

Family Capital:

A Framework for Policy Development and Evaluation

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The 20th Anniversary of the
International Year of the Family

From 1990 thru 1994 representatives of over 20 agencies and organizations of the UN system and the NGO community

met annually to share and compare their activities, insights and plans for the International Year of the Family, focusing on

Vulnerable Families

AIDS and the Family

Policy Options for a Crisis in Family Capital



Family Capital: *It's Assets*

The 20th Anniversary of the
International year of the Family

Relationships

Forms of families:

Nuclear
Extended
Kinship
Recombinant

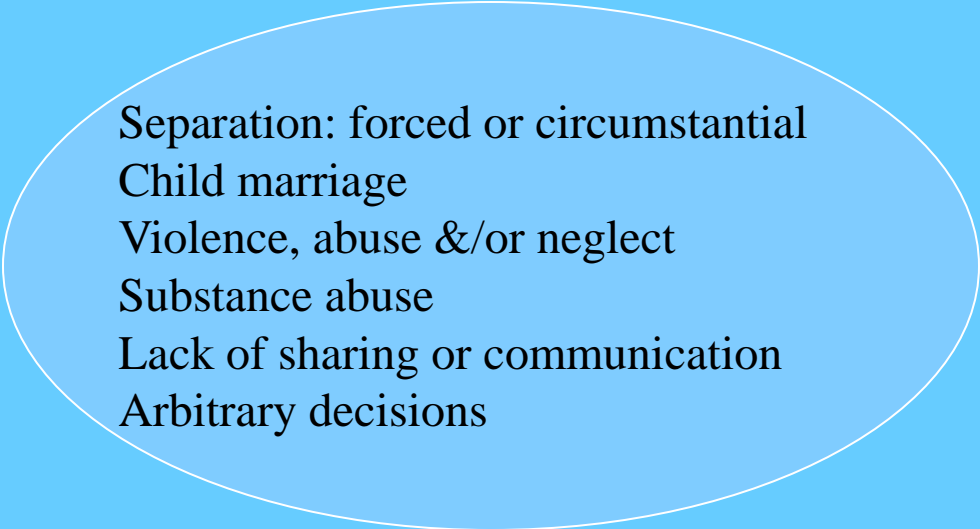
Networks
Obligations
Duties
Human Rights*
Expectations
Self-Esteem

Response:

Communication, Guidance and Defining Rights & Responsibilities

Family Capital: *Liabilities*

Impaired Relationships

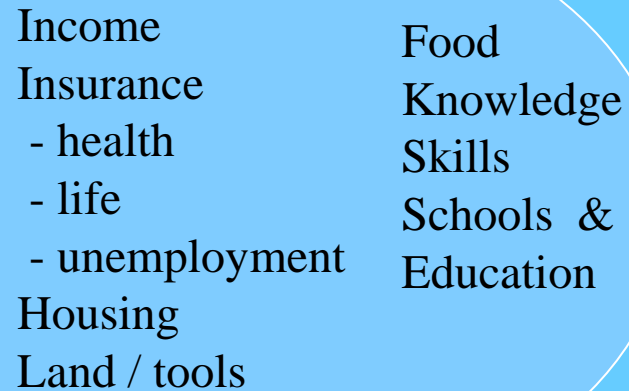


Separation: forced or circumstantial
Child marriage
Violence, abuse &/or neglect
Substance abuse
Lack of sharing or communication
Arbitrary decisions

Domestic violence legislation & enforcement based on:
a. knowledge of child & adolescent health & development
b. development & application of relevant human rights instruments

Family Capital: Its Assets

Resources



Income
Insurance
- health
- life
- unemployment
Housing
Land / tools

Food
Knowledge
Skills
Schools &
Education

Response: *Planning & managing*

Family Capital: *Liabilities*

Lack of Resources




Unemployment
Bonded labor
Debts & Usury
Environmental degradation
Gender discrimination in
education, employment & income
Food insecurity

Response: 1. *Laws, regulations & subsidies;*
2. *Investment, monitoring and evaluation*

Family Capital: Its Assets

Resilience



Family and personal security
Social capital:
Religious/moral point
of reference
Integration in community
institutions, schools
Cultural traditions/
institutions

Response: 1. *Laws, regulations & subsidies;*
2. *Investment, monitoring and evaluation*

Family Capital: Liabilities affecting

Resilience

Insecurity of family &/or its members from:

Lack of social capital

Civil, ethnic/ racial/ religious violence & conflicts

Conflict or environmentally forced migration

Family separation, particularly women & children

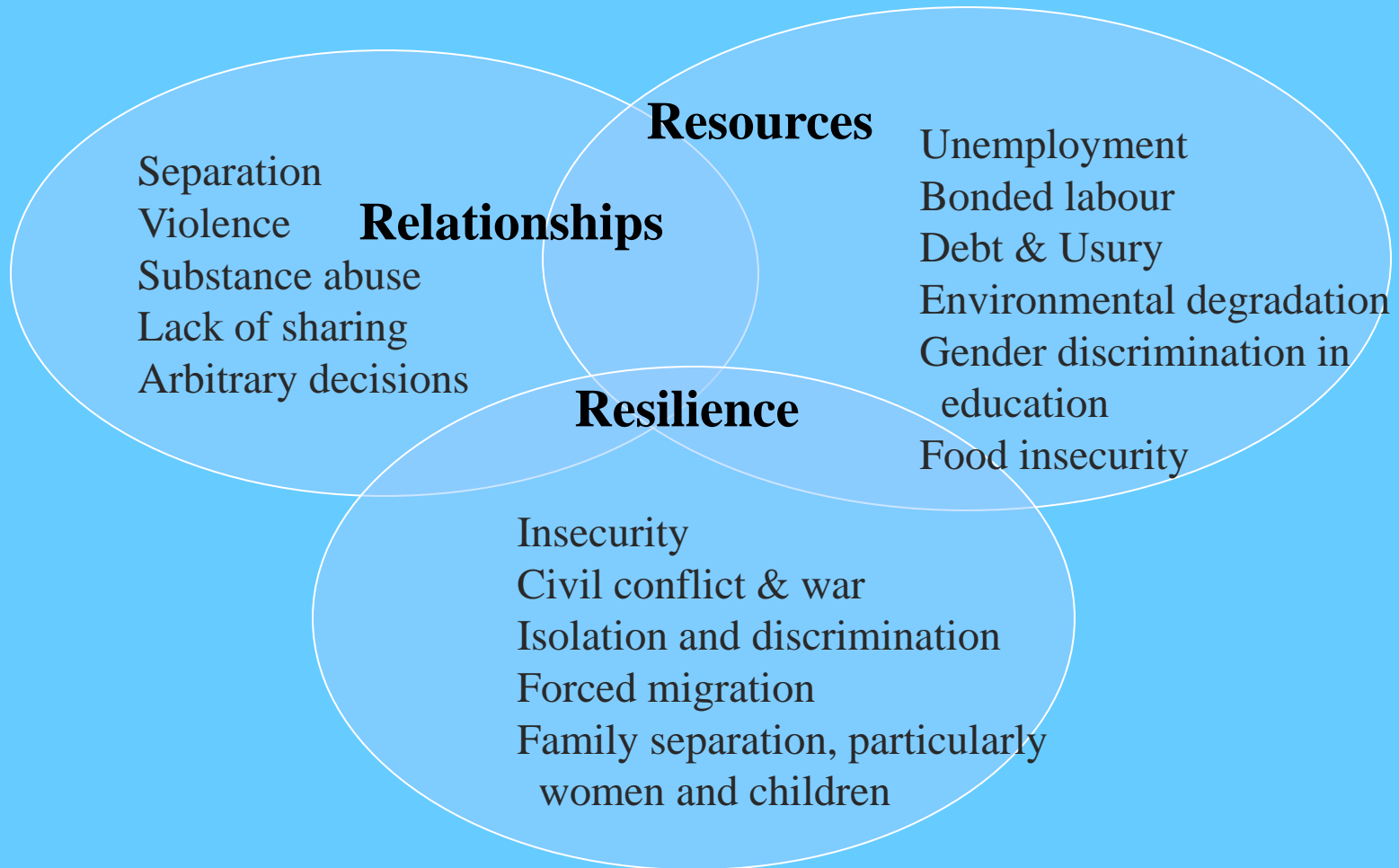
Destruction or armed occupation of cultural, educational
& religious institutions

Response:

1. Application of national & international human rights instruments & assistance;

2. Involvement of civil society in monitoring, evaluation and follow-up.

Family Capital: Its Liabilities

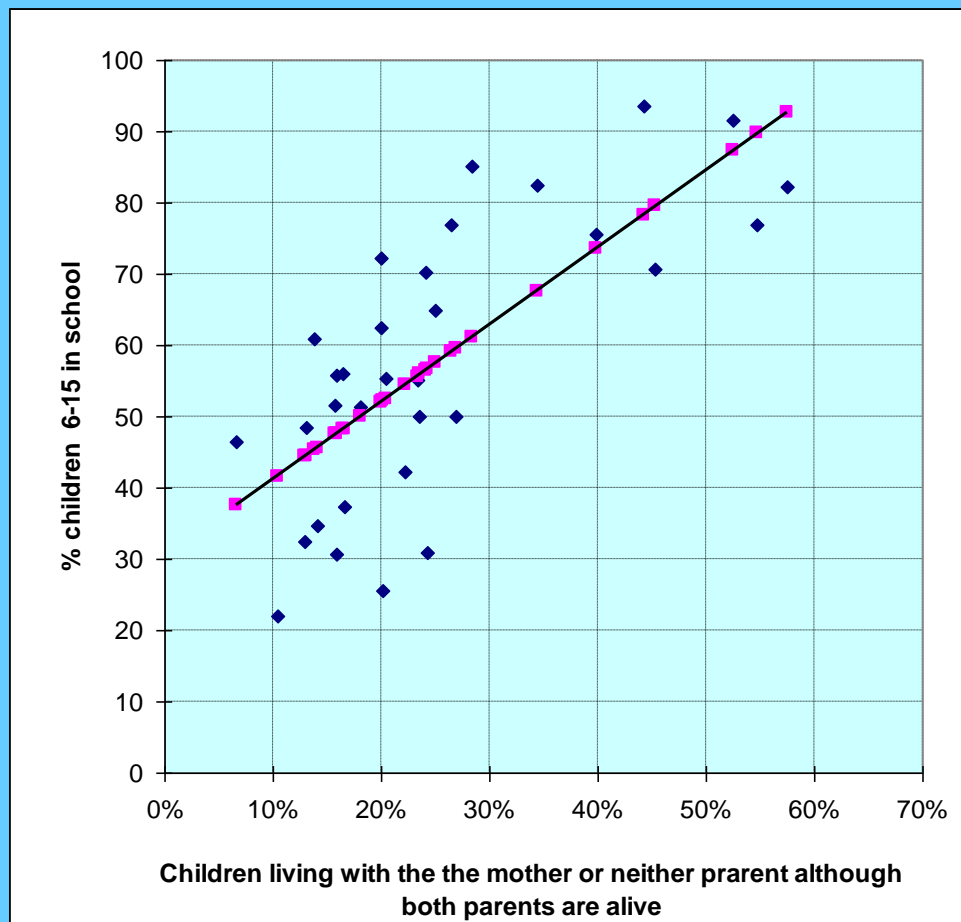


Family Capital in an African Context



Family Capital - Relationships and Resources

Living arrangements and school attendance

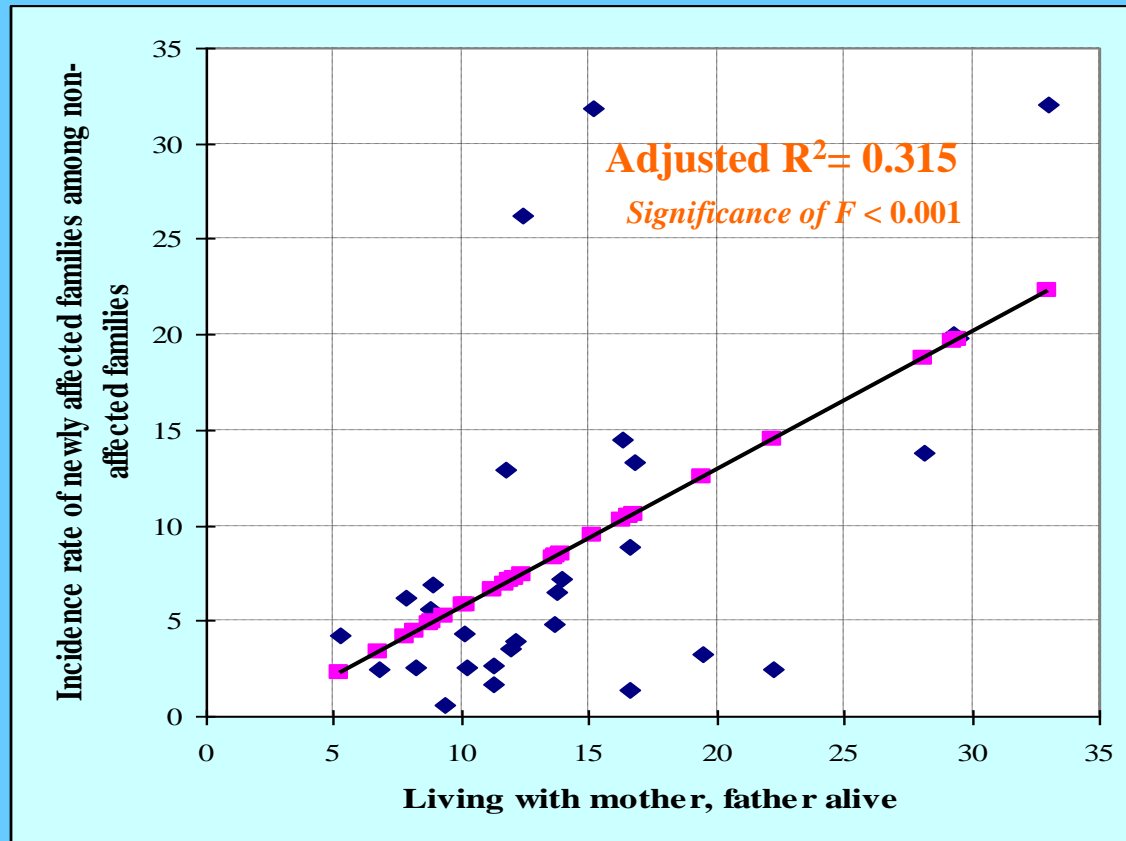


DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION FOR SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME ON THE FAMILY

This presentation reflects the views of the author and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat

**Where Has the “Family” Gone
in the International
Development Agenda?**

Incidence rate of families newly affected by HIV/AIDS and living arrangements in which children reside with the mother, and their father is alive, but absent, 29 sub-Saharan African countries, circa 2003



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The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Family Capital

Relationships

Intra-familial conflict
Rejection / Isolation
Loss of “middle” generation
Change of structure and roles
of children and adults

Resources

Loss of labour, income,
remittances, food security
and education
Increased time and costs for
medical care and funerals
Decrease in knowledge, skills
and education

Resilience

Demoralization, loss of dignity
and sense of security
Loss of social capital links
and community institutions
Discriminatory legislation
and regulations



Policy and programmes needs – An example in support of families in the context of AIDS

Relationships

Intra-familial communication
Voluntary HIV counseling & testing
Prevent intra-familial exploitation
Ensure women's equity
Community support groups for restructured families
Respite in care-giving

Resources

Delay progression of AIDS thru free or subsidized therapy
Improve working conditions and salaries of health workers
Ensure children's education

Resilience

Develop family resource and planning capacity
Community support groups for restructured families
Eliminate discriminatory legislation, regulations and harmful traditional practices



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International Human Rights Conventions Relevant to Families

- **Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Women**
- **Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers & Members of Their Families**
- **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

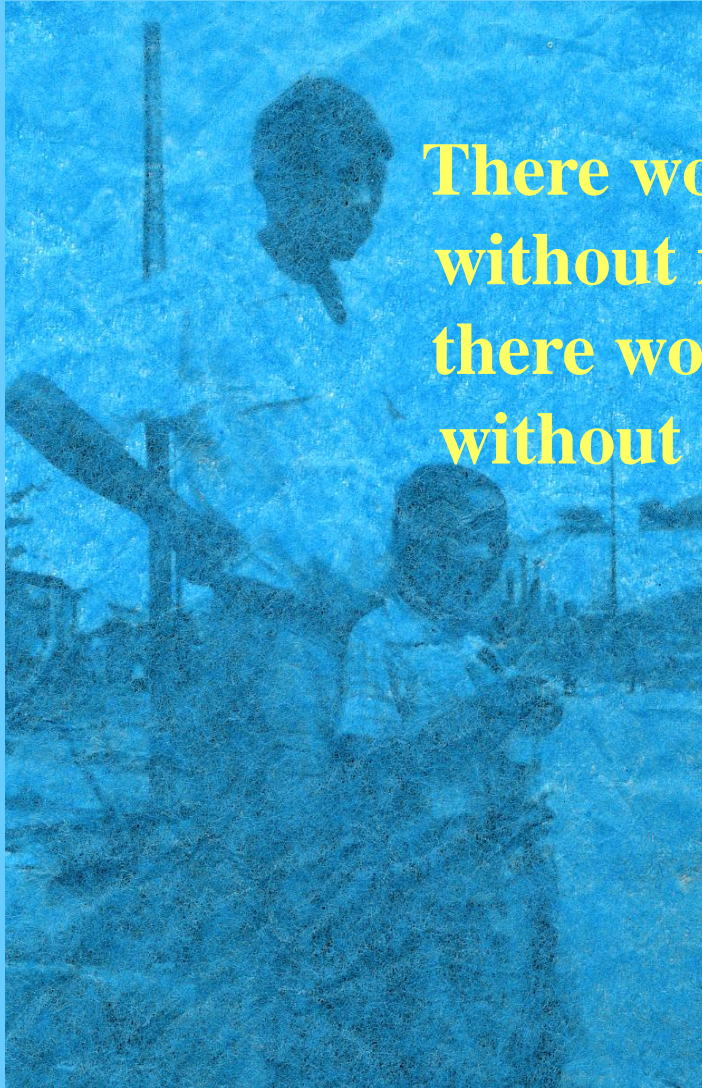


AIDS and the Family

"Families whose bonds are based on love, trust, nurturing and openness are best placed to protect their members from infection and give compassionate care and support to those affected by HIV or AIDS."

Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General World Health Organization,

World AIDS Day, December 1, 1994 and the International Year of the Family



**There would be no society
without families, but equally
there would be no families
without society.**

*Claude Levi-Strauss,
A History of the Family*