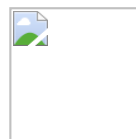




Family Matters



Circular No. 15

Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

August 1998

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The Family Unit

The Follow up to the International Year of the Family is the responsibility of the Division for Social Policy and Development within the Department for Economic and Social Affairs. The follow-up activities to the International Year of the Family are in accordance with intergovernmental mandates e.g. General Assembly resolution 50/142 of 21 December 1995 and 52/81 of 12 December 1997 respectively.

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Actions at the National Level

BERDSCO=S Activities to mark the International Year of the Family, 1998 - Cameroon

The Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society (BERDSCO) is a non-governmental organization whose major objective is to

alleviate poverty among the poorest of the poor families within its area of jurisdiction. BERDSCO organizes women into unions, trains them on credit management, technical and managerial skills on Income Generating Activities in the fields of livestock, agriculture and trade as well as Responsible Parenthood Education. BERDSCO decided in 1998 to develop the families by training the poor on income generating activities and credit management; disbursing credits to families for sustainable development; and monitoring and evaluating already funded and existing projects of families which are beneficiaries of BERDSCO micro-credits scheme.

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The Federation of Cuban Women - Cuba

The Federation of Cuban Women works jointly with NGOs and other institutions on the theme of the family and its interaction with society. The Federation works to maintain in a systematic manner the plans and programmes in favor of families. These include the programme of family doctors/physicians, the programme of fathers and mothers= education, and the programmes of Houses and Courses of Women and the Family. These were created in the context of the International Year of the Family.

Other important recent actions include:

- The annual observance of the International Day of Families.
- The Constitution of a National Network of Studies and Work with Families, a network of communication and exchange between specialists on these issues.
- The formation of an Inter-Universities agreement for the creation of the Ibero-American Institute of the Family with the objectives of teaching and research. In Cuba, the headquarters is the Center of Demographic Studies of the Habana University.
- Work towards the modification of the Code of the Family.
- Work to develop a directory of specialists on the question of family and gender in order to facilitate exchange.
- Systematic celebration of meetings and workshops on the theme.
- Maintenance of the plans in favor of education, health, employment, recreation, culture, sports, directed to families in the community.

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National Family Week, 22-28 November

The National Family Week will be celebrated on 22-28 November 1998 with the theme, AChildren and Families Together.@

National Family Week is designed to recognize the role of families as the building blocks of society and to encourage the support of healthy family life and family values. National Family Week has been observed since 1970 and has received recognition from Congress and the President of the United States.

Family Service America, a non-profit organization founded in 1911, has been the leader in promoting National Family Week. Family Service America and the National Association of Homes and Services for Children will become the Alliance for Children and Families, 1 October 1998.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Communications Department, Family Service America. 11700 W. Lake Park Drive. Milwaukee, WI, 53224. Fax to 414-359-1040

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Actions at the International Level

International Council on Alcohol and Addictions

Founded in 1907 and based in Lausanne, Switzerland, the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions is the longest established comprehensive international network of organizations and individuals

concerned with reducing and preventing the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and gambling. ICAA is a non-governmental, neutral and non-profit organization. Each three or four years, the Council organizes an international Congress in addition to its annual Institutes, which gives a unique opportunity for professionals and others working in the field of substance misuse to explore with colleagues from around the world the recent trends in research and policy, as well as prevention, treatment and rehabilitation techniques.

The ICAA's 38th International Congress will be held at the University Hospital of Vienna in Vienna, Austria from 16 to 20 August 1999. The main topics will be issues related to alcohol, tobacco, other drugs dependence, prevention, treatment, research, policy.

Website: <http://www.icaa.ch> * Email: icaa@pingnet.ch

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The OPEC Fund for International Development

The OPEC Fund for International Development supports the Pan Arab Family

Health Project with US\$150,000 grant.

The OPEC Fund for International Development has approved a grant of US\$150,000 to help finance the activities of the Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM). PAPFAM seeks to improve family and reproductive health throughout the Arab region by developing a reliable information base to support the implementation of effective health policies and programs.

The PAPFAM initiative was launched because of the role played by a healthy population in a country's social and economic development, and also of the need for effective national health programs. It was recognized that, for these programs to be successfully formulated, policy makers must have access to pertinent and up-to-date health data. The primary objective of PAPFAM's activities is to develop health databases in countries of the region by undertaking a series of surveys and studies on family and reproductive health. Simultaneously, action will be undertaken to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to execute surveys in accordance with their own individual needs and priorities.

PAPFAM's main task will be the Pan Arab Family Health Survey in which a sample 6,000 households in each of the 16 Arab countries will be surveyed to measure health status and evaluate the quality, coverage and use of health services. Tools will be developed for data collection, while data processing and analysis will be carried out using computer software. Other smaller studies will deal with gynecological and reproductive health and family planning services. The data collected from the surveys will be integrated into each country's existing health information system and analyzed in-depth to create a reference work suitable for planning health projects of a wider, regional nature.

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UN Workshop on Technology and Families, 6-10 October 1998 Dublin, Ireland

The UN Workshop on Technology and Families is scheduled for five working days from 6 to 10 October 1998 and will be convened in Dublin, Ireland. The Workshop will be organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in cooperation with the Government of Ireland. The working language of the Workshop will be in English.

The basic objective of the Workshop is to assist governments in investigating the impact of rapid technological change and diffusion on the family and formulating appropriate guidelines, concrete measures and recommendations for action. This will be accomplished by an exchange of national experiences in order to contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of the interrelationships between technology and family life with a view of identifying effective strategies for enabling families to play their expected roles and to provide them with a supportive environment.

Specifically, the Workshop will:

- provide a forum for participants to exchange knowledge and experiences on the role of technology and its impact on families, both from a historical and future perspective; and
- address the nature, forms and extent of technological change and its impact on families, specifically in the areas of (a) communication, information and education, (b) work and employment, and (c) health. While these three areas will be addressed separately, as they are inter-related, the linkages will be highlighted. Areas will be identified where technological change can be made family friendly. A review of a number of scenarios chosen to illustrate the potential impacts (positive and negative) on families in different parts of the world will be presented for discussion.

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