

**International Day of Families.
May 2025**

**Family-oriented policies and
programmes in Voluntary National
Reviews (2020-2024)**



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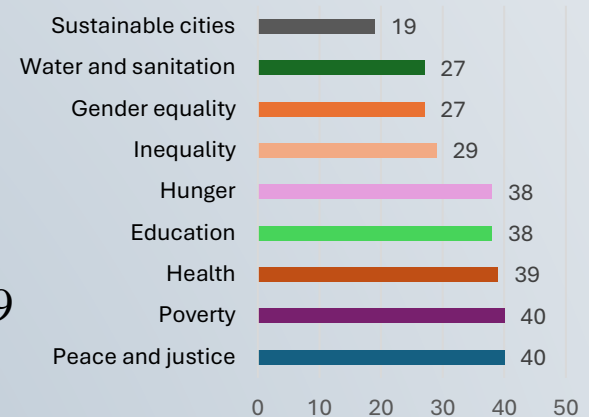
The report analyses the role of family-oriented policies in achieving SDGs, drawing on 171 Voluntary National Reviews submitted by 141 countries during the 2020-2024 period.

It is the second report analysing VNRs. The first one included a shorter period of 4 years, 2016-2019 and less countries (114)

The analysis prioritises the “People” dimension of the 2030 Agenda, centred on eradicating poverty and hunger. It underscores inclusion, equality across different social domains, and the protection of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups.

The report focuses on specific targets in SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 16.

Member States reporting family-oriented policies




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The analytical framework

- Most people live in families, regardless of residential arrangements, kinship ties, or sexual orientation
- Compared to other social units, families are where individuals experience multiple dimensions of wellbeing most directly and immediately
- Analysing the diversity of family-oriented policies across different national and regional contexts requires a multidimensional analytical framework. We use it as a guiding tool

A photograph of several white paper cutouts of human figures of different sizes, representing a family, standing on a green surface.

The analytical framework aligned with People dimension of the 2030 Agenda

1. **The socioecological model of family wellbeing**, to understand how policies at different systemic levels affect individuals and family wellbeing
2. **A flexible notion of welfare regimes and state capacity**, to understand the different welfare arrangements globally, acknowledging the influence of historical legacies, political priorities, fiscal capacities, and institutional design
3. **Pre-distributive and redistributive approaches**, to understand the different mechanisms to address inequality. Redistributive policies correct inequalities after market outcomes. Pre-distributive policies intervene before inequality (or more inequality from market outcomes) arises.
4. **Social investment perspective**, prioritises investment in human capabilities.
5. **Gender perspective**: from blind, sensitive, to responsive policies

Main findings

- Families remain central to achieving SDGs. Governments recognise their role in education, health, sanitation, housing, and poverty reduction.
- Despite more countries and years, fewer countries implemented family-oriented policies in 2020-2024, compared to 2016-2019. The decline reflects the impact of COVID-19 and global crises
- SDG 4 (Quality Education) is the only area with clear progress. Declines are most visible in SDGs 5 (Gender Equality and 16 (Peace and Justice)
- Yet, awareness of families as active agents of change is growing. When families are engaged as active participants, outcomes improve, resilience is strengthened, and social cohesion is reinforced.

Strongest results: Quality education (SDG 4)

- Most progress was made in education
- 38 countries implemented family-oriented policies (up from 18 in the first report of 2016-2019)
- Family engagement improved enrolment, learning, and early childhood development, through parenting education, early literacy programmes, family engagement in school governance and curriculum design
- Gaps remain for children under age 3 and marginalised families

Limited but crucial: Health and Nutrition

- 39 countries adopted family-oriented policies related to health (down from 44 in the 2016-2019 period)
- Family involvement improved maternal, child, and adolescent health.
- Mental health and nutrition policies involving families show promise, through school meal programmes, nutrition counselling, home visits, parenting support and outreach.

Areas of setback: SDGs 1, 2, and 10

- 40 countries implemented family-oriented policies on poverty, food security, and inequality
- They were most effective where they were linked to income generation, food production, local development and social protection
- But gains remain fragile and uneven due to weak welfare regimes and crisis impacts



SDGs 6 and 11: Urban development and basic services

- 27 countries engaged families in water and sanitation policies
- Family involvement improves service access and resilience through behaviour change campaigns, community management, and household outreach
- In urban development, housing, and mobility, family participation has declined, as most programmes still treat families as passive beneficiaries rather than co-creators of sustainable spaces



The weakest results: Gender equality and protection (SDGs 5 and 16)

- SDG 5: Family-oriented policies dropped from 46 to 27 countries
- SDG 16: Family-oriented policies dropped from 52 to 40 countries
- Setbacks in unpaid care: it remains overwhelmingly feminised. Violence against women and children rarely include coordinated support for families or community-based education. Adolescent reproductive health remains under-addressed.
- Few policies involve families in prevention or protection services.

Overall, what findings are telling us?

Family-oriented policies deliver stronger, fairer results when they are integrated into broader investment and governance strategies

Rebuilding care systems and engaging families is key to achieving the SDGs by 2030

A renewed global commitment is urgently needed, especially in SDGs 5 and 16

Recommendations

- Reposition families as active agents in SDG implementation. Governments should move beyond viewing families solely as service recipients and formally recognise their role as co-implementers of development strategies.
- Embed family-oriented approaches within multidimensional policy frameworks. They are most effective when integrated with pre-distributive and redistributive measures, social investment strategies, gender-responsive planning, and the socioecological model.
- Prioritise investment in the most underperforming areas: unpaid care, violence prevention, and harmful practices (SDGs 5 and 16)

Recommendations

- Strengthen integrated, family-oriented policies to poverty, hunger and inequality (SDGs 1, 2 and 10). Governments should prioritise policies that combine income support, food assistance and livelihoods promotion with active family engagement.
- Expand and sustain family engagement in education, health and mental wellbeing systems.
- Promote inclusive urban development and basic services through family participation and climate change resilience

Recommendations

- Recognise and integrate diverse family forms (e g., single female-headed, and non-normative arrangements) into policy and service delivery, through legal recognition and inclusive service design.
- Develop robust data systems to track family engagement.
- Renew political and financial commitment to family-inclusive development. National development plans should systematically incorporate family-oriented goals, with adequate funding and cross-sectoral coordination



THANK YOU;



GRACIAS;