

Inequality – the causes of poverty

symptoms of poverty include

- No home or shelter
- Street children often living in risky situations
- No education; poor school facilities
- HIV/AIDS
- Child soldiers
- Refugees
- Hunger
- Poor sanitation
- Lack of clean drinking water
- Malaria
- High infant mortality
- No money and unable to earn much
- No health care; clinics; doctors; nurses; hospitals

Facts about world poverty (UN stats)

- Nearly half the world – over three billion people – live on less than \$2.50 a day.
- According to UNICEF, around 29,000 children die each day due to poverty – that's 18 children dying every minute, a child every three seconds.
- About 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.
- For the 1.9 billion children from the developing world: 640 million are without adequate shelter, 400 million do not have access to safe water, 270 million do not have access to health services.
- About 2.2 million children die each year because they are not immunized.
- About 1.6 billion people – a quarter of humanity – live without electricity.
- Over nine million people, of which five million are children, die worldwide each year because of hunger and malnutrition.

- Around 27-28% of all children in developing countries are estimated to be underweight.
- Over 11 million children die each year from preventable causes like malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia.
- Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.
- Less than one per cent of what the world spent every year on weapons was needed to put every child into school by the year 2000 and yet it didn't happen.
- About 20% of the population in the developed nations consume 86% of the world's goods.
- The poorest 40% of the world's population accounts for 5% of the global income. The richest 20% accounts for 75% of world income.

The causes of poverty

Primary causes of poverty. Link as many of the symptoms to those causes as you can.

Possible causes

- Conflict
- Inequality
- Climate change
- Disasters
- Unjust trade rules
- Debt
- Tax Revenue
- Gender
- Corruption
- Lack of accountable governance
- Structural adjustment programmes

For Christian Aid poverty is a lack of power; people are not accidentally poor, rather they are made poor by the way others use their power. Poverty is disempowerment and the injustices that result

Christian Aid's poverty analysis is as below:

Personal power – health, education, mental well-being, dignified work and living conditions

Economic power – income, freedom to earn a fair return on your labour, freedom from extreme inequality, access to or control over resources, economic security (ie freedom from economic fluctuations and protection of productive assets/savings)

Social power – community well-being, social relations and social inclusion (eg being involved in collective coping mechanisms like emergency grain banks), ability to deal with emergency environmental conditions such as floods or droughts

Political power – a voice in the political decision-making process, political freedom, political security and active citizenship

Christian Aid believes 'poverty is not just a lack of income or other material attributes...poverty is a lack of opportunity, a lack of power of one's own life and prospects, a lack of human dignity.' We believe that poverty is caused by structural inequality.