





*Families, Housing, and Sustainable
Communities:
Focus on SDG 11*

*Bahira Sherif Trask, Ph.D.
Professor & Dept. Chair -- HDFS
University of Delaware
bstrask@udel.edu*

Urbanization

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- ✧ 3.5 billion people live in urban areas
 - ✧ Urban populations are expected to increase by 1.5 billion over the next 20 years, while the number of “megacities” will double (UNDP, 2018)
 - ✧ There will be 358 “million cities” with one million or more people, and 27 “mega-cities” of ten million or more
 - ✧ 95 percent of this urban expansion will take place in developing countries.



11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

- ✧ Housing is fundamental to family life. Without a place that individuals call “home,” their other spheres of life are severely impacted. As the National Housing Task Force suggested
- ✧ ..a decent place for a family to live becomes a platform for dignity and self-respect and a base for hope and improvement. A decent home allows people to take advantage of opportunities in education, health and employment – the means to get ahead in our society. A decent home is the important beginning point for growth in the mainstream of American life. (In Bratt. 2002 p. 15)
- ✧ Stable housing is critical for positive child development

Physical attributes and availability of housing

good quality and safety
housing, not homelessness

Relationship of housing to occupant

not overcrowded
affordable
opportunities to create positive sense
of self and empowerment
stable and secure
tenure options

Neighbourhood conditions

good quality and safety
accessibility of housing to
employment and education

Family well-being

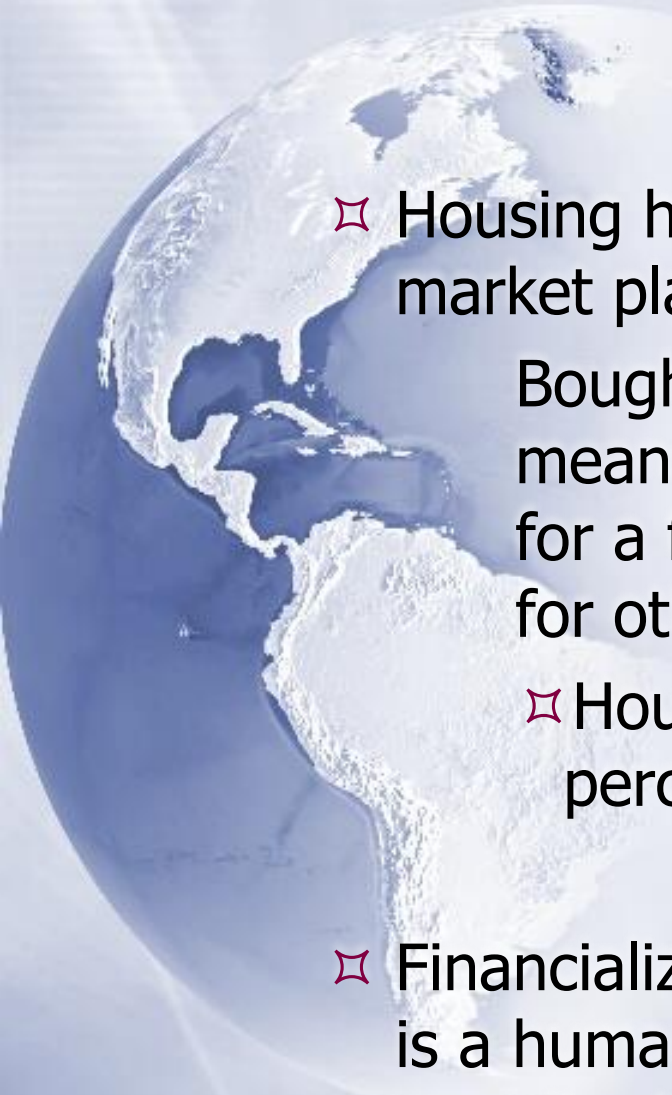
Figure 1. Connections between housing and family well-being.




Health Consequences of Sub-Standard Housing

- ✧ 828 million individuals live in sub-standard housing (UNDP, 2018)
- ✧ Ill effects on health of individuals and families, and especially children, individuals with disabilities and older persons
 - ✧ Respiratory and neurological disorders and psychological and neurological illnesses
 - ✧ WHO – 235 million individuals suffer from asthma (2017)

The Challenge of Globalization and Housing

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- ✧ Housing has become a commodity on the global market place
 - Bought and sold for profit and treated as a means for the accumulation of great wealth for a few while making housing unaffordable for others
 - ✧ Housing prices have risen globally by over 50 percent over the last 5 years (Sassen, 2016)
 - ✧ Financialization of housing contradicts that housing is a human right - is linked to personal dignity, security, the ability to flourish in a community & a crucial aspect of family life

Family Relationships and Access to Housing


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- ✧ Increase in standard of living has raised value of houses
 - ✧ Intergenerational transfers of financial resources within families
 - ✧ Made children more dependent on parents for financial assistance
 - ✧ Intergenerational family solidarity critical
 - ✧ Increase in social inequality



Linking Human Rights and Housing

- ✧ Individuals and families need to be at the center, instead of market domination
- ✧ Governments have ability to redesign laws and policies and to highlight the centrality of rights of individuals and families to have adequate housing
 - ✧ Community, national, and international.
- ✧ *Housing is a fundamental right that needs to be understood in a framework of human dignity and security*

Recommendations

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- ✧ States need to regulate the runaway housing markets that are dominating the global rental and homeownership scene
 - ✧ Stronger data on private wealth transfers with respect to accessibility of housing needs to be incorporated into policy formation to ensure that low wealth individuals are not disadvantaged with respect to access to safe housing
 - ✧ Government housing policies are needed to position affordable housing as an anchor for creating communities where families thrive and ensure that their members have access to services



Recommendations

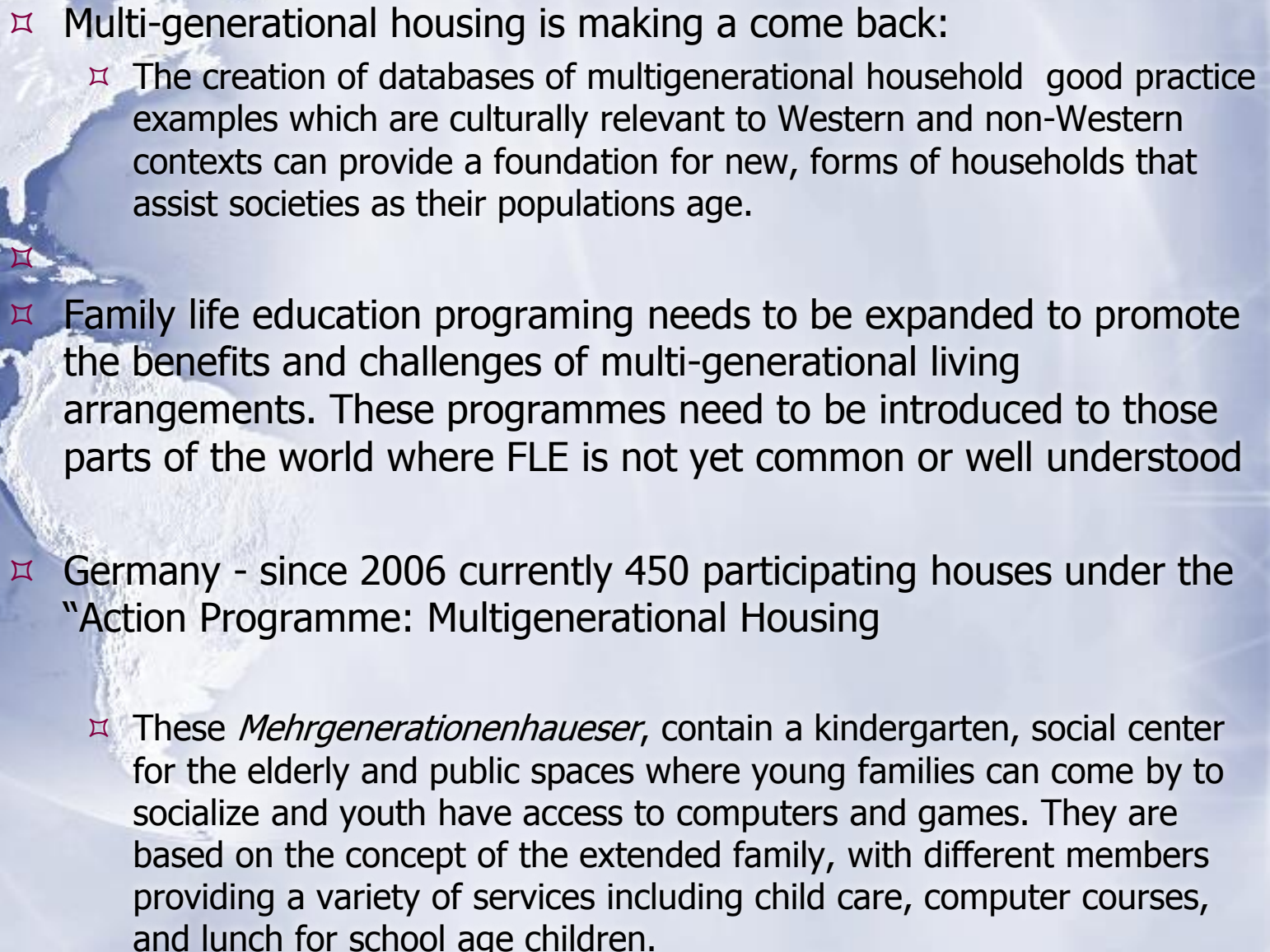
- ✧ Housing policies need to specifically target the poorest families – not just focus on home ownership
 - ✧ Global need for rental housing sector as well as the social housing market (housing owned by the state)
- ✧ Families with young children:
 - ✧ Chile has introduced new programme since 2013, the *Programa de Subsidio de Arriendo de Vivienda*: provides subsidies specifically to low- and middle-income young families with the underlying emphasis that they are to delay their application for homeownership subsidies several years until their housing needs stabilize



Recommendations

- ✧ Tax incentives that encourage landlords to rent to low-income and vulnerable families are a key feature of successful housing policies
- ✧ Examples from Germany and Chile indicate that it is beneficial for states to provide support for rental housing for families as long as the law strikes a balance between the interests of the renters and the landlords

Recommendations

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- ✧ Multi-generational housing is making a come back:
 - ✧ The creation of databases of multigenerational household good practice examples which are culturally relevant to Western and non-Western contexts can provide a foundation for new, forms of households that assist societies as their populations age.
 - ✧ Family life education programing needs to be expanded to promote the benefits and challenges of multi-generational living arrangements. These programmes need to be introduced to those parts of the world where FLE is not yet common or well understood
 - ✧ Germany - since 2006 currently 450 participating houses under the "Action Programme: Multigenerational Housing"
 - ✧ These *Mehrgenerationenhauser*, contain a kindergarten, social center for the elderly and public spaces where young families can come by to socialize and youth have access to computers and games. They are based on the concept of the extended family, with different members providing a variety of services including child care, computer courses, and lunch for school age children.



Recommendations

- ✧ States need to create supports through tax incentives for multi-generational households including health benefits, housing and care supplements
- ✧ Multi-generational housing initiatives help bridge the need for service provision, and may ultimately be a more cost-effective mechanism for states that subsidize them.



Thank You!