

## Soroptimist International Where We Stand: Poverty

### Where Things Stand

“Giving people in every part of the world the support they need to lift themselves out of poverty in all its manifestations is the very essence of sustainable development. [SD] Goal 1 focuses on ending poverty through interrelated strategies, including the promotion of social protection systems, decent employment and building the resilience of the poor. An estimated 767 million people lived below the extreme poverty line in 2013. Almost 10 per cent of the employed population worldwide lived with their families on less than 1.90 US dollars per person per day in 2016.” (*The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 UN*).

A UN Women Report in 2018 stated that globally there are 122 women aged 25 – 34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age group. (Turning Promises into Action).

(<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018>).

Credible global estimates of the number of people living in extreme poverty disaggregated by sex are hampered by the lack of reliable collection of this data. The World Bank and UN Women have collaborated to address this lack, developing the Global Micro Database covering 89 countries only so there is still a long way to go. This Database showed that between the age of 20 and 34 years women were more likely to be poor than men. (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/11/news-un-women-and-the-world-bank-unveil-new-data-analysis-on-women-and-poverty>)

Generally, it is acknowledged that a number of factors contribute to the poverty levels in which many women and girls live; these include lack of access to education, lack of employment opportunity with higher wages or salary level, lack of access to quality health provision, lack of safe access to water and sanitation, in many areas lack of land rights and lack of other basic facilities such as transport. The inter-relationship of all of these means that there has to be a broad attack on many fronts to achieve SDG 1.

### And Where things need to go .....

#### **Fundamental Action**

Member States are urged to implement all measures for all indicators to achieve UN SDG 1 with priority being given to:

- Establishment of policy frameworks at national and regional levels which support poverty eradication based on a gender sensitive approach;
- Provision of adequate social protection and floors for those living below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day per person;
- Legislation to ensure gender equality across ownership of land and other resources such as water;
- Develop policies to build gender related resilience in communities affected by natural and man-made disasters including safe shelter and food security.

### ***Further Action required***

- Increased participation of women and girls to all levels of education and training with access to quality, free and safe provision;
- Governments are urged to design, implement and pursue gender responsive economic and social policies which increase participation of women in decent work and productive employment;
- Recognition and recording of the contribution to local and national economies of unpaid care and domestic work carried out by women and girls;
- Promotion of women's leadership and their full effective and equal participation in decision making;
- Strengthen measures to improve women's health by providing facilities at highest standards especially maternal care and child care services;
- Invest in and strengthen social policies and programmes that provide necessary support and protection and empower women and girls to take their equal place in communities.

### **Where SI Stands**

Soroptimist International aims to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through its programmes to educate, enable and empower women and girls at grassroots level, and by advocating on behalf of women and girls with multiple disadvantage to urge that legislation and policies are in place to ensure that none of them are left behind.

### **These are the principles that Soroptimist International strongly supports and will advocate for on behalf of Women and Girls living in poverty:**

- accessible free quality education at all levels for all women and girls as a platform of support to enable them to move out of poverty whilst contributing to economic development locally and nationally;
- the empowerment of women and girls through recognised employment with a minimum living wage with the provision of accessible financial support and training enabling those who wish to develop skills of Entrepreneurship;
- provision of full, quality health care especially maternal health and child care supported by appropriate education and information on sexual and reproductive health rights;
- provision of social protection systems and floors for the most vulnerable especially those with disabilities and long-term illnesses;
- ensure through social protection policies safe shelter and food security for women and girls in vulnerable situations;
- Safe access to water and sanitation for homes, schools and workplaces with the involvement of women in community management of these facilities ensuring that the time resource recovered for women and girls is available for positive action enabling development;
- Improved levels of disaggregated data collection which provide information that enables positive measures to be targeted for those most in need.