

**PROMISING FUTURES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN OF THE WORLD: INSIGHTS FROM ECE LEADERS IN 105 COUNTRIES**

ROGER NEUGEBAUER, PATRICK MAKOKORO AND JERRY PARR



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**OUR PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

1. Setting the tone – Roger Neugebauer
2. Sustainable Development Goals –Patrick Makokoro
3. Stunting and ECE – Jerry Parr
4. Armed Conflict and ECE - Patrick Makokoro
5. Male Involvement in ECE – Jerry Parr
6. Questions
7. World Forum Foundation, Macau 2019
8. Close by Fran Simon

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**GLOBAL ISSUES IMPACTING YOUNG CHILDREN'S FUTURES**

- Achieving Sustainable Development Goals
- Lifelong Impact of Stunting
- Impact of Armed Conflict
- Importance of Gender Balance
- The Value of Play
- Unregistered/Stateless Children
- Reconnecting Children with Nature
- Workforce Challenges

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## THE SDGS ARE ...

- ▶ A set of 17 goals for the world’s future, through 2030
- ▶ Backed up by a set of 169 detailed Targets
- ▶ Negotiated over a two-year period at the United Nations
- ▶ Agreed to by nearly all the world’s nations, on 25 Sept 2015

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First, and most important, these Goals apply to *every* nation ... and every sector.  
 Cities, businesses, schools, organizations, *all* are challenged to act.

## Universality

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Second, it is recognized that the Goals are all inter-connected, in a system. We cannot aim to achieve just one Goal. We must achieve them all.

## Integration

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And finally, it is widely recognized that achieving these Goals involves making very big, fundamental changes in how we live on Earth.

## Transformation

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“The Sustainable Development Goals recognize that early childhood development can help drive the transformation we hope to achieve over the next 15 years”

Ban Ki Moon

Former Secretary General, United Nations,  
22 September 2015 at an UNGA side event

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**BRIEFLY:**

SDG#1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG#2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG#3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



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**BRIEFLY...**

SDG#4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

SDG#5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls



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**BRIEFLY THE 17 GOALS ARE:**

SDG#10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG#13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact

SDG#16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

Lets look at how we have faired in the past three years...



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## TAKING STOCK

### SDG#1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

*The latest global estimate suggests that 11 per cent of the world population, or 783 million people, lived below the extreme poverty threshold in 2013.*

### SDG#2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

*World hunger is on the rise again: 815 million people were undernourished in 2016, up from 777 million in 2015*



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## TAKING STOCK

### SDG#3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

*Globally, from 2000 to 2016, the total number of under-5 deaths dropped from 9.9 million to 5.6 million.*

### SDG#4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

*At the global level, the participation rate in early childhood and primary education was 70 per cent in 2016, up from 63 per cent in 2010.*



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## TAKING STOCK

### SDG#5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls

*While some forms of discrimination against women and girls are diminishing, gender inequality continues to hold women back and deprives them of basic rights and opportunities.*

### SDG#10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

*Between 2010 and 2016, in 60 out of 94 countries with data, the incomes of the poorest 40 per cent of the population grew faster than those of the entire population.*



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## TAKING STOCK

**SDG#13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact**

*As of 9 April 2018, 175 Parties had ratified the Paris Agreement*

**SDG#16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies**

*Nearly 8 in 10 children aged 1 to 14 years were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment on a regular basis at home in 81*

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“Narrow the gaps. Bridge the divides. Rebuild trust by bringing people together around common goals. Unity is our path. Our future depends on it.”

António GUTERRES,  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

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SDG#3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

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Seven horizontal lines for notes

STUNTING

Stunting is the **impaired growth** and development that children experience from **poor nutrition**, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

Children are defined as stunted if their height-for-age is more than two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median.

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Seven horizontal lines for notes

ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF MALNUTRITION IN CHILDHOOD AND PREGNANCY

- Lower child survival
- Reduced long-term well being
- Decline in human capital, economic productivity, and national development
- Improvements in nutrition have coincided with economic growth – a 13% reduction in stunting was seen in the last decade.
- However, the most recent figures still show a stunting prevalence of 38%, one of the highest in the world (ranked 110 out of 132 countries)

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Seven horizontal lines for notes



- Highest population density in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Small
- Landlocked
- One of the world's poorest countries
- 62% of the population lives on less than \$1.25 per day (USAID 2017)

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### SOME NUMBERS...

1/3 of Rwandan population experiences food insecurity  
 2% of children under 5 suffer from acute malnutrition (wasting)  
 18% of children 6-8 months experience stunting  
 49% of children 18-23 months experience stunting  
 Western Rwanda's stunting rate is 45% (highest in Rwanda); Kigali's is 23% (lowest in Rwanda). This is representative of higher rates of stunting nationally in rural areas.  
 47% of children whose mothers have no education experience stunting, compared to 19% of those whose mothers have a secondary education or higher  
 (Source: NISR, MOH, ICF International 2015)

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### STUNTING: CHILDREN UNDER 5



Stunting is the **impaired growth** and development that children experience from **poor nutrition**, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

Children are defined as stunted if their height-for-age is more than two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median.

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## MEET MIRA AND MORGAN

Mira and Morgan live at a childcare center in Rusine Village in the Gicumbi District of Rwanda.



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## A TRANSFORMATION



- One cow costs US\$600, and supplies enough milk to supplement the porridge of up to 40 children.
- Many children have no food in the morning at home – nothing until they get to school.
- Some school serve a porridge called igikoma that is often the only meal the child gets until evening.

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## THE WONDER DISH...AND SO MUCH MORE



- Igikoma is made of sorghum, soya, and maize flour mixed with hot water and a little sugar if available
- The extra fresh milk from Mira adds nutrition that the child may otherwise never have received.
- As Mira has calves, a cow can be given to the next preschool so the program will grow and become self sustainable.
- Manure fertilizes additional crops like mango and plantain.

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### VISION 2020

- Rwanda's long term development goals
- Strategic transformation of Rwanda from low-income, ag-based economy to knowledge-based, service-oriented economy
- Build on success of the last decade
- High growth (8% real GDP growth average)
- Rapid poverty reduction
- Reduced inequality
- 2/3 drop in child mortality
- Near-universal primary school enrollment



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### ARMED CONFLICT AND ECE

- In the last 20 years the number of forcibly displaced people has nearly doubled – from 33.9 million in 1997 to 68.5 million in 2017
- Children are 52% of the global refugee population
- 16 million babies were born in conflict zones in 2015 alone – 1 in 8 of all births worldwide.



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### ARMED CONFLICT AND ECE

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ambition to 'leave no one behind' will not be realized
- Stress on the child is exacerbated through repeated exposure to violence, loss or separation from caregivers
- In the US for example, overall crime rate in Detroit is 138% higher than national average



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### ARMED CONFLICT AND ECE

- High rates of mental health disorders, insecurity and do poorly in school
- In conflict and crisis contexts, children under 5 have the highest illness and death rates of any age group
- The damage and deterioration of support systems, including government health and welfare services, schools and communities



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### DANGERS OF ARMED CONFLICT

- Normalization of violence and aggression amongst children
- Caregiver depression, anxiety, PTSD and other mental burdens
- Inadequate health care
- Physical and psychological harm and separation from primary caregivers



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### POTENTIAL RESPONSES

- Increase funding specifically for early childhood services in humanitarian, fragile and conflict settings
- Increase access to specialized training for early childhood educators, health workers, and emergency practitioners in conflict areas
- Adapt the Nurturing Care Framework to crisis and conflict settings



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## MALE INVOLVEMENT IN ECE



- The discussion on gender is very fluid and gender is not binary.
- However, there's a library of research and what we know without doubt about diverse workforces is they're more effective.

"There are no countries in Europe that have managed to increase male participation without specific government policies to encourage it."

Peeters, 2007



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## MEN IN ECE

- Male staff want to be treated equally in everything, including rules, expectations, and personnel policies.
- Men want to be around other men. Tokenism has never worked. It does not work in early childhood programs, either.
- Men want to have the right to express their beliefs and opinions about various aspects of the profession without being considered aggressive, opinionated, and without being accused of trying to take over the field.
- Male employees don't want to have to do all the heavy lifting. Ask any man in child care and one of the first complaints will be, "I always have to shovel the snow, take out the trash, and discipline the child."



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## EVERYBODY WINS

- Children could benefit from a male perspective; men and women are different.
- Fathers could benefit because they have someone to relate to and may feel more at ease.
- The organization could benefit because gender balanced staff offers different ways of looking at issues.



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## PRESENTATION REFERENCES

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CONNECT WITH US

**Patrick Makokoro**  
Twitter: @PatrickMakokoro  
LinkedIn: @PatrickMakokoro  
Email: [patrick@nhakaoundation.org](mailto:patrick@nhakaoundation.org)  
Website: [www.nhakaoundation.org](http://www.nhakaoundation.org)

**Jerry Parr**  
Twitter: @willowtreeteam  
LinkedIn: @JerryParr  
Email: [jerry@willowtreeteam.com](mailto:jerry@willowtreeteam.com)  
Website: [www.willowtreeteam.com](http://www.willowtreeteam.com)

**Roger Neugebauer**  
Twitter: @RogerNeugebauer  
LinkedIn: @RogerNeugebauer  
Email: [roger@worldforumfoundation.org](mailto:roger@worldforumfoundation.org)  
[www.worldforumfoundation.org](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org)



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