



IFHE Statement on UN Sustainable Development Goal 1 With input from the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

The following Position Statement intends to serve as the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) contribution to the discussions on and success of the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1:

“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”.

Home Economics in all its dimensions and on all levels such as the academic area, the education field, the daily life of families and the advocacy arena aims to improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities. The basis for well-being is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. In all Home Economics areas, experts are committed to contribute support to the goal to end poverty.

Background

The eradication of hunger and extreme poverty emerge as an aspect of SDGs in the Post-2015 agenda. Despite the progress made according to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) achievement reports, in 2015, around 836 million people lived in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 per day. Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity (UNDP).

The SDG aims to **“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”**. Its seven associated targets aim, among others, to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty, implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030, achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. In addition, by 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources as well as access to basic services, have ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance (Sustainable Development).

Five of the seven Targets of SDG 1 are:

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Relation to Home Economics, IFHE and IFHE Members

Home Economists around the world are contributing to the reduction of poverty every day. Home Economics has always been dealing with quality of life for families, sustainable living and a responsible use of resources. It is considered the original field of research focusing on economic, social and ecological aspects of everyday living. Everyday living takes place in households which are basic and essential building blocks of societies and economy where its members take decisions regarding their behaviour, consumption and economic actions.

The basic aim of households is to meet the needs of their members. Basic needs include physiological needs like air, food, water, clothing and housing. In addition, every human being strives to live in safety. "Safeness" includes physical safety, which is not corrupted by occurrences like wars, natural disasters, political instability or violence. Even financial security as well as health and well-being are most important basic needs of all individuals.

Household members combine internal household resources (time, competencies, manpower and much more) with external resources (nature, market goods, political rights etc.) to reach each household member's needs and subsistence goals.

From a Home Economics perspective, there are two main contributing factors to the state of poverty. One of the main factors are unstable framework conditions for accessing and combining basic resources, which is a reality in many countries in the world.

Poverty often results from lack of employment opportunities, lack of economical rights, lack of social security, especially for women, unstable political conditions, wars and disasters. A household interacts with its social, political, economic and ecological surrounding to meet its needs, its performance is strongly depending on this socio-economic framework.

The second factor for household performance depends on individual characteristics of household members, their attitudes, competencies and education as well as their relationship with each other. These aspects are influencing a household's economic and social standard. In both, industrial and developing countries, many problems of households occur from poor interpersonal skills and improper management and application of household resources. There is often an underappreciation of the need for a household's financial, health related, nutritional, housing and shopping needs to be managed in a responsible way to establish and retain the families and households' well-being.

Overcoming poverty is supported by education of all people in the management of their everyday lives. Only strong and educated family members with access to material and non-material resources will have the power to care for their families, to participate in society, community and economic processes. Empowerment in everyday life management leads to valuable results for development through educating and advising families and individuals in Home Economics issues, such as food production, maternal and family health as well as capacity building. This education is pertinent for rural people, urban poor, unsettled immigrants, economically dispossessed victims of political and instability and the older population that may not have adequate arrangement for post-employment periods of their lives. Policymakers are key to understanding these issues and must seek to put systems in place to alleviate these social development deficiencies in society. Critical areas for immediate attention encompass household education, fundamental survival information, community living, environmental and economic education, health and well-being and propagation of human rights.

Analysis of the current situation of marginalised families that suffer from poverty, hunger, lack of education, diseases, lack of access to finances and job opportunities, conflicts and disasters strongly suggests a focus on improving framework conditions and on empowering families, households and individuals as a strategy to reach the SDG 1.

Examples of Accomplishments and Remaining Challenges

Home Economists - including IFHE Members - are conducting research, daily work and projects around the world to reduce and prevent poverty. Mostly in developing countries, Home Economics professionals are educating especially women in sustainable food production and alternative ways of income generation. Women are trained in healthy nutrition, efficient cooking and learn about the importance of sending children - both boys and girls - to school.

All over the world, Home Economists are working on research and education programmes for i.e. financial literacy to avoid over-indebtedness. As debts counsellors and family advisers, Home Economics professionals show ways out of poverty and give active support to families which are in financial trouble and face social exclusion.

IFHE promotes the contribution of Home Economics to eradicate poverty through several statements to the United Nations, Press Releases and Workshops. IFHE Representatives are working actively in UN NGO Expert Groups on the Family and on Poverty to underline and promote the Home Economics position on the highest political level.

A Way forward: Expectations and Recommendations for Policymakers

Based on a Home Economics view, the performance of individuals living in households and communities are the basis of a functioning society and economy without poverty. Women are of high importance as they are often responsible for caring for the family. Households need framework conditions for poverty prevention and for overcoming poverty.

IFHE recommends to focus on following Priority Actions on Poverty

Eradication:

- Focus on households and communities as key for the eradication of poverty.
- Improve access to sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources, especially for women.
- Address the disproportionate impact of poverty on women, provide universal access to basic social services and security.
- Strengthen education in everyday life management in both, developing and developed countries, for persons of all ages.
- Develop social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves such as elderly persons.
- Establish stable economic, politic and social framework conditions.
- Intensify international cooperation for poverty eradication.

It is extremely important that governments set an economic, social and political framework which enables individuals and families to use their full potential and overcome poverty.

Recommendations for Home Economists

IFHE strongly recommends that all professional Home Economists on all levels - science, education, everyday life and advocacy - keep on promoting the relevance of Home Economics for sustainable development and reduction of poverty.

Professional Home Economics should promote the contribution of their discipline to this most important global goal during their professional tasks as teacher, scientist or adviser. At country level, Home Economists should advocate for the importance of their discipline by clearly showing the linkage between their focus, sustainability and the possible contribution to the eradication of poverty. Demanding education for household and everyday life management, the equality of women and men and the access to resources for all should be included in the agenda of Home Economics associations at national levels.

Closing

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) demands that development strategies and measures focus on individuals and families as the core units of society and economy and empower them to improve their quality of life and achieve well-being. In the current political, social, cultural and economic conditions, educating and advising individuals and families in the management of their resources and improvement of their everyday life are key to sustainable development and to overcome poverty as drivers of development and critical to the success of the new global goals.

Selected Sources:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/post-2015-development-agenda/goal-1.html>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/povertyeradication>

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