

**The Family and the MDGs**  
**Using Family Capital to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals**

**Chapters:**

What is Family Capital? Susan Roylance

The Family, E. Douglas Clark, J.D.

MDG 1 – Overcoming Poverty and Hunger, Jastus Suchi Obadiah

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MDG 4 – Child Mortality, Robert B. Clark, MD, MPH

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## **The Family**

*“It is no exaggeration to say that in the Universal Declaration the family is at the very center of rights. The family is fundamental because, among other things, it is the seedbed of all the other rights delineated in the Universal Declaration. To make the world new following the devastation of the most destructive war in history, the UN built its structure of universal human rights squarely on the foundation of the family.”*

—*E. Douglas Clark, J.D.*

### **Outline of chapter on “The Family”**

The Family in the Universal Declaration

A banner to be remembered and understood

The position of family in the Universal Declaration

The flexible family provision

“Distilled from the Entire Course of Human History”

The illustrious ancients

Constitutional expressions of family [many countries]

The family in times of trouble

The MDGs and Family Events During the 10TH Anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals

UN celebration of the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The Plan of Action on the Family in Africa

The Doha Conference on the Family and the Doha Declaration

Moving Forward with Family-Centered Development

Breaking the march of folly

“First, do no harm”

Second, provide the widest possible protection and assistance to the family

Third, place the family squarely at the center of development

*The author:*

E. Douglas Clark, J.D., is an attorney and the Director of UN Affairs for the World Congress of Families sponsored by the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society. Since 2001, Doug has been on the forefront of defending the family at the United Nations where he has played a key role as a lobbyist and consultant, helping to formulate strategy and providing legal advice in pivotal negotiations. He earned MBA and law degrees from Brigham Young University, and his legal career has included serving as Director of Content for the original Law.com website. Doug is also an avid student of religion and history, focusing on Islamic, Judaic, and Christian traditions about Abraham and retracing his route through the Middle East.

## **MDG 1 – Overcoming Poverty and Hunger**

*“As the international community reaches a hand down to lift up the impoverished people of the world, we must not forget that achieving true human development means freeing people from obstacles that affect their ability to develop their own lives and communities. Development, therefore, is empowerment: it is about local people taking control of their own lives, expressing their own concerns and finding their own solutions to their problems. As we empower families with additional resources and education to break through the poverty barrier, we lift generations to come.”*

—*Jastus Suchi Obadiah*

### **Outline of chapter for MDG 1 – Overcoming Poverty and Hunger**

- What exactly is poverty?
- What is the role of family in poverty eradication?
- How does a positive mindset help the family succeed?
- Family-oriented anti-poverty strategies
- Gender equality and men and women working together
- People's participation
- Cultural and social structures
- Cultural practices that hinder poverty elimination
- Learning from the past
- Rural industrialization
- The role of religious institutions in eradicating poverty
- Sustainable communities
- Fighting family poverty through poultry farming
- How the poor perceive poverty alleviation mechanisms
- Extension education and agro-activities in rural areas
- Appropriate technology development
- Infrastructure development
- Overcoming Poverty through Cooperatives & Community Development Centers
  - Agriculture exports
  - Micro-credit
  - Family-based orphan care
  - Education
  - Agriculture training and support
  - Marketing cooperatives
  - Processing, packing and manufacturing
  - Providing agriculture supplies
  - Safe drinking water and sanitation
  - Micro-franchise development

#### *The author:*

Jastus Suchi Obadiah is a Luyia native of Kenya. He is currently employed as the East African Supervisor for Reach the Children and is a consultant with other NGOs on development related issues. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Community Development from Daystar University in Nairobi and specialized in Rural Development. This chapter is written from the perspective of a native African who has worked as a director of community development projects

in Africa for eight years.

## **MDG 2 – Achieving Universal Primary Education**

*“The importance of the family’s role in a child’s education cannot be overestimated. The only way that the world will see the successful achievement of ‘a primary education for every child as a minimum for all countries,’ is when parents and families participate fully to support their children’s education and when governments and educators support the family unit. There is no substitute for the participation and support of families in the education of children. No government agency, no child’s advocate group and no body of educators can take the place of a supportive family environment and proactive parental and familial caregiver participation in the educational welfare of a child.”*

—Mary M. Harris

### **Outline of chapter for MDG 2 – Universal Primary Education**

- Parental involvement at a glance
- Parents, caregivers and the community work together for the good of the children
- More education for parents
- Creating a stress-free learning environment
- Storytelling and reading to children
- Keeping girls in school
- Feeding children helps them to learn
- Making micro-enterprise work to educate children
- Quenching a child’s thirst for education
  - Clean Water
- A healthy child can learn
- How can schools help parents become engaged in their children’s education?
- Epstein's Six Types of Parental Involvement (to be encouraged by the schools)

#### *The authors:*

Mary M. Harris: Executive Director of Reach the Children, Inc. and Bountiful Resources Foundation – two sister organizations dedicated to helping underprivileged children. Reach the Children has facilitated numerous education programs and projects since its beginnings in 1998. Mary utilized the input from five African associates in writing this chapter. They are: Lilian Odiero, Administrative Director for Inside Out Learning Education Program Kenya; Evelyn Jepkemei, Senior Assistant Director, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Kenya Institute of Education; Eric Onyango, RTC Project Reporter; Frederick Ashira, RTC Project Reporter; Moses Musasia, RTC Project Reporter.

### **MDG 3 – Gender Equality**

*“Focusing on the family helps us to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment. When we recognize the importance of family for society’s survival and well-being, we gain perspective and appreciation for the gender differences and the essential, unique capacities women have as mothers and wives. Research repeatedly confirms that a married partnerships of complementarity between mothers and fathers is best for women and children. Such a union of reciprocating respect creates the healthiest and happiest marriages. Within such a marriage women are more likely to fulfill their potential as relationship builders and nurturers as wives and mothers – deeply enriching the whole family. Male-female complementarity within the family is the model for the world and teaches all humanity the value of each gender.”*

—Lynn R. Walsh, MSW

### **Outline of Chapter for MDG 3 – Gender Equality**

Progress toward gender equality

MDG Targets: education, literacy, leadership and employment

Examine the basic assumptions

The natural capacities of women

Ending discrimination and abuse

The family as an agent of change

Male and female strengths

Complementary gender characteristics

A better world for all

What relationships promote women equality, empowerment and well-being?

What’s marriage got to do with it?

Men and familial responsibilities

Equality in the home

Education of mothers and daughters

Feminization of poverty

Education and divorce

Marriage: Reducing domestic violence and improving mental health

Education: Reducing HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancies and  
improving relationships

Educating adolescent feminine power

Motherhood

Family capital multiplies family capital

#### *The author:*

Lynn R. Walsh, MSW, teaches gender role dynamics, the family in transition, marriage education training and other courses on parenting, marriage and family as an adjunct faculty member at both the University of Bridgeport and Mercy College (New York). She is on the Executive Board for the NGO Committee on the Family at the UN in New York City.

## **MDG 4 – Reduce Child Mortality**

*“Children are always part of a social unit and are primarily cared for in family units that include mothers and fathers. The most successful strategies for improving child and newborn health outcomes focus on the family, leveraging the resources already extant. Family-focused healthcare leads to sustainable improvements in health outcomes. The purpose of this chapter is to illustrate some of the successful approaches to reducing child and newborn mortality and morbidity, including family-centered approaches.”*

—Robert B. Clark, MD, MPH

### **Outline of Chapter for MDG 4 – Reduce Child Mortality**

The Role of the Family in Improving Child and Newborn Health

Beyond child survival

Child Health

Reducing child death and illness from diarrhea

The continuous threat of pneumonia

Injuries in young children

Measles still kills children

Other causes of childhood death and illness

Key interventions and their applications

Family and Community Care

Newborn Health

Resuscitation – a healthy start

Resuscitation training session with healthcare professionals

Breastfeeding – Averting newborn disease

Kangaroo Mother Care – keeping babies warm and safe

Corticosteroids – preventing the complications of preterm birth

Immunization of mothers – building newborn resistance

Newborn pneumonia – utilizing community resources

Summary: Child and Newborn Survival

*The author:*

Robert B. Clark, MD, MPH, is a family physician in Payson, Utah. As a volunteer with LDS Charities, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other organizations, he has organized maternal and newborn training programs in Asia. His primary focus for the past 20 years has been scaling-up neonatal resuscitation training in China and south Asia.

## **MDG 5 – Maternal Health**

*“From becoming better informed about maternal health in general, to literal assistance to a woman who is hemorrhaging after giving birth, there is a human resource that this chapter asserts is not being adequately utilized, that can dramatically change the life or death outcomes of a childbearing woman: the family. This is an invitation for political figures, donors and others who are invested in the cause of saving women’s lives, to come together and promote programs that educate and empower the family – to make a difference in reducing maternal mortality and achieve MDG 5 as designed.”*

*—Renaë Morgan*

## **Outline of Chapter for MDG 5 – Maternal Health**

Building on a strong foundation

Maternal mortality data collection

Holding family responsible – Iran

Health center delivery incentives

Main problems of maternal mortality

1. Hemorrhaging
2. Infections
3. High blood pressure
4. Obstructed labour

Equality and Education

Educating boys – fathers

Utilize currently available human resources

Governments and families working together

Continued and increased success in reducing maternal mortality required

### *The author:*

Renaë Morgan is a Masters of Public Health student at Brigham Young University. She is studying Maternal and Child Health, particularly nutrition and its importance for healthy pregnancy and delivery. Renaë received her Bachelor of Science degree from New York University and has worked the past three years at Latter-day Saint Humanitarian Services with their Neonatal Resuscitation Program.



## **MDG 6 – Combating HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases**

*“Those who take family life seriously are our greatest allies in the fight against AIDS.... Those voluntary organizations, including religious ones, who teach abstinence and family commitment, should be encouraged, not criticized.... Moral commitments to family life are fundamental.”*

*—Terrance D. Olson, Ph.D.*

### **Outline of Chapter for MDG 6 – Combating HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases**

- HIV/AIDS & Other STDs: Philosophical and practical starting points of prevention
  - AIDS prevention: No philosophy-free interventions are possible
  - The values, beliefs and philosophies that surround sexual practices
  - Addressing values and beliefs in prevention
  - The family as indispensable ally
  - Reconsidering and broadening our philosophy of prevention
  - Restoring and strengthening family influence
  - Reconsidering ontology: Agency and individual responsibility
    1. Show Meaning.
    2. Show a “moral way of being” as fundamental to human experience.
    3. Construct agentive possibilities.
    4. Teach principles more than rules or facts.
    5. Consider the possibility that we are relational beings.
  - Starting points of relational intervention
  - Values-based programs
  - Summary: affirming the relevance of beliefs and family in prevention
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMCTC)
  - Comprehensive PMTCT consists of a 4-pronged approach
  - Breastfeeding
  - Integration of Services
- AIDS Orphans Speak Out (Testimonies of Amelia and Luis Belchior)
- Malaria Prevention
- Tuberculosis Prevention
- Stay Alive HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Program

#### *The author:*

Terrance D. Olson earned his Ph.D. at Florida State University’s Interdivisional Program in Marriage and Family, emphasizing Theory, Therapy and Family Life Education. His work on moral agency, drawing on the work of Levinas and Warner, is applied to issues of adolescent sexuality, AIDS, marital interaction, parenting, adoption, the moral dimension of short story and film writing, and family life education. He was recently named Co-Family Life Educator of the Year by the National Council on Family Relations.

## **MDG 7 – Environmental Sustainability**

*“The family is the cornerstone of all societies. Families preserve and pass on to each succeeding generation the standards that are the foundation for the future. When parents teach their children to be responsible in taking care of the environment, the family can make a considerable contribution to the well-being of their community, nation and world.”*

### **Outline of Chapter on MDG 7 – Environmental Sustainability**

Introduction

Targets

Reverse the loss of environmental resources

Reversing the degradation of farmlands

Crucial crop residue management systems

Restore Forests and Deserts

Restore Soil Productivity

1. Implement a soil-fertility management program
2. Implement a pest-management program
3. Implement an effective residue-management system
4. Improve water resources
5. Improve irrigation systems

Agriculture Impact

Deforestation is primarily the result of agricultural expansion.

Alleviating Agricultural Poverty: a Principal Key

1. The formation of community associations
2. The adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
3. The development of farmer-friendly GLOBALGAP programs
4. Eliminate agriculture subsidies in developed countries
5. Encourage the development of efficient irrigation systems
6. Help farmers develop good credit
7. Help farmers embrace modern technology
8. Reduce unreasonable import fees

Power of the Family

*The author:*

Robert C. Roylance: As General Manager for Farm Management Company, Robert managed numerous corporate farms in over a dozen states and assisted other general managers in the UK, Mexico and Canada. After retirement he and his wife, Susan, spent the most part of four years in Kenya and Uganda targeting poverty alleviation, orphan care and HIV/AIDS prevention. He also provided agriculture consultations for farms in Egypt, Paraguay, Guatemala and Haiti. His focus was on crop production improvement, marketing, irrigation development, and manpower development. The primary objective was to generate a high return on investment.

## **MDG 8 – Global Partnerships**

*“The policies, promises and pledges pursued by the United Nations have focused more on goals and targets than people, families and integral human development. Yet the family, as the basic unit of society, is key to development. Indeed, a quiet development partnership has been formed among the families of the poor.”*

—Vincenzina Santoro

### **Outline for chapter on MDG 8 – Global Partnerships**

- Family
- Trade considerations: Open markets work best
- Trade enables access to essential pharmaceuticals
- Official Development Assistance: A crutch instead of a speed enhancer?
- Where did the money go?
- Debt relief: Cure or worse?
- Official aid and private generosity
- Foreign Direct Investment: New opportunities for employment and growth
- Emigrants’ remittances: Money for families
- Information and communication technologies: New ways of conducting business
- Landlocked and Small Island States: Why the special status?
- Leaving the LDC group: The successful case of Cape Verde
- The UN, business and partnerships
- Where is economic growth?
- The corrosion of corruption: Drawback to the elimination of poverty

#### *The author:*

Vincenzina Santoro is an international economist, consultant and former Vice President of JPMorgan and Co. She is a volunteer at the Philanthropic Advisory Service of the New York Better Business Bureau, represents the American Family Association of New York at the United Nations and writes frequently about international economic and social issues. Ms. Santoro is a native New Yorker, a graduate of Hunter College, City University of NY (BA, MA in economics) and is fluent in five languages.

