FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Productive work for all
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
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
Strengthening Social Dimension
Social conditions and factors that shape processes of change
Capacity of individuals and groups to influence change
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

Mokomane, 2014
LIFE SPAN 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Policy Continuum</th>
<th>Categorical Policies</th>
<th>Relational-Holistic Policies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Insensitive</strong></td>
<td>Families not considered and possibly even harmed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Sensitive</strong></td>
<td>Families considered in other sector policies and practices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **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 |  |
<p>| <strong>Family Supportive</strong>   | Emphasizes direct and indirect impacts of policies on families. Explicit goal is to support and build capacity in families |  |
| <strong>Family Centered</strong>     | Families well-being as highest priority. Policies are holistic and family centered. Families considered pivotal investment |  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELATIONAL APPROACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aims</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Role of families</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definitional frame</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery systems designs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluative criteria, designs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incentives and rationale</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organizational structures</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Political orientation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theory of change</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Probable outcomes</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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”.

Age International, 2014, p84
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
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

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.

CIA World Fact Book; UNICEF
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.
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.
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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You have a problem</th>
<th>We believe in experts abilities to provide solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We respond to need</td>
<td>We believe in people’s capacity to respond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are in control</td>
<td>We facilitate responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We reveal strengths</td>
<td>We respond to need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Together, we have solutions</td>
<td>You have a problem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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
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.
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?
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.
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.
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
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 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.
“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.”