

**FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION AND
EMPOWERMENT**

Productive
work for all

**generations
united**[®]

Because we're stronger together[®]

The mission of Generations United is to improve the lives of children, youth and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs for the enduring benefit of all.

- *Confronting family poverty and social exclusion*
- *Ensuring work-family balance*
- *Advancing social integration & intergenerational solidarity within families and communities*



**Twentieth Anniversary of the
International Year of the Family, 2014**

PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

Lens for social development strategies and productive employment for all that helps to reduce family poverty and social exclusion:

- ① Promote human rights through increasing social integration, inclusion, cohesion, participation
- ② Incorporate a lifespan, family-centered and strengths-based approach
- ③ Build intergenerational solidarity

**Social
Integration**

**Social
Inclusion**

Strengthening Social Dimension
**Social conditions and factors that
shape processes of change**
**Capacity of individuals and groups to
influence change**

**Social
Cohesion**

**Social
Participation**

HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH

Poverty highest among:

- Female headed households
 - Women more likely to be unemployed, face discrimination, assume heavier load of unpaid work and family care
- Households impacted by HIV/Aids and families raising orphans
- Children
- Older persons
- Persons with disabilities

LIFESPAN PERSPECTIVE

- Importance of recognizing family needs and strengths across the lifespan
- Viewing lifespan development in context of family and community
- Effective social policy to protect well being of children and older adults



FAMILY POLICY CONTINUUM

Family Insensitive

Families not considered and possibly even harmed

Family Sensitive

Families considered in other sector policies and practices

Family focused

Families considered and accommodated in other sector policies and practices

- 1) They will not be harmed
- 2) Supports and benefits are identified and maximized

Family Supportive

Emphasizes direct and indirect impacts of policies on families. Explicit goal is to support and build capacity in families

Family Centered

Families well-being as highest priority. Policies are holistic and family centered. Families considered pivotal investment

Categorical Policies

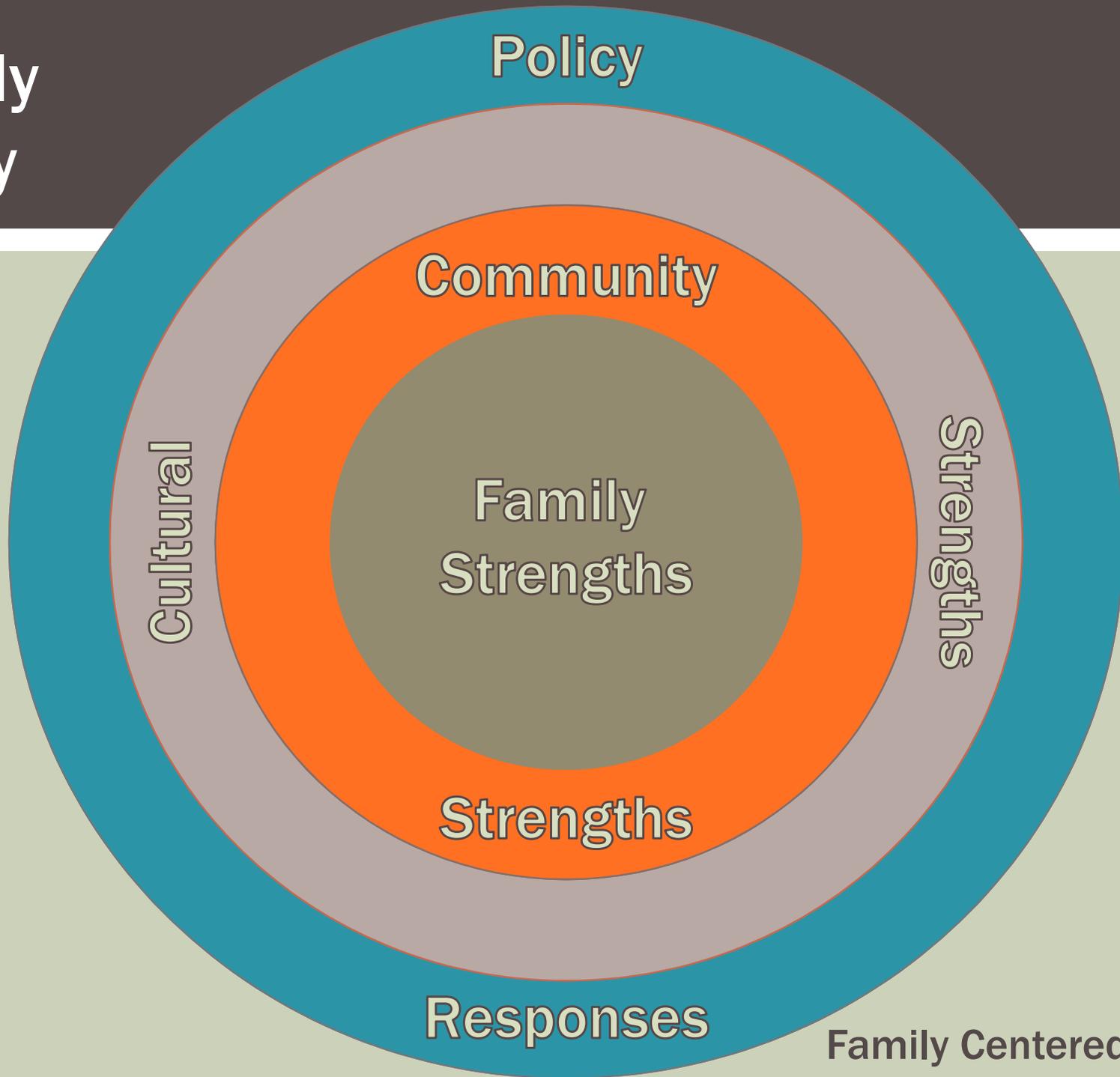
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Relational-Holistic Policies

RELATIONAL APPROACH

Aims	Support, empower and liberate all families
Role of families	Partners, coauthors
Definitional frame	Families' and professionals' views, democratized policy development
Delivery systems designs	Accommodation of diversity, Preventive and development work at the same time crises are addressed. Simultaneous attention to families and other problems, needs, sectors
Evaluative criteria, designs	Qualitative and quantitative indicators of well-being; participatory, developmental, and longitudinal methodologies
Incentives and rationale	Moral imperatives
Organizational structures	Horizontal
Political orientation	Participatory-democratic
Theory of change	Comprehensive, integrative, family-centered, and community-based
Probable outcomes	Mission and goals become more cohesive and congruent. Highest probability that family supports/services are identified and achieved.

Family Policy



Family Centered
Strengths-Based Approach

INTEGRATIVE HOLISTIC - INTERGENERATIONAL



“Real life is inter-generational. Whether we look at poverty, health, education, environmental sustainability or humanitarian crises, the picture remains the same: people of many ages interacting, contributing, demanding and requiring help of and giving help to each other.

Often we forget that ‘older’, ‘younger’ and ‘productive age’, are not separate and isolated groups, but moments in the same person’s life. In this respect, development has been very short-sighted and unable to see a person throughout their life course”.

- **Changes in families**
 - Family systems increasingly fragmented
 - Sustainable agriculture eroding
 - Urban migration
- **Work - Waged jobs on decline**
 - Decrease in formal sector jobs
 - Technology, globalization, mobility of transnational corporations
 - Indigenous agriculture, crafts, microenterprises undercut
 - Schooling isn't always translating into jobs
- **Poverty and inequality**
 - Poverty causing migration
 - Patriarchy impacts gender violence, and denies girls and women rights

MODEL INTERGENERATIONAL POLICY PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

- Actively promote innovative and proven strategies to:
 - Improve lifetime well-being for all generations.
 - Unite two or more generations
 - Support and engage every generation's ability to contribute to the well-being of their families and communities.
- Assess short-term and long-term impacts on all generations demonstrate benefits for multiple ages.

Uganda



UGANDA

**38% of people live below
international poverty line**

35,918,915 people in Uganda

62% of those under the poverty line are children

64% of those under the poverty line are older persons

Almost 11 million children <15 live below poverty line

Over 1 million people 55+ live below the poverty line

2.4 million orphans. 1.5 being raised by a grandparent.

YOUTH

- Uganda has the youngest population in the World with over 78% of the population being under 30 years of age
- Youth unemployment stands at 32.2%. Globally youth are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults.
- 47% of about 1.8 million people living with HIV/AIDS are youth and teenage pregnancy is 43%.
- Many youth feel disengaged and on the margins of society.

OLDER PERSONS

- 64% of men continue to work in formal and informal sectors and women continue subsistence farming
- Raising orphans and vulnerable children.
- Experiencing poverty, discrimination, lack of access to health care, violence and abuse.
- Experiencing economic exclusion and denied employment or access to financing.
- Low literacy rates.
- Limited access to development and participation in society due to poverty.
- Lack of social protection.

PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Mainstream concerns and voices of all ages into policy issues and capacity building, including in humanitarian and community development issues. In particular, women, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities.

- Inclusive process with voices at the table
- Strengthening capacity to influence decision making processes
- Enhancing solidarity, sense of purpose and belonging
- Building collective responses and action

Strengths Based Approach: Example

In a Life Competent society, we act from strength:

- ✓ to acknowledge that issues concern us all
- ✓ to build our common dream and overcome obstacles on the way
- ✓ to mobilize our capacities to reduce our vulnerabilities and risks
- ✓ to allow everyone to live out their full potential, and
- ✓ to learn from our experience and share it with others

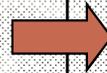
Another way of development thinking

We believe in experts abilities to provide solutions



We believe in people's capacity to respond

We are in control



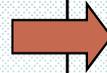
We facilitate responses

We respond to need



We reveal strengths

You have a problem



Together, we have solutions

INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY BUILDING

- Increased understanding of needs and strengths across the lifespan
- New and expanded collaborations and opportunities across age groups
- Increased opportunities to contribute and participate
- Increased connection and reduced isolation
- Increased sense of well-being
- Increased sense of collective responsibility and shared fate

HEALTH NEST

- **Vision of having empowered and pro-active community; which can effectively and efficiently respond to health related problems and other social needs**
- **When we empower the youth and older persons, the benefits will translate into support for all generations, strengthen family ties and promote intergenerational relationships.**

ENTEBBE UGANDA

Youth and older persons in Entebbe Uganda are banding together to make a difference in their communities each person asking themselves and each other:

- Who am I?
- What am I concerned about?
- What am I most proud of?
- What is our dream?

HEALTH NEST UGANDA



From mat making to mushroom growing to raising pigs to tailoring, youth and older persons have been inspired to come together and find their own innovative solutions to issues like food security and livelihood.

STRENGTHS OF YOUTH

- Youth realize how important it is for them to come together to help their families and communities move out of poverty.
- Youth realize that they must generate income to support their families and communities.
- They are encouraging fellow youth to join them to be job creators rather than job seekers.
- Together with older persons, they are raising chickens, growing mushrooms, and making candles to address important needs in the community for nourishment and light
- Youth are starting a collective revolving fund for supporting intergenerational income generating activities.

Phoebe Education Fund for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

*Facilitate care and support for
older persons/OVC households to
promote sustainable development*

- Improving access to education
- Engaging in livelihood projects
- Increasing access to credit & savings
- Providing safe housing
- Promoting health

CONNECTING GENERATIONS
IN JINGA UNGANDA

STRENGTHS OF GRANNIES



WHAT WE WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW...

- We are the ones who have the knowledge and are taking care of the orphans.
- We have knowledge and can support the country and are committed to supporting the country.
- We are the custodians of culture, we know about traditional medicines and foods and have skills in this area.
- We need to have a good health care system for the elderly
- We want the world to support us in caring for the children because we are looking after so many orphans

GRANNIES AND EMPLOYMENT

- Grannies are the backbone of agriculture. We are employed in agricultural sector and are the source of the food that people eat. It is this food that we are using to generate income.
- By grannies being involved in the agricultural sector, it is important for the government to support us because we vote for the government.
- We need to be supported in the area of marketing and production so we are able to have enough income from agricultural produce as the main source of our livelihood.
- When the government is designing programs to create employment they should think about older persons because we are still active and have responsibility for looking after for the orphans. They should plan for us and not think that we are old. They should make sure they mainstream older persons into the government agenda.

INTERGENERATIONAL LENS

“Humankind is interconnected and interdependent now and throughout time. Intergenerational policy recognizes this compact and the importance of maintaining it and honoring the strengths and abilities of each generation.”



Donna Butts