

Child Poverty

More than just lack of income, it's about being denied opportunities to lead a long, healthy life.

Imagine living in a place where you did not have clean water to drink or access to a working toilet. Imagine going to bed hungry each night or not having a comfortable home to sleep in that would protect you from cold, heat, wind, and rain. Imagine not being able to go to school or to even have access to radio, television, telephones, or newspapers. Imagine getting sick and not being able to get the medicine you need or be able to see a doctor or go to a hospital.

A 2003 study found that more than a billion children around the world don't have to imagine these conditions because they live under one or more of them every day.¹ One way UNICEF identifies poverty in children is when they lack the material, spiritual, and emotional resources they need to survive, develop, and thrive. These are rights that children have, and in ensuring their rights to education, health care, and safety, UNICEF works to reduce poverty for all children.



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Did You Know?

Roughly 400 million children around the world live on less than US \$1.25 a day.²

What's the Word?

Unscramble the following words to finish this sentence:

Child poverty can involve being deprived of...

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BONUS CHALLENGE: Unscramble the circled letters to complete the phrase below.

UNICEF understands that because impoverished children grow up to be impoverished _____, the only way to end the generational __ Y C __ is to focus on reducing childhood poverty.

						<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td>Y</td><td>C</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>		Y	C			(Answer key on reverse side)
	Y	C										

1 David Gordon et al., "Child Poverty in the Developing World." Bristol, UK: David Gordon et al., 2003, http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/child_poverty_in_the_developing_world.pdf.
 2 "Report Finds 400 Million Children Living in Extreme Poverty," The World Bank, last modified October 10, 2013, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/10/10/report-finds-400-million-children-living-extreme-poverty>.



For Discussion, Thought, and Debate

- Is reducing poverty a matter of improving the economy, supporting struggling families, or a combination of both?
- What human rights are being violated by conditions of extreme poverty? How can a global organization like UNICEF combat poverty by addressing those rights?
- Research the Millennium Development Goals at unicef.org/mdg or endpoverty2015.org. How effective is it to set such ambitious goals for overcoming poverty and its related challenges?

Understanding Poverty

One way of understanding poverty is to look at its impact on our food choices. In the simplified family meal planner below, try filling out each row with an appropriate economical food in the “Less Desired” column, and with a more expensive option in the “More Desired” column. Then research to estimate how much of each less desired food a family of four would require in a week to get enough nutrition in each category. Find the best price in your area for that amount of each of those foods, and write it in the table. Do the same for the more desired foods.

Food Types	Less Desired	Weekly Costs for 4	More Desired	Weekly Costs for 4
Protein	<i>Ex.: black beans</i>		<i>Ex.: chicken</i>	
Carbohydrate				
Fruits and vegetables				
Your choice				

Visit aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/14poverty.cfm to look up the United States Government’s poverty guideline for a family of four in a year, and calculate the value per week. On a separate page, write a paragraph explaining the challenges for a family living below the poverty line to eat (considering their other needs, such as housing, transportation, clothing, and the like).

Can You Live Below the Line?

More than 1.2 billion people around the world survive on less than \$1.50 a day. That figure is approximately how the international community defines extreme poverty. It’s a condition that does not just mean hunger. For children especially, it means malnutrition and being denied a healthy future.

Could you limit your spending on food and drink to just \$1.50 a day for five days? What could you learn from “Living Below the Line”? Visit unicefusa.org/livebelowtheline to be part of the challenge and to help children in need in the process.

WORD SCRAMBLE ANSWERS: shelter, sanitation, water, information, nutrition, health, education
BONUS CHALLENGE ANSWER: UNICEF understands that because impoverished children grow up to be impoverished ADULTS, the only way to end the generational CYCLE is to focus on reducing childhood poverty.