

# Looking at the SDGs from a family lens



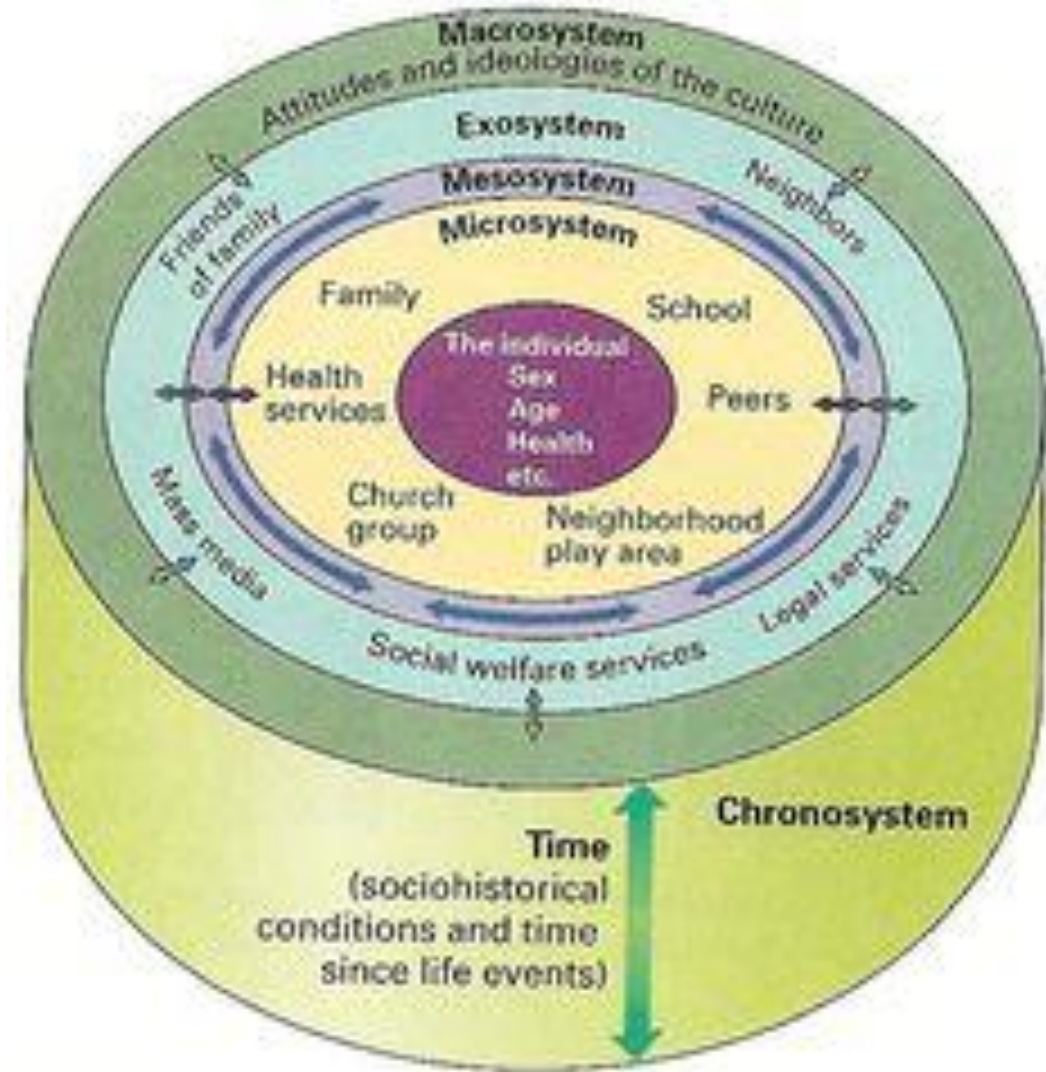
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
L-Università ta' Malta

Prof Angela Abela

## Highlight the importance of the family at the center of the SDGs

- ◆ *By providing a clear and strong rationale*
- ◆ *Incorporating the importance of the family in a theoretical framework*
- ◆ *Making use of the media*

Bronfenbrenner's  
Ecological  
System's Model  
takes into  
account a  
multi-level  
systemic  
perspective



# How can SDGs be transformative for families?

- ◆ Just under 10% of the world's workers are living with their families on less than \$1.90 per person per day

One in four children under five in the world have inadequate height for their age

SDGs can be transformative but necessitate political will

There is a pressing need for “science informed innovation at the neighbourhood systems and policy levels including investments in housing, income support and job training among other domains of influence”

Peace Justice and strong institutions are directly related to the well being of families



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

Which family policies can support 'win-wins' for family  
and  
sustainable development?

# First things first!

- ◆ Govts are committed and policies target those most in need
- ◆ Policy makers are competent and advise Govt regarding policy decisions that are informed by **rigourously** established evidence



# Family policies with a focus on early intervention



Give increased  
importance to  
perinatal  
mental health by  
providing integrated  
services for the  
mother, the baby and  
the family

BECOMING A PARENT IS A  
MAJOR LIFE CHANGE.  
KNOW HOW TO LOOK AFTER  
YOUR MENTAL HEALTH...  
HERE TO HELP.

PERINATAL DEPRESSION  
& ANXIETY  
MENTAL HEALTH WEEK  
[southcoastal.org.au](http://southcoastal.org.au)

# The importance of Screening

- ◆ How to do it in a non invasive way
- ◆ The cost benefit analyses of proper and timely screening

# Prevention of violence and harmony and stability within the family

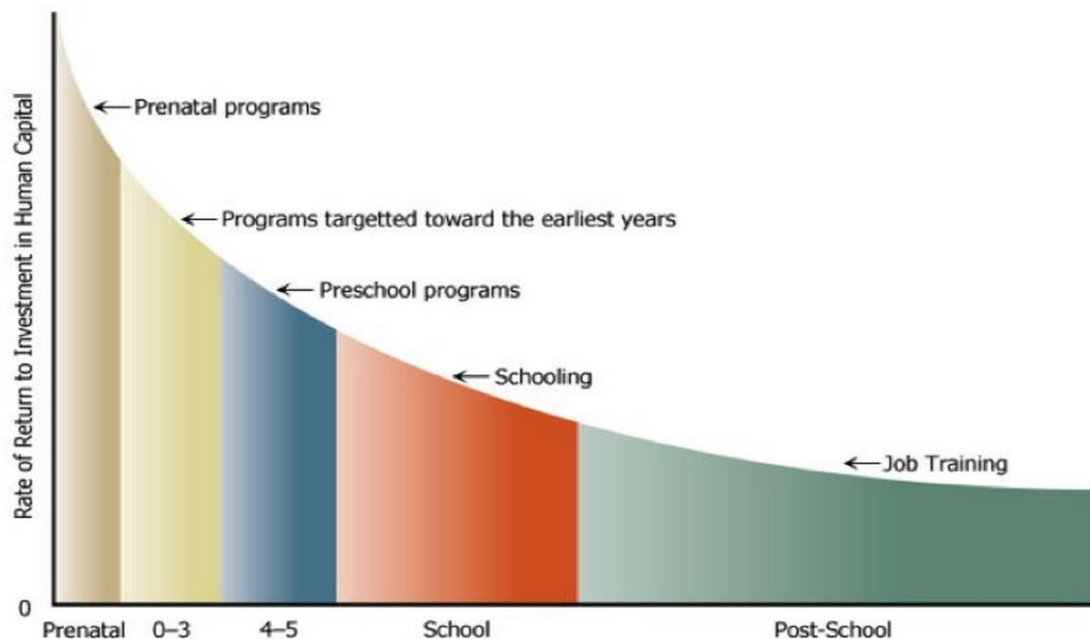


# The need for evidence based positive parenting strategies



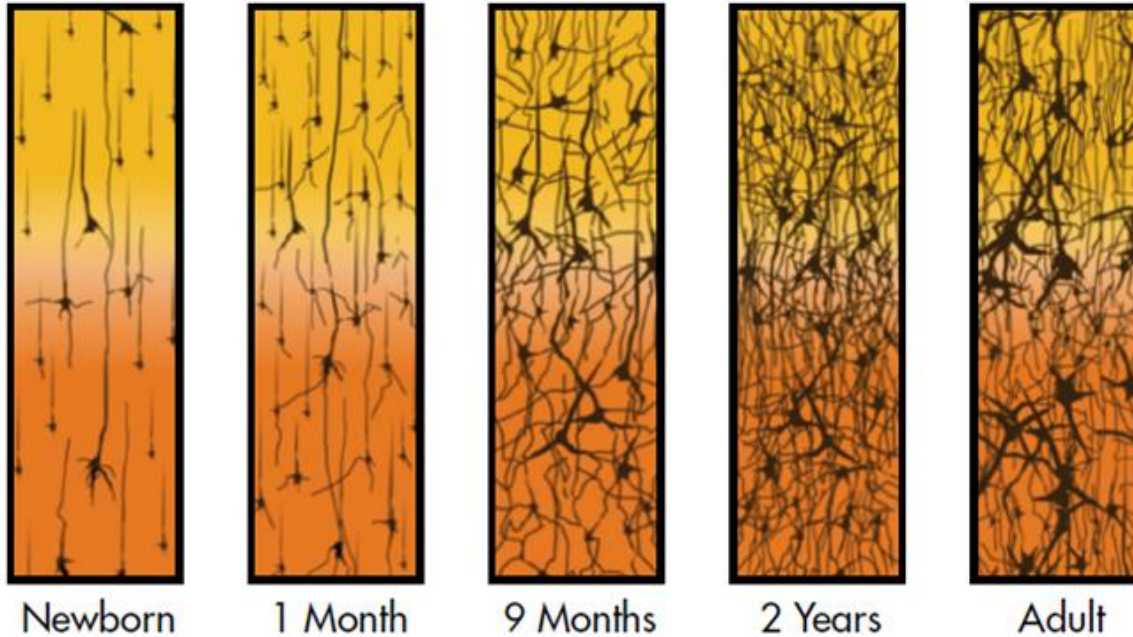
# Early childhood development is a smart investment

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Source: James Heckman, Nobel laureate in economics

# The Neuroscience of baby brain development



**FIGURE 3:**  
Synapse Density  
Over Time

Source: Corel, J.L.  
The postnatal  
development of the  
human cerebral cortex.  
Cambridge, MA:  
Harvard University  
Press; 1975.



A photograph of two hands reaching towards each other, set against a warm, glowing orange and yellow background that suggests a sunrise or sunset. The hands are silhouetted against the bright light, creating a sense of connection and hope. The word "OUTREACH" is superimposed in large, bold, black capital letters across the lower portion of the image.

**OUTREACH**



## Parental involvement in the education of the children



# Unlock Female Potential



# How to address Youth



Synergy and team work among the different actors including those focusing on and representing families is crucial

