



## Eradicate Extreme Poverty Completely



In the First of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals resolves, 193 Heads of State and Governments agree to by 2030, to ***"...eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 per day."*** It seeks to do this by ***"implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems for all...."***

UN Sustainable Development Goal 1

**Good News:** The proportion of people living in extreme poverty is now less than 10% and the money needed to lift everyone's income to \$1.90 per day has dropped from over \$500 billion in 1981 to around \$160 billion today.

**Bad News:** Over 350 million people still live in extreme poverty and, of them, about half are under 18 years of age.



Poverty is the major driver of human misery. It is also the greatest polluter of the natural environment: if you and your family are dirt poor, protecting the rivers and the forests is not a priority. The UN's previous goal was to halve the number living in extreme poverty by 2015 – and it succeeded. Now it seeks to eradicate it completely – to "Leave No One Behind!" Given that this would cost less than 0.1% of the world's \$80 Trillion dollar a year Economy, this is surely NOT impossible?!



## Balance Sheet

### Achievements

Compared to 1990, there has been a **26% reduction** in the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty. (2015) [3], [4]

Some regions have made significant progress in recent years. In **Eastern Asia, poverty rates fell to below 1%** in 2015, from 52% in 1990. [3]

The global poverty gap - the money needed to lift everyone's income to \$1.90 per day - has declined from over \$500 billion in 1981 to around **\$160 billion in 2013**. [4]

Globally, **68%** of people above retirement age receive a pension. (2016) [3]

**Almost all** countries have child or maternity benefit programmes.

### Work Left to Do

This translates to 736 million people in extreme poverty, however. In total, there are 1.3 billion people living in some kind of poverty today. [1]

However, other regions have made far less progress. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 413 million people live on less than \$1.90 per day. [3]

In-work poverty remains at 8% of the world's workers (2018). In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of working poor was 38%. [3]

There are major regional variations - in Oceania, only 10% of people receive a pension, for example. [2]

Half of all people living in poverty are under 18. [1]

Over 90% of deaths due to natural disasters are from low income countries; disasters kill 130 people per 1 million in developing countries compared to 18 per million in developed countries. [3]



## Sources

1. [UNDP - SDG1](#)
2. [SDG Knowledge Platform - Goal 1](#)
3. [SDGs Report 2019 - Section 1](#)
4. [Our World in Data - Extreme Poverty](#)
5. [The 2030 Agenda](#)

## Points to Ponder

- Is “Poverty” just Financial Poverty: are you not also “Poor” if you are the victim of famine, war, violence, injustice, oppression by the police or your government, inequality, poor healthcare and education, or environmental degradation.
- A recent conference explored how young people “get by” – and several youth pointed out that life was not about just ‘getting by’: “It’s about having a Life – not just a living!”
- Well-being has to be the wider goal of eradicating poverty. And that means achieving ALL the SDGs – not just this first one.

## Take Action

- Become a [Global Citizen](#) – the world’s biggest anti-global poverty project;
- Explore the [Me to We project](#) – founded by young people to eradicate poverty;
- Set up a twinning arrangement with a school in one of the poorest countries in the world: learn from them directly, raise money for them, send them books and equipment. The British Council’s [Connecting Classrooms project](#) will show you how!