

Families and education

Main messages

- To realise the very ambitious Agenda for Sustainable Development we need the engagement of families all around the world
- Families contribute to the achievement of many Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the areas of health and education
- Families are at the centre of the social life of communities around the world. They ensure the well-being of their members. They care for the young and the old
- Their important role is to educate and socialise children and youth
- Parents and sometimes grandparents are the first educators
- Early childhood education and development is vital for future prospects in life
- Supportive and stimulating family environments ensure a good start in life at an early age
- Parents and caregivers are vital to encourage, nurture and support youth's learning opportunities
- In nurturing families children and youth gain self-confidence, ambition and perseverance so vital for academic and life success
- Families have an important role to educate for peace and sustainable development as well
- They can teach tolerance and understanding
- They can encourage strong intergenerational relations and solidarity

- Families can help to make sure that future generations protect the environment and care about sustainable development
- We have high expectations of families in all these areas Families, however, may need assistance to fulfil these numerous roles
- We need good public policies to support families in the fulfilment of those expectations.
- We need policies that support parental education and life-long learning.
- We need strategies ensuring work-family balance in the workplace so that mothers and fathers can be productive employees and involved parents
- We need public policies that recognise the vital contribution of families to development and support them in fulfilling this important role
- We encourage Governments, civil society and the private sector to assist families in ensuring good education and lifelong learning opportunities for their family members