



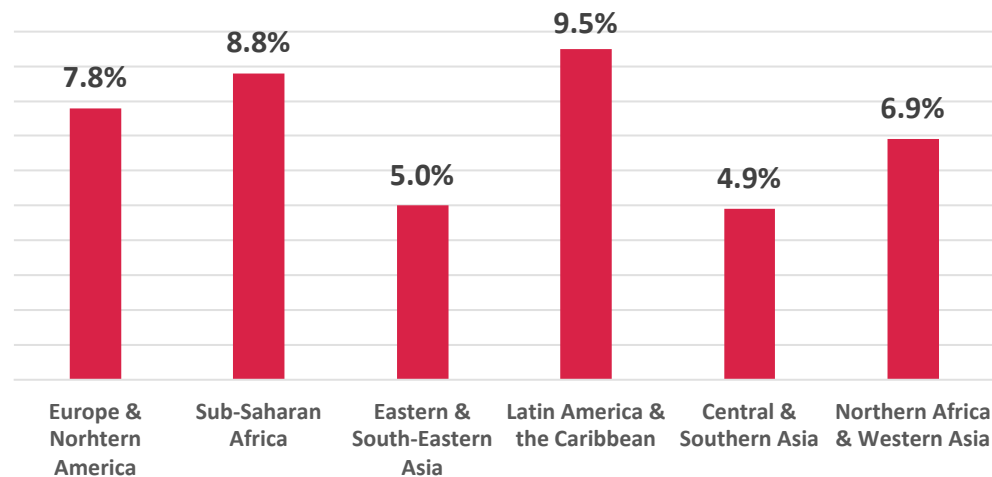
Make Mothers Matter - MMM

Single Mothers and Homelessness

Side Event - 58th Session of the UN Commission on Social Development
February 18, 2020



Single Mothers around the World

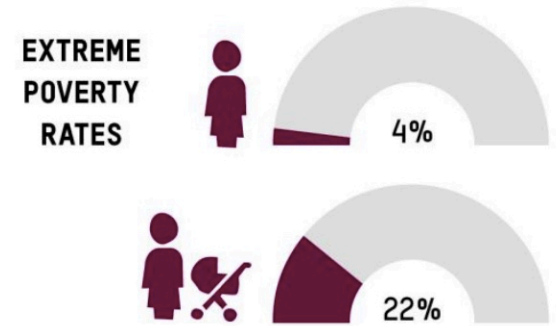


PROGRESS OF THE WORLD'S WOMEN 2019–2020 – Families in a changing world

- UNDESA estimates that globally 8% of households are headed by a single parent
- 84% of single-parent households are headed by mothers
- Single-parenthood is on the rise, especially in high-income countries
- Single-motherhood can have many causes but in the vast majority of cases it is not a choice

Economic and Social Struggles of Single Mothers

- Poverty higher for women than men + increases during reproductive years
- Economic difficulties exacerbated by “motherhood penalty*” (access to job market, devalued work, pay gap...)
- Single Mother’s double responsibility challenge: child-rearing/unpaid care work + ensuring the family’s economic survival on one income
- Social isolation + stigmatization: severe in some countries



Source: Oxfam 2020 Report – Time to care

Vulnerability to Poverty and Homelessness

- Access to housing: expensive private rental, difficult access to affordable housing + discrimination + risk of eviction
- Vulnerability to poverty → increased risk of homelessness
- In spite of reliable statistics, a shocking reality:
 - In the USA, families in homeless situations represent one-third of the homeless population. 60% were headed by single women with children
 - In France, in 2019, there are almost 500 children homeless in the street every night, many of them new born.
 - In the UK one in every 55 single parent families became homeless in 2017-18. In 92% of these the homeless parent was a single mother.
- Migrant women particularly at risk

Consequences of Single Mothers' Homelessness

- » Homelessness as a health and mental health risk factor
 - for both mother and child
- » Homelessness impact on a child development and education
- » Homelessness and exposure to violence
- » Homelessness and family breakdown
- » Downward spiral

NOW MORE
THAN EVER
**THE
WORLD
NEEDS
MOTHERS**



Make
Mothers
Matter



Take part.
See change.