



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

October 2019; Vol. 14. No. 10

Lessons From The Field

On 24 October 2019, our initiative celebrates its **17th anniversary**. We thank our physician's board and the Board of Directors for their dedication and expertise to make it a success. Given the changing world of media and global communications, we are reflecting on how best to serve the purposes for which this publication was created more than eighteen years ago. In response to changes in publishing industry, e-Health platform <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> is now a fully digital journal. A fully redesigned platform is now available to help you with your research and development in global health. It will offer original content that is varied, concise and updated regularly. In line with current priorities, The Journal will consistently feature articles focusing on the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have always striven to ensure that the contributors reflected the diversity of our world and a gender balance among the authors. Although much progress has been made, there is still much to be done to reduce gender inequality and to empower women and girls.

The world today has the largest generation of young people in history with 1.8 billion between the ages of 10 - 24 years. Many of them already are driving transformative change, and many more are poised to do so, but lack the opportunity and means. The efforts of The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) is working with this powerhouse of human potential that could transform health and sustainable development. A priority is to ensure that no young person is left behind, and all can realize their right to health equitably and without discrimination or hindrance. This force for change represents an unparalleled opportunity for the WHEC and its initiatives and its partners in global health to transform the way they engage with young people, including to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We must build on the work, projects and programs on the work that has been done with the support of United Nations Member States. We must empower young people, increase their participation in society and their access to education, health, training and work-force. With more than half of the planet under 30 and a world's population that is younger than ever before, it is clear that we cannot achieve the SDGs without the engagement of young people. The power of young people is probably the most untapped resource in the global endeavors towards achievement of health-for-all.

Safe, effective and meaningful engagement is also an important part of helping young people realize their full potential for health and wellbeing and their rights. This not only enables individuals to thrive, it also brings economic and social benefits for countries, because a healthy population is more likely to be productive and prosperous.

Engagement with young people is a two-way street. The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC), *NGO in Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*, and in recognition of the power of young people, is welcoming you in this pursuit. Together, let us collaborate meaningfully and make our world a better place; now and the generations to come. Don't expect change to happen overnight, even if it is not always visible it is making more impact than you think. Let us not leave any young person behind.

We aim to amplify young peoples' voices in decision-making and strengthen their participation in political and development processes. At a local, national and international level, we will look for opportunities to provide a platform for young voices, enabling them to contribute to the decisions that will affect them, and supporting them to advocate for delivery of Agenda 2030.

Next Generation for Health and Sustainable Development

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

How can we engage young people in our agencies and organizations? Is there a mandate for engaging with young people? Is this the way forward in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Engaging young people for health and SDGs: We recommend following strategic opportunities for the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) and its partners. We believe the Organizations that do it well not only display internal leadership – putting in place the necessary people, systems and resources – they also enable young people to participate fully and to develop and act as leaders. We welcome everyone!

Four areas of strategic opportunity for WHEC and its partners:

1. Leadership;
2. Country impact;
3. Focusing global public goods on impact; and
4. Partnerships.

The priority is to ensure that no young person is left behind, and all can realize their right to health equitably and without discrimination or hindrance. These aims can only be achieved with young people's informed and enthusiastic engagement. It is our responsibility to smooth the path so young people can lead on creating a healthy and sustainable future.

No proven formula exists for engaging safely, effectively and meaningfully with young people. However, within WHEC there is consensus in two key areas:

1. To maximize the impact of their investments in health, countries urgently need to engage more effectively with young people – who are not only beneficiaries of services but can also be leaders of health and sustainable development efforts.
2. WHEC has a unique mission and support, which it must use to strengthen its own, and UN Member States' engagement with young people.

However, young people are not a homogenous group. They experience immense physical and cognitive changes between the ages of 10 and 24 years, so a variety of approaches is required to engage with them at different points on the age spectrum. Age is not only significant factor. Young people should be considered in all their diversity, including those most at risk of being left behind – such as individuals with disabilities or chronic illnesses; living in remote locations; caught up in social disruption; or stigmatized and marginalized because of sexual orientation, gender identity or ethnicity.

The human right of young people to participate in decisions, institutions and processes that affect their lives is protected by international human rights law. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution A/HRC/RES/35/14 “calls upon all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for youth ... [empowering] them to contribute as active members of society to the political, civil, economic, social and cultural development of their countries.”

Today it is hard to imagine a prosperous society or community that does not include and engage young people. Our initiatives focus on key public and/or private stakeholders in the global health system that are working closely or in some transformative way with young people and contributing to improvement of their health and wellbeing.

Our mission ensures that this target is never sidelined nor forgotten.

Join the movement!



United Nations at a Glance

Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations

Hungary became Member State of the United Nations on 14 December 1955.

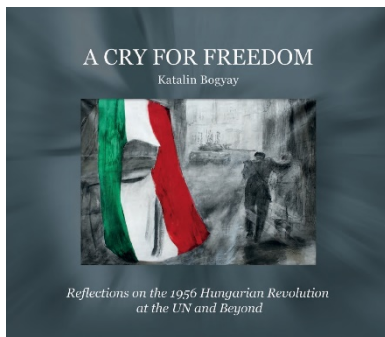


Hungary is a country in Central Europe. Spanning 93,030 square kilometers (35,920 sq. mi) in the Carpathian Basin, it borders Slovakia to the North, Ukraine to the Northeast, Austria to the Northwest, Romania to the East, Serbia to the south, Croatia to the southwest, and Slovenia to the west. With about 10 million inhabitants, Hungary is a medium-sized member state of the European Union (EU), joined EU in 2004. The official language is Hungarian, which is most widely spoken Uralic language in the world. Hungary's capital and largest city is Budapest. Other major urban areas include Debrecen, Szeged, Miskolc, Pécs and Győr.

Hungary was partially occupied by the Ottoman Empire (1541 – 1699). The Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed after World War I, and the subsequent Treaty of Trianon established Hungary's current borders, resulting in loss, the loss of 71% of its territory, 58% population, and 32% of ethnic Hungarians. Hungary became a satellite state of the Soviet Union, which contributed to the establishment of a socialist republic spanning four decades (1949-1989). The country gained widespread international attention as a result of its 1956 revolution and the seminal opening of its previously-restricted border with Austria in 1989, which accelerated the collapse of the Eastern Bloc. On 23 October 1989, Hungary became a democratic parliamentary republic.

Hungary in the UN

The Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations is tasked to actively participate in fulfilling the goals and principles of the United Nations, while promoting the national position of Hungary, and to advise national authorities on the developments in the international arena.



While Hungary is fully committed to fulfilling all obligations and goals of the United Nations, it puts particular emphasis to the following policy priorities:

- Working for better United Nations.
- Strengthening preventive diplomacy as well as building trust and reconciliation.
- Promoting and protecting human rights – Hungary as member of the Human Rights Council 2017 – 2019
- Championing gender equality.
- Fight against modern slavery.
- Actively participating in the maintenance of peace and security.
- Ensuring accountability.
- Turning words into action in Sustainable Development.
- Water.
- Supporting and renewing humanitarian activities.
- Hungary is an active participant in the work of different UN trend setting groups.
- Hungary as a regional center for the United Nations. Hungary takes pride in hosting an increasing number of UN offices (UNHCR, FAO, ILO, IOM, WHO, IMF, UNICEF, IFRC) and will strive to ensure that Budapest becomes a growing regional hub in Europe.

Ambassador Katalin Ammamarca Bogay is the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations in New York (2015 -).

Details: <https://ensz-newyork.mfa.gov.hu/>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Hungary



The WHO Country Office, Hungary was established in Budapest in 1991. It is the focal point for WHO and consists of three staff members. During Hungary's EU presidency in 2011, the Country Office assisted and facilitated the collaboration of WHO/Europe and the Ministry of National Resources, providing expertise on a range of health issues and helping to prepare and hold conferences and other events.

Total population (2016) = 9,753,000; Life expectancy at birth m/f (2016): 72/79; total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2016) = 1,827; total expenditure on health as % of GDP (2016) = 7.4.

United States regards Hungarian family support system as a model worth following

The United States regards the Hungarian family support system as a forward-looking model, which is well worth following, the Minister of State for Family and Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities said on the public service television news channel in March 2019. THE WHITE HOUSE was particularly interested in benefits offered via taxation, including the exemption from personal income tax for women with four or more children which will take effect as of next-year, and the family tax benefit. It was also concluded that the results of the past few years, including the facts that in Hungary the number of abortions has decreased by 33%, the number of marriages has increased one-and-a-half-fold, and for twenty years young people have not yet been as willing to have children as they are now.

Hungarian future lies in Hungarian children

The future of Hungary lies in Hungarian children, and supporting children and people raising children is a priority goal of the Ministry of State for Family and Youth Affairs. They regarded the mass resettlement of people as a solution to demographic problems, or they say that that these problems must be resolved fundamentally through internal resource, the births of children must be promoted and families raising children must be appreciated.

The Ministry of State indicated that the genre of the national consultation fundamentally means that if there is a very important issue which could determine the fate of the nation for decades, it is well worth asking the people for their options. They also highlighted that today those who decide to have children are in a better financial situation: it poses less of a financial or poverty risk if someone decides to have several children that it did in 2010 when this policy came into effect.

For twenty years the birth rates in Hungary have not been as high they are today. The population decline is on the decrease, but it is important to stress that the population is still declining, and Hungary tends to solve these European-level problems.

Since 2015 The Ministry have spent more than HUF 250 billion on the family housing benefit, and the number of families which have availed themselves of this option is nearing one hundred thousand. As long as Hungary has a civic government the present family policy is expected to be continued.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/hun/en/>

Bulletin Board



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Continued.....

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To be continued.....



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)

Expert Series on Health Economics

Hungary: The Janus-Faced Success Story

This paper offers a broad view of the Hungarian development strategy over the past two decades. Combining historical and functional analysis, some major strengths and weaknesses are identified, with special emphasis on the country's open-door policies and the role played by the European Union. The paper investigates why the impetus of institutional and financial integration was lost by about 2004 when policy drifting took over the role of strategies. Some ideas on how to remedy the situation are being offered. Paradoxically, the Hungarian success and failure both testify to the relevance of a neo-institution's/political economy approach to sustainable development. It also examines the limitations of external anchoring by the EU as well as of the spontaneous bottom-up evolution of institutions when policy drifting continues.

Is Hungary to be considered a success at all?

Hungary is a country with a population of ten million people and a per capita GDP of € 15,800. GDP grew 4.0% per annum during the years 1996-2000; 4.3% in 2001-2015 but dropped to 3.9% in 2006. In 2007, GDP grew by 1.3%, and according to the consensus of analysis, a slow recovery to 1.6-2.0 and 2.5-3.0% in 2008-2009. But this is not why Hungary can be considered a success story. In short, Hungary has been a success on a number of accounts.

First, the country managed the transition from communism to democracy peacefully without any of the political turmoil witnessed in a number of countries in east and southeast Europe. Second, it managed its accession to the EU in 2004 in a gradual and organized manner. Third, Europeanization speeded up and shaped institution building, and lent credibility to new institutions, such as the competition agency, the financial supervisory agency, or environmental agencies. Fourth, global processes had an impact in terms of IT revolution and deregulation.

In summary, Hungary can provide samples of both well-timed reforms (i.e., advantages of early bird action, as witnessed during the years 1989-1996 and poorly sequenced, haphazard measures (of the 2004-2008). In short, the final lesson is the need for an integrated intellectual and analytical framework, a vision-cum-operational strategy that could be combined with tactical skills, persuasive power and coalition building – the vital ingredients of any reform policy for surviving.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: László Csaba; Sponsors: UNU-WIDER gratefully acknowledges the financial support and contributions to the project by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the financial contributions to the research programme by the governments of Denmark (Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Finland (Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs), Norway (Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA) and the United Kingdom (Department for International Development).

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page
<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com/content/CME>



United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)

The Effort to Advance the Global Strategy (continued)

UNICEF in Budapest, Hungary



UNICEF offers opportunities for personal and professional growth. The programs for young professionals to acquire direct practical experience in UNICEF's work: the Internship program, New and Emerging Talent Initiative (NETI) program, Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Program and UN Volunteers (UNV). A variety of tools such as training, coaching, mentoring, e-learning, stretch assignments, lateral reassignments and mobility exercises allow staff to expand their scope of experience and acquire new skills. Colleagues around the world will attest that this allows them to grow both professionally as well as personally. Finally, dedicated programs for senior managers ensure that

WHEC in collaboration with UNICEF offer support for organization's leadership.

UNICEF is establishing a Global Shared Services Center (GSSC), located in Budapest Hungary to manage the processing of a number of transactions that are currently out by UNICEF offices around the world. The GSSC will be comprised of positions in the international and national categories.

Child Trafficking in Hungary

From 2018, UNICEF Hungary has focused on the problem of child trafficking and protection of vulnerable Hungarian children.

Victims of trafficking can be anyone, but we know from research that certain social groups – women, children, members of ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, (migrant) children on the road, survivors of various abuses – are more vulnerable to victimization. Children in child protection care are particularly vulnerable, with the risk of prostitution being allowed in the case of permitted departures and absconding.

The aim of our initiative is to prevent child trafficking, to provide targeted training to professional at risk and with victims, and to raise awareness. We believe, that awareness-raising, from childhood onwards, is an important part of the fight.

During this course <https://unicef.hu/gyermekkereskedelem-magyarorszagon/> students will be able to familiarize themselves with legislation on child trafficking, domestic and international statistics, trends, experiences in combating child trafficking, the types of child trafficking, in particular the elimination and prevention of child prostitution. The course includes the acquisition of a child-rights preventive training material, which will enable students to conduct interactive sessions for children in specialized care in the field of child prostitution; and a module in which we discuss the responsibilities and ethical dilemmas of the social worker with the help of the existing national methodological recommendations and protocols. The course is supported by UNICEF Hungary upon successful completion of the course.

Education is the best humanitarian investments. It is estimated that every dollar spend on education will save \$8 in the future. And this investment is not always expensive or difficult. If we teach our children, the local communities becomes stronger as well. According to UNICEF, education is not only a universal right, but also a tool to help overcome poverty, illness and social inequalities.

Join the efforts!

To be continued....

Two Articles of Highest Impact, September 2019

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc008.php3>
WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.
2. The Apgar Score: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc002.php3>
WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.



From Editor's Desk

New Initiatives, New Collaborations, New Directions

Can we do better for women and girls today?

If history is a guide, the answer is YES.

Who is vulnerable?

Gendered norms can contribute to social expectations that in turn lead to control over some groups' sexuality and reproductive behavior.

Adolescents



Adolescents often lack knowledge about health matters and how to access health care, restricting both their ability to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Social beliefs against social activity among adolescents before marriage can increase the social costs and stigma associated with seeking services and place legal restrictions on free access to services.

Many adolescents are married as children, a fundamental violation of their rights.

Persons with disabilities

Young person with disabilities under the age of 18, especially girls are almost four times more likely than those without disabilities to be victims of abuse. They may be viewed as not needing information about their sexual and reproductive health, providing them with little knowledge of available services, with in turn denies them their right to make choices and perpetuates their vulnerability.

LGBTI

In most societies, where sexual norms dictate heterosexual behavior with an emphasis on reproduction. LGBTI individuals may face pervasive stigma and discrimination when seeking services. They often find their sexual practices criminalized and face high levels of sexual violence. As a result, members of LGBTI communities are often reluctant to disclose their sexual orientation to health providers, inhibiting their ability to receive quality care that is reflective of their needs.

Unfinished Business and WHEC's Initiatives

- Such practices need to be entirely eliminated, starting with clear legal statutes backed by implementation. Progress has been made in working within communities to explain the harm that these practices impose and build consensus around abandonment.
- Engaging men and boys in the process of transforming attitudes around gender-unequal norms is critical.
- Educating empowering girls to stay in school has had the most impact on changing these norms. Education enhances women's understanding of their place in society, provides them with the skills and information to exercise their voice in relationships, and enables them to negotiate for their own interests.

Access to sexual and reproductive health care goes beyond the availability of contraception.

Join the conversation on **WGHL** (WHEC Global Health Line).



Breaking down the complex story of modern slavery



Modern Slavery Data stories are developed by Delta 8.7, an innovative project from the United Nations University's Centre for Policy Research, in collaboration with technologists from the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University in the US, to help policy-makers understand the use data, in order to create effective legislation.

UN-led research shows that half of those enslaved are victims of forced labor in industries such as farming, mining and domestic service, while the rest are victims of sex slavery, forced marriage slavery and child slavery. Modern slavery has changed over time and comes during a period when over 40 million people are living in slavery, more than ever before in human history.

New UN data tool shows 'mismatch' between government aid and places modern slavery exists. Modern slavery is a product of the way our global political and economic system works. It is a feature, not a bug. Solutions, therefore, will have to be system-wide, involving all elements of society, from the technology

industry to the global financial sector. “partnerships are Key.” And modern slavery victims, must form a part of the process, because without their voices informing research, programming and strategy, we risk not only being ineffective, but actually doing further harm.

Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work for All

The ambition to eradicate modern slavery by 2030 forms part of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, a pathway to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development, which was adopted by all the UN Member States in 2015. Goal 8 call for the “promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all,” and it contains several targets and indicators, one of which, Target 8.7, is to take “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.

Modern Slavery Data Stories

<https://delta87.org/earthtime/>

74th Session of The General Assembly **24-30 September 2019**



The 74th session of the General Assembly opened on Tuesday 17 September 2019. All 193 Member States in the General Assembly – one of the six main organs of the UN – to discuss and work together on a wide array of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations, such as development, peace and security, international law, etc.

Every year in September, all the Members meet in this unique forum at Headquarters in New York for the General Assembly session. Sitting arrangements in the General Assembly Hall change for each session. During

the 74th session (2019 – 2020), Ghana will occupy the first seat in the Hall, including in the Main Committees (followed by all the other countries, in English alphabetical order).

“I will explore the robust potential of the convening platform of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and use its advocacy tools to promote a multilateral approach to finding workable solutions to the issues confronting us.” Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th Session.

United States – President Addresses General Debate, 74th Session

24 Sep 2019 - Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, addresses the general debate of the 74th Session of the General Assembly of the UN (New York, 24 – 30 September 2019).

“The future does not belong to globalists. The future belongs to patriots.” UN General Assembly 09/24/2019 – President Donald Trump. In his remarks to the United Nations General Assembly, President Trump lays out his vision for a more prosperous and free future for all our countries.

Launching an economic revival – President Trump’s pro-growth policies have unleashed an American economic revival and has implemented a pro-growth agenda centered on historic tax cuts, deregulation, and trade reform.

<http://webtv.un.org/search/united-states-president-addresses-general-debate-74th-session/6089079269001/?term=&lan=english&cat=74th%20Session&page=4>

<https://gadebate.un.org/generaldebate74/en/>

Words of Wisdom

Anyone can become angry – that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way – that is not easy.

- Aristotle; Greek philosopher (384 – 322 BC). Aristotle’s practical philosophy covers areas such as ethics, politics, economics and rhetoric.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

