

Compassion Australia

Current Poverty Stats

Narrative and Insights Teams

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Purpose

This is an internal resource designed to inform our communication with supporters on the current state of global poverty.

To grow trust and maintain our credibility as an organisation, we need to ensure we are sharing consistent data from reliable sources.

Using the same sources and metrics over time also helps us track trends in development and convey them with integrity.

Overview

People living in extreme poverty, globally	692 M	2024	World Bank Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024 'Nowcast', subject to change. Based on int'l poverty line of \$2.15 US (2017) dollars a day.
Percentage of world's population living in extreme poverty	8.5%	2024	World Bank Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024 'Nowcast', subject to change. Based on int'l poverty line of \$2.15 US (2017) dollars a day.
Children living in poverty, globally	333 M	2022	World Bank 'Nowcast', subject to change. Based on int'l poverty line of \$2.15 US (2017) dollars a day.
Percentage of world's children living in extreme poverty	17%	2022	World Bank Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024 Based on int'l poverty line of \$2.15 US (2017) dollars a day. Children = under 18 years
Percentage of people in extreme poverty who are children	60%	2022	World Bank Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2024 Based on int'l poverty line of \$2.15 US (2017) dollars a day. Children = under 18 years
People experiencing acute food insecurity	282 M	2023	

Stats

GLOBAL POVERTY

Poverty overview

- World Bank projections indicate that 692 million people are living in extreme poverty. *Meaning they are living on less than US\$2.15 a day. This estimate means that 8.5% of the population live below the international poverty line.* [Source: World Bank](#)
- World Bank projections indicate that 333 million children are living in extreme poverty. *Meaning they are living on less than US\$2.15 a day. Approximately one in six children live in extreme poverty.* [Source: World Bank.](#)
- Children make up more than half the total number of people living in poverty, even though they only make up 31 per cent of the population. [Source: World Bank.](#)

Regional poverty

- 149 million people in South Asia live in extreme poverty. *Meaning they are living on less than US\$2.15 a day.* [Source: World Bank.](#)
- 464 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa live in extreme poverty. *Meaning they are living on less than US\$2.15 a day.* [Source: World Bank.](#)
- 18 million people in East Asia & the Pacific live in extreme poverty. *Meaning they are living on less than US\$2.15 a day.* [Source: World Bank.](#)
- Nearly half of people experiencing multidimensional poverty* live in Sub-Saharan African. *553 million out of 1.1 billion people.* [Source: UNDP.](#)

- Over a third of people experiencing multidimensional poverty* live in South Asia. *402 million people out of 1.1 billion people.* [Source: UNDP.](#)
- Eighty-four per cent of people experiencing multidimensional poverty* live in rural areas. [Source: UNDP.](#)

Global progress

- World Bank estimates indicated that since 2010 the percentage of people living in poverty globally fell from 15.7 to 8.5 per cent. [Source: World Bank.](#)
- Global extreme poverty today is only slightly below the rate observed before the COVID-19 pandemic, and in many low-income countries, poverty rates are higher than they were five years ago. [Source: World Bank.](#)
- Based on the current trajectory, 7.3 per cent of the global population is projected to live in extreme poverty in 2030. This means that about 69 million people are projected to escape extreme poverty between 2024 and 2030, compared to about 150 million who did so between 2013 and 2019. [Source: World Bank.](#)
- 25 countries halved their Multidimensional Poverty Index* within 15 years. [Source: UNDP](#)
- The maternal mortality rate fell by 34 per cent between 2000 and 2020. [Source: WHO.](#)

FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

- 282 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity. *According to the Global Report on Food Crises.* [Source: Food Security Information Network.](#)
- More than one in five children under the age of 5 are experiencing growth stunting. *Meaning they have a low height for their age, usually due to poor nutrition.* [Source: UNICEF/WHO.](#)
- In most Asian countries, the bottom half of the population used more than half their income to purchase food. [Source: Asia Development Bank](#) (p. 26).
- 233 million people in the Asia–Pacific region cannot afford to eat a healthy diet. [Source: FAO](#)
- One half of people experiencing severe food insecurity live in the Asia–Pacific region. *This is disproportionately affecting women.* [Source: FAO](#)
- 371 million people in the Asia–Pacific region are undernourished. *South Asia accounts for 85 per cent of this statistic, with 314 million people undernourished.* [Source: FAO](#)

Trends

- The number of people experiencing acute food insecurity increased from 258 million in 2022 to 282 million in 2023. [Source: Food Security Information Network](#)
- Food insecurity has improved in 17 countries since 2022; however, it has worsened overall, primarily for those in conflict-affected regions. [Source: Food Security Information Network](#)

MUMS AND BABIES

- Globally, 223 mothers die per 100,000 live births. *Rate has declined by 34 per cent since 2000.* [Source: UNICEF.](#)

- In 2022, 2.3 million babies died before they were one month old. [Source: UNICEF.](#)
- Once every two minutes, a mother died from pregnancy or child-birth related causes in 2020. [Source: WHO.](#)
- 87 per cent of maternal deaths in 2020 were women in Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia. [Source: WHO.](#)
- Less than half of babies under six months old are exclusively breastfed. [Source: WHO.](#)
- 32 per cent of births in low-income countries are not assisted by skilled birth attendants. *Compared to one per cent in upper middle to high income countries.* [Source: WHO.](#)

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

- Globally, only two in three youth attend secondary school. [Source: UNICEF.](#)
- 250 million children and youth are not attending school. [Source: UNESCO.](#)
- Almost 13 per cent of the world's population aged 15 and over cannot read and write. [Source: World Bank.](#)
- 2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water. [Source: UNICEF.](#)
- 1.5 billion people lack access to basic sanitation facilities. [Source: UNICEF.](#)
- 149 million children practice open defecation. This disproportionately affects children in rural areas. [Source: UNICEF.](#)
- Nearly 4,000 people die each day from diseases attributable to a lack of safe water and sanitation. Over a quarter of these deaths are children. [Source: UNICEF.](#)

NATURAL DISASTERS

- On average, a disaster related to weather, climate or water occurred every day over the last 50 years. More than 91 per cent of deaths caused by these disasters occurred in developing countries. [Source: World Meteorological Organisation.](#)
- Disasters related to weather, climate or water occur five times more frequently than 50 years ago, but improved disaster management means the number of deaths has decreased by a third. [Source: World Meteorological Organisation.](#)
- 85 per cent of people affected by natural disasters live in the Asia-Pacific region. [Source: ESCAP.](#)
- People living with disabilities are four times more likely to die during a natural disaster. [Source: Relief Web.](#)
- Women and children are 14 times more likely to die during a natural disaster compared to men. [Source: Relief Web.](#)

COST OF LIVING

- The cost of food in sub-Saharan Africa increased 24 per cent in two years. *Between 2020 and 2022.* [Source: IMF.](#)
- 71 million people in developing countries were projected to fall into poverty over just three months because of the rising cost of food and energy in 2022. [Source: UNDP.](#)

Other Useful Resources

For country-specific statistics relating to education, water and sanitation, maternal and infant mortality, etc., use [UNICEF](#).

For country-specific poverty rates, use the International Poverty Line, found in the [World Bank's Poverty and Equity Briefs](#)

For Compassion-specific statistics, see [Compassion Australia FY23 Annual Report](#)

[Insights Hub Teams Channel](#)

*The Multidimensional Poverty Index is a measurement of poverty developed by the United Nations Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. Where the traditional measure of extreme poverty focuses on purchasing power, the Multidimensional Poverty Index focuses on health, education and living standards. It uses ten indicators to measure poverty: nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing and assets. [Learn more about Multidimensional Poverty](#).