

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a light green dress with white trim, stands in a rural setting. In the foreground, there are two large, cylindrical metal drums, one dark and one blue. The background shows a dirt path, some brick buildings, and trees under a cloudy sky. The overall tone is somber and documentary.

Research report for HRC

Removing Tangible Barriers for Children to Escape Poverty

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Introduction

There are life-long consequences for children living in poverty, as chances are they will not have access to healthcare or proper nutrition and they will not complete their education. This prevents them from contributing fully to social, political and economic growth, and the cycle of poverty never ends. Children with disabilities, children from larger families and those living in rural areas are especially less likely to escape poverty. Poverty is a vicious cycle which cannot be escaped until they improve their situation to get a better job, but they need a better job to improve their situation.

Key terms

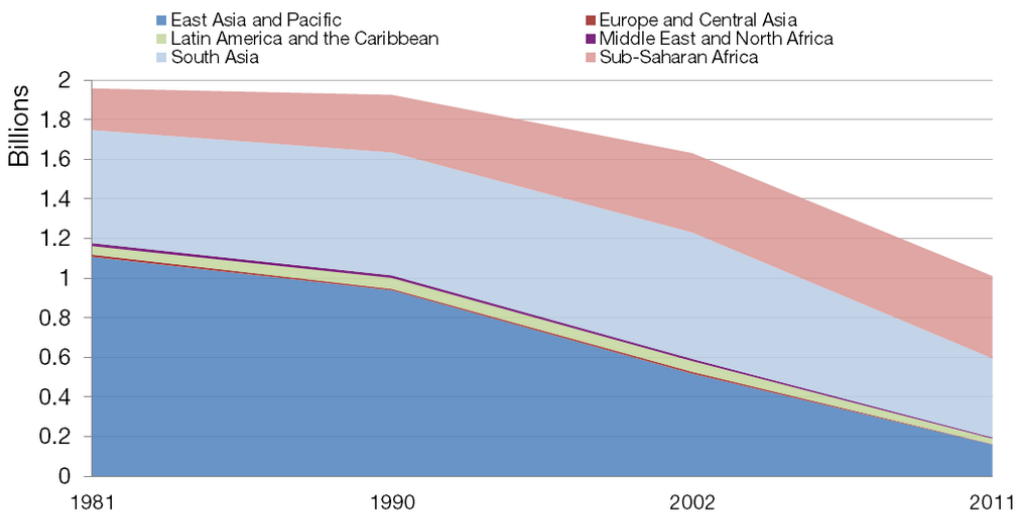
- **Economic development-** Programs, policies or activities that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for a community.
- **Infant mortality-** The death of a child before their first birthday.
- **Life Expectancy-** A statistical measure of the average time an organism is expected to live, based on the year of its birth, its current age, and other demographic factors like sex.
- **Nomadic Lifestyle-** A simple lifestyle using minimal resources, where the person following this lifestyle never settles down and doesn't have a fixed home.
- **Per-capita income-** A measure of the average amount of money earned per person in a nation or geographic region to evaluate the standard of living and quality of life of the population.
- **Poverty-** A state of being in which a person lacks the income (or other resources to reliably) meet their basic needs.
- **Social protection-** A coherent, rights-based approach to social policy, ensuring people's access to basic services and social guarantees.
- **Tangible-** Real, able to be shown or experienced.
- **Vicious cycle-** A negative series of events that build on and reinforce each other.

Overview


The issue of poverty arose after the second world war, when the salaries of people in each country were compared to those in the United States of America. According to the UN Bureau of Statistics, in 1947 the per-capita income of the USA was \$1400, for 14 other countries it ranged between \$400 and \$900, and for the rest of the countries it was less than \$400 or even \$100. One of the first World Bank reports identified the urgent need to raise living standards in the underdeveloped countries. The term 'poverty' was defined as what people were lacking rather than what they had, and so the only solution for poverty was considered to be 'economic development', rather than liberation from oppression. By the end of the 1960s, it was clear that 'economic development' was not improving the standard of living. In 1973 McNamara of the World Bank stated, "to eradicate absolute poverty by the end of the century. That means in practice the elimination of malnutrition and illiteracy, the reduction of infant mortality and the raising of life-expectancy standards to those of the developed nations." A minimum standard was defined and anyone below that standard was 'absolutely poor'. Renewed efforts were made to standardize poverty as people who consume less than a minimum number of calories. This definition made the International Administration of Development easier, though it reduced the reality of hundreds of thousands of people.

The number of people living in extreme poverty, 1981-2011

"Extreme poverty" is living on less than \$1.25 USD per day in 2005 International Dollar



Source: World Bank, Our World in Data



While the elite understood the importance of social protection in theory, their support would be lost over time. The modern view considers that poverty is a social ill that can be avoided with the right anti-poverty policies and should be eliminated. The state was given the responsibility to make essential material conditions essential such as public education systems, reasonably well functioning financial markets. In 2015, 734 million people earned less than \$1.90 per day. No country is fully devoid of poverty in the present times.

About 10 to 12 million people belong to the Roma group, one of Europe's largest minority groups. Two-thirds of this group lives in central and Eastern countries, most of them being unable to escape poverty. Their children constantly face discrimination in addition to being denied social and economical support. Roma families are considered to be living in poverty by choice and are deemed lazy, thieves, liars and addicts. Instead of trying to help them, communities often try to displace them using the reasons of nomadic lifestyles being unacceptable.

Major Parties and Their Views

World Bank- Poverty was steadily decreasing for about 25 years in more than 145 countries, but the pandemic has caused a major setback. It has forced at least 100 million people into poverty. Middle income countries such as India and Nigeria may be home to about 80% of the 'new poor' caused by this pandemic. Furthermore, climate change is predicted to be the cause of 68 million to 132 million people becoming poor by 2030. The goal to bring the global poverty absolute rate below 3% seems almost out of reach unless new and effective policies are soon formed.

Equatorial Guinea- President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo said, "The negative effects of illiteracy, lack of shelter and malnutrition, typical of underdeveloped countries, are greater than the effects produced by catastrophes and natural disasters." The leader called upon the need to implement special programmes for the least developed countries to give them the basic infrastructure which could boost development, and stressed upon the support required from developed countries.

China- "When we are reducing poverty, we should avoid chanting slogans and setting overambitious goals. The key to poverty alleviation is to be realistic, to adjust measures to local conditions, to give guidance based on specific situations and to take targeted

measures,” were the words of the President Xi Jinping. He focused on defining the regions of poverty and methods of eradicating poverty were decided specific to those regions.

Our World
in Data

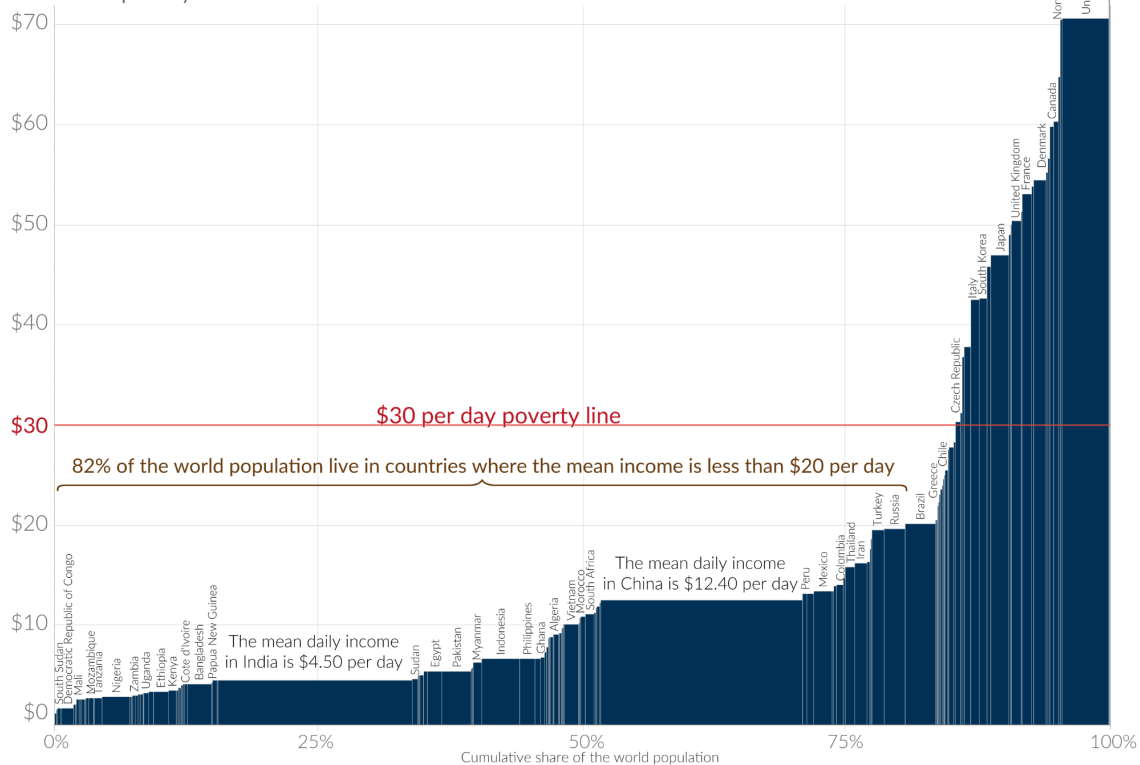
The global income distribution: Mean daily income by country

Measurement: All incomes are adjusted for price differences between countries and expressed in *international-dollars*.

One international-\$ has the same purchasing power as one US-\$ *in the US*.

This means no matter where in the world a person is living on int.-\$30, they can buy the goods and services that cost \$30 *in the US*.

Mean income per day



Data source: World Bank (PovcalNet) 2017 data. Non-monetary sources of income (e.g. subsistence farming) is taken into account. Not all countries in the visualization are labeled.
OurWorldinData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the author Max Roser

Possible solutions

A simple start can be made by clearly identifying the causes of poverty specific to each country. Then the available resources should be measured and distributed accordingly. This is a time taking process that requires the collaboration of every government with its people, but China has used this method to successfully reduce global poverty by over 70%.


Programs such as Social Security in the USA, which provides insurance to families of the retired senior citizens, the disabled citizens and deceased workers, have helped 65 million people every month. Canada also implemented the Guaranteed Income Supplement program which is a monthly benefit for low-income senior citizens, helping 2 million citizens in 2017.

In Tanzania, the focus is to grow the economy that has the largest poor population. Employment and empowerment programs focus on agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, imports and exports. The country's GDP increased from \$13.3 billion to \$47.3 billion. Alongside this strategy, efforts are made to improve the quality of life of the poor. The main areas are education, clean water, sanitation and health services. A constant aid has also been provided by the United States.

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