

POVERTY





Definition

Poverty refers to the condition of not having the means to afford basic human needs such as clean water, nutrition, health care, education, clothing and shelter. This is also referred to as absolute poverty . Relative poverty is the condition of having fewer resources or less income than others within a society or country, or compared to worldwide averages.

Facts

- Almost half the world — over 3 billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day.
- The GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of the 41 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (567 million people) is less than the wealth of the world's 7 richest people combined.
- Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.
- Less than one per cent of what the world spent every year on weapons was needed to put every child into school by the year 2000 and yet it didn't happen.
- 1 billion children live in poverty (1 in 2 children in the world). 640 million live without adequate shelter, 400 million have no access to safe water, 270 million have no access to health services. 10.6 million died in 2003 before they reached the age of 5 (or roughly 29,000 children per day).



Facts

- At least 80% of humanity lives on less than \$10 a day.
- More than 80 percent of the world's population lives in countries where income differentials are widening.
- The poorest 40 percent of the world's population accounts for 5 percent of global income. The richest 20 percent accounts for three-quarters of world income.

Facts

- According to UNICEF, 24,000 children die each day due to poverty. And they “die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. Being meek and weak in life makes these dying multitudes even more invisible in death.”
- Around 27-28 percent of all children in developing countries are estimated to be underweight or stunted. The two regions that account for the bulk of the deficit are South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- If current trends continue, the Millennium Development Goals target of halving the proportion of underweight children will be missed by 30 million children, largely because of slow progress in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Based on enrolment data, about 72 million children of primary school age in the developing world were not in school in 2005; 57 per cent of them were girls. And these are regarded as optimistic numbers.

Facts

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- Less than one per cent of what the world spent every year on weapons was needed to put every child into school by the year 2000 and yet it didn't happen.
- Infectious diseases continue to blight the lives of the poor across the world. An estimated 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, with 3 million deaths in 2004. Every year there are 350–500 million cases of malaria, with 1 million fatalities: Africa accounts for 90 percent of malarial deaths and African children account for over 80 percent of malaria victims worldwide.

Facts

- Water problems affect half of humanity:
 - Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.
 - Almost two in three people lacking access to clean water survive on less than \$2 a day, with one in three living on less than \$1 a day.
 - More than 660 million people without sanitation live on less than \$2 a day, and more than 385 million on less than \$1 a day.
 - Access to piped water into the household averages about 85% for the wealthiest 20% of the population, compared with 25% for the poorest 20%.
 - 1.8 billion people who have access to a water source within 1 kilometre, but not in their house or yard, consume around 20 litres per day. In the United Kingdom the average person uses more than 50 litres of water a day flushing toilets (where average daily water usage is about 150 liters a day. The highest average water use in the world is in the US, at 600 liters day.)

Facts

- Water problems affect half of humanity:
 - Some 1.8 million child deaths each year as a result of diarrhoea
 - The loss of 443 million school days each year from water-related illness.
 - Close to half of all people in developing countries suffering at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation deficits.
 - Millions of women spending several hours a day collecting water.
 - To these human costs can be added the massive economic waste associated with the water and sanitation deficit.... The costs associated with health spending, productivity losses and labour diversions ... are greatest in some of the poorest countries. Sub-Saharan Africa loses about 5% of GDP, or some \$28.4 billion annually, a figure that exceeds total aid flows and debt relief to the region in 2003.

Facts

- Number of children in the world 2.2 billion Number in poverty 1 billion (every second child) Shelter, safe water and health For the 1.9 billion children from the developing world, there are:
 - 640 million without adequate shelter (1 in 3)
 - 400 million with no access to safe water (1 in 5)
 - 270 million with no access to health services (1 in 7)
- Children out of education worldwide 121 million Survival for children Worldwide,
 - 10.6 million died in 2003 before they reached the age of 5 (same as children population in France, Germany, Greece and Italy)
 - 1.4 million die each year from lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
- Health of children Worldwide,
 - 2.2 million children die each year because they are not immunized
 - 15 million children orphaned due to HIV/AIDS (similar to the total children population in Germany or United Kingdom)

Facts

- Rural areas account for three in every four people living on less than US\$1 a day and a similar share of the world population suffering from malnutrition. However, urbanization is not synonymous with human progress. Urban slum growth is outpacing urban growth by a wide margin.
- Approximately half the world's population now live in cities and towns. In 2005, one out of three urban dwellers (approximately 1 billion people) was living in slum conditions.

Facts

- In developing countries some 2.5 billion people are forced to rely on biomass—fuelwood, charcoal and animal dung—to meet their energy needs for cooking. In sub-Saharan Africa, over 80 percent of the population depends on traditional biomass for cooking, as do over half of the populations of India and China.
- Indoor air pollution resulting from the use of solid fuels [by poorer segments of society] is a major killer. It claims the lives of 1.5 million people each year, more than half of them below the age of five: that is 4000 deaths a day. To put this number in context, it exceeds total deaths from malaria and rivals the number of deaths from tuberculosis.

Facts

- In 2005, the wealthiest 20% of the world accounted for 76.6% of total private consumption. The poorest fifth just 1.5%.
- The poorest 10% accounted for just 0.5% and the wealthiest 10% accounted for 59% of all the consumption.

Facts

- 1.6 billion people — a quarter of humanity — live without electricity:
- Breaking that down further:
- Number of people living without electricity
 - South Asia 706
 - Sub-Saharan Africa 547
 - East Asia 224
 - Other 101

Facts

- World gross domestic product (world population approximately 6.5 billion) in 2006 was \$48.2 trillion in 2006.
 - The world's wealthiest countries (approximately 1 billion people) accounted for \$36.6 trillion dollars (76%).
 - The world's billionaires — just 497 people (approximately 0.000008% of the world's population) — were worth \$3.5 trillion (over 7% of world GDP).
 - Low income countries (2.4 billion people) accounted for just \$1.6 trillion of GDP (3.3%)
 - Middle income countries (3 billion people) made up the rest of GDP at just over \$10 trillion (20.7%).
- The world's low income countries (2.4 billion people) account for just 2.4% of world exports

Facts

- The total wealth of the top 8.3 million people around the world “rose 8.2 percent to \$30.8 trillion in 2004, giving them control of nearly a quarter of the world’s financial assets.”
- In other words, about 0.13% of the world’s population controlled 25% of the world’s financial assets in 2004.
- For every \$1 in aid a developing country receives, over \$25 is spent on debt repayment.
- 51 percent of the world’s 100 hundred wealthiest bodies are corporations.
- The wealthiest nation on Earth has the widest gap between rich and poor of any industrialized nation.

Facts

- The poorer the country, the more likely it is that debt repayments are being extracted directly from people who neither contracted the loans nor received any of the money.
- In 1960, the 20% of the world's people in the richest countries had 30 times the income of the poorest 20% — in 1997, 74 times as much.

Facts

For economic growth and almost all of the other indicators, the last 20 years [of the current form of globalization, from 1980 - 2000] have shown a very clear decline in progress as compared with the previous two decades [1960 - 1980]. For each indicator, countries were divided into five roughly equal groups, according to what level the countries had achieved by the start of the period (1960 or 1980).

Facts

Among the findings:

- Growth: The fall in economic growth rates was most pronounced and across the board for all groups or countries.
- Life Expectancy: Progress in life expectancy was also reduced for 4 out of the 5 groups of countries, with the exception of the highest group (life expectancy 69-76 years).
- Infant and Child Mortality: Progress in reducing infant mortality was also considerably slower during the period of globalization (1980-1998) than over the previous two decades.
- Education and literacy: Progress in education also slowed during the period of globalization.

Facts

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Poverty in Germany

- **Poverty in Germany** refers to people living in relative poverty in Germany.
- During the last decades the number of people living in poverty has been increasing. Children are more likely to be poor than adults. There has been a strong increase in the number of poor children. In 1965 only one in 75 children lived on welfare, now one in 6 does.[[]
- Poverty rates differ by states. While in states like Bavaria only 6,6% of children and 3,9% of all citizens are impoverished in Berlin 15,2% of the inhabitants and 30,7% of the children receive welfare payments

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Poverty in Germany

- Poor people in Germany are less likely to be healthy than well-off people. This correlates with statistics about the life style of this group that indicate higher prevalence to smoking cigarettes, being overweight, and exercising less. Consequently, they run a higher risk of experiencing lung cancer, hypertension, heart attacks, diabetes, and a number of other illnesses. Those who are out of work are more likely to smoke, more likely to be hospitalized, and more likely to die early than the ones who work. Furthermore, poverty has been shown to have a negative impact on marital satisfaction. Poor couples are more likely to argue, while being less supportive for each other and their children.

Poverty in Germany

- Poor children face limited educational opportunities. According to a AWO-Study only 9% of the pupils visiting the [Gymnasium](#) are poor.¹
- Poor children are likely to experience adversities beyond money. They are more likely to be raised by a teenage-parent. They are more likely to have multiple young siblings, are more likely to be raised in crime-ridden neighbourhoods and more likely to live in substandard apartments which are often overcrowded. Their parents are likely to be less educated and they are more likely to have emotional problems.
- Children growing up poor are more likely to get involved in accidents than their non-poor peers. They are less likely to follow a healthy diet.¹ They are less likely to be healthy. In poor neighborhoods many children suffer from speech impairments and stunted motoric development¹. They tend to have lower IQs.
- Poor children are more likely to get involved in criminal activities and are more likely to take drugs.¹ However, many people who live in poverty overcome the odds and are doing very well.

Poverty in Germany

- Working class families from ethnic minorities with multiple children are the group most likely to be poor.¹ Families headed by a single parent are also more likely to experience economic hardship than others. While only 0,9% of childless couples and 2,0% of married couples received welfare in 2002, 26,1% of single mothers did. In 2008, 43 percent of families headed by a single women had to rely on welfare as the main source of household income. A change in welfare laws, which made it impossible to receive unemployment benefits if one had not worked for a time, was accountable for that increase. Poverty rates are high among people who did not graduate from school and did not learn a trade. 42% of poor people did not learn a trade.

Poverty in Austria

Poverty and social inclusion

- In 2008 12.4% of the population was considered at risk of poverty. Projected to the Austrian population as a whole the figure – with a 95% reliability probability – is between 11.2% and 12.9%, i.e. between 917 000 and 1 060 000 Austrians can be considered as being at risk of poverty.
- The EU-SILC survey has been used since 2003 to assess the poverty risk; between 2003 and 2007, the poverty rate fluctuated between 12% and 13% (2007: 12.0%, 2006: 12.6%, 2005: 12.3%, 2004: 12.8%, 2003: 13.2%), however given the random fluctuations these differences are not significant and therefore cannot be interpreted.
- Based on EU-SILC (European Community Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) each year results on poverty and social inclusion are published.
- People are considered to be at risk of poverty or affected by the risk of poverty if their equivalised household income is below an at-risk-of-poverty threshold of 60% of the median. In 2008, the equivalised income median was €19 011. The at-risk-of-poverty threshold was therefore €11 406 for a single-person household, i.e. around €951 a month.

Poverty in Austria



Galina Toktalieva for Die Wiener Nachrichten

I am presenting here collection of photos depicting small beggars in Vienna streets .Very often they are accompanied by adults who hide themselves somewhere and then take away collected rewards. I photographed already so often the beggars, that knew all of them in the face. Some time after the begging in the streets with children will be prohibited. I associated myself with these downtrodden people, as it was very hard time for me in Austrian capital, when I lived on nobody knows what and didn't see any improvement for myself in the future. It is difficult to photograph homeless children, they are afraid of everybody, and many a time I asked myself, do I have moral right to do that.