

Our world in numbers

Aim

This activity is intended to give participants a meaningful context for why and how Catholic Social Teaching inspires Catholics to work for global social justice today.

You will need

- 15 minutes
- Divide the participants into smaller groups
- Any type of room – use your space creatively.
- Print and cut out a set of statistics and statements for each group
- A timer: e.g. stopwatch on phone, countdown timer audio.

Activity

Ask each group to place the numbers of the statistics in a line from smallest to largest. Ask the group to place the descriptors beside the number they think is correct.

Reveal the correct answers using the table below, showing the improvements (or deterioration).

Discuss them as you go - what are their responses? How do the statistics make them feel? Can they relate the statistics to their life? What questions do these statistics raise?

Leader: use the table to link the statistics

The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 global goals to end poverty and protect the planet, adopted in 2015 by all 193 countries of the UN. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/secondary

Statistic	Statement	Relevant Sustainable Development Goals
8 billion	People in the world.	
68.7 million	People in the UK.	
1.31 billion	Catholics in the world.	
658 million	<p>People living on less than £1.60 a day.</p> <p>Between 2015 and 2018, global poverty continued its historical decline, with the extreme poverty rate falling from 10.1 per cent to 8.6 per cent. The poverty rate increased sharply from 2019 to 2020, from 8.3 per cent to 9.2 per cent, the first rise in extreme poverty since 1998 and the largest since 1990. This erased more than four years of steady gains. It also means that an additional 93 million people worldwide were pushed into extreme poverty because of the pandemic.</p>	<p>1: No poverty</p> <p>2: Zero hunger</p> <p>8: Decent work and economic development</p>
5 million	<p>Children who will die this year before their fifth birthday.</p> <p>In 2020, 5.0 million children under 5 years of age died. This translates to 13,800 children under the age of 5 dying every day in 2020. Globally, infectious diseases, including pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria, remain a leading cause of under-five deaths, along with preterm birth and intrapartum-related complications. The global under-five mortality rate declined by 61 per cent, from 93 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 37 in 2020. Despite this considerable progress, improving child survival remains a matter of urgent</p>	<p>1: No poverty</p> <p>2: Zero hunger</p> <p>3: Good health and well-being</p> <p>6: Clean water and sanitation</p>

	concern. In 2020 alone, roughly 13,800 under-five deaths occurred every day, an intolerably high number of largely preventable child deaths.	
64 million	Children not in primary school this year. COVID-related school closures threaten to reverse years of progress aimed at keeping children in school. From March 2020 through February 2022, schools worldwide were fully or partially closed for 41 weeks, on average. The longer children are out of school, the less likely they are to return. This is reflected in the fact this figure has risen for the first time since 2010.	1: No poverty 4: Quality education 5: Gender equality
798 million	People who were without even basic drinking water A further 1.2 billion people lacking even a basic level of safely managed drinking water service. Eight out of 10 people who lack even basic drinking water service live in rural areas. The proportion of the global population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 70 per cent in 2015 to 74 per cent in 2020.	3: Good health and well-being 6: Clean water and sanitation
958 million	People who were without even basic sanitation. From 2015 to 2020, the world population using safely managed sanitation services increased from 47 per cent to 54 per cent. Over the same period the population practicing open defecation decreased by a third, from 739 million people to 494 million. The world is on track to eliminate open defecation by 2030	3: Good health and well-being 6: Clean water and sanitation
733 million	People with no access to electricity. The global electricity access rate increased from 83 per cent in 2010 to 91 per cent in 2020. Over this period, those without electricity shrank from 1.2 billion to 733 million. But the pace of progress has slowed in recent years, due to COVID-19 and the increasing complexity of reaching those hardest to reach.	7: Sustainable energy for all 12: Sustainable consumption and production
103 million	People forced from their home by conflict or persecution. Calls for global peace are growing louder as the world witnesses the largest number of violent conflicts since 1946, with one quarter of the global population living in conflict-affected countries at the end of 2020. Amid these crises, and despite movement restrictions prompted by COVID-19, forced displacement has continued and even grown. As of May 2022, a record 100 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide. This staggering number will increase along with the widening repercussions of the war in Ukraine. An estimated 41 per cent of people forcibly displaced worldwide were children, according to 2021 data.	10: Reducing inequalities 16: Peace and justice
828 million	People without enough nutritious food The world is on the verge of a global food crisis, with a rising number of people experiencing hunger and food insecurity even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Global food supply systems have been partially undermined by a cascading combination of growing conflicts, climate-related shocks and widening inequalities. As a result, as many as 828 million people may have suffered from hunger in 2021. The outbreak of war in Ukraine poses an additional threat to food insecurity, with the potential to provoke a surge in levels of hunger and malnutrition, especially among the poorest and most vulnerable. Climate variability and extremes, conflict, economic shocks and growing inequalities are keeping the world off track in achieving zero hunger by 2030. Since 2014, the number of people going hungry and suffering from food insecurity has been on the rise. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated an already deteriorating situation, with about 150 million more people facing hunger in 2021 than in 2019. In other words, an estimated 1 in 10 people worldwide are suffering from hunger. In addition, nearly 1 in 3 (a staggering 2.3 billion people) were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021, meaning they lacked regular access to adequate food. This represents an increase of almost 350 million people since the beginning of the pandemic	

All statistics accurate as of July 2022

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5 million

**Children who will
die this year
before their 5th
birthday**



103 million



**People forced
from their home
due to conflict or
persecution**



64 million

**Children not in
primary school
this year**



68.7 million

**People who
live in the UK**



798 million



People who
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even basic
drinking water



1.31 billion

**Catholics in the
world**



658 million

**People who live
on less than
£1.60 a day**



8 billion

**People living
on Earth**



733 million

**People who
have no access
to electricity**



958 million

**People who
have no access
to a household
toilet**



828 million



**People without
enough
nutritious food**