

## Global Poverty: Facts

- Half the world — nearly 3 billion people — live on less than \$2 a day and are considered poor
- Over 1 billion people—1 in 6 people around the world—live in extreme poverty, defined as living on less than \$1 a day
- *1.6 billion* people — a quarter of humanity — live *without electricity*
- 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
- 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



- Between 26,500-30,000 children die each day due to poverty

- The poorest 40% of the world's population accounts for 5% of global income. The richest 20% accounts for 75% of world income

## Faces of Global Poverty



McIntire School of Commerce  
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# GLOBAL POVERTY

"One of the darkest characteristics of poverty is that it seems to prey on the vulnerable and defenseless."

A brochure by: Block 6, Group 2

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## What is Global Poverty?

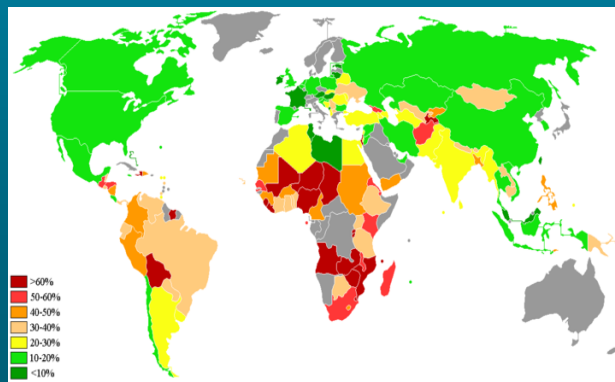
Poverty stretches beyond a lack of income. The poor are not only economically disadvantaged, but they are also deprived of basic human needs such as healthcare and education. Global poverty generates great wealth disparities in the world, which present developing countries with unthinkable obstacles that are absent in their wealthy counterparts. The fight against poverty is one of the most important challenges for the global community today.



## What Areas are Most Affected?

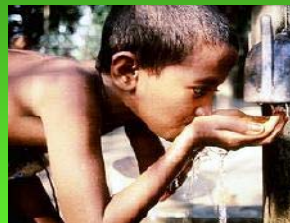
- Sub-Saharan Africa (41.09%)
- South Asia (30.84%)
- Latin America and Caribbean (8.64%)
- East Asia (9.07%)
- Middle East and North Africa (1.47%)
- Europe and Central Asia (0.95%)

### % of Population Below National Poverty Line



## What Causes Global Poverty?

There is no single cause of global poverty. Many different agents are believed to contribute to poverty, including environmental, political, economic, health, technological, and human factors.



### Environmental:

- Lack of access to natural resources
- Climate and geographic factors

### Health:

- Poor access to health care
- Malnutrition
- Disease

### Political:

- Lack of democracy
- Corruption
- Weak legal system
- Poor management of resources, failure to build infrastructure
- Discrimination, abuse of power

### Technological:

- Lack of access to technology
- Exclusion from global economy

### Human:

- Overpopulation/ no access to birth control
- Crime and war
- Historical issues such as imperialism

### Economic:

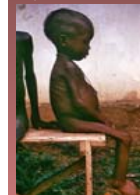
- Unemployment
- Trade barriers
- Economic competitive disadvantage



## How to Fight Global Poverty?

### 9 Steps to End Global Poverty by Jeffrey Sachs

1) **Commit to Ending Poverty:** As the world embraces the *Making Poverty History* goal, commitment will be solidified to halve poverty by 2015 and end extreme poverty in 2025.



2) **Adopt a Plan of Action:** Adoption of a specific plan to meet the Millennium Development Goals will be key for success along with the recommitment of influential leaders.

3) **Raise the Voice of the Poor:** Poverty stricken countries, including, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and dozens of others, must unite to issue their call to action for justice in eliminating poverty.

4) **Redeem the Role of the United States in the World:** Political action within the United States and from abroad will be needed to restore its role on the road toward global peace and justice.



5) **Rescue the IMF and the World Bank:** Our leading international financial institutions are needed to play a decisive role in ending global poverty as champions of economic justice and enlightened globalization.

6) **Strengthen the United Nations:** The UN Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization, etc. are qualified to help the poorest of the poor to use modern science and technology to overcome the trap of poverty.



7) **Harness Global Science:** A special effort of world science, led by global scientific research centers of governments, academia, and industry, must commit specifically to addressing the unmet challenges of the poor.

8) **Promote Sustainable Development:** As we invest in ending extreme poverty, we must face the ongoing challenge of investing in the global sustainability of the world's ecosystems.

9) **Make a Personal Commitment:** Individuals, working in unison as a social force, form and shape societies and can truly change the face of global poverty.