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Dear readers of "Families International",

We would like to begin this 128th issue of the quarterly bulletin "Families International" (FI) by thanking Isabella Nening, who has recently resigned as an editor, for the work she has done for "Families International". On the following pages, you will find a wide range of family-related texts and resources in this issue, starting with an article on the impact of climate change on human mobility and displacement, which was presented by Prof. Dr. Mathias Czaika at the International Forum back in May 2023.

Furthermore, you can find a report from UNICEF about the importance of school inputs to improving learning.

Also included are texts from member organizations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family. The International Council of Women (ICW) has contributed reports focusing on different problems that children and families are facing. The text of Make Mothers Matter (MMM) deals with young mothers and how their societal inclusion must be a priority.

Families International No.128 is rounded off with a list of current and upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Christin Kohler M.A.
Executive Editor

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From the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

Acknowledgement – Gratitude – Respect

As Secretary of the Committee, and deputy editor of Families International (FI), I would like to express the appreciation, gratitude and respect of our Committee, to Isabella Nening, who has resigned, for personal reasons, as an editor of Families International. Isabella had so professionally edited numerous issues, and along with the editor of this issue, Christin Kohler, joined the editorial team of FI in 2017. Both were former students of a seminar, at the University of Salzburg, and were the pioneers of other former students, who subsequently accepted the invitation of the Committee to support its endeavours for the well-being of families worldwide. Karin Kuzmanov and Julia Birner subsequently also joined the editorial team of FI. At Karin Kuzmanov's recommendation, Hannah Prüwasser, from Vienna University, has kindly accepted the invitation of the Committee, to replace Isabella on the editorial team.

Please allow me to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Committee, also to thank the former students of the University of Salzburg, who have subsequently joined the Committee in various functions: Katharina Muegler, as Deputy Secretary; Franziska Reichel & Meg Sucharda, as Committee Coordinators of the yearly Statement, submitted to the United Nations Commission for Social Development, as well as Laura Mysliwicz and Sebastian Oberreiter, as Coordinators of the Digital-Networks of the Committee.

To each of the above-mentioned individuals, the Committee would like to express its acknowledgement, sincere gratitude and respect, for their commitment, their spirit of generosity, along with their professionalism, in each of their roles.

Peter Crowley Ph.D., Secretary of the Committee and Deputy Editor of FI.

The Impact of Climate Change on Human Mobility and Displacement

Mathias Czaika

Rainer Münz

This article is an extract of a recent research overview published by DELMI, which was authored by Mathias Czaika and Rainer Münz entitled “Climate Change, Displacement, Mobility and Migration: The State of Evidence, Future Scenarios, Policy Options” (DELMi 2022:9). For the full report including data sources and full references, please consult: www.delmi.se/en/publications/research-overview-2022-9-climat-change-and-migration/

Introduction

How many individuals are impacted by extreme weather conditions and climate change? How many among them experience displacement, internal relocation within their birth country, or even international migration? And how might these numbers evolve in the future? These fundamental questions are the focal point of this research overview. The purpose of this overview is to gather substantiated empirical evidence, highlight gaps in information and data. An essential aim in this context is to foster a debate based on empirical evidence rather than anecdotal accounts.

Back in the early 1990s, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 1992), established by the UN, recognized migration and forced displacement as the paramount consequences of climate change, pinpointing shoreline erosion, coastal flooding, and severe drought as key drivers. Building upon this assessment, Norman Myers, a British biodiversity expert (1997), estimated that around 25 million 'environmental refugees' existed globally by the mid-1990s. He projected this figure to escalate fourfold to 100 million by 2010 and possibly surge to 200 million by 2050. Myers' projections incorporated additional factors such as desertification, freshwater scarcity, land salination, and biodiversity depletion. A decade later, he raised the upper limit of his forecast to 250 million 'environmentally displaced individuals,' a level potentially reached by 2050 (Myers 2007).

These numbers and forecasts have been frequently cited and referenced. The prediction of 150–200 million climate change 'refugees' by 2050 has been widely disseminated and featured prominently in influential political reports, including early publications by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 1992) and the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change (Stern 2006). The same figure was echoed in reports by intergovernmental bodies like the Council of Europe (2006) and UNESCO (Piguet et al. 2011), as well as NGOs such as Greenpeace

(Jakobeit and Methmann 2007) and Christian Aid (Myers 2007). Myers' figures gained additional credibility when they were referenced in a report by then UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

Kolmannskog (2008) classified estimates and projections like Myers' (1997, 2007) as "impossible to verify." In 2011, senior migration scholar Stephen Castles suggested that Myers' intention in presenting these dramatic projections was to alarm the public and policymakers into taking action on climate change (quoted in Barnes 2013). However, this doesn't necessarily negate Myers' identification of at-risk regions and his assessment of populations vulnerable to climate change's impacts.

Francois Gemenne explained the potential exaggeration of future environmental refugee numbers by highlighting that "[...] figures are usually based on the number of people living in regions at risk, and not on the number of people actually expected to migrate. Estimates do not account for adaptation strategies" or for "different levels of vulnerability" (Gemenne 2009: 159). Part of the problem lies in terminology; the term 'environmental refugees' might evoke an analogy with political refugees, implying that individuals affected by climate change will seek 'protection' from environmental shifts in other countries. Consequently, forecasting 250 million 'climate refugees' by 2050 appears unlikely given the current global count of 21 million political refugees under UNHCR's purview and 4.4 million asylum seekers as of mid-2021. If such forecasts were instead linked to voluntary and involuntary internal mobility due to climate change, the projection would be more realistic and generate less controversy. Nevertheless, it would lack the 'sensational' and 'alarmist' element that captures public attention.

Some estimates and predictions are rooted in surveys that gauge mobility and migration intentions, as many people often contemplate moving to enhance their living conditions. Until the decision to move is made, these individuals comprise a latent population of potential migrants who intermittently or consistently consider relocating. Gallup's nearly global survey conducted in 2015-16 estimated that over 750 million adults "would like to migrate to another country if they could," while more than 500 million individuals anticipate needing to relocate due to environmental stress within the next five years (Esipova et al. 2018).

Simultaneously, millions of people remain in vulnerable and environmentally strained circumstances, directly or indirectly stemming from the consequences of environmental deterioration. In the short term, the majority of those facing slowly or rapidly worsening environmental conditions do not migrate internationally or move extensively within their own nation. Despite its significant numerical relevance, the phenomenon of (voluntary and involuntary) immobility, particularly in the context of environmental stress, is frequently overlooked. Consequently, there is a dearth of empirical evidence on the factors that explain immobility, which hinder (or sometimes motivate) people to remain despite perceived or actual environmental stress (Schewel 2020). Thus, it is feasible to identify populations at risk due to environmental degradation in terms of size and location. However, without universally accepted scientific evidence, it remains challenging to predict which portion of the at-risk population will become mobile and who will stay in place.

In general, with regards to migratory patterns, there has been a surge in spatial mobility observed among individuals who migrate across international borders or relocate internally within their native countries. Global international migration trends are better documented compared to internal mobility:

- The UN Population Division's estimation suggests that in 2020, approximately 280 million people permanently or for over 12 months resided outside their country of origin, in contrast to 175 million in 2000 (UN DESA 2021). These individuals are classified as international migrants.
- Unlike international migration figures, the precise global count of individuals who have moved (permanently or temporarily) internally within their country of birth remains largely uncertain and can only be roughly approximated. An estimate based on early 2000s data from the UN Development Programme placed the number of internal migrants at 740 million (UNDP 2009). Given that the world population has increased by around 30% between 2000 and 2022, while rural-to-urban mobility has continued at a substantial pace, the current figure of internal migrants could potentially exceed 2 billion people.

Nonetheless, the precise number of individuals who have left their homes since the turn of the 21st century *due to climate change and environmental deterioration* remains unclear. Consequently, the exact count of those who have left their places of residence due to the direct or indirect influence of rapidly or gradually evolving environmental factors remains undetermined. Nevertheless, advancing conceptual and empirical research endeavors form the foundation for well-informed estimations and evaluations.

Climate-induced environmental stress as a driver of mobility, and non-mobility

There are several ways in which environmental and climate change can lead to various forms of voluntary and involuntary migration, as well as mobility and displacement. The most common categories of climate-induced migration and mobility are as follows:

- Displacement or evacuation, followed by return or resettlement, caused by sudden natural disasters that destroy livelihoods or severely disrupt food and water supplies.
- Domestic mobility and international migration resulting from gradual changes that degrade livelihoods, lead to loss of arable land, food insecurity, scarcity of freshwater, soil salination, and more.
- Self-organized mobility or relocation in anticipation of future changes that threaten livelihoods.

Gradual manifestations of climate change, such as rising sea levels, coastal erosion, extended heat waves, droughts, and desertification, are expected to increase internal mobility within countries and international migration in the long term. Conversely, immediate extreme weather events like hurricanes and flooding can trigger large-scale displacements either on a self-organized basis or through evacuations (Black et al. 2011; Shen and Binns 2012; Martin et al. 2014; Veronis and McLeman 2014; Islam 2017; Rigaud et al. 2019; Clement et al. 2021).

Environmental changes, such as shortages in natural resources like fertile soil and freshwater, can create risks to stable livelihoods, prompting people to leave or escape environmentally stressful situations. The impact of climate change and environmental shocks on economic survival, sustainability, and overall vulnerability plays a significant role in migration decisions (Abu et al. 2014; Beine and Parsons 2015; Khavarian-Garmsir et al. 2019; Martin et al. 2014). Economic factors, including declining agricultural incomes, reduced livelihood opportunities, and increased food insecurity, indirectly influence migration choices.

Migration decisions are complex, with various factors contributing to the outcome. The interplay between economic, political, social, and environmental factors creates a complex mix of incentives and constraints that shape people's aspirations and capabilities to migrate. However, those lacking economic, social, or informational resources often lack the freedom to choose between moving or staying, leaving them to adapt to climate change's consequences where they currently reside.

While climate change's role as a driver of internal mobility and international migration is extensively studied, it's often more influenced by economic and political factors in conjunction with climate change (Clement et al. 2021; Rigaud et al. 2019; Migali et al. 2018; Migali and Natale 2021). Economic and political factors can often have a more direct impact on people's livelihoods, affecting migration intentions and decisions. Climate change's influence on migration intentions is often indirect, mediated through economic factors such as agricultural incomes, livelihood opportunities, and food security.

Sudden environmental shocks like floods or storms, alongside chronic stressors like water shortages, can also drive relocation desires. However, immediate disasters usually lead to temporary internal mobility rather than long-term displacement or international migration (Beine and Parsons 2015; Islam 2017; World Food Program 2017). Nonetheless, disasters can indirectly increase the resolve to leave if economic drivers deteriorate, and reconstruction efforts fall short (Warner et al. 2010; Wodon et al. 2014).

The analysis of climate-induced migration faces a lack of information from potential migrants. Many people in middle- and low-income countries lack awareness of climate change's implications for livelihoods (Helbling et al. 2021). Economic factors like income, market access, and political stability are often cited more than climate change in migration decisions. However, climate-aware individuals tend to have stronger migration intentions (Helbling et al. 2021).

Natural disasters and environmental degradation can also escalate social tensions and conflicts, but they rarely lead to international displacement. The main reason is that displaced people typically seek material compensation and reconstruction within their own countries. Climate change's influence on migration isn't solely as a push factor; a favourable climate in receiving countries also impacts migration decisions (Gottlieb and Joseph 2006; Poston et al. 2009; Sunil et al. 2007; van der Geest 2011).

Migration decisions are influenced by a complex interplay of economic, political, social, and environmental factors. Climate-induced migration's complex nature makes it difficult to predict

accurately. For instance, various interactions between environmental stress and economic drivers are vital. Environmental stress can lead to resource-based conflicts or health risks that indirectly impact migration. For instance, age and income did influence the decision of people forcibly displaced by Hurricane Katrina to return or not to New Orleans (Groen and Povlika 2010). Economic factors can have a stronger impact on migration intentions than climate change itself (Joseph and Wodon 2013). Other factors, like political conflicts and health risks, also shape migration decisions.

In situations of environmental stress, the most vulnerable often lack the resources and social networks needed for mobility. Voluntary mobility and planned relocation are often inaccessible to those most affected by gradual climate change manifestations. International migration necessitates legal access to another country or the means to reach it, including travel documents and financial resources.

Relocation may also be prompted by sudden-onset shocks like floods or storms. However, these mostly lead to temporary internal mobility rather than long-term displacement. Reconstruction efforts play a vital role in people's decision to stay or leave.

Evidence suggests that environmental degradation can lead to conflicts and mobility. However, natural disasters very rarely cause displacement across international borders. Remittances from migrants can support disaster recovery, while climate change can drive social conflicts and influence mobility and migration dynamics. Migration decisions result from interactions among economic, political, social, cultural, and demographic factors, and these interactions can feedback into resource allocation. Remoteness and isolation often increase vulnerability to environmental change. Internal and international migration are essential strategies for adapting to environmental stress and shocks.

Immobility can be involuntary, driven by factors like lack of resources, or voluntary, influenced by place attachment or social ties. Adaptation strategies can combine migration and non-migration approaches. Trappedness in environmentally stressful situations can be both voluntary and involuntary. Migration decision-making involves cognitive processes of desiring and assessing migration. However, many with mobility aspirations remain immobile due to a lack of resources or other factors. Involuntary immobility can arise due to various factors, including limited mobility potential and resource constraints.

In conclusion, the relationship between environmental stress and migration is complex. Climate-induced migration involves various interacting factors, and immobility can result from both voluntary and involuntary circumstances. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for assessing and addressing the challenges of climate-induced mobility and immobility.

Environmentally Induced Mobility: Assessing the Evidence

Natural Disasters and Short-term Displacements

The most conspicuous influence of climate factors on mobility is the outcome of natural disasters. While some are of geophysical origin unrelated to environmental conditions, nearly 90% of such disasters stem from extreme weather events and their immediate impact, like floods, storms, droughts, and wildfires, leading to displacement or evacuation. These occurrences are generally well-monitored and documented.

Global warming evidently coincides with an escalation in extreme weather conditions triggering disasters. However, not all weather-related disasters can be attributed to climate change. And geophysical incidents such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions remain relatively stable and aren't affected by greenhouse gas emissions. Conversely, hydrological events (rainfall-induced floods), climatological events (droughts, wildfires), and meteorological events (storms, spring tides) have shown substantial increases in both frequency and volatility.

It's worth noting that while climate plays a role in displacement, comprehending the complete impact requires further analysis. Unfortunately, dependable global data on displacements due to natural disasters only exist from 2008 (IDMC 2022). Additionally, human-made events (nuclear accidents, mining-related water contamination) can also initiate disasters and displacement.

Throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries, reported natural disasters and the number of individuals adversely impacted by weather-related natural disasters have consistently risen. Simultaneously, our capacity to manage these events has improved significantly, thanks to more accurate weather forecasts, enhanced warning systems, disaster preparedness, improved infrastructure, river management, and shoreline protection.

This increased capacity has led to a decline in fatalities during natural disasters. Between 2010 and 2020, the average annual death toll from weather and climate-related natural disasters was around 60,000, constituting merely 0.33% of severely affected individuals. This is a stark contrast to the period from 1900 to 1950 when, on average, 520,000 people died annually. This reduction is even more remarkable considering the quadrupled world population between the 1920s and today.

In sum, the number of people exposed to weather-related natural disasters has risen over the past decades, but the risk of death during such events has significantly decreased. In 2021, out of 38 million displaced individuals, approximately 23.7 million were displaced due to natural disasters (23.3 million of which were weather-related). Between 2008 and 2021, nearly 10,000 natural hazardous events were reported, displacing around 344 million people, averaging 24.5 million annually. While the number of disasters and negatively impacted people has risen steadily, the number of new displacements doesn't exhibit a clear trend over the past 15 years.

Slow Onset Changes, Domestic Mobility, and International Migration

Slow-onset habitat changes present different triggers for involuntary or anticipatory mobility compared to sudden-onset events. Habitats most affected include those enduring prolonged droughts, progressive desertification, soil salination, increased tropical storms (especially cyclones), coastal settlements, river basins, and deltas susceptible to flooding and sea level rise.

Inhabitants of these areas often gradually experience livelihood and habitat degradation due to slow-onset changes. Consequently, these types of mobility usually don't grab immediate attention or necessitate immediate policy responses, leading to less documentation and monitoring. Estimations based on early 2000s data by the UN Development Program suggested that about 740 million people lived in their birth countries but outside their birth regions, a number likely exceeding two billion now.

Urbanization rates have surged primarily driven by rural-to-urban mobility. As a result, today, over 50% of the global population are residing in cities. This increased urbanization exposes more people to sudden-onset disasters. Floods due to weather-related natural disasters accounted for almost 50% of all displacement-causing disasters between 2008 and 2020. The majority of them affected urban dwellers.

As urban populations continue to rise due to environmental degradation, this exposure to sudden-onset events will likely increase. Urban-to-urban migration might also increase as people relocate from coastal areas prone to storm floods, rising tides, and coastal erosion to safer regions. The future may also see domestic mobility and international migration driven by water stress, affecting regions with insufficient freshwater supply.

In conclusion, climate and weather-related disasters have a direct link to displacements, with many occurring in urban areas. Slow-onset degradation of livelihoods can trigger long-term changes of residence, leading to voluntary and involuntary mobility primarily from rural to urban areas within countries and, to a lesser extent, across international borders. Urbanization driven by climate change is complex, influenced by numerous factors including exposure to sudden-onset risks, population density, settlement structures, and preventive measures.

Conclusions

The evidence of climate change is becoming increasingly clear as global temperatures rise and extreme weather events become more frequent, leading to a surge in severe disasters. These disasters are primarily meteorological and hydrological in nature but are increasingly influenced by human activities due to historical and ongoing greenhouse gas emissions. However, the link between these changes and the patterns of domestic mobility and international migration is less apparent.

Research has extensively documented that natural disasters, particularly those tied to extreme weather conditions (termed climate-induced natural disasters), displace or evacuate around 15-30 million people annually. From 2008 to 2021, approximately 344 million people were

internally displaced due to natural disasters. It's noteworthy, though, that while such disasters prompt short-term displacement, they seldom result in long-term migration across international borders. Most individuals displaced by extreme weather events ultimately return to their original locations or nearby subregions. Swift returns are often facilitated by relief and reconstruction efforts, distinguishing these cases from the prolonged displacement resulting from civil wars and targeted political violence that typically lead to extended internal displacement and subsequent cross-border refugee movements.

However, the possibility of successive environmental shocks and natural disasters causing a persistent decline in living conditions and loss of assets cannot be discounted. Such circumstances could potentially foster internal migration and, in the medium to long term, even international emigration. Although the direct link between a specific disaster and emigration might not be straightforward, the tipping point triggering the decision to leave could be associated with a significant event.

Unlike the immediate impact of sudden-onset natural disasters, assessing the repercussions of gradual, slow-onset environmental deterioration caused by climate change on internal mobility and international migration decisions is a more intricate endeavour. These changes manifest as rising sea levels, prolonged heat waves, extended dry seasons, decreased rainfall leading to freshwater scarcity, soil salinization, and arable land erosion. These developments are more likely to prompt long-term migration within the country of residence and, to a lesser extent, across borders into neighbouring countries. However, large-scale long-distance migrations due to slow-onset climate change are unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, gradual environmental degradation can indirectly influence mobility and migration as it erodes people's economic sustenance. Consequently, many people move temporarily or permanently from regions adversely affected by climate change primarily for economic and livelihood reasons.

In essence, environmental stress categorizes affected populations into potential movers and those who remain in place due to scarce resources. The division between these groups isn't solely determined by resource access, as some resource-endowed individuals may still opt to stay. Unlike political upheavals, many people negatively impacted by environmental change choose not to relocate. Some stay and adapt voluntarily, while others lack the financial, social, and informational means to move despite worsening living conditions.

Over the past four decades, over two billion people have migrated from rural to urban areas, though the extent to which climate-related factors influenced these movements remains uncertain. Nonetheless, the escalation of negative effects on freshwater supplies, agriculture, and rural livelihoods has propelled rural-to-urban mobility and migration to urban centres in other countries.

Projections estimate that by 2050, over three billion people will inhabit regions severely affected by climate change. Urban areas will bear the brunt, with an estimated 78 to 175 million

people expected to move out of climate-impacted regions by 2050. Nonetheless, only a minority of these individuals are likely to embark on international migration.

Certain populations are at high risk of permanent displacement, including around a billion people residing in areas below ten meters above current sea levels. Furthermore, fragile or failing states and low-lying small island nations are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

To mitigate these risks, nations, private enterprises, and other stakeholders can engage in prevention, adaptation, and mitigation strategies. Historical data spanning 120 years indicate a more than 90% reduction in annual fatalities from natural disasters despite heightened frequency and population exposure. Thus, building resilience and coping mechanisms remain viable strategies for the future.

The most immediate action to undertake is a rapid reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. Simultaneously, impact mitigation and adaptation efforts should focus on bolstering community and individual resilience against environmental stress. While this strategy is in Europe's self-interest due to projected temperature increases, it's also a global responsibility, considering Europe's historical and ongoing contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. As such, Europe could and should play a leadership role by facilitating the resilience of middle- and low-income economies through knowledge transfer, technology sharing, financial investments, and insurance schemes.

In conclusion, while the degradation of livelihoods due to climate change can be anticipated to some extent, predicting future mobility and migration is challenging. The human ability to adapt and cope further complicates these projections. The political will to invest in prevention and adaptation remains uncertain and is dependent on resource allocation. Therefore, drawing a direct causal link between climate changes and future migration is misleading.

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UNICEF

Policy Brief 2 – Côte d'Ivoire

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for every child

DATA MUST SPEAK

The importance of school inputs to improving learning

Unpacking factors influencing school performance in Côte d'Ivoire

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Key findings



School kits and books have a positive effect on student retention and end of primary school exam (CEPE) pass rates.



Overall, 44 per cent of public schools are able to provide each student with a school kit. Schools with a limited number of kits sometimes distribute them unevenly among classes, especially in rural areas.



Availability of mathematics and French textbooks has improved since 2020, but there is only around one textbook for every two students.



Textbooks are unevenly distributed. In general, textbooks are more difficult to obtain in rural areas and their availability can vary considerably from school to school.

Context

In recent years, the Ivorian Government has implemented several ambitious educational reforms, including the compulsory education policy and the school feeding policy. Despite these efforts, **challenges in access, equity, quality and governance remain.** However, some schools perform better than others, even in disadvantaged areas. By identifying these schools, called positive deviant schools, and the good practices that make them successful, important lessons can be learned to improve learning in Côte d'Ivoire and inform the development of the Education and Training Sector Plan 2016–2025.

Data Must Speak | Côte d'Ivoire | The importance of school inputs to improving learning

Research on positive deviant schools

Against this background, the **Data Must Speak (DMS) research on positive deviant schools** explores local solutions for improving the quality of education in Côte d'Ivoire. The first and second stages of the research involved conducting an **econometric analysis using Education Management Information System (EMIS) data to identify factors influencing school performance and to quantify their effects.** The analysis presented in this brief summarizes the key findings of these early stages of the research.¹

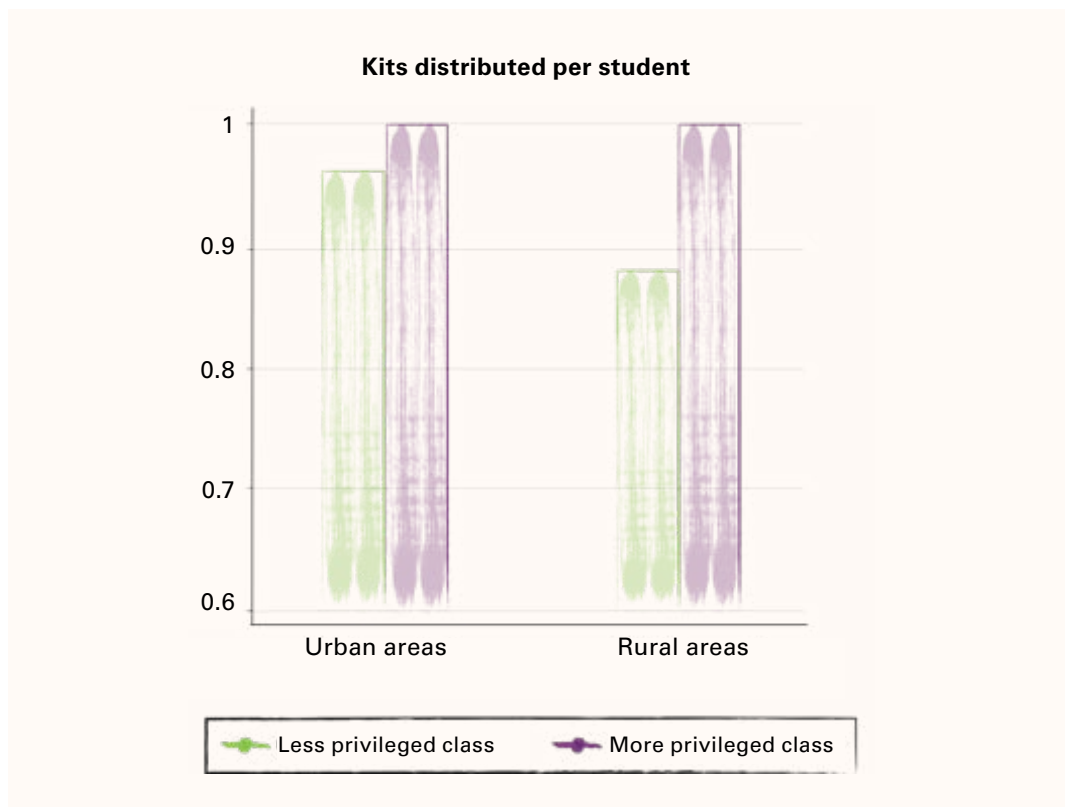


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Research findings

In Côte d'Ivoire, school supplies are distributed free of charge in public schools, with textbooks and school kits² distributed separately. In 2022, **there were 0.9 kits per student, with little difference between urban and rural areas** (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Difference in kit distribution in urban and rural public schools, by grade



1 Although rigorous, this analysis has its limitations because it is based on observational data. The econometric models used include school fixed effects and numerous control variables to reduce the likelihood that the relationships identified are due to systematic differences between schools.

2 School kits' contents vary slightly depending on the student's grade, but they generally include a backpack, notebooks, boxes of coloured pencils, pens, geometry materials and slates.

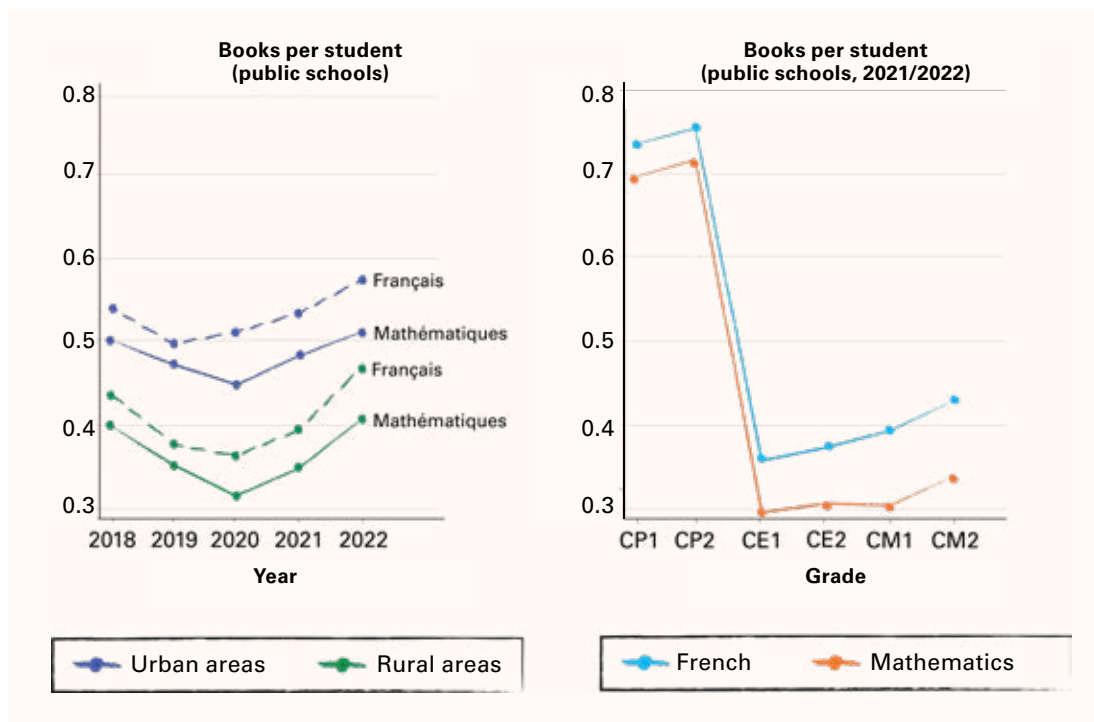
Data Must Speak | Côte d'Ivoire | The importance of school inputs to improving learning

In 44 per cent of public schools, every student received a kit, but in 56 per cent of schools, it was necessary to prioritize certain classes over others, creating some inequality within schools.

French and mathematics textbooks have steadily become more available in public schools since 2020 (see **Figure 2**). **Nevertheless, wide disparities remain between urban and rural areas. In 2022, students in urban public schools were, on average, 22 per cent more likely to have a mathematics textbook and 18 per cent more likely to have a French textbook than students in rural public schools.** Students in both rural and urban public schools were 13 per cent more likely to have access to French textbooks than mathematics textbooks.

Textbook availability also varies across the primary cycle: availability is much better in the first two years of primary school (CP1 and CP2), at around 0.7 textbooks per student,³ whereas the ratio drops to less than 0.4 textbooks per student from the third year of primary school (CE1) onwards (see **Figure 2**). **Distribution is also uneven at the national level: 18 per cent of students attend a school that has one French textbook per student, while 20 per cent of students do not have access to a French textbook at their school.** The figures are similar for mathematics: 17 per cent of students have access to one textbook per student in their school, while 24 per cent attend a school without any textbooks.

Figure 2: Books per student across years and grades



It is important to ensure that textbooks and school kits are adequately distributed among students because these resources have a positive relationship with student retention and the CEPE pass rate. **For example, if every student had access to a French and mathematics textbook, the promotion rate could increase by 0.5 percentage points and nearly 5,000 more students could pass the CEPE.**

³ The ratio is calculated by dividing the number of textbooks for a given grade by the number of students in that grade. Ratios above 1 in a school are capped at 1. The ratio therefore indicates the number of textbooks that students can actually use.

Suggested areas for further exploration

Data Must Speak | Côte d'Ivoire | The importance of school inputs to improving learning



The school kit policy seems to be effective and should be extended to schools that are not yet covered.



Access to textbooks also plays a significant role, especially for learning. Having one textbook for each student could significantly improve results.



More research is needed on the uneven distribution of kits and textbooks. It is particularly important to understand why some schools have no textbooks.

About the Data Must Speak research on positive deviant schools

The DMS research on positive deviant schools in Côte d'Ivoire was developed jointly by the Ministry of Education and Literacy, local research partners, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Côte d'Ivoire country office, and the UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight. This global research is being implemented in 14 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is co-funded by the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) programme of the Global Partnership for Education/International Development Research Centre, the Hewlett Foundation, the Jacobs Foundation, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Schools2030 programme (led by the Aga Khan Foundation) and UNICEF's Thematic Fund for Education.

Series of policy briefs

This brief is the first in a series of documents produced as part of the DMS research in Côte d'Ivoire. It focuses on gender issues in the Ivorian education system and aims to inform policy dialogue in Côte d'Ivoire and other relevant countries. To access the full research documents, including the report analysing the factors influencing school performance in Côte d'Ivoire and the tables illustrating the results described above, please see [here](#).

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For every child, answers



From Member Organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN REPORT ON COP27,
held at Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, November, 2022.
Report by Wendy Rainbird, ICW Habitat Adviser.

Filling an empty bucket? Compensating for Loss and Damage.

At the Conference of Parties 27, COP27, held in November, 2022 in Egypt, it was hoped that there would be compensation for loss and damage provided to developing, and often low-emitting countries, by the developed countries that have benefitted financially and economically from the power generated by burning coal, oil and gas over many years.

As we know burning fossil fuels has led to increases in carbon dioxide and methane gasses that have a greenhouse effect. This causes temperatures to rise. With warmer land and oceans more water is evaporated and is a major cause of increases in severe storms, flash flooding or massive flooding as in Pakistan and Australia recently. Plus other effects. There is a rising frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

In an IPCC Working Group Report, it was assessed that:

1. Losses and damages are already being experienced: Existing global warming of 1.1°C has already caused dangerous and widespread losses and damages, led to disruptions in nature as well as affected the lives of billions of people, despite people's efforts to adapt.
2. Future losses and damages will rise with increased global warming: With increasing global warming, losses and damages increase and become increasingly difficult to avoid, while strongly concentrated among the poorest vulnerable populations.
3. Losses and damages are unavoidable and are unequally distributed: Adaptation cannot prevent all losses and damages. Losses and damages are disproportionately experienced by developing countries and by vulnerable groups, such as people of low socio-economic class, migrant groups, the elderly, women and children.
4. Losses and damages are not comprehensively addressed by current financial, governance and institutional arrangements: Particularly in vulnerable developing countries, existing international, national and sub-national approaches to address loss and damage are insufficient. (Ref. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/adelle-thomas-loss-and-damage>)

"The insights document, compiled by the *Climate Research Programme* and supported by UN Climate Change ([UNFCCC](https://www.un.org/en/climatechange)), also highlights that **many of these consequences cannot be avoided with mere adaptation measures** and that acting swiftly to reduce emissions is a much better option." (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130422>)

"**Vulnerability hotspots cluster in 'regions at risk'**: Vulnerability hotspots – areas with the highest susceptibility to being adversely affected by climate-driven hazards – are home to 1.6 billion people, a number projected to double by 2050. The report identifies vulnerability hotspots in Central America, the Sahel, Central and East Africa, the Middle East, and across

the breadth of Asia. [People in Small Island States are experiencing serious effects on their habitats already. WR]

“New threats on the horizon from climate–health interactions: Climate change is adversely impacting the health of humans, animals and entire ecosystems. Heat-related mortality, wildfires affecting our physical and mental health, and growing risks of outbreaks of infectious diseases are all linked to climate change.

There will be more displacement of people, and more migration.

“Private sustainable finance practices are failing to catalyse deep transitions: “Sustainable finance” practices in the private sector are not yet catalysing the profound economic transformations needed to meet climate targets. This reflects the fact that these are mostly designed to fit into the financial sector’s existing business models, rather than to substantially shift the allocation of capital towards meaningful mitigation.”

“Loss and Damage – the urgent planetary imperative: Losses and damages are already widespread and will increase significantly on current trajectories, making it imperative to advance a coordinated global policy response. Deep and swift mitigation and effective adaptation are necessary to avert and minimise future economic and non-economic losses and damages.

“Inclusive decision-making for climate-resilient development: Decentring and coordinating decision-making across scales and contexts, while prioritising empowerment of a broad range of stakeholders, are key ways for climate action to be more effective, sustainable and just, as well as necessarily more reflective of local needs, worldviews and experiences.” (Ref. <https://10insightsclimate.science>)

At COP27, it took persistence and extra time to pass the agenda item on Loss and Damage eventually announcing that: COP27

1. *“Acknowledges* the urgent and immediate need for new, additional, predictable and adequate financial resources to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, especially in the context of ongoing and ex post (including rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction) action;

2. *Decides* to establish new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries in responding to loss and damage, including a focus on addressing loss and damage by providing and assisting in mobilizing new and additional resources, and that these new arrangements complement the existing arrangements for financial support from other sources, funds, processes and initiatives, including outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement; **“(COP agenda item 8(f) / CMA agenda item 8(f)**

Matters relating to funding arrangements responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage. Version 19/11/2022.)

In the document there were decisions about having workshops in 2023 on how to fund for loss and damage. (p3 op cit).

So, at COP27, there was no progress on lessening greenhouse gas emissions, with no follow through on phasing down of coal nor to phase out all fossil fuels, which are the actions needed to mitigate climate change.

“Public mobilisation and activism, market forces, aid and development programs, and legislation at local, state and national levels are all important sites of climate politics – and potentially, significant change.” (Ref. M.McDonald, <https://theconversation.com/cop27-one-big-breakthrough-but-ultimately-an-inadequate-response-to-the-climate-crisis.20/11/22>)

ICW has been calling for activism, and we should be ready to influence decision makers, and be the decision makers so as to reduce the damaging effects of climate change on our communities around the World.

ICW members should be asking for funding to help the most vulnerable.

That is why my heading is “Filling an Empty Bucket?”

Report summary child and family

Loreta Kelbauskaitė – Serpyte, Child and family advisor, ICW

2022 - 2023 has seen both progress and challenges concerning families and children worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts have created additional hurdles, but governments and organizations have worked to ensure the well-being of families and children.

A global crisis in social, health care, economic, political, and cultural aspects has been felt as a cause of pandemics that has affected families. Poverty has increased, human aggression has grown, and wars have led to large refugee flows. The Russia-Ukraine war alone has displaced millions of people, including women and children who endure violence and trauma. Children have faced school closures, limited social interaction, and disruptions in learning, affecting their mental health. These social problems have negative consequences and impact children's socialization and the stability of society.

Family problems are prevalent worldwide, with issues such as poverty, violence, and mental health affecting family dynamics. Additionally, discussions about the definition of a modern family, including same-sex families and their right to adopt children, are ongoing and can create conflicts within societies. The evolving nature of family structures, such as single-parent households and same-sex parents, is being increasingly accepted in societies worldwide. Efforts are being made to ensure equal rights and support for these families.

Women continue to face discrimination and inequality, with limited access to education, healthcare, economic participation, and leadership positions. Furthermore, the pandemic has exacerbated existing gender inequalities in unpaid care work, with women shouldering a greater burden.

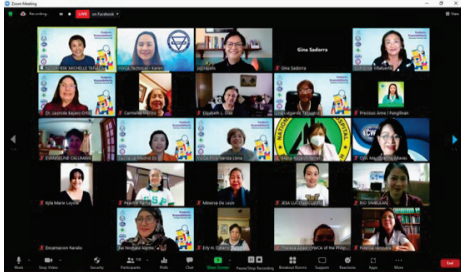
Women's rights remain a complex issue globally. While there have been gains in some countries, there are still significant challenges, including gender-based violence, discrimination, and restrictive laws on reproductive rights. On the other hand, women's rights activists have been advocating for change through protests and activism. The right to abortion is a fundamental women's right (as illustrated in the *resolution Abortion, a Fragile Right passed* at the ICW-CIF General Assembly May 2022), but it still faces restrictions in many countries. Many women's rights were taken away or threatened in 2022, especially in countries like Afghanistan, Iran, and the US.

Child labor, child abuse, and child marriage persist as global concerns. Sub-Saharan Africa has the most child laborers - 86.6 million. Family poverty and lack of schools are two major reasons children in low-income countries are in the labor force. The pandemic has exacerbated child labor cases, as families struggle financially. Efforts to increase awareness, strengthen child protection laws, and provide support to victims and their families continue. Child marriage remains prevalent, with millions of girls married before the age of 18 each year (particularly in African countries). Governments and organizations strive to combat child marriage through legal measures and penalties.

Highlights from National Councils:

National Council of Women of the Philippines in partnership with the Young Women's Christian association (YWCA) launched webinar programs for women, family, and girl-child on topics

“Responsible Dad“, „Internet addiction“, „Menopause VS MenOppose“. 911 participants were trained on the topics.



Israel NC reported that in the little town of Pardes Hanna-Karkur (slightly less than 50,000 adults), the present thinking of the social services is that children of families in conflict suffer greatly. The girls go on to suffer from violent men partners, and the boys turn into violent partners. Because of this, there is a program established to address the emotional well-being of children when their parents are being treated.

Lithuanian Women Society (LWS) has been continuing its work with Ukrainian women refugees-integrate into the labor market, reduce their social isolation, provide psychological support, encourage positive thinking, and boost their self-confidence. LWS has also held a conference „Crises, Fairs and management“ and „Women empowerment“.



In conclusion, issues such as women's reproductive rights, child labor, child abuse, child marriage and massive refugee flows require sustained efforts to address and protect the rights and well-being of women and children globally.

ICW-CIF standing committees' plans of action for child and family for national councils should be continued to be followed to make a difference:

- *Improve the well-being of children and their families including health, housing, and education.*
- *Protect the girl from all forms of discrimination and violence including child marriage and treatment of young widows.*
- *Protect children from all forms of abuse, including that via the internet, to ensure a safe and secure environment.*
- *Foster positive parenting.*



MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

Make Young Mothers Count

Make Mothers Matter partnered with [Life Project 4 Youth \(LP4Y\)](#) on their 1st Youth Inclusion International Forum held on 18 and 19 October 2023 in New York, to address the topic of young mothers and how their societal inclusion must be a priority.

Our session, *Make Young Mothers Count*, brought together some of our grassroots members from around the world to provide insights into their work for young mothers. Our session's main objective was to show through concrete examples how young mothers, especially young lone mothers, are all too often excluded from society and the economy, and how their inclusion is possible and can be a trigger for positive change.

Through prerecorded videos, our members demonstrated how around the world, teenage girls or very young women have to deal with situations of giving birth to children who were not necessarily planned, and/or with partners who have shirked their responsibilities. Sometimes, their pregnancy is even the result of rape. They then become young lone mothers, a status that all too often makes them outcasts in their own community and society.

In addition to stigmatization and exclusion from society, the challenges of raising children alone and the barriers to accessing decent work, lead to young lone mothers and their children being all too often over-represented among the poorest, with dire consequences for their children's future.

Our member associations have implemented programmes and solutions to support these young mothers, which may be considered as examples of best practices and transposed to other places and/or scaled up.

Their actions demonstrate that when these mothers are taken into account and receive adequate support, they represent an important economic force for development, including that of their children and their community – a fact which is at the heart of MMM's international advocacy work.

Read more and watch the videos from La Maison de Tom Pouce (France), Mothers Matter Centre (Canada), Ahddane (Morocco), Glow Movement (South Africa), Passion to Share (Kenya) and HAD/En avant les enfants (DRC) here: [Our members highlight why and how young mothers must be counted](#)

MMM @ the 54th Session of the Human Rights Council (September 2023)

First Ever Human Rights Resolution on Care

The 54th session of the Human Rights Council saw the adoption – by consensus, without a vote – of a landmark resolution on the **“Centrality of care and support from a human rights perspective”**. Presented by the governments of Argentina, Iceland, Mexico and Spain, with 27 additional co-sponsors from Europe and Latin America joining the core group in the course of the negotiations, the resolution puts the issue of care on the agenda of the Human Rights Council.

Notably, the resolution recognizes that “an equal and fair distribution of care is a prerequisite to ensuring that women fully enjoy, on an equal basis, economic, social and cultural rights, [...] and civil and political rights”. It makes it clear that women's rights and gender equality will not be realized if the issue of the inequitable distribution of unpaid care work is not addressed.

It also stresses the importance of redistributing care responsibilities, not only within families, but also “among families, communities, the private sector and States”, something that MMM has long been advocating for, de facto establishing the principle of co-responsibility.



MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

But this comprehensive resolution goes much further. In addition to its title which is explicit on the “centrality of care and support from a human rights perspective”, its contents show how care connects to most, if not all human rights – and that it is not only about women.

In other words, care is framed as a cross-cutting issue, not just a women’s issue, and something that concerns us all as both care recipients and caregivers, and that must be addressed by governments – a view that MMM very much supports.

The resolution A/HRC/RES/54/6 is available on the [OHCHR website](#).

Make Mothers Matter’s Statements

- Following the presentation of the OHCHR report on its vision on economic, social and cultural rights, MMM highlighted the centrality of care to the realization of these rights, in particular the unpaid care work of mothers. MMM also called for the recognition, support and fairer distribution of this work.
Read the full statement here: [Care central to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights](#)
- MMM expressed its support regarding OHCHR’s views and recommendations in the report on the rights of the child and inclusive social protection, which was presented to the Council. MMM’s statement stressed in particular the importance of strong parental support, paid maternity and parental leaves, parenting education and comprehensive childcare policies.
Read the full statement here: [Universal social protection a must for parents, children and the future](#)
- One in three children are affected by cyberbullying, a scourge that negatively affects their mental, physical and emotional well-being, their health, their education, and that threatens their future or even their lives. Speaking at an HRC Panel which brought together different stakeholders to discuss possible actions, MMM emphasized the need for parental involvement in the fight against this growing phenomenon, in particular with regard to its prevention.
Read the full statement here: [Parents key allies in the fight against child cyberbullying](#)

Women as Carers, Workers & Changemakers: Challenges & Opportunities at the Intersection of the Care Economy, Early Childhood & the Future of Work

Organized by the Harvard Kennedy School Women’s Network, the event looked at the current state of the care economy, the science behind early childhood and the challenges and opportunities in balancing the success and well-being of those who give care and those in need of care.

In its presentation, MMM gave a global perspective of mothers around the world and highlighted their contribution to global development.

Read a summary of the event and watch its recording [here](#).



MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

Call to Action: Make 2024 the EU Year for Women's Mental Health

In June this year, the European Commission announced a new high-priority initiative to address the mental health of all Europeans.

It focuses on mental health promotion, prevention, and early intervention, as well as the recognition that mental health is about more than just health (i.e., it's important to also address the various social determinants). This came in response to new reports that say **mental health problems now affect an estimated 84 million people (1 in 6) in the EU**, and that the related societal and financial implications are substantial, amassing to about 600 billion euros.

While Make Mothers Matter (MMM) welcomes this progress, **it calls on the EU Commission to take it a step further and specifically include how this relates to women and mothers – society's primary carers and key levers for change in our communities**. There are often differences between women's both physical and mental health compared to men's, and as such, women's health needs a more tailored, patient-centred approach. That being said, women's health is, in general, very under-researched in both the medical and public health fields, as women have historically been excluded as study participants. This is especially true of women who bear the additional weight of other forms of inequity, based on, for example, race/ethnicity or socioeconomic status. What we do know is that if women choose to become a mother, women's mental health, as important as it is on its own, also lays the foundation for birth outcomes, healthy child development, positive family dynamics, and ultimately, happier and healthier communities for us all. In fact, according to **UNICEF, the first 1,000 days of a baby's life** are the **critical window for giving them the greatest chance to both survive and thrive**. And those 1,000 days start even at the beginning of pregnancy and continue to the baby's second birthday. This period is a unique opportunity, especially for intervention, where the foundations for optimum health and development across the lifespan are established.

Unfortunately, even in the EU, maternal mental health is largely neglected in child health programmes, and for no clear reason.

The importance of working on changing this, and why we should all care and be inclined to act, cannot be understated.

Quick facts:

- **1 in 5 women** has a diagnosed mental health condition, compared to **1 in 8 men**.
- **47% of women are considered at high risk** of developing symptoms of a mental health condition; this increases significantly during and after pregnancy.
- Women often report **putting others' needs before** theirs, including being a primary or sole caregiver, as their number-one care responsibility.
- While maternal mental health can affect women of all backgrounds, those who are of **racial-ethnic minorities or have low socioeconomic status are at greater risk**; they are also less likely to have access to quality care.
- **Stigma** was the most reported barrier to women's health-seeking process, including that they would be seen as a "bad mother".

Maternal mental health is usually defined as the mental health of a woman during pregnancy, childbirth, and the first year after delivery. While having a baby is a big life-changing event and it is normal to feel



MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

overwhelmed and anxious at times, more chronic mental health conditions, sometimes requiring intervention, are **not openly talked about enough**. As a result, many new mothers report feeling like there is little support to be had and that the load is too heavy to carry by themselves. According to the **World Health Organization, 10% of pregnant women globally, and 13% of women who have just given birth will experience poor mental health, most commonly a mood disorder such as post-partum depression**. This can have long-lasting effects and cause a multitude of problems, affecting a mother's ability to parent her child(ren) or even to take care of herself, for example. **Infants are highly sensitive to their environment and the mother-infant attachment**, and so those who are raised by a struggling mother are also at greater risk of mental health conditions as they get older; it becomes **cyclical, getting passed down from generation to generation**.

Recommendations

Based on existing research, **a more proactive, inclusive, life-course perspective needs to be taken, caring for a woman during all different chapters in her life and making dedicated care more accessible and of greater quality**. Even so, each woman will require or want different types of care, and these need to be made freely available, too: she needs to be empowered to make choices that are best for her and to be supported in those decisions. This also includes strengthening the mental health component in the training of all care providers, and their gender-specific and cultural competencies.

MMM therefore calls on the EU to make 2024 the year of women's mental health.

Maternal mental health matters. What we are currently doing is simply not enough nor acceptable. We must all work together as powerful advocates: happier and healthier mothers mean happier and healthier communities for us all.

Access the full statement [here](#).

Breaking the Silence on Maternal Mental Health

Make Mothers Matter launched a new [video series on Maternal Mental Health](#), addressing all mothers, their families and society in general. The series aims at bringing the latest research on this field in order to inform and support mothers and raise awareness of this important topic – because a mother's mental health during the peripartum period is as important as her physical health.

In this first series, MMM discusses the following topics with Prof. Ana Ganho Ávila, a clinical psychologist and researcher at the University of Coimbra, Portugal:

- Episode 1: Why maternal mental health?

Prof. Ganho Ávila stresses the critical need to start a dialogue around mothers, their families, and communities at large and explains how mental health came to be so important to her.

- Episode 2: Research and new guidelines for PPD

Prof. Ana Ganho Ávila talks about her specific research interest and endeavours relating to maternal mental health. Alarmed by a lack of resources for healthcare providers to detect and understand different clinical indicators for peripartum depression (PPD), Prof. Ganho Ávila has been working on developing EU-wide guidelines for diagnosing and treating PPD in clinical practice as part of an EU research project, of which Make Mothers Matter is a partner. You can find the newly published guidelines [here](#).



MMM ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MOTHERS' ROLE AND RIGHTS

- **Title: Episode 3: 5 things to know about maternal mental health**

Prof. Ganho Ávila presents 5 points about maternal mental health. The key message is: You are not alone and there is help out there. In fact, an estimated 10–20% of new mothers experience poor maternal mental health and 4–10% of new fathers, highlighting its worrying impact on society.

- **Title: Episode 4: Call on policymakers**

Organizations like MMM work to support and empower mothers by influencing policies to bring about positive change. Prof. Ganho Ávila lays out actionable steps policymakers, specifically in the European context, need to take to better address maternal mental health as well as more general issues affecting mothers. The responsibility is on all of us to help push the policy agenda forward and demand change.

- **Title: Episode 5: How to support the mothers in our lives**

Prof. Ganho Ávila offers advice on how all of us can, and have a responsibility to, better understand maternal mental health, the common challenges of being a new mom, and to create more supportive environments for talking about it. It takes a village to raise a child and we can be part of that by unconditionally supporting mothers, be that ourselves (in practising self-care) or others.

- **Title: Episode 6: Advice to new parents**

Prof. Ganho Ávila addresses new mothers and fathers on what they should know, as they plan for a pregnancy and beyond.

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

Recent & Upcoming Events

2023

December

11.-12.: ICFL 2023: 17. International Conference on Family Law (London, United Kingdom)

<https://waset.org/family-law-conference-in-december-2023-in-london>

2024

January

15.-16.: ICFEFP 2024: 18. International Conference on Family Economics and Family Policy (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

<https://waset.org/family-economics-and-family-policy-conference-in-january-2024-in-amsterdam>

15.-16.: ICFLPP 2024: 18. International Conference on Family Law, Policy and Practice (Montevideo, Uruguay)

<https://waset.org/family-law-policy-and-practice-conference-in-january-2024-in-montevideo>

February

12.-13.: ICBCF 2024: 18. International Conference on Bullying, Cyberbullying and Family (Bogota, Colombia)

<https://waset.org/bullying-cyberbullying-and-family-conference-in-february-2024-in-bogota>

19.-20.: ICFB 2024: 18. International Conference on Families in Business (Paris, France)

<https://waset.org/families-in-business-conference-in-february-2024-in-paris>

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