

POVERTY

challenges

„Poverty is not only the absence of wealth; it is also the absence of opportunity.“
Andrew Carnegie

Poverty stands as one of the most pressing global issues. Millions of individuals worldwide find themselves living below the poverty line, struggling with daily challenges to secure essential necessities like food, water, and shelter. This condition leads to a range of adverse outcomes, from diminished quality of life and health issues to social marginalization and an upsurge in crime.

Over a span of 25 years, there has been a decrease in extreme poverty. However, for the first time in a while, this trend took a turn in 2020. The causes are complex and intricate, with factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, the presence of global conflicts, and the impacts of climate change. According to the World Bank¹, this uprise in poverty is unparalleled in the history of record-keeping.

Poverty cannot be solely assessed by measuring the income of a population. Such assessments encompass an array of issues, including hunger, malnutrition, restricted access to education and essential services, social exclusion, and a lack of participation in decision-making. The United Nations (UN) is committed to eliminating poverty in all its manifestations, placing it at the forefront of sustainable development goals.²

⚙️ **Extreme poverty**³ is defined as the condition of surviving on less than **\$2.15** per person per day at 2017 purchasing power.

However, poverty isn't solely defined by the inability to meet basic needs. It is also characterized by a complex interrelation of factors, including discrimination, poor governance, conflict, exploitation, domestic violence, and corrupt leadership, which hinder people's efforts to break free from its grasp. These factors create a vicious cycle, trapping individuals in poverty and limiting their access to vital social services and resources.⁴

Currently, **719 million** people, accounting for **9.2%** of the global population, are living on less than **\$2.15** per day.

Among them, approximately two-thirds are children and youth, and women constitute the majority in most regions.

Extreme poverty is predominantly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, but even in affluent nations like the United States, there is a significant number of impoverished individuals. In the past year, **37 million** people in the US struggled to meet their basic needs, including **11 million** children.⁵

About **63%** of individuals over the age of **15** living in extreme poverty have little to no education or only possess basic educational qualifications.

Over the last three years, the number of people living in extreme poverty has surged by **70 million**, reaching over **700 million**, highlighting the urgency of addressing this global challenge.⁶

Children, who make up only one-third of the world's population, represent a significant proportion of those living in extreme poverty, accounting for half of all individuals in this distressing situation.⁷



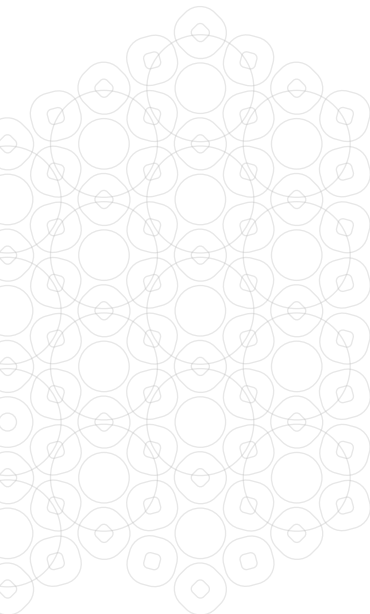
⚙️ **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** - this is an index that helps us understand how difficult life is for some people, abstracting from how much money they have. This index takes into account and checks things like health, education and the way people live. This index helps us to better understand how to help people, not only by giving them money, but also by improving their health, education and living conditions. According to the 2023 edition of the index, half of the poor are children and most poor people (**84%**) live outside cities, in rural areas and poverty is a bigger problem there than in the cities.⁸

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❁ **What kind of deprivation do impoverished people experience?** Out of the **1.1 billion** poor people, **824-991 million** do not have adequate sanitation, housing or cooking fuel. **600 million** poor live with a person who is malnourished in their household. Gaps in years of schooling are a cross-regional problem: in all regions except Europe and Central Asia, about half of the poor people have no member of their household who has completed six years of schooling.⁹

Disparities in educational opportunities are a widespread issue that transcends regions. In all regions except Europe and Central Asia, roughly half of impoverished individuals do not have a household member who has completed six years of schooling. This underscores the need for multifaceted approaches to alleviate poverty and improve the well-being of vulnerable populations worldwide.

❁ **Child poverty** encompasses more than just a lack of financial resources. While metrics like household income are important, they only provide a partial view of the challenges faced by children living in poverty. To truly grasp the extent of child poverty and the impact of COVID-19 on it, we must also consider children's access to essential services such as healthcare, education, nutrition, clean water and sanitation, and suitable housing.¹⁰

Growing up in poverty can have lasting consequences for children, making it difficult for them to catch up in later life. The repercussions are felt throughout their lifetime, including limited access to their rights, unfulfilled potential, and an increased risk of violence. Shockingly, **1 in 2** children lives in extreme poverty, and it may take up to **4 to 5** generations for a child born into a poor family today to reach the national average income level.¹¹

Poverty is a complex and multifaceted issue that affects millions worldwide, with children as an especially vulnerable group. A lack of fundamental resources like education, healthcare, and adequate housing constrains the potential of future generations and deepens societal divisions.

Poverty and poor health are intimately intertwined; poverty can lead to health problems, and poor health can increase poverty.¹²

The SDGs are a set of **17** global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015. They aim to address poverty, inequality, climate change and many other issues by 2030. Goal № 1 is Eradicating poverty in all its forms everywhere.¹³

Overcoming this problem is key to building a bright and sustainable future for all.



¹ Understanding poverty. (n.d.). World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/understanding-poverty>

² United Nations. (n.d.-b). Ending Poverty | United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/ending-poverty>

³ Dpicampaigns. (2023, September 7). Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere - United Nations Sustainable Development. United Nations Sustainable Development. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

⁴ Peer, A. (2023). Global poverty: Facts, FAQs, and how to help. World Vision. <https://www.world-vision.org/sponsorship-news-stories/global-poverty-facts>

⁵ Koenig, D. C. (2023). What does the Bible say about poverty? World Vision. <https://www.world-vision.org/christian-faith-news-stories/what-does-bible-say-about-poverty>

⁶ Overview. World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>

⁷ Facts & Statistics about World poverty | Children International | Global Poor | Global Poverty Stats. (n.d.). Children International. <https://www.children.org/global-poverty/global-poverty-facts/facts-about-world-poverty>

⁸ GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2023 Unstacking global poverty: Data for high impact action, United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdp-document/2023mpireportenpdf.pdf>

⁹ GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2023 Unstacking global poverty: Data for high impact action, United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdp-document/2023mpireportenpdf.pdf>

¹⁰ Impact of COVID-19 on multidimensional child poverty - UNICEF DATA, 2020, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/impact-of-covid-19-on-multidimensional-child-poverty/>

¹¹ Poverty around the world, Save the Children. <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/global-child-poverty>

¹² Key facts: Poverty and poor health | Health Poverty Action. <https://www.healthpovertyaction.org/news-events/key-facts-poverty-and-poor-health/>

¹³ Goal 1 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs., <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal1>

