# IFFD ANNUAL REPORT

2025

iffd

International Federation
for Family Development



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# Letter from the IFFD President



Olivier Yao

As we look back on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the thousands of volunteers, families, leaders and partners who continue to make IFFD's mission a reality around the world. Together, we have strengthened our presence across 68 countries, expanded opportunities for Family Enrichment, advanced family-focused Advocacy and continued to innovate in response to the changing needs of families today.

This report reflects much more than numbers and activities. It tells the story of a global community united by a shared conviction: that strong families are essential for the flourishing of individuals and societies. Whether through our parenting and marriage programs, international congresses, digital initiatives such as PAUSE or our work in international institutions like the United Nations, our efforts are rooted in the same purpose: to help every person discover and live the beauty of family life.

The achievements presented here are the result of collaboration across cultures, generations and continents. They demonstrate the extraordinary impact that can be achieved when people generously dedicate their time and talents in service of others.

As we move forward, we remain committed to supporting families, fostering leadership and building bridges of dialogue and understanding. Thank you for being part of this mission and for helping IFFD continue to grow as a force for positive change in the world.

With gratitude,



# Letter from the Outgoing Secretary General



Javier Vidal-Quadras

There is an old story about a man walking along a beach after a storm. Thousands of starfish had been washed ashore and left stranded on the sand. As he walked, he noticed a child carefully picking them up, one by one, and throwing them back into the sea. "It won't make any difference," the man said. "There are too many." The child bent down, picked up another starfish and replied: "It made a difference to this one."

During these twenty years as Secretary General of IFFD, I have often thought of that image. Ours has never been a mission of numbers, but of people, of families, of hearts.

Time and again, I have repeated the same conviction: we transform society family by family, reaching not all of them, but each and every one of them.

I have also often recalled that the first and most radically important good for each one of us is our own family. Everything else only makes sense and can only be truly effective if it springs from a passionate love for those entrusted to our care. The time devoted to Family Enrichment is never wasted time; in one way or another, it always finds its way back to our own families.

As I look back, I feel an immense sense of gratitude: for your friendship, your generosity, your creativity, your sacrifices and your unwavering hope. We have innovated, grown, professionalized our work and dreamed together.

Thank you for allowing me to share this extraordinary adventure with you.

Thank you for your trust, your patience and your affection. I may have stepped away from the helm, but I remain on board, as one more among you, ready to help in whatever way I can.

And I am convinced that, in the years ahead, with the people currently leading IFFD and with the renewed drive that Jorge Correa will bring as Secretary General, our dream will continue to fall short: what lies ahead will surpass even our highest expectations.

With gratitude and affection,



# Letter from the Incoming Secretary General



Jorge Correa

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is both an honor and a profound responsibility to address you for the first time as Incoming Secretary General of IFFD.

As I step into this role, I do so with deep gratitude for all those who have built and nurtured this federation over more than four decades, and with a clear conviction about where our collective energy must be directed. IFFD is much more than an international organization: it is a global community united by the belief that strong families are the foundation of a just and flourishing society. That unity — across geographies, languages and traditions — is our most valuable asset, and nurturing it will be at the heart of everything we pursue together.

Throughout these pages, you will encounter that spirit in action: volunteers serving families, member organizations collaborating across borders, young leaders stepping forward and programs that equip parents to nurture the next generation. What makes these achievements possible is the open communication and coordinated collaboration among all of us — when we share best practices and align our efforts, our impact grows exponentially.

Looking ahead, I am committed to placing unity, communication and coordination at the center of our shared agenda — strengthening the channels that connect us across the federation and ensuring that our collective work reinforces rather than duplicates itself. When we act as one, sharing knowledge and supporting each other, we multiply our impact far beyond what any one organization could achieve alone.

I invite each of you — member organizations, volunteers, donors and partners — to join in this effort. Let us build a federation where collaboration is our default and every organization feels heard, valued and connected. Thank you for your dedication and your trust. I am honored to serve this community and eager to walk this path forward with all of you.

With warm regards,




Our mission is to help each person discover and live the beauty of family life.

# Our mission

At IFFD our mission is to ***help each person discover and live the beauty of family life***, while fostering friendships and personal development.

Our **Family Enrichment** activity consists mainly of support, educational and formation programs for young people, married couples, parents and grandparents. We have been organizing international congresses since 1978. In addition, since 2022, we have been promoting innovative digital projects such as Pause, an online content platform for families.

Our **Family Advocacy** activity consists mainly in opening lines of communication between countries, academia, international organizations, families and civil society, highlighting the family perspective and child protection in social policies. It contributes to the global debate and encourages commitment to family policies from key venues such as the United Nations and the European Union.



# Statement of Purpose

*1. We are a Federation of non-governmental, non-denominational, non-profit, independent and privately operated Family Enrichment Centers from different countries.*

*2. We integrate a vast network spanning 68 countries across 5 continents, with over 7,000 dedicated volunteers.*

*3. Our mission is to generate dynamics that help every person discover and live the beauty of family life in a friendly environment that promotes personal growth. We empower families worldwide through improved communication and collaboration skills and our programs do not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or country of origin.*

*4. Our experience reveals that parents must learn how to better fulfill their parental role. Both parents are called to participate in our programs, in order for each to make their own contribution as an individual, as a parent and as a family.*

*5. Our programs primarily use the 'case-study method'. This methodology promotes open dialogue about real-life situations, allowing participants to share their perspectives without imposing their own ideas or dismissing the thoughts of others.*

*6. Our moderators are dedicated volunteers who bring their life experience and skills in facilitating and guiding discussions after receiving proper training.*

*7. Our activities aim to accompany each person and/or couple in their lifelong learning process. Our parenting courses are targeted to groups of parents with children of the same age with a main focus on teaching the appropriate parenting skills relevant to that stage of development.*

*8. Our professional activities of advocacy aim to integrate a family perspective into international, regional, national and local development agendas through the design, implementation and monitoring of evidence-based laws, policies and programs.*

*9. We organize regional and worldwide congresses relevant to families and leadership summits to strengthen our collective identity and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices.*

*10. We promote and participate in scientific projects and other activities aimed at raising awareness and disseminating evidence-based findings to enrich our local and international work.*



# IFFD at a glance

## We are present in

# 68

## countries worldwide

**+7,000**
Volunteers

**590**
Courses in 2025

**29**
Advocacy events

**+40,000**
People impacted worldwide

*Including Course participants, attendees at UN events, attendees to Family Enrichment projects, Pause subscribers and other IFFD activities.

**1,930**
Young people in our programs in 2025

**32**
Countries impacted with Family Policies

**10**
IFFD Policy Papers published

**+2,800**
Subscribers on Pause
+50,000 video views



# Family Enrichment

**IFFD Family Enrichment** offers a variety of **programs**, **congresses** and **projects** to accompany people in different life stages. They use participatory dynamics such as the case study method, which poses real situations and allows each user to grow in his or her personal and family life. In 2025 we had a year of **innovation**, **good practices** and **great learnings**.

- PROGRAMS
- CONGRESSES
- PROJECTS

## Our programs

### > For parents

The programs equip parents with educational skills related to exercising authority, understanding their children, transmitting values, affective-sexual education and fostering personal autonomy.



**First Steps**
For parents of children from 0 to 3 years old



**First Conversations**
For parents of children from 4 to 5 years old



**First Letters**
For parents of children from 6 to 7 years old



**First Decisions**
For parents of children from 8 to 10 years old



**Pre-Adolescence**
For parents of children from 11 to 13 years old



**Adolescence**
For parents of children from 14 to 16 years old



**Role of the Father**
For Fathers

## > For couples

The programs provide couples with tools to strengthen their relationship and promote family harmony, addressing topics such as marital love, sexuality, communication, decision-making and work-life balance.



**Married Love 1**
For couples from newlyweds to 10 years of marriage



**Married Love 2**
For couples with 10 to 20 years of marriage



**Married Love 3**
For couples who have been married for more than 20 years

## > For grandparents

The programs help grandparents strengthen their role as a fundamental source of support for the family.



**Grandparents**
For active grandparents

## > For young single professionals

The programs offer young professionals tools to grow in personal maturity and develop strong relationships.



**Personal Project**
For young single (non-married) professionals.



**International Personal Project**
Created by and for young single (non-married) professionals from the 6 continents

# How our centers work

IFFD works through a decentralized structure, with **national associations** coordinating programs alongside schools, social organizations and families.

Programs typically include 5–7 sessions based on the "**Family System**," a case study method learning process which includes 4 steps:

- **Individual reflection**
- **Couple sharing** (not in youth programs)
- **Small-group discussion** (8–10 people)
- **Plenary session** (led by moderator)

**Moderators** and **team leaders**, usually parents and young professionals trained in facilitation, drive the programs. Centers, promoting groups, moderators and team leaders form an extensive volunteer network of around **7,000 people worldwide.**

Family System Video



# International Courses

## Digital Courses: Digital & Hybrid Moderator Practices 2025

The **Digital & Hybrid Moderator Practices** program provides both **theoretical and practical training** in communication skills and group discussion facilitation techniques. The training consists of two hours of theoretical instruction, followed by a digital Q&A session to address participants' questions. The practical component includes two one-hour moderation practice sessions, conducted either online or in person through hybrid courses. An additional and optional hour of Q&As is offered at the end so people can ask questions after the whole training.

During 2025, eight training cycles were delivered, reaching **284 participants** across **24 countries** and **80 cities**:

- ***DMP India Dubai Singapore*** (January-February 2025) / 15 participants / 4 countries
- ***HMP USA*** (March 2025) / 65 participants / 20 cities
- ***DMP THE PHILIPPINES*** (March-April 2025) / 50 participants / 18 cities
- ***HMP IFEH'25*** (June-July 2025) / 40 participants / 12 countries
- ***HMP EFEH'25*** (June-July 2025) / 34 participants / 5 countries
- ***HMP ITALY*** (September-October 2025) / 30 participants / 6 cities
- ***DMP THE PHILIPPINES*** (October 2025) / 30 participants / 10 cities
- ***DMP CAMEROUN*** (December 2025) / 20 participants / 2 cities

## Countries

We are present in **68 countries** on 5 continents

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo DR
Costa Rica
Croatia
Czech Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Finland
France
Germany
Guatemala
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Ivory Coast
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Korea
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Malta
Mexico
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Puerto Rico
Romania
Russia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Tanzania
The Netherlands
Trinidad & Tobago
UAE
Uganda
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela

# Program languages

The chart below shows the languages into which our programs have been **translated**.

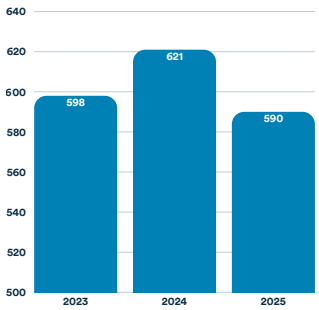
| COURSES | Spanish | English | Polish | Portuguese | Italian | French | German | Russian |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FIRST STEPS | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| FIRST CONVERSATIONS | X | | X | | X | X | | X |
| FIRST LETTERS | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| FIRST DECISIONS | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| PRE-ADOLESCENCE | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| ADOLESCENCE | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| MARRIED LOVE 1 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| MARRIED LOVE 2 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| MARRIED LOVE 3 | X | X | | | X | | | |
| PERSONAL PROJECT | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| GRANDPARENTS | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| ROLE OF THE FATHER | X | X | | | | | | |
| ON BOARD | X | X | | | | | | |
| FAMILIES WITHOUT BARRIERS | X | X | | | X | | | |

| COURSES | Slovak | Latvian | Lithuanian | Dutch | Hungarian | Chinese | Japanese |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FIRST STEPS | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| FIRST CONVERSATIONS | | X | X | | X | | |
| FIRST LETTERS | X | X | X | | | X | |
| FIRST DECISIONS | X | X | X | | | X | |
| PRE-ADOLESCENCE | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| ADOLESCENCE | X | | | | X | | |
| MARRIED LOVE 1 | X | X | X | X | | | X |
| MARRIED LOVE 2 | X | | | | | | |
| MARRIED LOVE 3 | | | | | | | |
| PERSONAL PROJECT | X | X | X | | | X | X |
| GRANDPARENTS | | | | X | | | |
| ROLE OF THE FATHER | X | | | | | | |
| ON BOARD | | | | | | | |
| FAMILIES WITHOUT BARRIERS | | | | | | | |



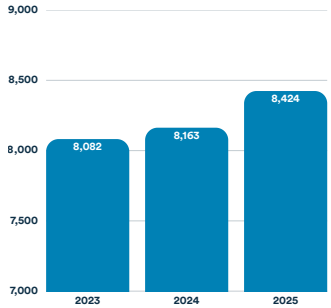
# 2025 Statistics

## COURSES



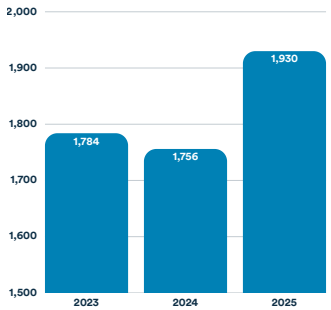

*Over 2023–2025, the number of courses **remained broadly stable**, fluctuating between 590 and 621. There was a slight peak in 2024 (621) followed by a return to 590 in 2025, close to the 2023 level (598). Overall, the data shows consistent delivery with minor year-to-year variation.*

## COUPLES




*Between 2023 and 2025, couple participation shows **steady growth**, rising from 8,082 to 8,424 (+4.2% overall). After a small increase in 2024, growth accelerated in 2025, indicating expanding reach and sustained demand for the courses.*

## SINGLES




*From 2023 to 2025, single participant numbers show **overall growth** with a small dip in 2024. After falling slightly from 1,784 (2023) to 1,756 (2024), they rise strongly to 1,930 in 2025, the highest level in the period.*

## 2025 CONCLUSION

*The 2025 results reflect a strong, resilient and growing global Family Enrichment network. While the number of courses remained stable, participation continued to increase, reaching 8,424 couples and 1,930 single participants: **the highest levels recorded in the three-year period**.*

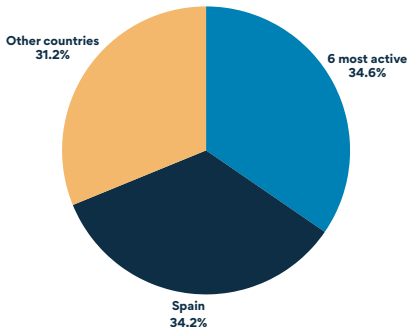
*Looking ahead, the positive participation trends, expanding international initiatives and strong engagement of volunteers and families around the world provide every reason for optimism. Together, these results confirm that IFFD is well positioned to continue **strengthening families and expanding its reach** in the years to come.*

## ACTIVITY DISTRIBUTION & PEOPLE ENGAGED

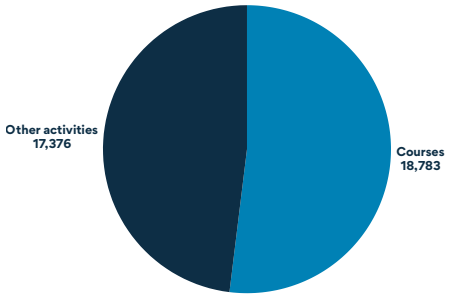
The 2025 **activity distribution** demonstrates a well-balanced global presence. Spain, the six most active countries (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines, and Poland) and all other countries each accounted for roughly **one-third of total activities**, reflecting both strong engagement and broad international participation.

In total, **36,159 people participated in Family Enrichment activities in 2025**. Participation was almost evenly split between **courses** (18,783 participants) and other **activities** (17,376 participants), highlighting a balanced approach that combines structured learning with a wide range of outreach and engagement initiatives.

**Activity Distribution 2025**




**Total number of people 2025**




**36,159 people** engaged in Family Enrichment Activity in **2025**

# Congresses and Conventions

IFFD has organized more than **20 World Congresses** and regional meetings aimed at strengthening leadership, fostering collaboration and promoting the exchange of best practices among volunteers worldwide. Recent World Congresses were held in **Cebu in 2024** and **London in 2019**, while the next edition will take place in **Rome in 2028**. In November 2025, Poland also hosted the **European Meeting of Family Enrichment & Personal Project Leaders**, reinforcing cooperation and leadership development across Europe.

## LONDON 2019

Highlights video




In October 2019, IFFD held the **20th World Congress of Family Enrichment in London**, bringing together more than 1,000 participants from 55 countries. The Congress focused on family well-being, education, leadership and public policy, while strengthening international collaboration through the Training of Moderators and the World Meeting of Leaders. The event also hosted the **First World Congress of Personal Project**, gathering 250 young participants from 35 countries and reinforcing IFFD's commitment to youth and family development worldwide.

## CEBU 2024

Highlights video




In February 2024, IFFD held the **21st World Congress on Family Enrichment in Cebu** under the theme "**Family Life and New Technologies**." The Congress gathered more than 1,100 participants from 35 countries to discuss key issues affecting families in the digital age, including artificial intelligence, mental health, leadership and family policies. The event also included the **2nd World Congress of Personal Project**, together with leadership meetings and training sessions that strengthened international collaboration among Family Enrichment leaders. The support of **EDUCHILD** played a key role in the success of the event and the continued growth of initiatives in the Philippines.

## ROME 2028




Preparations are underway for the next World Congress of Family Enrichment, to be held on **October 14, 2028 (tbc)**, in **Rome** under the theme "**Family Life and the Search for Meaning.**" The World Meeting of Leaders will take place the previous day. Organized in collaboration with IFFD's local team in Italy, the Congress will adopt a new **one-day format**, allowing more time for networking and cultural activities.

## EUROPEAN MEETING OF FAMILY ENRICHMENT & PERSONAL PROJECT LEADERS (POLAND)

Highlights video



On November 15, 2025, IFFD held the **European Meeting of Family Enrichment & Personal Project Leaders in Warsaw**, bringing together 130 participants from 16 countries to promote collaboration through workshops and group discussions. The meeting received strong feedback (9.2/10), with participants highlighting the organization, atmosphere, speakers and family involvement. Key sessions were delivered by **Raphael M. Bonelli** and **Monika Suchowierska-Stephany**.

IFFD also supported national conventions in the **United States, Brazil, Spain, Italy, France and Mexico**, strengthening global cooperation.

# Projects

## Family Enrichment Holidays







**Family Enrichment Holidays** combines **family vacations** with **Family Enrichment training**, bringing together families from different countries for a shared experience of learning, community life, leisure and spiritual development.

### Torreciudad, Spain

**From 28 June to 8 July 2025**, IFFD hosted the Family Enrichment Holidays in Torreciudad, Spain. The event brought together 19 families from Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates and the United States, totaling 40 adults and 73 children.

### Table Mountains, Poland

**From 12–25 July 2025**, IFFD Poland hosted the first European Family Enrichment Holidays in the Table Mountains. Families from Finland, Slovenia, Lithuania, Croatia and Poland participated in this inaugural edition. The success of this first edition has led to plans for a second edition in 2026.

## On Board





**On Board** is one of IFFD's newest programs for couples, designed to strengthen and enrich married life through a **four-session journey** delivered over three months: Lighthouse (self-discovery and reflection), Changing Course (navigating crises), Out to Sea (the vocation of marriage) and Full Sail (marital intimacy and self-giving love).

In **2025**, On Board expanded internationally with courses in Madrid, Pamplona and Granada in Spain, as well as Tucumán and Buenos Aires in Argentina. Participant feedback was highly positive, with satisfaction scores of 9.5/10 in Madrid and Pamplona and 8.5/10 in Granada.

The program continues to grow, with new editions already scheduled for 2026 in Pamplona, Vitoria and Málaga, as well as introductory sessions planned in Rome, Houston, Bogotá and Brasília.

## Families without Barriers



**Families without Barriers** is a project that unites people from diverse cultural, economic and social backgrounds around universal issues such as children's education and family in an environment of friendship and mutual help.

During 2025, the Families without Barriers program continued to expand across Spain, operating in 10 provinces and delivering 40 courses that reached between **350 and 400 participants**. Building on this growth, preparations are underway to launch the program in Seville and expand to additional cities.




# Pause by IFFD

2025 has been a year of **consolidation** and **strategic evolution** for PAUSE. This report summarises the platform's key achievements across three dimensions: platform performance and growth, new content launched and innovation currently in progress.

**PERFORMANCE & GROWTH**

**NEW CONTENT LAUNCHED**

**INNOVATION IN PROGRESS**

EXPLORE PAUSE

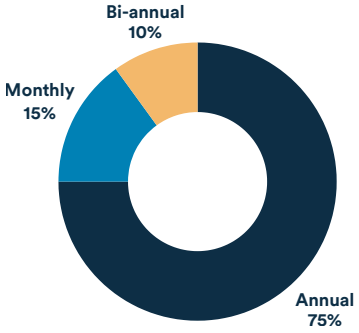
## Platform data

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2,825** SUBSCRIBERS | **+50,000** VIDEOS WATCHED | **74%** RENEWAL RATE | **x2.5** LOGIN GROWTH VS. 2024 | **50%** VIDEO COMPLETION RATE |

## Geographic Reach

PAUSE reaches families in **58 countries**. 70% of subscribers are based in **Spain**, while 30% come from international markets including **Canada**, the **United States** and dozens of countries across Europe and Latin America.

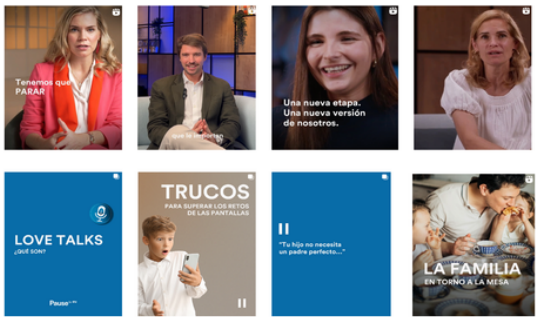
## Subscription mix




## Social Media Growth

In 2025, PAUSE strengthened its social media presence significantly. The Instagram community surpassed **3,000 followers**, consolidating an engaged audience around family education content.

Among the milestones achieved during the year were the launch of the PAUSE **LinkedIn** page, which enabled the platform to reach a new professional audience and the launch of the PAUSE **TikTok channel**, opening the platform to a broader and younger demographic.



# Business-to-Business Institutional Partnerships

PAUSE has built a growing B2B channel through **agreements** with educational institutions (schools, alumni associations and family clubs) and IFFD Family Enrichment Centers.

Active partnerships in 2025 include:

- **IFFD Family Enrichment Centers:** All participants enrolled in IFFD courses receive free access to the PAUSE platform for three months.
- **Training for Faculty and Staff:** including teachers, family counselors and management teams.

*Some examples of **partnerships** include:*




VIARÓ ALUMNI

ARENALES
25 COLEGIOS

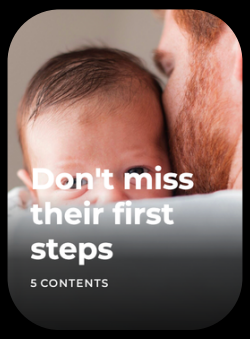
FOMENTO
35 COLEGIOS

INSTITUCIÓ FAMILIAR D'EDUCACIÓ

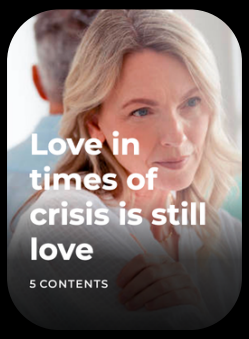
OTROS

# New content launched in 2025

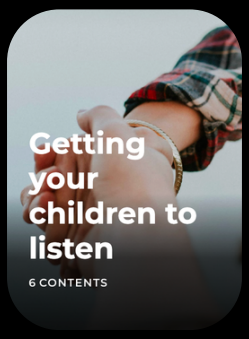
Throughout 2025, PAUSE significantly expanded its library with new expert-led modules covering the **full spectrum of family life**:




Early childhood development for new and expecting parents.




Resources for couples and families navigating relational difficulty.




Communication strategies and authority models for everyday family life.




Practical guidance for families navigating addiction and mental health challenges.




Digital wellbeing and the impact of social media on family dynamics.



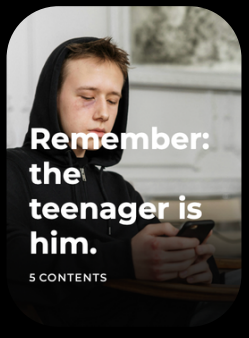

Values formation, resilience and moral development in children.




Creating a nurturing and functional home environment.




Rituals, communication and family cohesion in everyday life.




Navigating adolescence with empathy and healthy boundaries.




Accessible introduction to artificial intelligence in family life.

# Innovation & Development in Progress

## Platform Evolution: From Library to Experiential Solution

The platform is evolving from a static video repository to a dynamic, personalized family accompaniment solution — hybrid access tiers, advanced AI-driven personalization and multi-format content (audio, video, guides, checklists) designed for real family life.

## Native Mobile Application (Android & iOS)

The development of a **native mobile app** is the highest-priority product investment for the coming period. It will resolve the platform's most significant current gap — mobile usability — with background audio playback, a personalized home screen, favorites and progress tracking and a freemium model designed to lower entry friction and increase conversion to premium.

## AI-Powered Family Companion Agent

PAUSE is developing an AI agent to serve as a personalized family guidance assistant — delivering contextualized content recommendations, intelligent navigation of the library and tailored guidance based on each family's profile and life stage.

## Social Impact & Scholarship Program

A structured scholarship mechanism will extend platform access to 1.000 families who cannot afford a subscription, funded by donors and institutional partners and aligned with the international IFFD network.

# Vision for 2026–2027



### USER EXPERIENCE

More intuitive, agile, accessible and actionable across all devices and formats.



### SCALABILITY

Integration across the international IFFD network with initiatives from  countries.



### NEW FORMATS

To better respond to our audience's interests, we are launching PAUSE Series (Voices) and PAUSE Podcast, two formats that emerged as top requests from our community.



### BRAND & COMMUNITY

A stronger PAUSE identity rooted in trust, belonging and connection with real family needs.

# Family Advocacy

IFFD advocates worldwide for a **family-focused approach to policymaking** as a key strategy for social development. Through programs in 68 countries, IFFD identifies challenges affecting family life, promotes academic research and expert collaboration, recommends evidence-based policies and raises awareness of the family's impact on society.

This work is carried out mainly at the **United Nations** and the European Union in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ECOSOC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-HABITAT and other national, regional and local governments, together with academics and civil society partners. All this activity is expressed in four different outcomes:

- EVENTS
- STATEMENTS
- PROJECTS
- PAPERS

## Events

IFFD organizes and participates in a wide range of **events** — including conferences, expert meetings, awareness-raising campaigns and roundtables — that bring academics, lawmakers and civil society representatives together to share research, insights and good practices. These events are hosted or sponsored by national, regional and local governments, permanent missions of member states and civil society organizations.

### IFFD BRIEFING & IFFD AWARDS 2025

More info here



The **IFFD Briefing** has been held at the UN Headquarters in New York for the past 13 years during the Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

IFFD celebrates this event in collaboration with Member States, UN-System and other civil society organizations on issues related to each year's theme of the United Nations' Commission on Social Development.




The **2025 Briefing** was held on February 12th under the theme "**Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development: Innovating for families and a renewed social pact**". The welcoming remarks of the event were made by **Nora Urrea**, Vice President of IFFD.




The **IFFD Awards** are presented during the IFFD Briefing to the persons or territories distinguished by the promotion of family-friendly policies. In 2025, the IFFD Global Board decided to recognize the promotion of family-friendly policies to:

- **The Province of Bataan** (The Philippines). Acceptance by Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, Governor
- **SOS Children's Villages International**. Acceptance by Sofia García, Head of Strategic Partnerships and External Engagement.

## II WORLD SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

More info here







**IFFD** took a very active role in the **II World Summit on Social Development** held in Doha, Qatar from 4th to 6th of November. It was convened by the UN General Assembly exactly 30 years after the historic 1995 Copenhagen summit. It gathered Heads of State, Governments and Civil Society to address escalating global inequalities, poverty, decent work and the social impacts of climate change.

IFFD took the lead in **3 major events**, the **Solution Studio Session**, focused on **Family Policies and Programs**, Civil Society Solutions. This session aims to demonstrate how civil society is shaping and implementing family-focused policies and programs that respond to demographic shifts, promote social cohesion and reinforce care and support systems.

The Federation also organized alongside Poland the session referring to **"Care and Support Systems for Reinforcing Family-oriented Policies - A Vision for Sustainable Social Development"** and the session on **African Solutions for Family Policy** alongside UN-DESA, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES (MAY 15)

More info here



IFFD participates actively every year in the celebration of the **Observance of the International Day of Families on May 15th**. The Observance brings to the United Nations Headquarters, experts, policymakers, academics, civil society partners and private sector to try to improve the lives of many families worldwide.

# Statements

Different UN bodies and other international organizations have different modalities for NGO participation, with a common denominator of participating in various sessions and consultations through **oral and written statements**. Among those opportunities, IFFD usually shares the policy recommendations based on our experiences with families in 68 countries, as they relate to the theme for each particular meeting.

### Oral

**Oral Statement – 63rd Commission on Social Development**
(February, 2025)
Full statement here



**Opening Remarks – IFFD Briefing 2025**
**(February, 2025)**
Full statement here



**Oral Statement – 58th Commission on Population and Development**
(April, 2025)
Full statement here



**Oral Intervention – Informal Stakeholder Hearing on the Second Summit for Social Development (May, 2025)**
Full statement here



### Written

**Written Statement – 2025 Commission on Population and Development**
(January, 2025)
Full statement here



**Written Statement – UNICEF Executive Board Session 2025**
(February, 2025)
Full statement here



**Written Statement ECOSOC 2025: Family-Centered Vision for Social Progress** (July, 2025)
Full statement here



# Projects

With our effective and strategic projects we actively drive better implementation of family friendly policies. We seek not only academic partners and researchers, but also other stakeholders worldwide that can help us to reach our goals better, including the private sector and other civil society actors.

## URBAN FAMILIES PROJECT

The **Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families Project** promotes a family perspective in the design, implementation and evaluation of urban policies. Led by IFFD in collaboration with the Veneto Region, UN DESA and other academic partners, the initiative encourages representatives of cities and territories to become more responsive to the needs of sustainable families.

More than **260 cities and regions** have endorsed the Venice Declaration, committing to advance family-friendly policies and monitor progress through the Good Practices Platform. In 2025, the cities of Envigado (Colombia), Jundiaí and Macatuba (Brazil) joined the initiative by signing the Declaration. São Paulo also hosted the 1st National Meeting of Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families, bringing together local leaders and stakeholders to share experiences and strengthen collaboration.

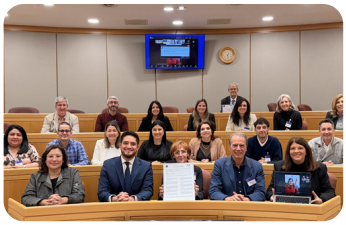
The **6th Annual Technical Meeting** of the project took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 27–28 October 2025. Participants exchanged innovations in family-oriented urban policies, reviewed monitoring reports from Venice Declaration signatories, strengthened the Good Practices Platform and identified key indicators and enabling factors for success.

The project also contributed to the observance of **World Cities Day 2025 at United Nations** Headquarters in New York through the session “Inclusive Urban Futures: Families, Care and Innovation at the Heart of Cities,” highlighting the central role of families and care policies in building inclusive and sustainable cities.

More info here







## ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECT

The **Advocacy Training Project** provides students and early-career professionals with the knowledge, skills and practical experience needed to contribute to **research and advocacy** on family-related issues at the international level.

The **13th International Advocacy Workshop** was held in Paris from **9–13 June 2025**. The training week equipped participants with methodological tools, ethical frameworks and contextual understanding to support research on family dynamics, intergenerational solidarity and innovative care models for older persons. During the months following the workshop, participants engaged in practical and academic activities designed to strengthen the connection between social services and family-centered approaches across Europe.

As part of the project, IFFD collaborated with IPC – Facultés Libres de Philosophie et de Psychologie through an Erasmus+ research initiative. A total of 44 young researchers from 18 countries participated in a survey on the unmet needs and living conditions of older persons and contributed to working groups supporting the preparation and follow-up of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Since its launch, the IFFD International Advocacy Workshop has brought together around 500 students and young professionals from 39 countries, creating a global network of emerging leaders committed to advancing family-focused policies and research.

More info here







# Papers

IFFD Papers is a collection of policy briefs focusing on family-perspective approach produced monthly by the Federation in collaboration with authors and partners.

There were **10 papers** produced and published in 2025 by IFFD.




## ADVANCING FAMILY POLICIES (1 JULY 2025)

The 2025 UNDESA Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) report—drawing on the experiences of 141 countries between 2020 and 2024—confirms that family-oriented policies are not only protective but transformative. When designed with all members of the family in mind, these policies act as powerful instruments to reduce poverty, ensure health, enhance education, promote gender equality and build resilience to climate and demographic change.

Read full paper

## CARE AND FAMILIES (1 NOVEMBER 2025)




The Inter-American Court of Human Rights' Advisory Opinion OC-31/25 represents a landmark step in the recognition of caregiving as a matter of human rights. By defining care as an autonomous right, the Court elevated it from a derivative concept embedded in rights to health, education, or labor, to a self-standing entitlement that imposes direct obligations on States.

The consequences are profound: families gain enforceable entitlements to caregiving services and support; parenting is redefined as a state-supported right; and caregiving itself—long marginalized as private, unpaid and gendered labor—is recognized as socially indispensable work.

Read full paper

## OTHER PUBLISHED PAPERS INCLUDE:

**Family-Centered Cities,**
Posted February 3, 2025

Read full paper

**Enhanced Family Life,**
Posted March 4, 2025

Read full paper

**A Global Social Contract,**
Posted April 1, 2025

Read full paper

**Healthy Urban Families,**
Posted May 1, 2025

Read full paper

**The Korean Case,**
Posted May 4, 2025

Read full paper

**Renewed Social Pact,**
Posted September 9, 2025

Read full paper

**Autonomy and Inclusion,**
Posted October 2, 2025

Read full paper

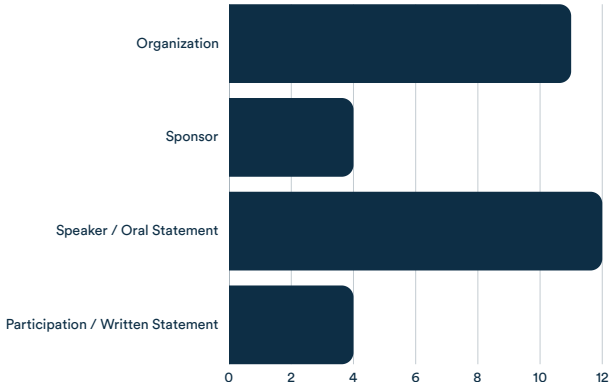
# Advocacy Statistics

## >EVENTS

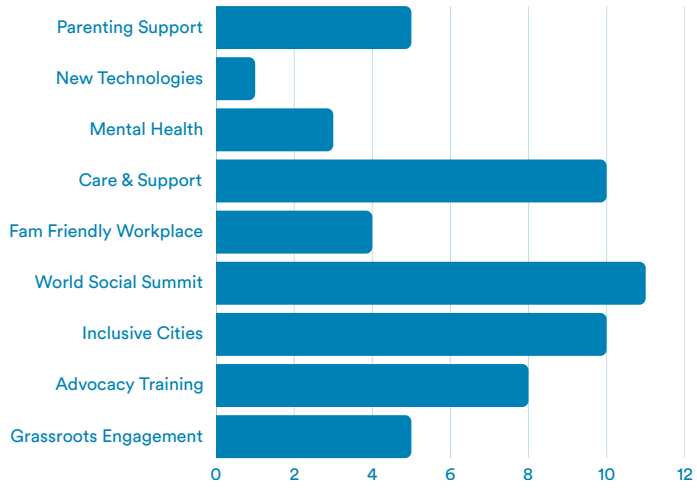
**29**
**Events in 2025**

**2,885**
**Estimated attendees at events**

### IFFD'S ROLE IN EVENTS



## ADVOCACY PRIORITIES IN EVENTS




## >IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT 2025

### COUNTRIES IMPACTED

SPAIN
TURKEY
POLAND
QATAR
HUNGARY
SAUDI ARABIA
ITALY
AZERBAIJAN
AUSTRIA
UZBEKISTAN
NORWAY
THE PHILIPPINES
SWEDEN
SINGAPORE
GREECE
MALAYSIA
BELGIUM
JAPAN
IRELAND
KOREA
DRC
THAILAND
KENYA
CANADA
NIGERIA
USA
IVORY COAST
MEXICO
MOROCCO
COLOMBIA
EGYPT
ARGENTINA

### UN AGENCIES ENGAGED

UN-DESA
UN-WOMEN
UNICEF
POPULATION
DIV
WHO
STATISTICAL DIV
UN-HABITAT
ILO

### IFFD FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTERS ENGAGED IN ADVOCACY ACTIVITY

USA
IVORY COAST
THE PHILIPPINES
COLOMBIA
KENYA
MEXICO
ECUADOR
POLAND

### NGOs ENGAGED

FAMILY TALKS (BRAZIL)
ELISAN (EUROPE)
SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES (GLOBAL)
DIFI (QATAR)
BLUE TREE FOUNDATION (SOUTH KOREA)
CADEM (TURKEY)

## >PROJECTS: OUR IMPACT SO FAR

**260**

**cities and regions have endorsed the Venice Declaration**

**500**

**students and young professionals have participated in the Advocacy Workshops since its launch**

# IFFD in first person



## GROWING TOGETHER: THE SMITHS' FAMILY ENRICHMENT JOURNEY

We met when we were in high school and got married right after college in 2018. We are very blessed to have **6 children** with the oldest being 7 years old. Ever since we got married we dreamed of forming a beautiful large family. Little did we know the ways in which **parenting would stretch us and challenge us**. From sleep training to discipline and establishing routines to strengthening our marriage, we were facing normal family challenges. We were so lucky to get introduced to **Family Enrichment**. We participated in the first ever **International Family Enrichment in 2021** and saw how helpful it was for our marriage and our confidence in parenting. We continued being involved and started forming part of the steering committee for Texas. Ultimately, we helped start a course in Houston.

2025 was a big year for us. We started the year with our 4th newborn baby, a huge blessing. In the spring, we were able to attend and participate in the **National Family Enrichment convention in San Antonio**. It was absolutely life changing. We met so many inspiring couples. They shared their family stories and the role Family Enrichment had played in their lives. We also learned a lot from the keynote speakers- we were challenged to consider and grow in joy in the midst of family life as well as learning each other's love languages to better show our love and appreciation for the other members of our families. We met Rosa Pich and Leticia Rodríguez, Director of Family Enrichment, there- absolutely incredible people. We mentioned we were planning on going to Spain for the summer. They warmly invited us to attend **Family Enrichment Holidays 2025** and we could not refuse!

We had great expectations for the program, but in reality it was even better than we could have imagined. **It was truly magical**. We took care of our family relationships by spending quality time with our children. We also had a chance to **analyze a case with our small group** and then in a **general session**. It was incredible to have such good insight from couples from all over the world!

We had an incredible summer family holidays. We explored nature, enjoyed time at the pool, played sports and made new friends. Our kids, even though they were very young, were able to make memories that will last a lifetime.

As we reflect on the year 2025, we can't help but thank God for such incredible experiences that have created such a positive impact in our family.

We are beyond grateful to IFFD for providing families the opportunity to strengthen marriages and families through Family Enrichment. They have helped by positively improving our own and we are certain it has touched and transformed many others!

Fast-forward to 2026, God has blessed us with baby twin boys, and we can't wait for this beautiful family adventure to continue! We look forward to learning more and more and to invite others to experience the life-changing experience of Family Enrichment.

**Alec & Raquel Smith**



# STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, TRANSFORMING SOCIETY WITH THE STEBELSCY FAMILY

Thanks to **Family Enrichment**, we can become better parents every year, help our children grow to serve others, and thus become happy people. Last year was full of many events. We'd like to mention just three. **Family Enrichment Holidays** are held throughout Poland during the summer, with approximately 300 families participating in **12 FEH in 2025**.

In July 2025, the first **EFEH (European Family Enrichment Holidays)** took place, a holiday for families from various European countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Croatia, Slovenia, Poland, Finland) who spent a week in Poland in the Table Mountains. One of the guests and speakers was **Leticia Rodriguez, Director of Family Enrichment**. Since September 2025, alongside the Family Enrichment courses, training sessions for moderators have been held in three Polish cities, using the case method we, as participants, had the opportunity to learn more about during our summer stay in Torreciudad.

In the fall of 2025, the **EMFEL (European Meeting of Family Enrichment Leaders)** took place in Józefów near Warsaw – a meeting for Family Enrichment leaders from various European countries. Preparation for this conference was preceded by weekly online meetings and work in thematic groups. The conference provided an opportunity to build relationships between people involved in Family Enrichment in various countries and discuss challenges to Family Enrichment development. We discussed, among other things, how to better utilize AI tools in our Family Enrichment work. We have the overwhelming impression that the more time, ideas, and commitment we devote to the development of Family Enrichment in our country, the **stronger and happier our family emerges**, and in a small way we can make the world around us a better place.

We look to the future with enthusiasm and great hope and will continue to support Family Enrichment in Poland.

**Eva & Marcin Stebelscy**

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Olivier Yao



Vice President
Nora Urrea



Outgoing Secretary General
Javier Vidal-Quadras



Incoming Secretary General
Jorge Correa



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Raymond Mutura **(Kenya)**

Caitlin West **(Australia)**
Daniella Oliva **(Ecuador)**
Ruza Rebac Dumanić **(Croatia)**

# Managing Team

Director of Family Enrichment
Leticia Rodríguez



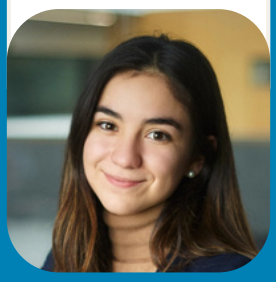
Director of International Relations
José Alejandro Vázquez



Director of Strategy
Javier Relats



Communication Coordinator
Nicole Braham



Office Manager
Lorena Fernández



Pause Project Manager
Álvaro Bonet



Advocacy Talent Acquisition
Ignacio Socías




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