child vulnerability, see Chapter 6: Methodology

- Severity
- Extremely High
 - High
 - Medium-High
 - Low-Medium
 - Low
 - No data

Moreover:



The highest-risk places on Earth contribute least to the causes of climate change – the 33 extremely high-risk countries emit less than 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The 10 most extremely high-risk countries emit only 0.5 per cent of global emissions.

Almost all (29 out of 33) of the extremely high-risk countries are also considered fragile contexts.



One quarter (8 out of 33) of extremely high-risk countries have very high levels of displacement – with more than 5 per cent of the population displaced.

None of the extremely high-risk countries have a high (>80 per cent) score on the adoption and implementation of the national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework.

The only long-term solution to climate change is reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, there are also many actions that reduce children's exposure and vulnerabilities that can greatly reduce their overall level of climate risk, for example:



Investments that improve access to resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services can considerably reduce overall climate risk for **415 million children**.*

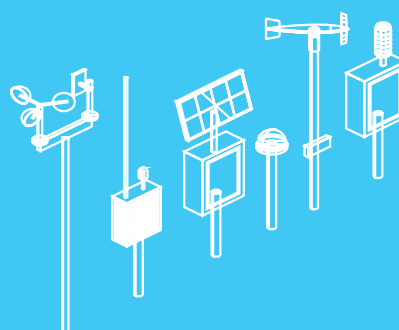
Executive summary

Only 40 per cent of the extremely high-risk countries have mentioned children and/or youth in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



The extremely high-risk countries received only US\$9.8 billion in terms of global financial flows, mostly in the form of ODA, on clean energy research, development and production.

Most (28 out of 33) of the extremely high-risk countries have very low coverage of ground-level air quality monitoring stations – less than 10 per cent of the child population lives within 50 km of a monitoring station.



Improving access to resilient WASH services could include, for example, comprehensive assessments of water resources, investing in diversifying water sources, using renewable energy, and working with local markets and the private sector to ensure that water and sanitation services have been constructed incorporating climate risks. It can also include increasing water storage facilities at household level, as well as multiple-use water schemes which provide water for domestic and livelihood needs. At a subnational and national level it includes comprehensive management, protection and monitoring of water resources. The resilience of a community is strongly related to the resilience of their WASH services.

* 'Investments' are modeled as improving component score by 50%. 'Considerably' defined as at least a 0.5 point drop in Children's Climate Risk Index



Investments that improve educational outcomes can considerably reduce overall climate risk for **275 million children.***

Investing in sustainability education has a tremendous multiplier effect. Improved education which builds knowledge and skills will contribute to improved sustainability practices and a reduction in emissions at the individual, institutional and communal levels. Improving educational outcomes could include, for example, investing in infrastructure that is resilient to disasters to reduce long-term disruption to children's learning process, as well as solutions that increase access, such as digital learning, as well as equity. Equity in access is important from a gender perspective, from a life cycle perspective (from early childhood through to adolescence), as well as for children with disabilities who are often marginalized. Improving educational outcomes could also mean ensuring quality learning, such as providing safe, friendly environment, qualified and motivated teachers, and instruction in languages students can understand. This means both mainstreaming the latest knowledge and science on climate change into national curricula and also ensuring that children gain the skills they need to be successful in life. These are skills that are relevant for the future of work, including the growing green economy and for livelihoods that are less susceptible to the impacts of a changing climate and degrading environment. Skills-based learning is also essential to empower children, adolescents and teachers to participate in climate mitigation, adaptation and climate-resilience activities in schools, to encourage children to become part of the solution to climate change.

INTRODUCING THE CHILDREN'S CLIMATE RISK INDEX 16



Investments that improve access to health and nutrition services can considerably reduce overall climate risk for **460 million children.***

Improving access to health services could include, for example, investing in quality maternal and newborn care services, sustaining immunization programmes, and supporting preventive, promotive and curative services for pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and other child health conditions. It also includes identifying the changing health threats that children face as a result of climate and environmental factors and prioritizing health responses accordingly. It could also include supporting adolescent health and well-being and providing age-specific health information. Moreover, it requires strengthening health systems to deliver integrated services for children.



Investments that improve access to social protection and reducing poverty can considerably reduce overall climate risk for **310 million children.***

Improving access to social protection requires working towards universal coverage of child and family benefits as well as ensuring that social protection systems provide connections to other vital services in health, education and nutrition as well as the social welfare workforce. Improving the climate-responsiveness of social protection systems is crucial so they are better able to adjust to the rapidly changing nature of shocks and stresses. This requires understanding the ever-growing impacts of climate change faced by children and their caregivers and adapting social protection responses to be able to rapidly respond. From the perspective of children and their families, this can result in a climate shock being a temporary disruption rather than pushing families into long-term poverty.

* 'Investments' are modeled as improving component score by 50%. 'Considerably' defined as at least a 0.5 point drop in Children's Climate Risk Index

The climate crisis is creating a child's rights crisis.

It is creating a water crisis ... a health crisis ... an education crisis ... a protection crisis ... and a participation crisis. It is threatening children's very survival. In all these ways, it is infringing on children's rights – as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Unfortunately, this is only the beginning. According to the IPCC, global greenhouse gas emissions need to be halved by 2030 and cut to zero by 2050 to avoid the worse impacts, but most countries are not on track to meet these targets. Improving the resiliency of services that children need will be necessary no matter what the future holds: even if global emissions stopped today, global temperatures would continue to increase – hurting those most vulnerable first and foremost. We need to accelerate actions that protect children from impacts, as well as reduce emissions – urgently. There are many promising solutions to draw from – including nature-based solutions. One of the most sustainable solutions is the transition towards an economic model which decouples economic growth from fossil fuel consumption and thus reduces emissions to safe levels. Another is consulting directly with children themselves – children and young people have important ideas about the world they want and need to thrive. Only with such truly transformative action will we bequeath children a liveable planet.

Executive summary 17



From Member Organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

International Council of Women

From the ICW-CIF Activity Report in response to COVID-19 (page 36-37)

"The ICW-CIF Activity Report in response to COVID-19 (135 pages; containing information also on Family issues of the various National Councils) can be found on the ICW website www.icw-cif.com"

OEUFU - Oesterreichische Familien-Union (Austrian Society for Families), member of the Austrian branch of the International Council of Women, the National Council of Women Austria

Although we had no immediate or direct problems with COVID-19, our work has been heavily impaired by the measures prescribed by the Austrian government. We work for and with families. As can be seen on our website (www.oefu.at), our projects are mostly family-bound and therefore include direct contact between our team and our clients.

Mamisi Baby Lounge: We offer a newly installed apartment in close distance to the Universitätsklinikum Graz where women who plan to give birth in hospital can prepare for labor in cozy surroundings. They can relax in our place with their families before the time at the delivery suite, husbands or older children and grandparents may stay there and be closer to the mothers and newborns. This place was used, yes, but less than normal, since we were not allowed to invite prospective parents to informative talks. Furthermore, prenatal classes which advertise our offer were cancelled.

Mama-Baby-Perle: Our second project helps young families in need of support by means of doula-visits. Our doulas are well-trained, experienced mothers who go into families and provide a big help with new-born babies and also with older siblings. Unfortunately, this going into families was forbidden. We could only help via e-mail or telephone – which was better than nothing but could not replace personal contact satisfactorily.

Aus.Zeit.Haus (Time-out places): This project offers a pretty and fully furnished garden-apartment at a lake near Graz to mothers/women who need some time off after hospital treatment, illness, or affliction. Two more places, one in Southern Styria and one 37 in Western Hungary, which we had just started preparing could not get finished due to corona-measures. With home-schooling and the ban on grandparents doing family work, mothers could not get much time for themselves, however desperately needed. Fortunately, a few older women could enjoy our place in early summer and we invited several families for holidays who received less money in the course of short-time working and would have had difficulty affording a holiday.

Altogether I must say that I understand the first panic and chaos around a “new” disease. But very strict measures became even stricter when the curve had already flattened and every covid-positive death was and still is counted as caused by COVID-19, even a traffic accident. I would call that a completely unscientific approach which only intends to frighten people.

International Council of Women

Standing Committee Child and Family

As we all have been experiencing, all the Covid-19 lockdowns in Canada, (& in many other countries), have prevented children & young people from pursuing, not only many of their weekly educational opportunities (academic & physical education), but also their essential social development with other children & other age groups.

Families' & children's health has & is suffering in many ways: by not being able to be seen or properly diagnosed by doctors & other health professionals for many months; treatments have been delayed or curtailed, & only on line or verbally, in many cases.

Similarly, families' & children's safety has been compromised as fewer correctional facilities and staff are available to help in urgent situations. Our aboriginal families are often in more rural & remote locations, unable to access health & safety services that are more available in urban settings.

Children and their carers are more vulnerable to predators who are learning new ways to take advantage of their parents' absences, while the parents are trying to continue working somehow, to keep their families together. Migrant families escaping war-torn countries face even more difficult situations as they try to find safer places to live & thrive. There is a renewed push for Universal child care standards, reasonable rates & better oversight.

Many immigrant families struggle to adapt to new living situations, often relying on their children to translate important information to the parents & grandparents, who try hard to make a living & care for the children, & who are not able to learn new languages as quickly as necessary. Poverty increases all these problems.

Housing is a huge problem for many families in almost all countries, whether in easy climates or harsh ones: so many more families need affordable, accessible & available housing of even basic types, to survive. In colder climates, families face even more difficult situations & climate changes have exacerbated their problems, as have those living in warmer climates, with more violent storms & resulting floods, etc. We reiterate the U.N.'s Climate Crisis is a Child's Rights Crisis.

We, in Canada, are learning more about many Indigenous/ Aboriginal/ First Nations' children's unmarked graves on church-run Residential School properties, which has become a great sorrow & scandal for all of us, who should have known & helped these families many decades ago.

Our important 'First Call' Coalition, based in Vancouver, has been helping to push various levels of government to a 'strong commitment to Early Childhood Development, Support in Transitions from Childhood to Youth to Adulthood, Safe & Caring Communities & Increased Economic Equality.

On a lighter note, we celebrated International Youth Day on August 12th, with several Councils across Canada marking the day with various Youth connections. Relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, our National Council Resolution on Protecting Children from Exposure to Pornography & Protection from Exploitation on Line, has been prepared by Penny Rankin, of our Montreal Council, & is being put forward as a forthcoming I.C.W. Resolution.

The wellbeing of workers and their families

A global study of family-friendly workplace policies

1 October 2021



To advance business action on family-friendly policies, UNICEF undertook a global study of business policies. This survey is the first with significant geographic scope and a comprehensive approach that includes a wide range of family-friendly policies – from parental leave and breastfeeding support to childcare solutions.

The objective of the survey was to:

- Understand the current situation of business action on a comprehensive package of family-friendly policies and explore the policies across a wide range of businesses;
- Understand the key drivers of business action;
- Learn more about the challenges businesses face in implementing these policies.

The findings of the study provide important conclusions on how business action on family-friendly policies can be strengthened. It can guide the businesses themselves, but also governments and other actors who seek to influence business policies for families. [3]

In 2018, over 75 per cent of men and 48 per cent of women worldwide were employed or looking for work. [1]

The private sector accounts for most of these jobs, sometimes up to 90 per cent in developing countries. [2]

The conditions of employment can have a huge impact on the wellbeing of workers, their children and families. It is therefore critical that any discussion of family-friendly workplace policies considers business action and engagement on the issue as well as the regulatory environments that can influence them.

Extract of the writing paper 'Family-Friendly Policies - A Global Survey of Business Policy' (Subajini Jayasekaran and Alice Faudot Miguet, UNICEF 2020).

Original available at <https://uni.cf/3ud4lOK>

PARENTAL LEAVE

Paid Maternity Leave

Paid leave for mothers is the most widely implemented of the family-friendly policies, although its duration and remuneration are often inadequate. The survey findings suggest that, while many businesses have maternity leave policies, their duration and remuneration fall far below UNICEF policy recommendations.

Of all the family-friendly policies, maternity leave is the policy most widely implemented by businesses in their own workplaces; 86 per cent of respondents indicated having a policy on paid maternity leave.

Variation in the duration of this maternity leave is significant, with responses ranging from a minimum of four weeks to a select few providing as much as 90 weeks. However, over half of the surveyed companies do not meet the maternity leave provision of 18 weeks. Thus, many companies are below UNICEF's policy recommendation of 18 weeks' maternity leave and a combined parental leave of at least six months.

Importantly, the length of maternity leave provided by businesses typically follows standards defined by national legislation. For example, in Sri Lanka, India and Viet Nam, where the legal minimum leave is higher than in the other countries studied, businesses reported higher maternity leave provisions in line with national legislation. The reverse was also true, and businesses in countries with low legislative requirements typically reported lower rates of maternity leave provision. This is problematic as, according to an ILO study, only just over half of the countries that have ratified ILO Convention 183 on maternity protection meet the ILO minimum standard requiring at least 14 weeks of maternity leave, let alone the ILO recommended duration of 18 weeks. [4]

There was one exception: multinational businesses headquartered in countries or territories with low legal requirements. For example, in Hong Kong, China, half of the businesses surveyed provide 14-16 weeks' paid maternity leave, while the national minimum is 10 weeks. In New Zealand, the businesses surveyed offer on average double the national minimum leave of 14 weeks. New Zealand is ranked among the lowest on family-friendly public policies among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries and compared to European Union (EU) countries. [5] One reason may be that many of the businesses surveyed from these countries are multinational entities competing for global talent and thus need to stay competitive with standards offered by other multinational businesses in high-income countries.

With regard to remuneration during maternity leave, 66 per cent of the companies surveyed stated that their employees' maternity leave is paid at a level equivalent to two thirds of employees' previous earnings. This is in line with the ILO recommendation to grant employees maternity leave cash benefits amounting to at least two

thirds of employees' previous earnings. [6] This means that for the remaining companies, the remuneration received by mothers on maternity leave is likely inadequate to support them and their families.

The case study of Jordan provides an interesting alternative: maternity leave is funded through the national social security system, and almost all businesses surveyed stated that their employees are covered at a rate of 100 per cent of their previous earnings as a result. This further supports the argument for publicly supported systems.

Finally, the survey also explored business policies to protect pregnant and nursing working mothers. Employment protection, non-discrimination policies and occupational health and safety protections for pregnant and nursing women are important measures to safeguard both child and maternal health. Excessive hours, arduous work and exposure to hazardous chemicals can have severe effects on prenatal and postnatal health. Discrimination against women due to their real or perceived pregnancy can significantly reduce their earnings and negatively impact the nutrition, health and well-being of both mother and child. Overall, the study found that many surveyed businesses include some reference to protections for pregnant and nursing women in their company policies. Protections against discrimination and returning to the same position after leave were the most cited, closely followed by occupational safety and health provisions aimed at protecting pregnant or breastfeeding women workers by assigning them work that ensures that they and their child are safe from any harms.

Paid Paternity Leave

Fewer than half of businesses provide paternity leave, which is often of very limited duration.

The survey data demonstrate that many companies around the world have a long way to go to fulfil UNICEF policy recommendations to increase leave for fathers. Only 48 per cent of the surveyed businesses have a policy on paternity leave and, more often than not, the paternity leave amounts to only a few days. While some pioneering companies provide 52 weeks of leave for fathers, the average is 3.2 weeks, declining to as low as two days. In contrast, UNICEF's new investment case on family-friendly policies calls for combined parental leave for caregivers of at least six months and encourages up to nine months.

In many interviews, it was clear that businesses conflate annual leave and paternity or secondary caregiver leave; often there is no separate paternity leave entitlement for working fathers beyond what is available as annual leave. This indicates the need to raise awareness of the concept of paternity leave or secondary caregiver leave as separate from annual leave, and of the benefits for working fathers and children of taking this dedicated leave in the first days, weeks or months after

birth. In addition, efforts are needed to change norms in the workplace so it is more culturally accepted for fathers to be involved in the care of their children and to take time to do so.

Just five of the 14 countries in the survey have national legislation on paternity leave. This means that, in contrast to maternity leave, many businesses are providing at least a few days of paternity leave despite the absence of a national legal minimum. [7] This is likely an indication that, in many countries, legislation may be lagging societal norms and the shifting expectations of fatherhood, and leading businesses are adapting accordingly. In Botswana, for example, most companies

surveyed offer paternity leave of between one and four weeks, despite the absence of legislation. In Sri Lanka, no legislation on paternity leave exists, yet one third of the companies surveyed offer paternity leave to their employees.

As it is the case with maternity leave, however, as one business noted, "Making paternity leave a legal obligation would create a better work-life balance, increase employee engagement and improve gender equality and diversity within the workplace and ultimately in society." Accordingly, as seen in other key policy areas, legislation for paternity leave could drive greater implementation across all businesses in a country.

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

Only 39 per cent of surveyed businesses offer any support for breastfeeding, usually in the form of breaks. More comprehensive programmes to support lactating mothers are absent. Only 39 per cent of surveyed businesses have one or more policies supporting breastfeeding; the most common workplace policy observed is paid breastfeeding breaks, which 59 businesses offer.

A similar number (57) of businesses provide a room for breastfeeding or expressing breastmilk, while fewer businesses (20) provide information and other nutritional support, such as the services of a lactation consultant for breastfeeding women. Some interviewees mentioned that it can be challenging to provide a dedicated room for breastfeeding, or a clean space for storing expressed breastmilk, as physical space is costly.

Again, as with maternity leave policies, the survey evidence highlights the clear link between national or mandatory legislation on breastfeeding in the workplace and business action. In countries and territories with specific legal requirements for supporting breastfeeding in the workplace, surveyed businesses comply and have workplace policies in line with those requirements. Where no legal obligation exists, businesses with policies to support breastfeeding mothers are the exception rather than the rule.

Given that almost half of countries do not grant more than the ILO standard of a legal minimum maternity leave of 14 weeks, and that UNICEF and the World Health Organization recommend exclusive breastfeeding for at least six months after childbirth, the survey findings show a global gap in supporting working mothers who are breastfeeding. [8]

CHILDCARE SUPPORT

Childcare support is the least implemented policy, with cash support the most common arrangement. Only a handful of businesses provide on-site childcare facilities. The survey findings indicate that supporting parents with childcare needs is the policy least adopted by businesses; only 24 per cent of surveyed businesses provide such support.

Typically, this support takes the form of cash or other assistance for parents to access community and government-run childcare centres or to make their own care arrangements with private individuals or organizational providers. Of the 307 businesses surveyed from around the world, only seven had on-site childcare facilities for employees. Combined with the fact that only 24 per cent of surveyed businesses provide any form of childcare support, the survey thus reveals a childcare crisis and the significant momentum needed to shift business policies.

In some of the interviews, businesses explained that traditional care roles mean that an on-site childcare policy is inefficient in practice. For example, in densely populated Hong Kong, China, where parents and

grandparents traditionally live close by and where there is access to cheap labour for domestic work (typically migrant workers from South East Asia), one business reported that childcare services are not a popular choice for parents.

Another challenge reported during the interviews is the fact that some workplaces are simply not appropriate for safe childcare services. In workplaces with hazardous chemicals, noise and/ or dangerous machinery, children in the workplace, even in a dedicated space, could put them at risk of harm. For example, integrated companies in agribusiness may provide childcare services in their offices but cannot replicate this service in their factories or plantations for health and safety reasons. This creates unequal opportunities for childcare benefits among employees, depending on their type of work and level of skills. This difficulty could explain why businesses might opt to provide financial support to their employees rather than childcare services. In Viet Nam, 25 per cent of the businesses surveyed provide support to their workers to help them access childcare services, but only 6 per cent have on-site childcare facilities.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICIES OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

Multinational enterprises (MNEs) have limited adoption of family-friendly policies. Global policies are rare and application varies depending on the legislation in the country or territory of operation. Supply chain standards rarely include family-friendly policy support.

The Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (CHRB) is a collaboration led by investors and civil society to create an open and public benchmark of corporate human rights performance. In 2018, CHRB assessed 101 of the world's largest publicly traded companies; these businesses were chosen because of their size (market capitalization) and revenues. In collaboration with CHRB, UNICEF conducted a complementary analysis of 60 of the apparel and agricultural businesses reviewed by CHRB, comparing them against indicators related to family-friendly policies in their operations and supply chains. The review was based on publicly available information.

Findings from the review of the MNEs echo the results of the online questionnaire and bilateral interviews; the scope of family-friendly policies is often restricted to parental leave. While close to 60 per cent of the MNEs reviewed have a public policy on parental leave, less than 30 per cent have childcare or breastfeeding provisions in their company policy. Where present, these provisions are mostly limited to headquarter offices. Of the 60 businesses reviewed, only 8 per cent have a 'global' parental leave policy that is applicable to all employees regardless of location. Several studies suggest that multinational businesses retain strong links with their respective home country's business environment, leading to what is termed a 'country-of-origin effect'.

[9] In the case of parental leave policies, such an effect remains elusive. Rather, the evidence indicates a stronger link between local regulation and attitudes in host countries and company policies. Many of the businesses reviewed have different policies on parental leave by country, each tailored to the specific local context. These national applications of policy seldom surpass the local legal regulatory requirements. The exceptions are among the big multinational businesses competing for global talent. This was echoed during the interviews with MNEs as well: many reported finding it challenging to have a one-size-fits-all policy applicable in all countries of operations, given the wide range of political, regulatory and cultural contexts in which they operate as well as the varying degrees of government involvement and support.

Evidence of MNEs' engagement on family-friendly policies within their supply chains is scarce. Of the 60 businesses reviewed, only 10 per cent have a maternity protection clause in their supplier codes of conduct. An estimated 450 million people minimum work in supply chain-related jobs. [10] Global businesses have the potential to use their influence and leverage to facilitate family-friendly workplaces across their global supply chains, complementing the efforts of national governments. One palm oil business interviewed for the survey noted that it provides maternity protection and leave to all its employees to meet the standards of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, the industry's largest sustainability initiative. Yet, as the review of the 60 businesses concludes, the potential for brands to leverage their influence in their supply chains is largely untapped.

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- [1] See United Nations Children's Fund, *Family-Friendly Policies: Redesigning the Workplace of the Future*, A Policy Brief, UNICEF, New York, July 2019, accessed 15 October 2019; International Labour Organization, *World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends for Women 2018 – Global snapshot*, ILO, Geneva, 2018, p. 7, accessed 18 October 2019.
- [2] See, for example, the International Finance Corporation's report *Tackling Childcare: The Business Case for Employer-Supported Childcare*, IFC, Washington, D.C., September 2017, which notes that 90 per cent of jobs in developing countries are in the private sector.
- [3] UNICEF's diamond approach to family-friendly policies outlines the "four key actors ... needed to advance family-friendly policies as four corners of a diamond: the State, businesses, families and communities (including civil society and international organizations, trade unions, community-based organizations, the non-profit sector and informal networks). This 'diamond of care' can come together in an integrated approach for family-friendly policies". *Family-Friendly Policies*, p. 3.
- [4] International Labour Organization, *Maternity and paternity at work: Law and practice across the world*, ILO, Geneva, 2014.
- [5] United Nations Children's Fund, *Are the world's richest countries family friendly? Policy in the OECD and EU*, UNICEF Office of Research, Florence, June 2019, accessed 15 October 2019.
- [6] ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183).
- [7] The minimum length of paternity leave required by law remains very low in most countries, with the exception of Scandinavian countries. In 2014, the ILO found that 66 countries had national minimum paternity leave, predominantly in developed economies, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and only rarely in other regions. The same study found that the uptake of leave is low and that when shared leave is offered, it is often used by women.
- [8] The World Health Organization and UNICEF recommendations on breastfeeding are as follows: "initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour after the birth; exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months; and continued breastfeeding for two years or more, together with safe, nutritionally adequate, age appropriate, responsive complementary feeding starting in the sixth month". They also state that: "Early and exclusive breastfeeding helps children survive, but it also supports healthy brain development, improves cognitive performance and is associated with better educational achievement at age 5. Breastfeeding is the foundation of good nutrition and protects children against disease." UNICEF, 'Breastfeeding', accessed 15 October 2019.
- [9] See, for example, Noorderhaven, Niels G., and Anne-Wil Harzing, 'The "country-of-origin effect" in multinational corporations: Sources, mechanisms and moderating conditions', June 2003, accessed 14 October 2019.
- [10] International Labour Organization, *World Employment and Social Outlook 2015: The changing nature of jobs*, ILO, Geneva, 2015.



November 2021

MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

Women's Rights & Children's Rights – developing synergies, minimising tensions

MMM has contributed to a newly released book co-edited by Enfants du Monde Suisse (EdM) and the University of Geneva (UNIGE), *Women's Rights and Children's Rights – Towards an Integrated Approach in Development Cooperation*, which has its origins in a workshop organised in 2019 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The lives of children and women are strongly intertwined, often through interdependent relationships. Yet women and children's rights are frequently dissociated in legislation and policy, and in development programmes.

The book seeks to answer some key questions:

- How to position oneself as an actor of international cooperation in relation to social issues that concern and at the same time address the protection and promotion of children's rights and women's rights, or even other rights?
- How to resolve or better anticipate possible tensions?
- How to create synergies?

The book is divided into two parts: an analysis of the tensions and synergies that can be observed between children's rights and women's rights; and a case study section presenting examples of good practices from programmes implemented in development cooperation.

It is to this second part that MMM has contributed in collaboration with ACEV, a Turkish NGO that develops and implements child development support programmes, and which, like MMM, is a member of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium.

The book provides the good practice example of MOCEP (Mother and Child Education Programme), the early childhood education support programme developed by ACEV, which targets mothers and pre-school children living in disadvantaged areas, and was successfully implemented in Turkey, as well as in some fifteen other countries around the world.

The example of MOCEP shows the impact that early childhood development support programmes can have not only on the child, but also on the mother, and on the whole family and community environment:

- Improved cognitive and social skills of children, who also gain confidence and are more attentive to others
- Reduced conflict and violence in families through positive discipline and better mother-child relationships
- Increased empowerment of women, who also gain confidence and feel more valued

- An impact that extends beyond the mother-child relationship: better relationship within the couple, and even between the father and the children

Given these positive outcomes, the programme is a perfect example of existing synergies between children's rights and women's rights.

Still, from a women's rights perspective, this type of programme has two drawbacks:

- It increases the mother's educational workload, i.e. the unpaid work of caring.
- It reinforces gender stereotypes about a woman's place in the home, i.e. the idea that it is "normal" or even "natural" for a woman to look after the children.

To resolve these tensions, it would be important to involve fathers, if possible at a level comparable to that of mothers.

The MOCEP initiative shows that considering the family environment and supporting parents, especially mothers, including parenting education, is absolutely essential for the realisation of children's rights.

Moreover, in reality, most mothers experience on a daily basis this tension between children's rights (to be raised by their parents and to develop harmoniously) and women's rights (to have an active life outside the home).

Mothers too often end up having to make "choices" that often are not real choices, but rather compromises and sacrifices, such as reducing the amount of time they spend in paid work, giving up careers, politics, and other personal aspirations. The direct consequence of these "choices" is that mothers are too often economically and socially penalised.

Resolving this tension between children's rights and women's rights is therefore fundamental to both progress on gender equality, and to the realisation of children's rights, and therefore to the future of our societies.

The book is available in both English and French – see [Women's Rights & Children's Rights – developing synergies, minimising tensions](#).

Why women in retirement age deserve the EU's attention

Make Mothers Matter (MMM) participated in the EU Public Consultation on Ageing and Demographic Change, which was launched in January 2021 following the presentation of a Green Paper² on Ageing by the Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Demography and Democracy, Dubravka Šuica. The Public Consultation initiative aims at gathering feedback from stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities of demographic ageing, taking a life-cycle approach based on intergenerational solidarity.

² Green Papers are documents published by the European Commission to stimulate discussion on given topics at the European level, which may give rise to legislative developments that are then outlined in White Papers.

In the Consultation, MMM answered very concrete thematic questions and also made the below recommendations:

Recommendations for women to enjoy a lifelong adequate standard of living

- Implementing employment policies providing for better jobs, not necessarily for more jobs, with a guaranteed minimum income as well as the flexibility to organise career breaks to support children, elderly and disabled family members without being penalised both in terms of income and pension schemes.
- Redefining work as a holistic concept combining both paid and unpaid work.
- Introducing care credits to offset breaks from employment taken in order to provide informal care to family members and periods of formal care leave, such as maternity, paternity and parental leave, and to count those credits towards pension entitlements fairly.
- Undertaking studies on EU pension systems across Member States, taking into account gender differences in health conditions and life expectancy, the rise of single parents, and differences in women's personal situations.
- Monitoring the evolution of EU pension policies across Member States in the light of the COVID-19 economic consequences and of the increasing proportion of the elderly within the EU population.

Recommendations to promote new upbringing and intergenerational solidarity

- Granting a bonus per child to promote active population renewal.
- Fostering flexible solutions that give parents a real choice between formal, informal, or semi-formal childhood care and education.
- Recognising skills acquired during work breaks to take care of the family, and providing the possibility for training to re-access the labour market after a long home caring period. Experienced retired people can take an active part in such training programmes.
- Developing intergenerational co-housing projects in which housing costs can be shared among people living under the same roof, and in which the elderly can support younger generations with children, and vice-versa. In the light of increasing EU cross-border migration, community housing helps prevent loneliness and creates new social bonds within society.

The EU Commission has put demography high on the EU policy agenda, taking into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing. The challenges of an ageing population are largely in the hands of Member States. However, the EU has an important role to play in identifying key issues and trends and supporting action on ageing at the national, regional and local levels. It can help Member States and regions develop their own policy initiatives, thereby engaging younger and older EU citizens in a dynamic society.

Access our full response [here](#).

MMM participates in the EU public consultation on micro-credentials

Make Mothers Matter welcomed the European Commission's public consultation on micro-credentials (MCs) as the flexibility and modularity they offer could provide flexible ways of skilling and reskilling for mothers.

According to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), time is the biggest barrier preventing men and women from engaging in lifelong learning. Care responsibilities and household duties are highlighted as key time issues. Mothers in the EU undertake the bulk of care duties. This has implications for their employment opportunities, involvement in social, leisure and cultural activities, but also their participation in lifelong learning.

In addition, mothers coming out of family-related career breaks face significant challenges returning to the labour market. The primary reason for this is the lack of proper upskilling, reskilling and lifelong learning options available to women to help them bridge the knowledge gap that can appear in the time away from work.

Micro-credentials have the potential to help women return to the labour market after family-related career breaks. However, in our response, we highlighted that in order to become an effective tool for women's employment and respect the first principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights, they should also be targeted to those who need them the most: women with lower levels of education, women with a migrant background and single mothers. This also means that the cost of these credentials should not be a barrier. This is crucial in order to maintain their labour market skills, ensure adequate resources for families and women living by themselves, and to make further progress towards gender equity.

Moreover, MCs could serve as a tool for the recognition and valorisation of all the knowledge, skills and competences acquired by learners outside the formal education system. The recognition and validation of soft skills for employability have been at the heart of several EU projects. Public institutions at the national level have also started to recognise the importance of soft skills, more particularly, that skills and competences can be acquired by caring for others.

Caregiving is a learning experience that provides caregivers with soft skills that contribute to social inclusion, personal development, empowerment, and employability. Time and again, however, this role is stigmatised, as employers and employees are often convinced this will have negative consequences on their professional lives. If soft skills acquired through caregiving activities were properly recognised, valued, and supported, these skills could benefit both employees and employers, and, in turn, society at large.

In its response, MMM describes a number of existing private-sector initiatives as well as several EU projects demonstrating the importance of recognising and valuing these skills. Micro-credentials could therefore be an opportunity to recognise and validate carers' soft skills and allow these skills to also be recognised and valued on the labour market. Thus, the results of the initiatives described in our response to the Commission could serve as a starting point.

Read our full response [here](#).

Mums at Work – supporting migrant mothers' labour integration

Make Mothers Matter has been selected by the European Network of Migrant Women to join the European Advisory Board that was created to monitor, evaluate and advise the Mums at Work project funded by the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The other members of the Advisory Board are experts from a variety of backgrounds and countries (Italy, Ireland, France, Belgium and Greece). The project aims to increase employability, sustainable income and social integration of migrant mothers aged 25–40. One of the goals of Mums at Work is to raise awareness of and influence key stakeholders (businesses, public sector, local communities, general public) regarding the importance and mutual benefits of supporting economic and labour integration of migrant mothers in the EU.

Additionally, the project aims to create a replicable model that can be used and integrated at policy level by relevant decision-making bodies, including at the EU and national levels. Mums at Work is coordinated by Pro Arbeit (Germany) in partnership with Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo (Spain), CIDIS Onlus (Italy), ENoMW – European Network of Migrant Women (Belgium), SOLUTION: Solidarity and Inclusion (France), SYNTHESIS Center for Research and Education (Cyprus), and Vital Aid Foundation (Netherlands).

Find more info [here](#).

About Make Mothers Matter – MMM

Make Mothers Matter believes in the power of mothers to make the world a better place, advocating for their recognition and support as changemakers.

Created in 1947, MMM is an international NGO with no political or religious affiliations, transparently voicing the concerns of mothers at the highest level: the European Union, UNESCO and the United Nations (general consultative status).

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

Recent & Upcoming Events

December

- 30-31 Dec., International Conference on Sociology of Families (Paris, France, digital)
<https://waset.org/sociology-of-families-conference-in-december-2021-in-paris>

January

- 21-22 Jan., ICFEFP 2022: 16. International Conference on Family Economics and Family Policy (Amsterdam, Netherlands, digital)
<https://waset.org/family-economics-and-family-policy-conference-in-january-2022-in-amsterdam>

February

- 07-08 Feb., International Conference on Marriage and Family (Lisbon, Portugal, digital)
<https://waset.org/marriage-and-family-conference-in-february-2022-in-lisbon>
- 07-08 Feb., International Conference on Family and Economic Issues (Melbourne, Australia, digital)
<https://waset.org/family-and-economic-issues-conference-in-february-2022-in-melbourne>
- 17-18 Feb., International Conference on Families in Business (Paris, France, digital)
<https://waset.org/families-in-business-conference-in-february-2022-in-paris>
- 17-18 Feb., International Conference on Family and Sociology (Rome, Italy, digital)
<https://waset.org/family-and-sociology-conference-in-february-2022-in-rome>

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