

# 9 World Poverty Statistics that Everyone Should Know

WORLD POVERTY STATISTICS: GLOBAL POVERTY REPORT 2019

## 1. Globally, 9.9 percent of the world is living on less than \$2 a day.

A third of the entire urban population is living in a slum, which are unsafe or unhealthy homes in a crowded city.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 41 percent of the population is living at less than \$1.90, the World Bank's international line for extreme poverty. Those experiencing poverty to this extent can often feel a lack of control over their own outcomes and circumstances. Millions of people may be experiencing a reduced understanding of their own potential.

## 2. For every 1,000 children born, 39 will die before they turn five years old.

Although tragic, this is remarkable progress when compared to UNICEF's 1990 report of 93 deaths per 1,000 births.

Most under-five deaths are caused by preventable diseases like malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia. The most common contributors to these diseases? Malnutrition, contaminated water, and poor sanitation and hygiene.

## 3. Globally in 2016, over 63 million children ages 6-11 years old were not attending school.

That's tens of millions of young children in the world who miss out on their education. In total for children under the age of 17 years, the number increases to 263 million (1 in 5 children).

According to the World Bank, Africa has experienced rapid increases in school enrollments, with total net enrollment of children in primary school expanding from just 55 percent in 1995 to 74 percent by 2012.

## 4. Of all the children living in extreme poverty, 75 percent live in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Children are disproportionately affected by poverty.

According to World Bank Data from 2016, half of the population living in extreme poverty are children. Of those children, three-quarters live in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

## 5. Today, 9 percent of the world's population is still practicing open defecation.

Open defecation means people are defecating outside, whether that be in a field or behind a home or a bush.

When people defecate outside, human feces find their way into food and water sources, polluting and causing disease among people in those communities.



Children run and play in Ethiopia.



*One child washes his hands in a "tippy tap," a handwashing device in Cambodia.*

## 6. Rural populations around the world are seven times as likely as urban populations to be drinking contaminated water.

The discrepancy among rural and urban populations is striking, with rural populations experiencing extreme poverty at much higher rates than their urban neighbors.

Access to safe water is a major marker of socioeconomic classes globally. Families who are drinking water infested with disease fall sick much more often, causing them to miss work, school, and spend their income on health clinic fees.

## 7. Less than half of rural populations (45 percent) have the resources to manage their own health by washing their hands with soap and water.

UNICEF reports that the simple practice of washing your hands can reduce preventable (and in many cases, deadly) diseases by 40 percent. The behavior is the most effective and affordable hygiene practice that a community can undertake.

But, those experiencing extreme poverty often lack this knowledge and water to effectively practice hand washing.

## 8. People in the United States are expected to live 18 years longer, on average, than those born in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Life expectancy at birth is an important measure of the overall health of a country. It's influenced by employment rates, quality of education, access to health care, and more.

While the average person in the United States lives to be 78, the average person in Sub-Saharan Africa lives to be 60. But, while other countries climb higher, the United States has actually dropped in life expectancy from 78.84 years in 2014 to 78.53 years in 2017.

The divide is the greatest between Monaco, Europe and the Republic of Chad in Central Africa. While someone born in Monaco can expect to live to 89 years, someone born in Chad will, on average, see 53 years of life.

## 9. About a third of the UN's Least Developed Countries are also the least church-ed countries in the world.

As a matter of correlation, 1 in every 3 countries listed by the UN as those with the least socioeconomic development are also those that have had little Christian influence.

### WATER'S ROLE IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Clean water lays the foundation for communities everywhere. It frees people from water borne illnesses that inhibit work, costs communities in health clinic fees, and prevents children from attending school. It is essential to stepping out of poverty.



*A young girl and her brother bathe in a pond that families gather water from.*

Learn how Lifewater is helping rural communities realize their own God-given potential through our Vision of a Healthy Village approach at [lifewater.org](https://lifewater.org), and help fight world poverty with clean water.



READ THE FULL ARTICLE:

[lifewater.org/blog/9-world-poverty-statistics-to-know-today/](https://lifewater.org/blog/9-world-poverty-statistics-to-know-today/)

PO Box 3131, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403 | (805) 541-6634 | [lifewater.org](https://lifewater.org)

Lifewater International is a Christian non-profit clean water and community health organization committed to helping children and families living in extreme poverty thrive.