



# HOME ECONOMICS NEWS

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Publication of the International Federation for Home Economics



DAP project (p. 2)

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## IN THIS ISSUE: REFLECTING THE NEEDS OF TODAY'S SOCIETY

"Our collective social reality has been tested by the pandemic. Ensuring that home economics across all essential dimensions reflect the needs of today's society is highly important." In a special issue, the editors of the International Journal for Home Economics collect an impressive array of articles which document the profession's capacity to adapt to pandemic challenges and work effectively within multiple spaces: "**Rapid response and lockdown learnings**" (p. 4).

This newsletter offers further examples of these multiple spaces. With the support of IFHE, an initiative was launched in a **remote indigenous village school in Guyana** which serves to further home economics education and offers practical assistance (p. 2). On the other hand, IFHE became partner to an international research project which aims to develop a shared knowledge base and **theoretical framework on food literacy education** (p. 4).

The pandemic highlighted the value of "home" to protecting and supporting household members during crisis. IFHE has reacted to this and made "**Building resilient homes & families**" World Home Economics Day topic 2022 (p. 3).

Enjoy reading.



## DISASTER ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIPS (DAP) SUPPORTS INDIGENOUS VILLAGE SCHOOL IN GUYANA

The Disaster Assistance Partnerships (DAP) is a joint project of IFHE and International Home Economics Services (IHES). DAP now launches a new project at a remote indigenous village school in Guyana which serves to further home economics education and assist where there is significant need.



Aishalton Secondary School in the Rupununi Region 9, the only high school in this indigenous region in the Amazon was started in 1995. Home economics was added about 12 years ago with the hiring of teacher Vickey Smith who has

worked tirelessly since to develop the program from scratch. They had no facilities but used community borrowed equipment and donated materials and outdoor space to initiate the program. Demonstrating success and the need for permanent classroom space, just 1 1/2 years ago a new classroom was built in the main school and a “foods building where they could cook” was added on the school grounds but it is far from the main building. New life was breathed into the program but without much equipment to fill the rooms with. Then Covid hit and classes were severely curtailed. The Middle School program was mostly on site, but older students were remote and came in infrequently.

With the generous initial financial support of IHES, the DAP decided to assist Aishalton Secondary School. The project also established contact with the Guyana Ministry of Education Home Economics Officer in Georgetown, Guyana. The Home Economics Officer will receive and forward funds as well as equipment sent until arrangements can be made by the school to pick them up as there is no scheduled delivery service to the remote village of 1,800, deep in the Amazon interior. Large equipment that can be purchased in Georgetown will be acquired through IHES funds (such as two gas stoves, six sewing machines, a generator, etc.). Other items will be procured in the United States, sent to the DAP warehouse in Elkin, Arkansas and sent to Guyana.



DAP now invites IFHE members to support the project with donations. The immediate need is for funds to both purchase items in Guyana and ship supplies from the DAP warehouse. The treasurer of DAP Partner IFHE-US is designated to receive donations for the Guyana Project (see details left hand side).

Contact/donations:

[IFHE-US](#)

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pictures: DAP

## BUILDING RESILIENT HOMES AND FAMILIES (WORLD HOME ECONOMICS DAY 2022)

Every year on March 21st, since 1982, IFHE has been pleased to sponsor World Home Economics Day. This international event is intended to highlight a specific theme and publicize home economics and consumer issues, promote the profession, and celebrate the contribution that home economists make to the quality of everyday for people around the globe.

The pandemic has presented people's everyday lives with unprecedented challenges. It has a lasting impact on those domains most familiar to home economists: individual, family and community, and it has highlighted the value and centrality of "home" to protecting and supporting household members during crisis.

The United Nations announced that rebuilding a resilient world must include sustainable livelihoods and well-being for all. As home economists, we bear witness of everyday needs at home and the direct lessons of the pandemic, the experience of shortages at stores, the challenges in child and elder care, the disruptions to finances, networks of support and everyday life. Home economists worldwide directly work with households and communities and are spearheading education on responsible resource management at home.

Now more than ever, home economics & consumer science education are fundamental for rebuilding resilient households and communities and achieving a sustainable future.

### Resources

The members area at [www.ifhe.org](http://www.ifhe.org) will be continually updated with useful resources that offer an international perspective on resilient homes and communities. Look forward to:

- Announcement by IFHE President Gwendolyn HUSTVEDT (youtube)
- Curriculum materials and online learning opportunities (member area)
- Kick-off webinar (November 2021)
- IFHE statement to the United Nations on the relevance of home economics & consumer science education to resilient societies (Jan. 2022)
- News Release (March 2022)

Know interesting articles on the topic? Please let us know so we can share them at the IFHE website:

**HE &  
resilience**



## JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUE: HOME ECONOMICS & 2020 PANDEMIC



Download from website:

<https://www.ifhe.org/ejournal>

The International Journal of Home Economics (IJHE) features trends & breaking work on all aspects of home economics. August 2021 saw the publication of a special issue dedicated to the topic “Rapid response and lockdown learnings—Home economics, the global pandemic 2020, and beyond”. Editor Donna Pendergast and Co-Editor Jay Deagon provide a nice summary statement in their conclusion of the introductory paper:

Our collective social reality has been tested by the pandemic. Ensuring that home economics across all essential dimensions reflect the needs of today’s society is highly important. Gentzler’s (2012) assertion that home economics is “ever timely, forever complex” holds fast. The positive impacts that home economics has in improving the quality of life and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities is sometimes *too obvious to see* (Deagon & Pendergast, 2019). The contributors to this Special Issue have made home economics visible by shining a light on our skills, capacity to adapt rapidly and work effectively within multiple spaces. The profession demands us to be mindful of our personal actions, our influence on other people, and the quality of the relationship that we have with our life sustaining Earth home. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted that although we may be physically disconnected, the profession itself affords us connectedness. With an estimated 50,000+ Home Economists globally, we are empowered, knowledgeable and skilled professionals with a strong collective voice. Our profession remains ever relevant.

## IFHE FORMAL PARTNER TO FOOD LITERACY EDUCATION RESEARCH

IFHE is proud to announce its formal partnership to an international research project funded by the Canadian Social Studies and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The project runs 2021-2023 and aims to develop a shared knowledge base and theoretical framework on food literacy education. This includes developing four research hubs – Deakin University, Australia, Sweet Briar College USA, University of Gothenburg, Sweden and UBC, Canada. The intention is to develop food literacy teaching and learning materials that are based on current research. Educators will be able to engage in professional development and access to teaching and learning materials.

The nature of project requires input from a professional organisation that supports food and nutrition education and educators. IFHE was invited to offer a home economics perspective to the development of the teaching and learning materials, among others. One result of the research project will be a website for educators.

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UNITED NATIONS STATEMENT: CALL FOR EXPERTS

IFHE plans to prepare a statement to the 60th session of the UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD60) held in New York in February 2022. The Commission's priority theme is *resilient recovery from COVID-19*, a theme that strongly resonates with our World Home Economics Day theme for next year.

For over 70 years, IFHE has held consultative status with the United Nations. We use our active involvement to highlight the importance of knowledge on the responsible use of resources at household and consumer level.

We were pleased to learn of CSocD60's priority theme for 2022: *Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all*. The topic strongly resonates with home economics concerns and our commitment to sustainable development. "Building Resilient Homes and Families" has already been made theme for IFHE's World Home Economics Day on 21 March 2022.

#### Call for experts

IFHE is planning to submit a statement to CSocD60 and send representatives to the session in February 2022 in New York. We are looking for experts interested in helping draft a statement for this session:

*Home economics & consumer science education are fundamental for resilience in households and communities.*

To express your interest, please send the following information: a) your thematic contribution to the statement (100-200 words), b) a description of your academic background, current position and professional focus.

IFHE looks forward to receiving your expression of interest by September 30, 2021 to [Annette.ptassek@ifhe.org](mailto:Annette.ptassek@ifhe.org). Please understand that due to the volume of requests we will only answer emails meeting the mentioned requirements.



picture: UN

## GREEK CAMPAIGN AGAINST MARGINALIZATION OF HOME ECONOMICS IN SCHOOLS

Read about our member Hellenic Union of Home Economics and Ecology Science's campaign for home economics education and IFHE support.

In Greece, the 9-years school education includes primary school, secondary school and high school. Traditionally, home economics has been a subject in Greek schools, but has been continuously reduced, resulting in one teaching hour in secondary school instead of former 4 hours (out of 96 teaching hours).

The Hellenic Union of Home Economics and Ecology Science started a campaign against the marginalization of home economics as an educational subject and reached out to IFHE for support. IFHE gladly supported the campaign, highlighting that “home economics as an academic science offers an interdisciplinary theoretical concept that shapes practitioners’ work within education, communities, and politics. Home economics brings science to practical use in every-day life. Home economics education teaches how to sustainably sustain a household’s needs with available resources. It covers important skills such as food preparation and preservation, health, hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, entrepreneurship, child development, use of social media/digitalization, finances, consumer behaviour or clothing”. IFHE commended the Hellenic Union of Home Economics and Ecology Science’s efforts for a strong home economics education in Greece and concluded with the statement that “home economics education into curricula is an important step towards wellbeing of individuals, households and their communities. Moreover, having a populous and dedicated professionals who are competent in home economics is crucial to achieving a sustainable living for all.”

## WORLD CONGRESS 2022 CALL FOR ABSTRACTS EXTENDED



See details at [Congress website](#).

It is time to submit your abstract for Congress 2022! The submission deadline has been extended until 1 October, 2021.

We are pleased to inform you that the submission deadline has been extended to October 1, 2021, for all abstracts (research, best practice, exhibition, and meetings). We are mindful of the continuing effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. We respect the concerns shared with IFHE leaders around the world, concerning the status of vaccinations and international travel.

At this time, there are already 140 abstracts submitted! All colleagues are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts for review, no matter your presumed travel status. As the United States prepares for the Congress, we continue to monitor the situation, and are exploring strategies to meet the needs of accepted presenters who might be prohibited from traveling by country or institutional mandate.

## WORLD POPULATION DAY: PUTTING THE BRAKES ON COVID-19

The United Nations celebrate World Population Day celebrations on 11 July. IFHE took up this year's thematic focus and published a news release drawing attention to the toll COVID-19 takes on health and wellbeing of women.

The global crisis has hit almost every household and community, but not everyone is affected equally. Women and girls' health and wellbeing is at risk in many ways:

- women who represent the largest share of **front-line health** workers are disproportionately exposed to the coronavirus.
- disrupted supply chains impact the **availability of contraceptives** and heighten the risk of unintended pregnancy.
- sexual and reproductive health services are being sidelined and **gender-based violence** is on the rise.
- women disproportionately work in **insecure labour** markets, are harder hit by the economic impacts of COVID-19 and risk falling into poverty.
- women's **unpaid care work** has increased as a result of school closures and the increased needs of older people.

IFHE globally advocates for home economics education as a key factor to ensure health and wellbeing. Formal and informal home economics education include all sexes, provide knowledge on how to responsibly manage resources and strengthen the position of women who are predominantly heads of households.

The *International Federation for Home Economics* (IFHE) and its members are committed to continuing this work, putting the brakes on COVID-19 and contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

picture: UN Photo



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Published by the International  
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### 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Home Economics Research Association of Nigeria (HERAN)

22nd Annual Conference Family resilience - research perspective and imperative

Awka, Nigeria

### 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Home Economics Institute of Australia (HEIA)

National Conference, Brisbane, Australia

### 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

IFHE African Region, 11<sup>th</sup>African Regional Conference

Securing Family Future for Sustainability in Retirement: A Home Economics Perspective

City of Benin, Nigeria

### 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Making Sense from Taste: Quality, Context, Community

11. International Conference on Food Studies, Aarhus University, Copenhagen, Denmark

### Preview:

### 24 - 25 May 2022

16. International Conference on Home Economics and Technology, Barcelona, Spain

### 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2022

International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), Home Economics: Soaring towards

Sustainable Development, XXIV IFHE World Congress, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

### 4 - 11 August 2023

Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE): 21. Biennial International Con-

gress, Integrating culture & innovation in home economics towards industrial revolution,

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Next Issue:

DECEMBER 2021

Please submit information and  
articles by 15 November 2021 to the  
IFHE Office Bonn, Germany