



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

IFHE POSITION STATEMENT

on the

UN Sustainable Development Goal 1

**“END POVERTY IN ALL
ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE”**

**with Input of the
Associated Country Women of the World
(ACWW)**



IFHE Position Statement on the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 with Input of ACWW:

“END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE”



Introduction, Objective and Purpose of the Statement

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 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 Information to the specific SDG

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, around 836 million people lived in extreme poverty in 2015 on less than \$1.25 per day. Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity.

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

The first 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.

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

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, including floors, 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.
(United Nations SDG 1)

Overview of the Issue as it relates to Home Economics and the Work of the IFHE and IFHE Members around the World

Home Economists around the world are contributing to the reduction of poverty every day through their professional work, which is multifaceted. Home Economics has always been dealing with quality of life for families, sustainable living and a responsible use of resources. Home Economics is considered the original field of research focusing on economic, social and ecological aspects of everyday living. Everyday living takes place in households. Households are basic and essential building blocks of societies and economy, where members take decisions regarding their behaviour, consumption and economic actions. The main and basic aim of households is to meet the needs of their household members. Basic needs are physiological, like air, food, water, clothing and housing. In addition, every human being endeavours to feel safety. "Safeness" includes physical safety, which is not destroyed 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.) and frame conditions to reach each household member's needs and subsistence goals.

Based on this, from a Home Economics perspective there are two main contributing factors to the state of poverty. One of the main factors is the 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 social, political, economic and ecological surrounding to meet its needs, so their performance is strongly depending on this socio-economic framework.

The second factor for household performance is depending on the individual and specific characteristics of the household members, their attitudes, competencies and education as well as their relationship to each other. These issues are influencing 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 household's finances, health, nutrition, housing and shopping needs to be managed in thought out and responsible way to establish and retain the families and households' success.

The act of refocusing families and household members to overcome poverty is based on the content and context of the education of all people in the management of their everyday lives. When the conditions of the framework are present, it establishes the grounding or basis to overcome poverty and conduct sustainable lifestyles as a desirable pattern for quality everyday life and reduce the incidence of family poverty.

Only strong and educated families and 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, the older population that may not have adequate arrangement for post-employment periods of their lives.

Policymakers who are the primary owners of development resources are key to understanding these issues and must seek to put systems in place to alleviate these deficiencies in the social development in society.



Powerbrokers for education, fundamental survival information, community living and environmental education, health and well-being, economic, conflict free and human rights propagation are only some of the critical areas for immediate attention to tackle the urgent need to end poverty in families.

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.

Specific Examples of Accomplishments by the IFHE/ IFHE Members/Home Economics 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 Economic professionals are educating especially women in sustainable food production and alternative ways of income generation. They are trained in healthy nutrition, efficient cooking and learn about the importance of sending children, boys and girls, to school.

All over the world Home Economists are working on research and education programs 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.

The IFHE promotes the contribution of Home Economics to eradicate poverty through several statements to the United Nations, Press Releases and Workshops, managed by the IFHE Council and Programme Committees. 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, specific Recommendations for Policymakers from the Perspective of IFHE

Based on a Home Economics view the performance of individuals living in households and communities are the fundamental units 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.

The IFHE recommends to focus on following priority actions on poverty eradication:

- Focus on households and communities as key for the eradication of poverty.
- Improving access to sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources; especially for women.
- Addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women; providing 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.
- Establish stable economic, politic and social framework conditions.
- Intensifying international cooperation for poverty eradication. (UNSDG website)

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

Recommendations for Home Economists and Home Economics Teachers

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 the sustainable reduction and prevention of poverty. Home Economics should never see themselves as obsolete, but to assert their authority on the body of knowledge that make a difference in the lives of individuals and families many of whom are neighbours. To take a deeper look into the profession Home Economists and to update and refocus this knowledge will undoubtedly strengthen their combined influence in the helping families, communities and nations reach for and realise sustainable development and achieve this evasive sustainable development goals.

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.

On the 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 for 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 Sentence

The International Federation for Home Economics demands that development strategies and measures focus on individuals and families as the core units of the society and the 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.