



Poverty

- **Poverty** is the deprivation of food, shelter, money and clothing that occurs when people cannot satisfy their basic needs. Poverty can be understood simply as a lack of money, or more broadly in terms of barriers to everyday life.



Causes of Poverty

Poverty is the result of diverse and interrelated causes that unite in the following groups:

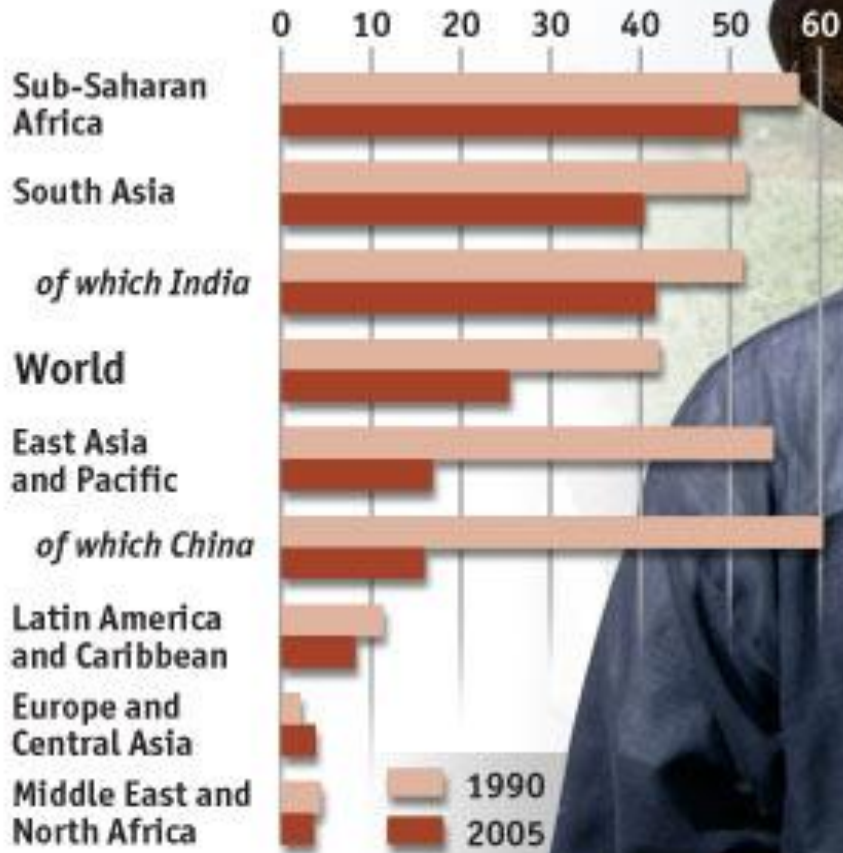
- economic (unemployment, low wages, low productivity and lack of competitiveness of the sector),
- socio-medical (disability, old age, high levels of morbidity)
- demographic (single-parent families, a large number of dependents in the family)
- educational-(lack of education, lack of training),
- political (military conflicts and forced migration)
- regional-geographical (the uneven development of regions).



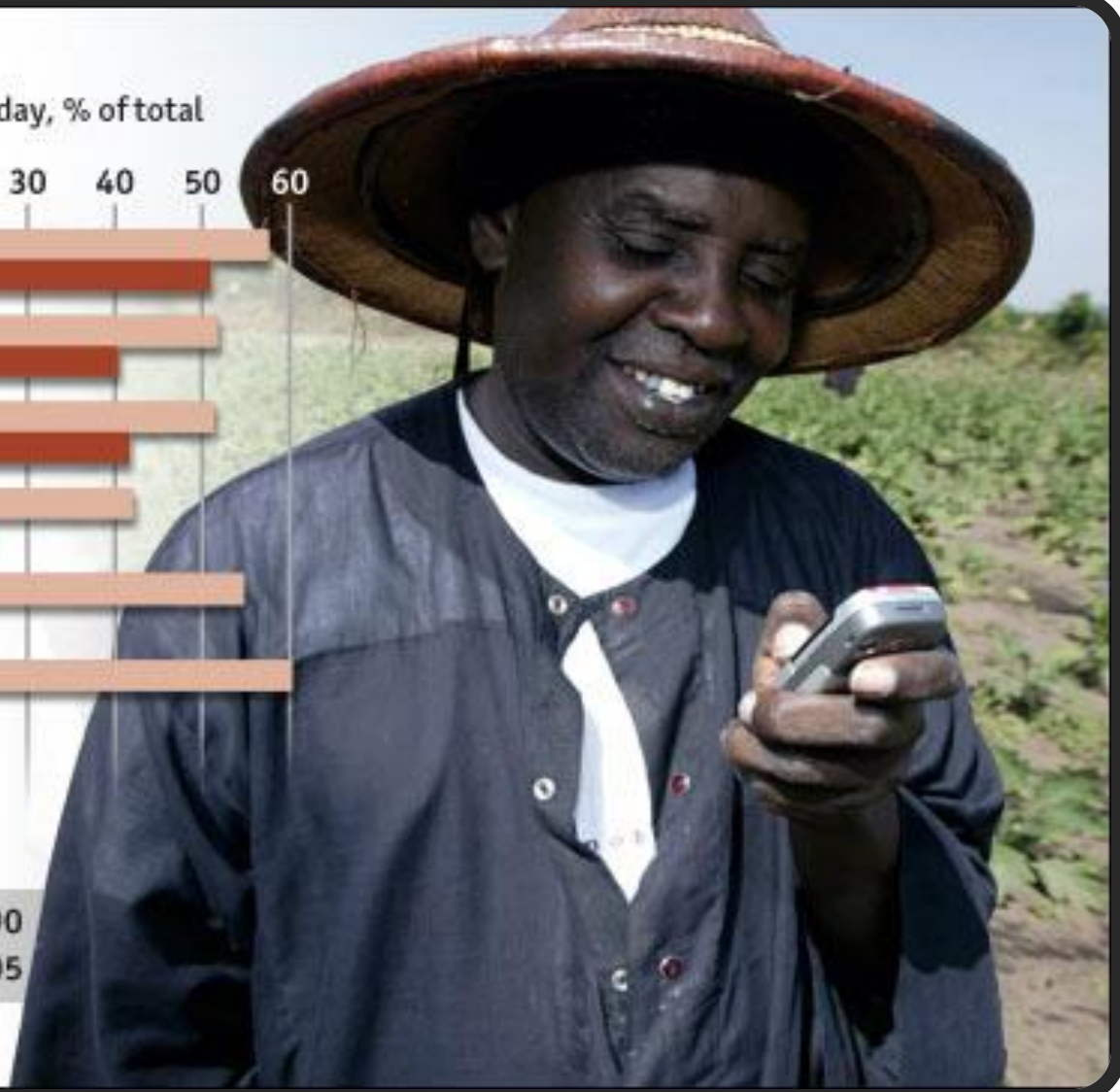
World poverty

Poverty

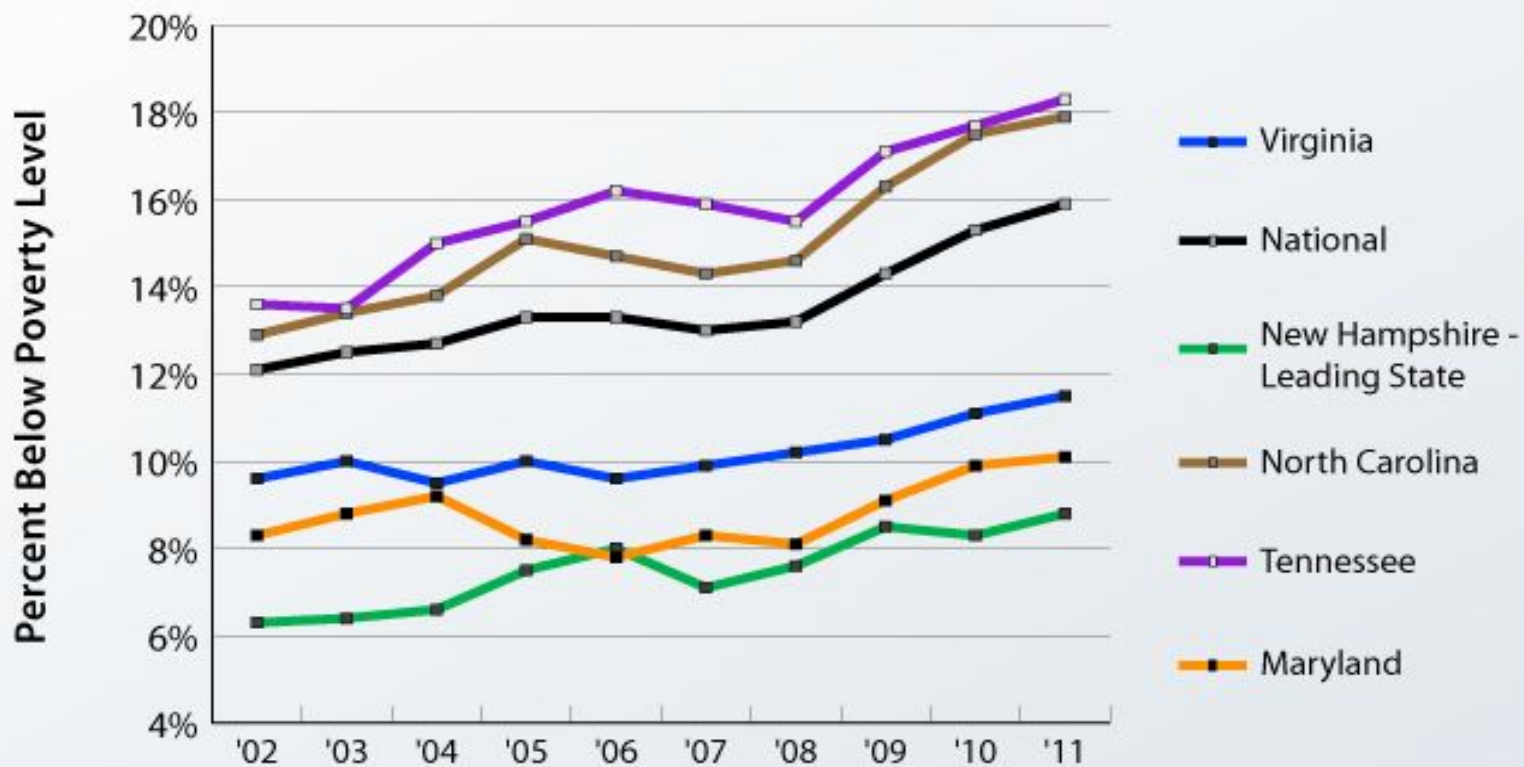
People living on less than \$1.25 a day, % of total



Source: World Bank



Poverty Rates, By State



Child poverty

Child poverty refers to the phenomenon of children living in poverty. This applies to children that come from poor families or orphans being raised with limited, or in some cases absent, state resources. Children that fail to meet the minimum acceptable standard of life for the nation where that child lives are said to be poor. In developing countries these standards are lower and when combined with the increased number of orphans the effects are more extreme.



A close-up photograph of a child's bare feet resting on a weathered wooden deck. The deck is scattered with numerous pink rose petals, some of which are in sharp focus in the foreground. The child's legs are visible, wearing a light blue garment. The overall scene is soft and evocative, symbolizing childhood and vulnerability.

About 15 million children, one out of every four,
live below the official poverty line.

At least 22% of Americans under the age of 18 and 25% under age 12
are hungry or at the risk of being hungry.

Everyday 2,660 children are born into poverty, 27 die because of it.

Children and families are the fastest growing group in the
homeless population, representing 40%.



Housing

- Poverty increases the risk of homelessness. Slum-dwellers, who make up a third of the world's urban population, live in a poverty no better, if not worse, than rural people, who are the traditional focus of the poverty in the developing world, according to a report by the United Nations. There are over 100 million street children worldwide.



Social aspects

Economic aspects of poverty focus on material needs, typically including the necessities of daily living, such as food, clothing, shelter, or safe drinking water. Poverty in this sense may be understood as a condition in which a person or community is lacking in the basic needs for a minimum standard of well-being and life, particularly as a result of a persistent lack of income.

Analysis of social aspects of poverty links conditions of scarcity to aspects of the distribution of resources and power in a society and recognizes that poverty may be a function of the diminished "capability" of people to live the kinds of lives they value. The social aspects of poverty may include lack of [access to information](#), education, health care, or political power.

Poverty may also be understood as an aspect of unequal [social status](#) and inequitable social relationships, experienced as social exclusion, dependency, and diminished capacity to participate, or to develop meaningful connections with other people in society. Such social exclusion can be minimized through strengthened connections with the mainstream, such as through the provision of [relational care](#) to those who are experiencing poverty.

There are several relationships between intolerable economic inequality and war. Today 2.7 billion people live on less than \$2 a day - 1.1 billion on less than \$1 per day. 18 million of our fellow humans die each year from poverty-related causes. In 2006, 1.1 billion people lacked safe drinking water, and water borne diseases killed an estimated 1.8 million people.

The Sydney Morning Herald

EXTENT OF CRISIS REVEALED

20,000 die each day

Matt Wade

Extreme poverty claimed more than 20,000 lives yesterday with common illnesses, including chest infections and diarrhoea, accounting for a third of the victims. Another 20,000 people are expected to die from treatable illnesses today - and again tomorrow.

The three biggest killers - respiratory infections, diarrhoea and malnutrition - took nearly 14,000 lives, the majority of them children under the age of five.

More than 6,000 of the deaths yesterday were in just four African countries: Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Franzy O'Connor, 35, an Australian aid worker in Ethiopia with Médecins Sans Frontières, said her biggest frustration was the lack of affordable medicines to treat illnesses such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and kalla star - a parasitic disease that can be fatal if left untreated.

"Kalla star and malaria are curable, HIV/AIDS is treatable, yet the majority of Ethiopians do not have access to basic health care or life-saving drugs so they die," she told the Herald.

About 250 million people - 11 times the population of Australia - have died from poverty-related causes since 1990.

Leaders from the world's eight wealthiest countries - the G8 - will discuss increased aid spending at a meeting in Scotland next week.

The group is under pressure to provide more meaningful assistance, especially for Africa.

The catastrophe is expected to continue ...





END POVERTY


GCAP Philippines

HOW TO END POVERTY

EIGHT MILLION
PEOPLE DIE EACH
YEAR BECAUSE THEY
ARE TOO POOR
TO STAY ALIVE.
A PROVOCATIVE
PLAN ON HOW WE
CAN SAVE THEM

BY JEFFREY D. SACHS





Poverty is a global problem, and one to which there is no single solution. In general, people are poor because they are stuck in circumstances which don't allow them to get ahead. There are many programs designed to stop poverty. In some cases, according to the Brookings Institute, a non-profit public policy organization, these programs actually cause more poverty because benefit recipients become less motivated to find ways to increase their income. Programs that work the best for the long term are those which not only solve an immediate need, but also provide the means for recipients to continue reaping program benefits for the rest of their lives.



What is needed to end poverty?

- First, geographic endowments do matter for prosperity and we do have policy recipes at hand to address the most pressing problems of the world's poorest countries such as high prevalence of disease, lack of access to clean water, and poor agricultural yields.
- Second, we need to be aware of the limits of the current policy recipes and need to focus much more on developing appropriate institutional reforms that can convert development aid into sustained economic growth.

We need
to reframe the question.
Instead of alleviating poverty,
we need
to be creating wealth.

- Andrew Mwenda

The End