

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

Global Poverty Quick Facts

Poverty

- Poverty kills more than 50,000 people every day – 18 million poor people die every year from extreme poverty.
- Every year more than 10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases- that's over 30,000 per day, or one every three seconds.

Health and Education

- In Sub-Saharan Africa, 25 million people are HIV positive.
- Currently more than 11 million children in Africa have lost at least one parent to HIV/AIDS.
- 880 million people lack access to basic healthcare, and 1.3 billion lack access to safe drinking water. 17 million people die each year from curable diseases, including diarrhea, malaria and tuberculosis. 5 million of these people die due to water contamination.
- 120 million children are denied primary education, two-thirds of them are girls, and 75% of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women. Every extra year a girl spends at school could reduce child mortality by 10%.

Debt

- African governments spend an average of \$14 per person a year on debt service and just \$5 per capita on health care.
- Between 1970 and 2002, the poorest African countries received \$294 billion in loans, paid back \$298 billion in interest and principal, but still owed more than \$200 billion.
- Zambia spends twice as much repaying debt as it does on education.
- In Tanzania, debt relief enabled the government to abolish primary school fees, leading to a 66% increase in attendance.

Aid

- More than 1.2 billion people live on less than US \$1 per day – that's one in five people in the world.
- More than 1 billion people lack access to safe water, and 2.4 billion lack access to adequate sanitation.
- The estimated amount of aid required to achieve all eight Millennium Development Goals is less than 25 days of global military expenditure.

Trade

- The United Nations estimates that unfair trade rules alone deny poor countries \$700 billion every year (\$2 billion per day).

- The U.S spends almost \$3.5 billion per year on domestic cotton subsidies. US firms sell cotton in world markets at close to 50% below world production costs, depressing world prices and causing massive hardships especially for the 10 million cotton farmers of West Africa. Maize dumping has meant that the real price of Mexican maize fell more than 70% between 1994 and 2003, resulting in declining incomes and increased hardship for the 15 million Mexicans depending on this crop.
- In America and Europe, the average cow is subsidized at more than \$2 a day. That's more than what half the world's population - more than 3 billion people – have to live on a day.

Child Poverty in New Zealand

- According to Government statistics issued in 2005 there are currently around 1 in 5 children in New Zealand living in relative poverty.
- A recent UNICEF report (2005) ranked New Zealand 4th worst on an OECD child poverty league table.
- There is an established link between poverty and poor outcomes for children. For example the poorest children in New Zealand are two times more likely to die than the richest children. Children in the poorest households are three times more likely to be sick than children in the richest households.