

# Global Poverty

Obj. 13.5: Describe the burdens on health caused by global poverty.



## 1.2 Billion

Approximately 1.2 billion people in the world live in extreme poverty (less than one dollar per day). Poverty creates ill-health because it forces people to live in environments that make them sick, without decent shelter, clean water or adequate sanitation.

-World Health Organization (WHO)

How do you think poverty in the U.S. “looks” different than poverty in very poor nations?

DISCUSS

## The Biggest Enemy

Kofi Annan, former secretary-general of the United Nations, said, “The biggest enemy of health in the developing world is poverty.”

1. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
  
2. If his statement is true, what should be done by world leaders in health, government, & society?

NEW  
INFO

## The Troubling Tale of Poverty

Read the overview of poverty from the WHO:

Poverty is associated with the undermining of a range of key human attributes, including health. The poor are exposed to greater personal and environmental health risks, are less well nourished, have less information and are less able to access health care; they thus have a higher risk of illness and disability. Conversely, illness can reduce household savings, lower learning ability, reduce productivity, and lead to a diminished quality of life, thereby perpetuating or even increasing poverty.

Poverty is often defined in absolute terms of low income – less than US\$2 a day, for example. But in reality, the consequences of poverty exist on a relative scale. The poorest of the poor, around the world, have the worst health. Within countries, the evidence shows that in general the lower an individual's socioeconomic position the worse their health. There is a social gradient in health that runs from top to bottom of the socioeconomic spectrum. This is a global phenomenon, seen in low, middle and high income countries.

Source: WHO <<http://www.who.int/topics/poverty/en/>>



## The Facts.

*Read the facts on global poverty & health from DoSomething.org. Mark up the ones that stand out to you.*

1. Nearly 1/2 of the world's population — more than 3 billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day. More than 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty, that's less than \$1.25 a day.
2. 1 billion children worldwide are living in poverty. According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty.
3. More than 1 billion people lack adequate access to clean drinking water and an estimated 400 million of these are children. Because unclean water yields illness, roughly 443 million school days are missed every year.
4. In 2011, 165 million children under the age 5 were stunted (reduced rate of growth and development) due to chronic malnutrition.
5. 870 million people worldwide do not have enough food to eat.
6. Preventable diseases like diarrhea and pneumonia take the lives of 2 million children a year who are too poor to afford proper treatment.
7. As of 2011, 19 million children worldwide are not vaccinated.
8. 1/4 of all humans live without electricity — approximately 1.6 billion people.
9. 80% of the world population lives on less than \$10 a day.
10. In 1998, the UN estimated that it would take \$40 billion annually to offer basic education, clean water and sanitation, reproductive health, and basic health and nutrition to every person in every developing country. That would be about \$58 billion today.
11. The World Food Programme says, "The poor are hungry and their hunger traps them in poverty." Hunger is the number 1 cause of death in the world, killing more than HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

Source: <https://www.dosomething.org/facts/11-facts-about-global-poverty>



## Take Action.

It can be easy to throw our hands up in the air and think, "What can I possibly do about this enormous, complex problem? I am just one person, after all?" But the truth is, you can affect one other person (or perhaps many, many more!) with your actions. Your challenge is to come up with a way to have an impact on the problem of global poverty. You might consider proposing a fundraising campaign, advocating for the issue from lawmakers, or creating a social media campaign to build awareness about the problem. The possibilities are endless! Write a 1-page paper describing how your idea might make an impact on global poverty