

UNICEF Sustainable Development Goals #1 - No Poverty

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What is the definition of “No Poverty” and the aim of it?

According to UNICEF, the definition of “No Poverty” means that everybody has enough money for their basic needs. The goal is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030.

Why is this happening?

In conclusion, the root causes of poverty aren't only a lack of access to basic necessities of life like water, food, shelter, education, or healthcare. Inequities including gender or ethnic discrimination, poor governance, conflict, exploitation, and domestic violence also cause poverty.

1. INEQUALITY AND MARGINALIZATION

“Inequality” is an easy, but sometimes misleading term used to describe the systemic barriers leaving groups of people without a voice or representation within their communities. For a population to escape poverty, all groups must be involved in the decision-making process — especially when it comes to having a say in the things that determine your place in society. Some of these may be obvious, but in other situations, it can be subtle.

Gender inequality, caste systems, marginalization based on race or tribal affiliations are all economic and social inequalities that mean the same thing: Little to no access to the resources needed to live a full, productive life. When combined with different combinations of vulnerability and hazards which comprise the rest of this list — a marginalized community may become even more vulnerable to the cycle of poverty.

2. HUNGER, MALNUTRITION, AND STUNTING

Hunger is a cause — and maintainer — of poverty. If a person doesn't get enough food, they'll lack the strength and energy needed to work (or their immune system will weaken from malnutrition and leave them more susceptible to illness that prevents them from getting to work).

The first 1,000 days of a child's life (from womb to world) are key to ensuring their future health and likelihood of staying out of poverty. If a mother is malnourished during pregnancy, that can be passed on to her children, leading to wasting (low weight for height) or stunting (low height for age). Child stunting, both physical and cognitive, can lead to a lifetime of impacts: Adults who were stunted as children earn, on average, 22% less than those who weren't stunted. In Ethiopia, stunting contributes to GDP losses as high as 16%. Adults who were stunted as a child earn, on average, 22% less than those who weren't stunted. In Ethiopia, stunting contributes to GDP losses as high as 16%.

3. LACK OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Many people worldwide are familiar with social welfare programs that people can access if they need healthcare or food assistance. But not every government can provide this type of help to its citizens — and without

that safety net, there's nothing to stop vulnerable families from backsliding further into extreme poverty. Ineffective governments also contribute to several of the other causes of extreme poverty mentioned above, as they are unable to provide necessary infrastructure or healthcare, or ensure the safety and security of their citizens in the event of conflict.

4. LACK OF JOBS OR LIVELIHOODS

Without a job or a livelihood, people will face poverty. Dwindling access to productive land (often due to conflict, overpopulation, or climate change) and overexploitation of resources like fish or minerals puts increasing pressure on many traditional livelihoods. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for example, most of the population lives in rural communities where natural resources have been plundered over centuries of colonial rule — while conflict over land has forced people away from their source of income and food. Now, more than half of the country lives in extreme poverty.

Why is it important for this goal to be achieved, and why is it an important goal for development?

Poverty can have a profound impact on a child's life. Children who grow up in poverty often face different challenges than children in middle or upper class environments encounter. The contribution of science to end poverty has been significant. For example, it has enabled access to safe drinking water, reduced

deaths caused by water-borne diseases, and improved hygiene to reduce health risks related to unsafe drinking water and lack of sanitation. Everybody should have an equal amount of opportunities to make money and achieve more, just like every other rich man or woman has. In conclusion, it is important for this goal to be achieved because it gives everybody an equal chance and also a pleasant life.

What are the benefits if we achieve this goal - No Poverty?

Poverty is associated with a host of health risks, including elevated rates of heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, infant mortality, mental illness, undernutrition, lead poisoning, asthma, and dental problems. Besides, Poverty alleviation is accompanied by a number of positive social impacts. These include improved access to food (that results in higher nutritional and health levels), improved access to education (due to higher income levels and ability to pay for fees and supplies), and improved employment opportunities.

What is the severity of the problem?

About 9.2% of people in the world - also equal to 689 million people live in EXTREME poverty with only less than 8 dollars a day - and are of course homeless. Although you might think that's a small amount just by looking at the number - we are talking about one tenth of 7.9 billion people - which is a huge amount, not to mention the covid situation which is making the amount of people with jobs decrease. Therefore, we strongly encourage the more fortunate to do something about it.

What can we do to help?

Our active engagement in policy making can make a difference in addressing poverty. It ensures that our rights are promoted and that our voice is heard, that intergenerational knowledge is shared, and that innovation and critical thinking are encouraged at all ages to support transformational change in people's lives and communities.

Governments can help create an enabling environment to generate productive employment and job opportunities for the poor and the marginalized. They can formulate strategies and fiscal policies that stimulate pro-poor growth, and reduce poverty. The private sector, as an engine of economic growth, has a major role to play in determining whether the growth it creates is inclusive and hence contributes to poverty reduction. It can promote economic opportunities for the poor, focusing on segments of the economy where most of the poor are active, namely on micro and small enterprises and those operating in the informal sector.

The academic and education community have a major role in increasing the awareness about the impact of poverty. Science provides the foundation for new and sustainable approaches, solutions and technologies to tackle the challenges of reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development. The contribution of science to end poverty has been significant. For example, it has enabled access to safe drinking water, reduced deaths caused by water-borne diseases, and improved hygiene to reduce health risks related to unsafe drinking water and lack of sanitation. There are a lot of ways we can all help out, it's just about the passion.

