

Children in Poverty

By: Janine TeBokkel
For: Mrs. Pounds
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Over 24,000 children die every day around the world due to the silent killer of poverty. These number are equivalent to 1 child dying every 3.6 seconds , 16-17 children dying every minute, just under 9 million children dying every year.

Preface

Fifty thousand people per day. Eighteen million people per year. Two hundred and seventy million people in the past twenty years. These are the numbers of people, mostly women and children, who have died because of preventable poverty related issues.

The purpose of this report is to analyze the issue of poverty and to put into perspective the effects it has on the lives of children around the world. This report is written to inform people from developed countries of the issues of poverty within every country and to acknowledge that no amount of poverty is economically valuable ("World"). In order to analyze the effects of poverty, one needs to gain a better understanding of what poverty is. Poverty is a state, or condition, of a country of which there is little or no means of support through methods of currency or of material goods ("Poverty Define"). Poverty is a deficiency of life's essentials that causes individuals to take drastic actions to support themselves and their surrounding family (Senker 4). Poverty is usually categorized into two sub categories including absolute poverty and relative poverty (Senker 4). In most cases, these divisions are based upon the annual income of an individual, but may also be influenced by the health standards, life expectancy, and by the well-being of the people living in the area.

Absolute poverty is based on the consistency of the standard of living in an area over a period of time (Senker, 4). Absolute poverty can also be divided into two subcategories including extreme poverty (living on less than \$1 per day) and moderate poverty (living on less than \$2 per day). In order to determine how much of a country's population is living in extreme and moderate poverty, the United States Department of Agriculture developed the 'poverty line.' The poverty line is a calculation that is annually updated to compare the food costs in a country and the country's total income. The poverty line is used to show change of poverty evident in a country over a specific time period ("Measuring").

Relative poverty differs from absolute poverty for the reason that it views poverty as being socially defined. One method of categorizing relative poverty is in the Gini Coefficient. This method compares the total wealth of the poorest one-third of the population to the richest one percent. Unlike the poverty line method of basing poverty solely on the food supply and income of a country as a whole, the Gini Coefficient uses the concept of relative poverty to compare the richest and poorest in a society in order to measure the inequality of the income or wealth of a country.

Both the Gini Coefficient and the poverty line methods are techniques of categorizing poverty, which international organizations use when determining the amount of aid needed to reverse the effects of poverty. They are not; however, useful in providing solutions to improving the living conditions or to managing with the hardships people living in poverty face on a daily basis. These methods are used to see how much help and support is needed in each country, and they are useful in determining the overall status of each country's living standards.

For centuries, children around the world, children have grown up with the hardships of living in a state of poverty. Although the current number of people living below the poverty line has made a dramatic decrease in some areas of the world, the issue is still evident in our local, provincial, continental, and global society. Today there are approximately 2.2 billion children in the world and an astounding 1 billion of them are suffering from the effects of poverty (Shah). Today's generation has been, in general, isolated from experiencing the hardships of poverty. The immense supply of life's essentials that have kept the majority of people in developed countries above the poverty line have made it difficult to relate to living conditions that place people in an impoverished state. Data based information is an important method used in society to emphasize and portray the evidence and importance of poverty, as first hand experience is

unavailable to most people in developed countries. There are about 1.9 billion children living in developing countries where 640 million (1 in 3) are without adequate shelter, 400 million (1 in 7) have no access to health care, and 121 million (1 in 15) are without education (Shah). These statistics may be shocking to a middle-class person in a developed country (like Canada). It is difficult to imagine an innocent child suffering from poverty, let alone half of the children in the world. People living above the poverty line comment on how they are starving because they missed lunch or are late for dinner, but they really have no idea what it actually means to be starving.

Every day, there are 25 000 children under the age of 5 years who die from poverty related issues ("Sponsor"). Poor living conditions, lack of food, and an insufficient supply of clean water are just a few of the many causes of death for these impoverished children. In 2008, an outrageous 8.8 million children under the age of five died of preventable diseases, half of them from Africa alone. Although these numbers are down from the 12.7 million in 1990 and the 9.2 million in 2007, the number of preventable deaths is devastating and unless action against the leading causes of poverty are dealt with now, the numbers will continue to increase in the years to come. (See Appendices VII for more statistics on Poverty)

However, action against the leading causes of poverty is hard to specify as the causes and effects of poverty are usually the same.

When people are faced with little or no other options for survival, drastic and life changing actions can occur doing little to move them forward and tend to leave a bigger scar than what was initially harming them. When people are forced to live in absolute poverty, they sometimes turn to alternative solutions such as human trafficking and prostitution to obtain the money they need for survival. These actions, when taken to escape from a poverty-stricken lifestyle, exasperate their situation, resulting in their becoming involved on the legal system. In addition when individuals partake in these illegal activities, the suffering is amplified as they attempt to escape their poverty-stricken lifestyle. When people turn to violence to get them out of a living condition like poverty, it does more harm than good as both poverty rates and delinquency rates increase.

Violence such as war, human trafficking, prostitution, and higher delinquency rates may not only be an outcome of poverty, but a cause as well. Some examples of how war has an influence on the impoverished state of a country include the wars that have led India, Haiti, and Zimbabwe into the current impoverished state they are in today. War is an obvious example of how poverty can be caused, because usually nothing

good comes out of the death of thousands of innocent people. The results of peoples' actions are what benefit and destroy our world, and war is one of the results people turn to when they are unable to solve their problems in a non-violent way.

Human trafficking and prostitution are two human actions taken by people who have little or no beneficial meaning behind them except short-term solutions to long, ongoing problems. These actions, along with an increase in felonies and other criminal occurrences, have caused more problems and have forced many people to live on day-by-day allowances or even on the streets to compensate for increased taxes the governments have to enforce.

Another cause of poverty is drug abuse. The use of drugs causes people to become addicted, leading to further internal problems to the point that they no longer have the ability to provide for themselves. Drug abusers spend their time and money with their drug addictions. Having an addiction to drugs also alters the way your body is able to function, making you fidgety in some circumstances and can cause the individual to develop poor work habits or cause the addict to have difficulty finding and retaining a job. When they are unable to maintain a good performance at work, they often slip further into a greater stage of depression and turn once again to

the drug that is controlling their lives. This state leaves the abuser with nowhere else to turn but to the streets and makes them unable to support the people that depend on them for life's essentials. This is a downward spiral that is extremely difficult to escape.

Drug abuse can also cause people to take drastic actions like theft, stealing, assault, and in some cases, murder, to be able to get through another day. The result of drug abuse also causes poor grades in school so that, in addition to the sometimes-criminal record, the abuser is not equipped with the effective skills to keep or hold a job.

However, the abuse of drugs is not the way drugs affect the lives of impoverished people worldwide. Although the struggle to obtain medication is high, when people are actually able to get the medications necessary for survival, many are forced to sell them for money to meet the many other needs that they have (Chapman).

Poverty is a deficiency of life's essentials. It causes major health concerns like starvation, malnutrition, and countless diseases. Because of the conditions of poverty, around 800 million people a night go to bed hungry ("Measuring") and approximately 25 000 children die each day ("Poverty"). The deaths that occur daily; however, are only a percent of

the children who die from insufficient access to clean water and other diseases.

There are many diseases in the world that lead to thousands of deaths worldwide. Two of the most prominent diseases in poverty-stricken regions of the world include HIV/AIDS and malaria. AIDS is a human immune deficiency that is sweeping our world from coast to coast and has been a global pandemic for the past century. This disease has infected approximately "33.2 million people world wide including, 2.5 million children under 15 years of age," and resulted in more than "2.1 million deaths (330 000 children) in 2007." HIV/AIDS is prominently in poverty-stricken regions of the world because of the "lack of knowledge" about it as well as the "lack of contraception." Thousands of rape victims living in poverty-stricken regions live with HIV/AIDS and do not receive the proper treatment ("AIDS"). In Sub-Saharan Africa, there are over half a million women who pass away during childbirth or pregnancy and the women that are able to have their babies, are unable to nourish them properly because of impoverished living conditions. ("Effects of Poverty") When a mother infected with HIV/AIDS gives birth, there is a chance the disease passes from mother to child and an even greater chance the child would join the other 15 million children orphaned each year due to HIV/AIDS ("Poverty").

In addition to HIV/AIDS, people in impoverished countries are forced to deal with other fatal diseases such as malaria. Malaria is a transmitted disease transferred in to the blood stream through mosquitoes. The usual symptoms of malaria include high fevers, shaking chills' and other flu-like symptoms illnesses ("Malaria"). Although rarely fatal, of the 350 – 500 million people diagnosed with cases of malaria in 2004, 1 million of them were fatal. Eighty percent of the victims of malaria were African children ("Poverty").

Along with the thousands who die each year from countless diseases, most of them curable if treated properly, an estimated 1.8 million children die every year as a result of diarrhea and another 270 million children suffer from other curable illnesses because of the lack of access to health services. The worldwide death toll of children who die each year because they are not properly immunized sits around 2.2 million annually while the death toll of children who die before the age of five was 10.6 million in 2003. ("Poverty")

The health of people is the key determinate in the succession in the survival of society. Without health, there is no means of a working society. Health and overall sanitation are factors that can keep a country thriving in great prosperity, but when one of the factors is not at standards to what is

necessary to sustain the society, the population of the country begins to fall into poor, impoverished living conditions. Living conditions fall for example, in countries after or during a war, where people immigrate to other societies, bringing new diseases , and causing massive amounts of sick people. Consequently, when there is a quick and dramatic increase of the number of people living in an enclosed city, the standards of sanitation drop, and diseases quickly spread throughout the city.

Besides thousands of diseases sweeping through poverty-stricken countries, one of the most devastating problems impoverished people face on a daily basis is the struggle for clean water. In developing countries, almost 1.1 billion people suffer from insufficient access to water including 400 million children, and another 2.6 billion people lack basic sanitation. Half of all the people suffering from illnesses at any given time are caused by the limited access to clean water and the lack of sanitation. An estimated 660 million people living in relative poverty and more than 385 million people living in absolute poverty live with poor sanitation. These numbers escalate to be two out of every three people living in relative poverty and one out of every three people living in absolute poverty lacks access to clean water daily. ("Poverty")

Similar to the other effects of poverty, water related problems could cause poverty as well as be an outcome of it. People who live in poor cities and countries usually have poor sanitation and standards of living. The roads are often carpeted with garbage and the rivers filled with plastic bottles, compost, and other types of waste products. These living conditions cause the water to become polluted and unhygienic, resulting in poor health conditions if ingested. When a large portion of the population gets ill, people lose jobs and can no longer support themselves or their family.

Poverty is commonly linked to homelessness as people in poverty struggle to make ends meet through supplying food, water, and shelter to themselves and the family who counts on them for support. When people do not have money to supply food, water, and shelter, losing housing is typically the first to go. Limited or no housing causes many to go to bed cold and hungry. People living in poverty conditions usually live in the run-down, sketchy portions of a city with crowded living spaces, poor studying conditions, and an inadequate amount of sleep.

Nearly a billion people entered the twenty-first century with the inability to read or sign their name, and around 72 million children of

primary school age in developing countries were not in school learning the basic reading and writing skills.

Education is usually an opportunity lost to people living in poverty for a number of reasons relating to the effects of poverty. Education is usually a declined right to people living in poverty because of war or other types of oppression. Parent's drug addictions, unemployment, or inability to supply for their family's basic needs., result in children being forced to work instead of attending school. In some cases, these working children are orphaned and forced to care for younger siblings instead of obtaining an education. Poor housing opportunities may also affect the child's ability to learn as they have no quiet area to learn and their physiological needs are not being met. However, the two most prominent reasons for poor education in poverty-stricken countries are health and money problems.

When a child is sick, they are usually too weak to attend any type of work or school and therefore miss a lot of school. Illnesses are prominent in impoverished nations. The number of deaths is considerably higher in these regions of the world. Averages of 443 million school days are lost each year to children because of water related illnesses alone, let alone the huge number lost to children that need to stay home and care for sick family members and other household problems. With a large number of

children orphaned due to diseases, many children are forced to take care of younger siblings and be a parent to them. These increases of responsibility given to an orphaned child become more important than school and so they are obligated to parent younger siblings instead of getting an education. With no education, they are unable to work their way out of poverty.

Another main reason why there are so many children without education in developing nations is that there is not enough money to supply the schools with teachers, books, and uniforms for the potential students. Without money, people cannot receive an education to get a better job, to get more money, to buy adequate food, water, shelter, and medicine – to work their way out of poverty. Although education is not a cause of poverty, unless you consider generals and other war leaders with education a cause, what it lacks in reason, it makes up for in effects. It is hard to make your way out of poverty without education and it is hard to get an education while suffering from the effects of poverty.

One of the most prominent and probable outcomes of living in poverty is the result of death. As previously mentioned in the effects of poverty, millions of people worldwide die each year from poverty related issues and there continues to be thousands of deaths everyday. Poverty

stricken people all around the world suffer from starvation, homelessness, disease, and violence every day, and with the massive amounts of people suffering, it is inevitable that thousands die. Poverty is a state or condition where there is little or no means of supporting the people living there and is not an illness that you die from; the effects from poverty are what have taken so many lives to date. Millions of deaths in developing countries are caused by preventable occurrences that are treatable and non-life threatening in developed regions. Death is a result of poor living conditions and horrendous sanitation amongst developing nations. Poverty can also be a result of death. When children are orphaned from diseases and war that killed their parents, they are left to fend for themselves and their younger siblings. Children are supposed to have parents to support them and so are unaccustomed on relying on themselves to meet the fundamentals need of survival putting them into a state of poverty. Hitting rock bottom for living conditions is one of the most imaginable states of being that people living in a developed world could ever face, but for people living in a developing nation, rock bottom is not that great of a fall. Amongst all the effects of poverty, let it be violence, drug abuse, poor health conditions, homelessness, or poor education, the most severe of them is death.

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Summary

This report contains an in-depth look at the issue of poverty around the world and the effects it has on children living in impoverished conditions. This report includes research collected from a series of websites, books, encyclopedias, and interviews. This report includes information about how poverty affects children throughout the world and about the actions both taken and planned to stop the spread of poverty and to decrease the number of children suffering from poverty related issues worldwide. The report includes the setbacks poverty has had on countries, including detailed analyses of its impact on developing countries like India, Haiti, and Zimbabwe. The report will also look at how countries have reduced the number of people suffering from poverty. This report gives the reader a better understanding of the issue of poverty and the effects that poverty has on children all around the world. The results of poverty are brought into perspective throughout this report. They will include: the causes for increased violence in poverty stricken regions of the world; the causes and effects of drug abuse; poor health conditions when living in poverty; limited housing and education in developing countries because of cost and availability; and one of the most prominent result of living in poverty especially amongst children, death.

Poverty in the Past

The issue of poverty has been prominent throughout history. Poverty can be dated back to when the Israelites were in Egypt, and has continued to be an issue today. Millions continue to suffer from poverty related problems. It is difficult to determine when poverty originated, as there have always been people who were living in underprivileged conditions or were lacking life essentials throughout the world's records. People throughout history people have been suffering from poverty related issues, but the evidence of the problem has increased, as awareness of the effects of poverty is readily available.

When problems are identified in an individual person or country, the rest of the world does not really take action in helping. It is not until the issue personally affects someone or some country that drastic and immediate problem solving actions will occur. When people see a problem, they see it as something that should be fixed, but when people have a problem, they see ways they can fix it.

Poverty can be seen from person to person, city-to-city, country to country, and around the world. When the issue of poverty is recognized people usually think of related issues like homelessness and malnutrition,

and automatically link it to developing countries like Haiti and parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. These assumptions are inaccurate; however, the reality is poverty can be found in every city and country, including developed countries like Canada and the US. Unlike people from these developed countries who see poverty as an issue, while others have no choice but to see living in poverty as a lifestyle. (For a complete list of the percentages of each country in poverty, see Appendices I, II, VII, and XI)

Since 1981, people have been recording the effects of poverty as well as the actions taken to decrease the number of people suffering from poverty. Although these attempts have been useful in helping people living in poverty, not enough of the solutions have sustainable.

As previously defined, poverty is a state or condition of a country of which there is little or no means of support and where there is a constant lack of life's necessities. When a person is faced with these obstacles, there are usually drastic actions necessary to escape from impoverished living conditions. These actions are usually the ones that result in more problems, and eventually lead to worse living conditions.

The effects of poverty are also the same as the initial cause of poverty and, because of short-term solutions, eventually cause the 'cycle of poverty' to continue ("World").

One of the main reasons poverty is still a part of our global society is countries make excuses about why poverty is not a global problem claiming it is an issue within poor and developing countries. Some developed countries have not accepted that poverty is a global issue, because accepting poverty means categorizing all nations, both developed and developing, as having a similar 'weakness' and creating an equality amongst them. These developed countries make up many excuses for rejecting the fact that poverty is a global issue. One of these excuses includes that accepting poverty as a global issue would result in more wars as people begin to fight for all available resources. When war is evident throughout a country, it leaves both physical and emotional scars on the land and people occupying the country at the time. War causes both external and internal damages to people's well-being through physical injuries, shell shock, and the death of loved ones. These effects, as well as the harsh impact that war has on the land itself, leave people stranded in war-torn cities with little or no means of ever having the time, energy, or equipment needed to bring life back to what it was in prewar times. This leaves family homeless, starving, and injured while trying to get their lives

back together, and essentially leaves people with no other choice but that of living an impoverished life until some sort of action can be taken to reverse the effects that war had on their lives.

The issue of poverty can be seen throughout the world in both democratic and communist countries. Both democratic and communist country's deal with issues related to the rights and freedoms of the people living in their country, in addition to the political, economic, and social relations amongst countries. These issues make it difficult to keep everyone living in economic stability. When governments are unable to keep control over local and foreign affairs, the relationships with foreign countries often become more important than the ones within the country, like poverty, as they depend on the support of foreign aid for help stabilizing problems that cannot be solved with resources within the country.

Major Contributors

It is up to each person, as members of a global society, to stop the spread of poverty. Many people have made major contributions in aiding people suffering from the effects of poverty. Muhammad Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his dedication for stopping poverty

throughout poor countries when he developed the Grameen Bank organization. The Grameen's Bank is a profitable organization that does not believe in giving anything away free. The Purpose of Grameen's is to contribute small loans to the poorest people in the world's poorest countries. This money will allow the borrower to start small businesses within their villages. Ninety-seven percent of the borrowers in 2007 were women ("Grameen"). The organization makes loans up to \$100 at a time and, unlike more well off people in our global society, the poor do not take advantage of this rule and pay back any money borrowed before applying for a new loan. This method of loaning and not giving has allowed people in impoverished conditions get on their feet and make plans for the future.

When asked about Grameen's and the actual effect that the organization has on solving or at least promoting the solution to poverty, Muhammad Yunus responded that:

Poverty is not something created by the poor people. It is created by the system. ... One good example in the context of this country (referring to the United States) would be the welfare system. The welfare system is designed to keep people in poverty rather than take them out of poverty. ... We should be aiming at creating poverty museums where children will go to visit ... to find how poverty used to be. ("Nobel")

Muhammad Yunus is one of thousands of people in the global society who have left their mark on solving the issue of poverty.

When Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, he was asked about what the prize meant to him and the organization:

It is a tremendous explosion of attention and visibility. Another thing the Nobel Prize has done is focus on the relationship between poverty and peace. Poverty is a threat to peace. That has been clearly stated by giving the Nobel Prize for something that works for the poor people. That relationship is something that was never clearly understood. ("Nobel")

With his strive to stop poverty; Yunus has been able to form a system that helps impoverished people help themselves. He has shown that there are many methods of helping out people less fortunate, some better than others, but the best way to help people, is to instate a system that they can use to become self sufficient.

Due to the immense impact the Grameen Bank had on the solution to poverty, Yunus was later recognized with the development of the Yunus organization that focuses on other global issues around the world. The Yunus organization is a place where one can post concerns, information,

and solutions about any issue that they are passionate about or wish to learn more about.

Muhammad's contribution to the continuous change occurring globally of ending the effects of poverty is evident through the many lives and families that are now living off for what they worked. In 2007, the total number of people that borrowed money from the Grameen Bank was 7.43 million. That is more than double the 3.12 million in 2003 that borrowed from the Bank ("Grameen"). His organizations have given poor people the opportunity and ability to get on their feet and become self-reliant.

The Grameen bank is owned and operated mostly by the people to whom it loans its money. The borrowers own and run 94 percent of the company and the remaining 6 percent is owned by the government of Bangladesh. The Grameen Bank has a staff of over 24,703 employees and around 2,468 branches covering 80,257 villages. This number is up from the 43,681 villages covered in 2003 ("Grameen").

The Bank has loaned \$6.55 billion (US) and has been repaid \$5.87 billion (US) ("Grameen"). The bank had a recovery rate of 98.35 percent in 2007, up from the 95 percent recovery rate claimed in 1998 ("Grameen").

Due to the immense success of the Grameen Bank, other organizations have developed branches that incorporate Muhammad's ideas with their own. One of these organizations was the Grameen foundation that has helped changed the lives of thousands of people. (More information about the works of the Grameen Foundation in "International Involvement")

One of the best motivations that Muhammad has is his absolute confidence that we as a people, if we take an issue seriously enough, have the ability to change the world if we work hard enough.

Role of Control

Everyone is affected by poverty, either personally or emotionally, and so everyone has the power to change the route that the plague of poverty is going. Poverty has always been evident throughout the world, and continues to be a problem in today's society as there are poor countries with the majority still suffering from absolute poverty. Poverty is an issue that is permanently a part of each person's lives throughout the world, as every day; people are in need of food, clean water, shelter, and good health. (These needs may be in different variations throughout different societies, but the fundamental need is still prominent in every person's lives.)

Although poverty will never be eliminated, the actions we take today will help to decrease the horrendous amount of deaths caused by poverty each day.

There are many individual steps that every person can take in solving poverty, but ultimately, the biggest solution is to get governments to recognize the need, to solve it with long-term solutions, and not short-term answers. The most important step to take when eliminating the cause and spread of poverty is to recognize that it is evident in both developing and developed countries around the world. The ignorance as a developed country seems to be that our nation *needs* poor countries to support, and that having poor countries to help, will keep continuous development in economies around the world. Another reason that governments in developed countries ignore long-term solutions to poverty is because they seem to think economic variability within the country is beneficial to the majority. Governments in the developed world recognize poor countries as opportunities to make temporary solutions, like sending food, instead of examining the needs evident in the impoverished country and helping them form long-term solutions. There is a saying, "give a man a fish, and he will be fed for a day; teach a man to fish, and he will never be hungry." The reality of this concept is similar to a flower that has no roots. It looks pretty for a while, but it eventually withers away because there are no

nutrients continually nourishing the plant for its survival. Governments in developed nations need to recognize that in solving poverty with long-term solutions, they will be saving millions of dollars from aid reliefs and would be contributing to the making of potential business partners in the future.

The initial cause of this ignorance towards solving poverty may be the result of the lack of knowledge towards the root causes of the issue of poverty. In order to solve an issue, one must first learn about what the initial cause is and how it developed into a problem. Next, instead of just seeing the problem in other people or countries, the problem needs to be recognized in their own society. Seeing flaws in a place that you call home is very difficult, especially in today's society, as people see flaws as weaknesses and not opportunities to become stronger as a country. Many countries try to right away to solve the problem of poverty in other countries and ignore looking in their own society for the issue. In the end; however, they make short-term solutions that continually become useless attempts to eliminating the big issue of poverty. Seeing the problem within developed countries with the resources to come up with solutions, can help to develop beneficial solutions for their country, that can then be administer into the poor countries.

When developed countries begin taking steps into solving poverty, they may be able to recognize the benefits of international human well-being. Recognizing the benefits of solving poverty instead of using excuses would help make poverty a recognized global issue and would inspire countries to come up with solutions instead of excuses. To avoid another global issue, people chose to say that impoverished countries would make bad international business partners and that making drastic changes in current human conditions may result in wars, disputes, and other international problems that would just increase the need for international support and cause problems our world does not need. They do not seem to recognize that not solving poverty means that they are leaving the next generations of the world to face poverty as regularly as they do getting up in the morning and going to sleep at night.

When people are better educated on poverty and the effects it has on people worldwide, the faster and better the solutions will be because more people will care. If everyone takes a stand today, the issue of poverty will be controlled and will eventually become uncommon amongst people, and more importantly children around the world. There are many common explanations evident of why people have not attempted to eliminate poverty. People have made excuses of not taking long-term actions; however, they are wrong. The outcomes of creating a world without

poverty include benefits that out way the reasons that stopping the global crisis of poverty would be a useless attempt. Forming international connections amongst governments will in fact increase international trade, international aid services (including charitable aid), and would help the world form a better outlook on other global issues.

Eliminating poverty from our world means that every person needs to take action to stop its spread. Developing beneficial solutions to ending poverty includes the issue poverty being internationally excepted within both developed and developing countries. When poverty is recognized as a global issue, than each person may see the effects that it has on himself or herself and will take action in stopping the spread. We, as a developed nation, need to take action on solving poverty before it becomes too big of a problem to control. We have the power; we have the money, now let us take a stand.

Religious Influence

Poverty is an issue that affects people of all race, gender, cultural background, height, age, and religion. Poverty is something that is created and experienced by people all over the world and is one of a few aspects in life that make up equalities amongst all humans. No matter what religion

you look at, there is usually some law, practice, or belief that stresses the importance of human equality and of the importance of giving charitably to those less fortunate. Each religion portrays the importance of charity and helping those less fortunate in many different ways. In Hinduism there is a phrase called "Yajna" which refers to the "importance of 'the spirit of sacrifice' by which one acts harmoniously with the universal laws" (Shastry). "The Yajna is upheld as the highest among the human virtues in all the scriptures of the Hindu religion" (Shastry). In Christianity, the importance of all being God's children is highly known and respected. In Christianity, there are many offerings and volunteering efforts given voluntarily by members of numerous congregations to help care for all of God's children worldwide.

There was an interesting article posted in 2001 about a response to a WAIS Conference held in the Philippines about the Catholic community there. The conference dealt with the question: "Religion, the root cause of poverty?" This question was asked as people noticed that "the bigger the churches and cathedral, the poorer the people" were in that area (Hilton). According to the article, "this viewpoint is typical of anti-clericals throughout the Hispanic world" (Hilton). The WAIS conference later mentioned the questions of 'Is religion a cause of war?' and then raised questions on the priorities of religions all around the world (Hilton).

Throughout the years, there have been many additional comments and responses to the questions brought up in the 2001 conference. One of the statistics that made its way to the top of the list was that if “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, why didn’t it happen” (Cline)? Another response to the WAIS conference was “Why do major religious leaders spend more time complaining about other religions or gay marriage than about hungry children” (Cline)? These legitimate questions have gotten even more responses, as the quest to find the beginning of poverty continues to be asked by people worldwide. People continue to play the blame game when it comes to solving global issues, and since religion is found in the impoverished regions worldwide, it is being questioned as a trigger to the initiation of the issue of poverty.

So why is there still so much poverty if the majority of the world practices religions that uphold charity to such a high degree? Austin Cline, an atheist that frequently writes in his blog about the hypocrisy that most major religions have about the practices they claim to live by, responded into that exact question. In 2005, Cline wrote that:

Every major religion emphasizes the importance of feeding the hungry. In every major religion, feeding the hungry is treated as a positive moral virtue. The only reason that so many people go hungry and

die of hunger is because adherents of these religions are failing to live up to what their religion teaches.

He went on to say that “according to UNICEF, 30,000 children quietly die in some of the poorest villages on earth each day due to poverty, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world” (Cline).

Religious people are some of the leaders in reversing the effects of poverty. Although many are continuously scrutinized because of the hypocrisy of not enough religious people following their practices and doing more to stop the sufferings of people due to poverty, religious people continue to play a large role in sending aid and support to impoverished countries.

There are hundreds of religious organizations that are supported and run by local churches and church groups. The religious people in these groups are only trying to help God’s children overcome obstacles placed in front of them each day. Emmanuel’s Wish Foundation (EWF) is a Christian organization “committed to serving the Global Community with integrity and responsibility, advocating basic rights for all” (“Emmanuel’s”). Their goals are to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ mending a hurting world, by providing support to national community development and by withholding a high degree of cultural sensitivity. Emmanuel’s Wish strives

to identify the needs of a community and works on meeting those needs to stop the cycle of poverty through generations (Emmanuel's). The contribution of solving the issue of poverty by religious organizations, like Emmanuel's Wish Foundation, has become increasingly evident. Through the actions of supporting the needs, sending aid and supplies, and creating orphanages for abandoned children, EWF and other non-profit organizations have set up facilities where people can donate time, money, and aid help stop the spread of poverty worldwide.

One of the more recent aid relief trips that members of the Emmanuel's Wish Foundation team was apart of, was their recent trip to Haiti to help the children in need after recent earthquake. Throughout the first few months after the hurricane took the lives of so many children EWF sent many people on numerous trips to the orphanages that EWF had set up in Haiti to help with the overwhelming orphaned population in Haiti.

Emmanuel's Wish Foundation has recognized that we are all children of God and so all deserve equal opportunity to live a poverty free life. EWF is one of thousands of religious organizations doing their part of being charitable and sacrificing what they have for the good of God's children worldwide.

Poverty in India

India is an incredibly beautiful country, rich with culture, traditions, religions, foods, and resources. At first glance, India seems like an economically stable country, but behind the glamour and beauty of it, there is a country full of war, tragedy, and poverty.

Since the Aryan tribes in 1500 BC who “created the classical Indian culture,” (“Poverty in India”) India has gone through many cultural and economic developments. India’s scientific, artistic, and cultural elements took great bounds forward during the Golden Age, between the 4th and 6th centuries (AD). After the advancements of the Golden Age occurred; however, war became more prominent in Indian society, and there were numerous changes in power, before India became independent in 1947. One of the first big political changes that took place in India was when the “Turks and the Afghans invaded India” and created the “Delhi Sultanate” (“Poverty in India”) during the 10th and 11th centuries. With this invasion, the war of who had control over India began. In the late 16th century, “Emperor Babur established the Mughal Dynasty” (“Poverty in India”). The Mughal Dynasty controlled India for more than three centuries, until Great

Britain took control over India. Great Britain supported the British-Indian armies, who played large roles in both world wars, and helped India gain its independence. "Communal violence" ("Poverty in India") broke out amongst India and the surrounding areas. The regions of Pakistan and India were formed due to the land separations. Pakistan and India continued to fight post independence, but by the third war in 1971, Pakistan had been divided yet again to include a "separate nation of Bangladesh" ("Poverty in India"). Since Bangladesh split off Pakistan, India and Pakistan have both developed and experimented with nuclear weapons. In one of the experiments, Pakistan tested their weaponry with a "series of coordinated attacks" on India's capital city Mumbai ("Poverty in India"). As previously mentioned in this report, war and other types of violence not only lead to the tragedy of lost lives, but also cause environmental problems that can make a country to take a turn for the worst.

When tragedies like political or natural disasters strike a country, there are many side effects that cause the population of a country to go into turmoil. India has been hit hard with both political and natural disasters in the past and present day, that have left many scares on the lives of the Indian population. These disasters have forced many Indian people to suffer from the everyday hardships of poverty. Disasters like the

wars that led to India's independence in 1947, and the countless natural disasters like droughts, flash floods, cyclones, avalanches, and landslides, have made their mark on Indian society ("Natural"). Droughts, earthquakes, pandemics, cyclones, hurricanes, and typhoons have claimed the lives of millions of Indians in the 20th century alone. Droughts have claimed the lives of approximately 4 250 000, 76 000 have died in earthquakes, pandemics have killed more than 4 523 000 innocent lives, and cyclones, hurricanes, and typhoons have claimed the lives of 114 204 people since 1920 ("Online"). (For more statistics, see appendices IV) Because of these massive deaths, the number of people living in impoverished conditions has gone through fluctuations and declines. Rural areas have continuously suffered through more poverty related hardships, but the trends between the percentage of people in rural and urban areas living in impoverished conditions seem to rise and fall during the same time frames. Since 1951, when the population living in poverty was around 47 percent, the approximate number of people living in poverty has decreased to about 28.3 percent in rural areas and 25.7 percent in urban areas as of the year 2000 ("Online"). The time between these dates, brought both times of prosperity and depression to the Indian people, as the number suffering from impoverished conditions rose and fell. (See chart in appendices for more statistics)

The Indian people have gone through many hardships in the past that have led up to many of the poverty related hardships they face today. Some of the “long-term hardships” that India has to deal with today include “widespread poverty, inadequate physical and social infrastructures, limited employment opportunities, and insufficient access to basic and higher education” (“Poverty in India”).

Each of these long-term problems can be linked to the effects poverty has on a country. In India, there is a high risk of being infected by diseases of all sorts. “Bacterial diarrhea, Hepatitis A and E, typhoid fever, chikungya, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis, malaria, rabies, and leptospirosis,” (“Poverty in India”) are just a few of the many major waterborne and airborne diseases that infect a large portion of the Indian population today. In 2007, approximately “2.4 million people were living with HIV/AIDS” in India and about 13 percent of them died from it (“Poverty in India”). Many of the diseases that are contracted in India are preventable and/or curable in developed nations. Due to the inability India has to pay for vaccinations; many of the preventable diseases go untreated, and can often become fatal. Cures that are readily available in other countries are not being used in developing countries like India, because of the cost of making, shipping, and handling the vaccinations. Without missionaries that bring the vaccines and supply the aid necessary,

the majority of the Indian population would suffer from preventable and curable diseases. Missionary's not only bring the necessary medications needed by the Indian people, but also supply education about the treatments and cures for the common diseases evident throughout the Indian population.

Unlike most developing countries, India has a relatively high portion of the population that is literate [61 percent of the population fifteen and older is literate ("Poverty in India")]. The average student spends nearly 10 years in school ("Poverty in India") with the majority being male with about 73.4 percent that are literate and the minority being female with a mere 47.9 percent that are literate. The number of people that have an education; however, it does not reflect in the number of the population that is impoverished or jobless. Twenty-five percent of the 1 139 964 932 (Google) people living in India are below the poverty line, and nearly 11 percent (10.7 percent) of Indians are without a job ("Poverty in India").

Due to the large amount of people that are without a reliable income, the Indian population has been forced into the labour and sex trades to earn money for their families. Trafficking is a huge issue in India. "Women and children are held in debt bondage and face forced labour" ("Poverty in India"). Women and young girls are trafficked for "sexual exploitation and forced marriages," while children are forced to become "factory workers,

domestic servants, beggars," and farmers. Some children are being sent to be used in armed combats by terrorist or to help in drug trafficking ("Poverty in India"). There are also many organizations over seas that take advantage of the low wages in India, and since there are no benefits and little costs involved with the cheap labour forces, many big companies use Indian people to manufacture their products.

The children in India have been exploited to many hardships that children should not have to go through in their childhood. Due to the debts owed by the parents and relatives of Indian children, the children in India have had to live and work in poor and restricted conditions. These living conditions bring the standard of living to below the poverty line, and force the children to work continuously for the scrapings of a next meal and a place to sleep. The debts of families have brought malnutrition and, in some severe cases, starvation onto the lives of innocent children. "One-half of all rural children in India are underweight for their age" ("Poverty") and a disturbing 48 percent are considered moderately underweight and 16 percent severely under weight and 28 percent of infants are born with low birth weight (UNICEF). The physical health problems the Indian children are faced with have not gone unnoticed by the Indian government. The government has financed all of the vaccinations provided to infants including immunizations against TB and DPT, and has been actively

involved in improving sanitation facilities (28 percent total improvements. For more statistics see appendices) ("UNICEF"). The actions taken by the government have only solved a small portion of the total number of health problems facing the children of India. Between 2005 and 2008, 69 percent of the cases of children under five were taken to the doctor and were suspected of phenomena. Of those children, only 13 percent were given the proper antibiotics. (UNICEF) Similarly, to most impoverished countries, the disease of Malaria has swept India. As the population of India is so great; however, a mere 8 percent of the infected children received the antibiotics necessary to treat the disease. Health problems with a high portion of the children being underweight and limited antibiotics available as treatments are only a portion of the poverty related hardships that the Indian children face today. Limited houses, due to the over population and limited or no money for building materials, and jobs for the majority of the population, leaves children living on the streets and begging for food. Children in India, like all children living in poverty, often struggle for the next meal, a place to sleep, clean water, and the ability to stay alive another day in hopes that tomorrow will be better.

India is a beautiful country, rich with culture and history. Even though half of the population is living in poverty, many people in India have better standards of living than those in the Western World. The vast

differences between the standards of living amongst the rich and poor Indian people can only be described through the need to advance with the world, even if that means leaving the majority of the population behind in order to compete with the advancements in the Western World. As mentioned throughout this report, everyone has the power to change the world and to stop poverty from ruining the lives of millions of people worldwide. Although many efforts are now being taken to stop poverty through sponsorships, donations, and many other voluntary efforts (“Poor People”), many people see keeping up with the rest of the world a bigger priority than falling behind the Western World’s economy and helping the majority of the population out of the deep hole poverty has placed the society into. Many religious practices, including Hinduism, place the spirit of sacrificing and helping underprivileged people as a major priority. Just like there is a vast difference between rich and poor in the Indian society, there are also major differences between the priorities of these two distinct groups of people. The entire Indian population knows that poverty is an issue; however, they do not all agree that the effects poverty has on a nation is their first concern.

Through the social and economic differences of the people in India, religious practices continue to tie the Indian people together. Approximately 80.5 percent of India is Muslim (“Major Religions”). As

mentioned previously in Religious Influence, the Muslim religion believes in the Yajna. This means that the majority believes in the importance of sacrificing what you have for those less fortunate than you. However, through all the economic instabilities that the large impoverished portion of the Indian people are apart of, their faith is still strong.

Violence, drug abuse, limited housing, poor education, and death are many of the causes and effects of living in impoverished conditions, but are not the only ones. These problems may trigger the effects of poverty to appear in a nation, but not reacting to these problems right away can and will cause poverty to spread at a faster pace than it can be solved. India has taken some initiatives in solving poverty within itself, by reducing prices on food and by “supplying the basic commodities” so that the poor are better able to survive, but the reality is that poverty cannot be solved overnight (“Online”). India has set up countless organizations that help collect food, toys, resources, and money for people living in poverty, but since the population of people in poverty is so great, there is almost no chance that these organizations can help supply the necessities to half of the Indian population. India has such a great number of people living in impoverished conditions, that it will take years before drastic changes can be seen, even if that means that the issue has to get worse before it gets better.

Poverty in Haiti

Once one of the richest areas of land in the Western hemisphere, Haiti has gone from being the world's largest suppliers of sugar and coffee, to a nation struggling to supply its own families with the essential amounts of food. Modern day Haiti has become one of the poorest overall nations in the Western hemisphere (Haiti 10), and from the struggle to find a daily meal, to the cardboard homes and the scarce jobs and opportunities for education, the Haitian people have had to deal with many economic, social, and political problems.

Similar to the diversity in riches in India, the wealth of the Haitian nation is specifically scattered amongst only a small portion of the population. At first glimpse, only the poor population is recognized, but the reality is that, scattered amongst the poor, there are people living in extreme wealth in Haiti. As the poorest country in the western hemisphere, most Haitians struggle with the hardships of poverty, but it may shock you to find out that Haiti is also "home to some of the wealthiest people in the world as well. Approximately 80% of Haiti's population lives in extreme poverty; there is a small middle class population and a very small segment of extremely wealthy people, including millionaires" (McWade). When you walk through some of the cities in Haiti, you can see "luxurious homes

surrounded by security walls and protected by guard dogs” ([Haiti 10](#)).

Many of the people in these homes have “servants, expensive cars, and attend the best schools” ([Haiti 10](#)). As these Haitians live the life of luxury, the rest of the country is being sold into the slave and sex trades, walk from one torn down building to another, and spend their days scavenging for food, rather than attending school and gaining an education. To put into a greater perspective how spread out the wealth in Haiti is, almost half of the total income in Haiti is earned by approximately 0.5 percent of 8 million people living in Haiti ([Haiti 10](#)). With the struggle to obtain a sufficient amount of food, clean water, money, and essential resources, the Haitian people turn to violence and often rebel against their political leaders in hope of invoking change. The communities in Haiti are full of “social and economical inequalities” ([Haiti 10](#)) that make it an extremely poor nation, but these are not the only difficulties that Haiti suffers from. Natural obstacles (like landforms) and disasters play a large role in the devastations that face Haiti on regular bases.

Haiti shares the west portion of an island south of Florida. It has five major mountain ranges with more than 100 rivers flowing through it. Due to the large percentage of ‘rugged’ terrain, Haiti has to deal with a limited supply of fertile land and a limited supply of rainfall. These conditions leave millions of people depending on only the “20 percent of Haiti’s land suitable for farming,” ([Haiti 12](#)) so Haiti has to make good use of all available

resources. Haitian farmers have to continually clear trees to make room for their “major crops including coffee beans, mangoes, cotton, cacao, essential oils, bananas, tobacco, and rice,” ([Haiti](#) 12) as well as to constantly dealing with the hot and humid climate. Due to the massive amounts of erosion created with the clearing of the trees, and the rainfall that washes out the already restricted fertile soil, the soil left behind is infertile and agriculturally useless.

In addition to the natural landforms that make Haiti an agriculturally deprived nation, the area of which Haiti is located is hit with hundreds of natural disasters. The most recent one, was an earthquake in January of this year (2010) that, according to Haitian President Rene Preval, took the lives of nearly 170,000 Haitians and left the country of Haiti in such a devastating state that it is hard to determine if it will ever recover (“Eighty-three”). Natural disasters, like the recent earthquake, take the lives of many, destroy the homes of those who remain alive, and place a countries social, political, and economical well-being into mass chaos. Natural disasters strike Haiti on numerous occasions every year, and often leave the government searching for help and support where domestically, none could be found.

The Haitian government has always been unstable in its support of the Haitian country. Since Haiti gained independence, the running governments have 'misused the public funds resulting in a decline of the quality of all public services' ("Haiti: Challenges"). Buildings, which would be considered unsafe and undependable in developed countries, are built and inspected with the bare minimum requirements being met and with the least amount of money as possible. The Haitian government has looked over the "fundamental areas of traditional government responsibility" including the "police force, the judicial system, and the provision of basic infrastructure" ("Haiti: Challenges"). There are many reasons why Haiti is as economically and socially poor as it is, but at the "core of the country's poverty problem" is the basic problems in the governing style ("Haiti: Challenges").

Some of the issues that branch off the instability of the government include the lack of education and the limited supply of food scattered around the country unequally.

The majority of the Haitian population lives in poor rural areas or remote villages. Due to the geographic separation between impoverished homes, it is difficult to establish a place where school can be held. Since there is little opportunity for schools to be established, "over half the adult population is illiterate" and there is a greater "need for children to work from very young ages" (McWade). However, the distance between

communities is not the only thing that causes thousands of Haitians to remain illiterate and uneducated throughout their lives. Of all of the children living in Haiti, 65 percent of Haitian children will never finish elementary school and 80 percent will not ever attend high school (McWade) because they need to stop school and begin to work to feed their families.

As food in developed nations is easy to come by, it is hard to imagine living in conditions that force you to go days without a single slice of bread, let alone a meal. Going days without food is exactly the reality that people living in impoverished conditions face every day. With the great struggle to obtain food from an agriculturally unstable nation, Haiti is unlikely to turn out of the current stage of depression, until other economically stable sectors are developed that bring more wealth into the country. The limited supply of the major crops available in Haiti makes it nearly impossible to support the farmers and the community. Because the need for food is so great, farmers are forced to increase the price of locally grown food. With the price increase, Haitians usually turn to imported products that can be sold for cheaper, and so money is taken back out of the country instead of being reinvested into the country (Haiti 14). In "1997, about 70 percent of the adult Haitian population was unemployed," leaving thousands of Haitians hungry and homeless, with little money available to the average Haitian citizen (Haiti 15). This large amount of people unemployed added

to the challenge that the Haitian government and other worldwide organizations have to face as they attempt to bring Haiti out of its current stage of depression.

Haiti is a relatively small country that is home to nearly 8 million people. The small living space available in Haiti leaves “618 people living per square mile,” (Haiti 13) and is one of the many causes for why almost 90 percent of the total population “live in poverty and suffer from hunger and malnutrition” (Haiti 15). With 80 percent of the rural population living in poverty, and a yearly growth rate of about 200 000 people per year (“Haiti: Challenges”), it is almost inevitable that the nation of Haiti will always be on the wrong end of the poverty line. In order to stop Haiti from being in an impoverished state in the centuries to come, immediate and drastic steps need to be taken in order to bring money into the country and stop the spread of poverty.

Poverty in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a poor African country that is located in one of the poorest regions in the world, Sub-Saharan Africa. The people that immigrated there in the past, have introduced many new practices, and have left a mark on the culture still prevalent in Zimbabwe today. The

earliest known people to live in Zimbabwe were the 'Bushmen' or 'San'. These inhabitants hunted and gathered resources from the land for thousands of years. The next inhabitants, the 'Shona people,' brought cattle with them and settled as farmers (Arnold 13). They forced the native people out of their homeland in order to build the 'Great Zimbabwe' (Arnold_13). While this was occurring in northern Zimbabwe, Mzilikazi, a former commander in the army of the great Shaka, left Zululand and his Shaka army and continued north, conquering smaller tribes along the way (Arnold 15). After nearly ten years of taking over tribes, Mzilikazi and his 10 000 followers were eventually driven out to a land, present day called Zimbabwe, by the Dutch Boers in 1837. The Boers created the Ndebele Kingdom three years later. When white Europeans came to the Ndebele Kingdom, they brought their own rules and lifestyle which they forced onto the African people. The Africans tried to overpower the Europeans but instead lost all power they still had, and Zimbabwe "ultimately fell under the British domination." A wealthy diamond trader, Cecil John Rhodes, took over and founded the "British South African Company in 1889" (Arnold 16). Rhodes became more wealthy and powerful throughout his time in South Africa. He, as well as other white Europeans, felt "it perfectly moral to occupy African lands and to manage the people living there." They saw the African people as "savages." British South African Company (BSAC) took over two regions of South Africa which they called North and South

Rhodesia (modern day Zimbabwe), imposing their own rules and laws on the people and making the white minority have a stronger influence than the black majority (Arnold 17). The white Europeans enforced restrictions on the access that black people had on the land and forced them to have small wages. Obviously, the "black people opposed the colonial rule," and the 'Zimbabwe African People's Union' and the 'Zimbabwe African National Union' rebelled, forcing amendments to be made and forced Britain to create the Central African Federation [made up of Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), and Nyasaland (Malawi)]. In 1964, "Ian Smith of the Rhodesian Front becomes prime minister, tries to persuade Britain to grant independence," but it was not until 1980, when "independence leader Robert Mugabe and his Zanu party" win the election and claims independence on April 18th of that year ("BBC News").

Since Zimbabwe gained its independence in 1980, there have been many challenges that Zimbabwe has had to face. In 2002, Zimbabwe was faced with the possibility of a famine as they were threatened with one of the worst food shortages they have ever seen. For a month and a half, "2 900 white farmers were forced to leave their land" in order that the government could use the resources to feed the nation ("BBC News"). After the 'famine,' riots broke out to change the laws recently enforced about farmers being evacuated, people turned to violence to solve their

problems. Problems, like riots and other types of violence, have brought Zimbabwe into the impoverished state that it is today.

Riots have continued to sweep across Zimbabwe since gained its independence. One riot that took place left “tens of thousands of shanty dwellings destroyed,” and an estimated 700,000 people homeless (“BBC News”). Nevertheless, even after the immense devastation hit Zimbabwe, people continued to resort to violence to invoke changes and rebel against the hardships they face everyday. Zimbabwe today is not much different. In the past year, there have been numerous riots over the food supply, the unfairness in wages, and other political riots that have set the unstable economy of Zimbabwe into continues chaos. People turn to violence to cause change because there is no money, and the white minorities continue to have the most powerful influence in government.

Zimbabwe, along with many South African countries, is full of war and poverty. Missionary groups from all over the world have recognized the needs in Zimbabwe and have supplied them with education, vaccines, and aid, but the hardships that Zimbabwe faces do not just disappear. With the help of thousands of organizations worldwide, missionary work in Zimbabwe has supplied education to the majority of the Zimbabwean people. Today, 90.7 percent of the population over fifteen is literate and

children, both boys and girls equally, are able to attend schools for an average of 9 years ("Zimbabwe"). These amazing educational opportunities brought into Zimbabwe by aid groups have made their mark on the impoverished country of Zimbabwe but have not been the solution to poverty. Although the majority of the population is educated, there is still approximately "1.3 million people are living with HIV/AIDS and almost 140 000 dying from it every year" ("Zimbabwe"). Other diseases that have made and continue to make their way across Zimbabwe include bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria, schistosomiasis, and rabies. As disease, malnutrition, war, trafficking, substance abuse, and poor government persistently make a mark on Zimbabwe, poverty is not likely to be solved for hundreds of years if ever, unless drastic and immediate action is taken.

International Involvement

Hundreds of organizations worldwide have tried to fight poverty and the effects that poverty has on the world. From rebel groups forcing changes in government, to small town organizations raising money to build a school in Africa, people all over the world have been able to do their part in stopping poverty before it gets too out of control to handle. There are thousands of organizations that have made their mark on poverty, but the

Grameen Foundation and the 'Make Poverty History' campaigns have definitely made drastic contributions to changing the course poverty is on, and in helping aid developing nations in their time of need.

The Grameen Foundation, founded in 1997, is an organization that takes the ideas of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus', and puts them into action. The use Yunus' idea of lending money to poor people when they need it and the being paid back by the borrower overtime, and bring it into a practice worldwide. The Grameen Foundation is run out of Washington, DC, as has the 'simple goal' of seeing "poor people have access to microfinance and technology and as a result of access to these services, move themselves out of poverty" ("Grameen"). The Grameen Foundation is a non-profit organization that is " a leader in the fight against poverty in Sub Saharan Africa, Asia, Middle East/North Africa, and the Americas" ("Grameen"). They have helped an incredible "45 million poor people, mostly women and children, improve their lives" since they began only 13 years ago. Their ultimate goal is to:

collaborate with local organizations and allies around the globe to provide products and services that allow them to: 1) reach deeper into poor communities with microfinance and technology services; 2) provide access to microfinance and technology services among the poor and poorest in harder to reach areas and currently not

served/underserved areas; and 3) measure who is being reached to ensure they are moving out of poverty over time. ("Grameen")

With the goal of 'enabling the poor and creating a world without poverty,' the Grameen Foundation has been able to take the mission of 'helping people help themselves,' and turn it into an organization invoking change in our poverty-stricken world.

Another organization that strives to create a poverty free world is 'Make Poverty History'. This organization hopes to change the route poverty is on by supplying "more and better aid" to nations struggling with poverty related problems. They place high value on forming and maintaining a bond of trust between themselves and the people that they are helping. The 'Make Poverty History' organization believes that: "Aid is a resource held in trust for people living in poverty. We must not break this trust. But we must do more than simply maintain or even increase our aid - we must also make aid more effective" ("Make Poverty History Canada"). They believe that aiding impoverished nations is essential in stopping the spread of poverty in its tracks and eventually eliminating poverty from the global society in years to come. 'Make Poverty History' campaign believes that "more and better aid is needed to help end extreme poverty and hunger." They believe that their support in impoverished

nations will help “to enable every child to attend elementary school... to reduce child mortality rates... to improve maternal health... to create decent jobs... and to begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS” (“Make Poverty History Canada”). To date, ‘Make Poverty History’ has been able to help raise thousands of dollars by gathering the top ten wealthiest countries in Toronto and organizing fundraising campaigns (‘Make Poverty History’).

The ‘Make Poverty History’ organization challenges Canada to reach the UN target of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015. They hope to achieve this goal by committing to a timetable to increase aid by 15% annually until 2015, and to enact legislation to make "ending poverty" the exclusive goal of Canadian foreign aid in a way consistent with our human rights' obligations” (“Make Poverty History Canada”). With the trust and support of more stable nations, ‘Make Poverty History’ strives to make poverty, an issue of the past.

Free The Children is a non-profit organization that started from a 12 year old that saw the need to change child labour in the world and has grown to be one of the largest organizations fighting to free the children of our world.

The primary goals of the organization are to free children from poverty and exploitation. They also strive to free young people from the notion that they are powerless to affect positive change in the world. Through domestic empowerment programs and leadership training, Free The Children inspires young people to develop as socially conscious global citizens and become agents of change for their peers around the world. ("Free The Children")

"Free The Children has built more than 500 schools around the world" and has inspired more than 1 million youth worldwide to help free the children overcome by poverty and other hardships ("Free The Children"). Since the organization began in 1995, Free The Children has sent "207 000 school and health kits: to children in need and has given more than 50 000 children access to an education every day" (Free The Children). Free The Children has helped build over 500 schools and has shipped "\$15 million US dollars worth of essential medical supplies to Asia, Latin America, and Africa, benefiting more than 512,000 people" (Free The Children). To reverse the course that poverty has had on children, Free The Children has been able to help 23 000 women become economically self-sufficient and has given another 650 000 people access to clean water, health care and sanitation (Free The Children). Free The Children believes that: "every child deserves a chance. A kid who is living in poverty does not get a fair chance" (Free The Children). In order to create equality amongst children

living in poverty, they have helped invest \$1 a day to help give a child a good start in life. This dollar a day is spent on education and medical supplies that would keep the child healthy and away from the regular toll that poverty has on children. Research has shown that:

When children grow up in poverty, they pay a heavy price. Research shows that they have more illnesses, perform poorly in school, have more mental health problems, and earn less when they are adults. For every \$1 that a country invests in giving children a good start in life, the country saves \$7 in costs for health and other problems that arise when kids' basic needs are not met. Helping children out of poverty is therefore morally, socially, and economically productive. (Free The Children)

Free The Children has become one of the most well known organizations not only because of the big influence it has on changing the impoverished world that so many children are forced to live in, but also because of the foundation that it was built on. When people see the changes that one organization that was founded by a 12 year old can do in stopping poverty, they are inspired to do their part in changing the world too.

The work of these organizations, and thousands of others, has made impoverished conditions around the world become less and less prominent in some countries. Poverty in countries, both developing and developed,

has seen a decrease in the number of people struggling for life's necessities in the past 20 years. With the help and support of volunteers and donors from the around the world, these organizations can continue making their mark on poverty, and can become the triggering factors that help change the route that poverty has on the lives of children worldwide.

Poverty in Canada

"Pay the rent or feed the kids?" This question is one asked by nearly 15 percent of all people living in Canada. Thousands of women and children struggle each day for sufficient food, water, and shelter. This ongoing struggle has resulted in the many hardships as people constantly struggle to live through impoverished conditions. Poverty is an on going problem that affects people both nationwide and worldwide.

Many people mistakenly assume that child poverty is a challenge only people in developing countries are facing. This is sadly untrue. In Canada, the situation of child poverty has deteriorated. UNICEF's report on Child Poverty in developed countries ranks Canada near the bottom for children's well-being, at 17 out of 23 countries. This is unacceptable for a country that prides itself on being consistently chosen as the best place in the world to live. (Free The Children).

Poverty in Canada is most commonly evident amongst children (17.65 percent of all children with both parents); children in single parent homes (52.1 percent) and single adult Canadians (37.65 percent) (Raphael 61). Females are more commonly affected by poverty than males, and so have a greater chance of bringing-up their children in impoverished conditions. Single parenthood in Canada has been on the rise and divorces are becoming increasingly prominent in society. With one income and a family to support, single parents struggle to support their family, and often have to choose between 'paying the rent or feeding their families.'

Unlike most developing countries, the causes of poverty in Canada are more financial issues, like taxations and wages, than they are due to natural and political disasters. With many families depending on one person to bring in the money for the entire family, poverty has become increasingly prominent in Canadian homes and on Canadian streets.

Children in poor families remain a particular concern to Canadians because children are unmistakably not to blame for their situation. Raising children in poverty limits their future career opportunities hampering the Canada's economic future. Child poverty increased from 964,000 (or 15%) in 1981 to 1.4 million (or 20%) in 1997 mostly because of the increasing poverty rate of working age families, and the increasing numbers of single parent families. (Poverty)

It has become more and more clear that the more people living per capita and the larger the gap between the rich and the poor there is, that there is greater number of people living in impoverished conditions. When families, with either both parents or a single parent, are forced to live paycheck to paycheck, they usually live in smaller, condensed homes, with little personal space and privacy. These conditions, although not often homeless, make it difficult to live the 'normal Canadian lifestyle' that most Canadians are accustomed to living.

From the outside, Canada is a beautiful country full of opportunities for people of all ages. Canada is seen as a welcoming country where the rights and freedoms of its citizens are upheld with great respect. However, when you take a closer look at the Canadian economy, there are many flaws that can take away from the beauty and appeal of the country. Although Canada is one of the richest countries in the world, about 1 400 000 of its children live in poverty ("Free The Children"). Children from single parent homes and those that have aboriginal descent have suffered the most over the years. Children that have lived in disadvantaged homes for years because their parents struggle with balancing paychecks and bills while putting food on the table and clothes on their children's backs. Single mothers have suffered the worst from the effects of poverty.

Eighty-one percent of single mothers with children under the age of seven live in poverty ("Free The Children"). As a country that works hard to uphold its chart of rights and freedoms, Canada has done a poor job in making sure that every person, no matter race, gender, age, or social class, is given the same sense of freedom and security.

Canada's Constitution includes a Charter of Rights and Freedoms that guarantees every Canadian security of the person. People who live in poverty do not have security of the person. If they live in hunger, their health and their lives are at risk. If they are homeless, they do not have physical or mental security.

Poverty means that people do not enjoy their basic human rights. ("Free The Children")

Due to the of the large amount of women and children suffering from the effects of poverty in a country that values human rights and freedoms so much, Canada has to become more aware of its global reputation. Canada needs to become more aware of the fact that countries may begin to recognize Canada as a country that ignores the poor and impoverished portion of its economy and instead holds the economically stable citizens as higher priority.

Financial problems, although they play a large factor in placing a person or family in poverty, and abuse of the charter of Rights and

Freedoms are not the only issues that place people below the poverty line in Canada. Racial and cultural problems are also issues that have placed Canadians in poverty. Natives and Aboriginals have been forced to live in poverty because they have been stripped of their rights and labeled as Aboriginals instead of Canadians. The living conditions of Canada's Aboriginal persons are usually far below Canadian norms and often-mimic third world conditions (Poverty). The poverty rate of Aboriginals at about 43% in 1995 far exceeds the 19% for non-Aboriginals (Poverty).

Since poverty is evident in our society, Canada has taken actions to stop the spread of poverty in itself as well as in developing nations. Canada has developed organizations that help people get out of impoverished conditions and give them the support that they need to stop poverty from occurring or reoccurring in nations, both developed and developing, around the world. Canada's federal government claims that the Child Tax Benefit they put in place help Canada's poor children, yet the benefit that are had are far too low and the poorest children are disqualified from receiving it.

"Children living in families receiving welfare - who are the poorest children in Canada - have the benefit taken away from them by their provincial government. This is wrong and must be ended. Apart from Newfoundland and New Brunswick, the poorest children and their families receive no help from the Child Tax Benefit." ("Free The Children")

Aside from the Child Tax Benefits initiated by the Canadian government, Canada has attempted to change the lives of people living in poverty. The government has help organizations set up food banks and shelters that poor people can go to for some of the help they need. Since 1984, when the number of food banks in Canada was a mere 75, the UN Human rights committee has helped initiate this number to grow to 625 in 1998 ("Free the Children). This number has again increased to be 884 and 2 906 affiliated agencies in 2009 ("Food Banks"). The number of people that use the food bank has also made drastic number of increases. Twenty-eight years ago when the first Food Bank was open in Edmonton, there were only a few hundred people that used the services. In March of 2009; however, there was an astonishing 794 738 people (and 3 252 134 meals) that were assisted by the Food Bank, 9 percent of which were first time users of the Bank and almost half of the people using food banks were children. ("Food Banks"). Even though hundreds of thousands of Canadians have been helped by through government organizations, like Canada's Food Bank's, there are still hundreds of people that are going hungry or depend on the banks for survival.

Canada has the ability to stop poverty as a developed nation, because Canada has the political and economical stability to support developing nations. Developed nations, like Canada, need to see the

problem in themselves and the surrounding world, recognize the need for change, and take action in stopping the issue that every nation, both big and small, faces everyday. That issue, is poverty.

Possible Solutions

In the past, there have been thousands of organizations that have played their part in stopping poverty. From sending medical and financial aid, building schools, churches, hospitals, and homes, and sending food, clothing, and games to developing countries in need, our world has done its part in helping poverty become a lesser issue in the global society, but is far from eliminating it as a global issue. The world, as a whole, has taken actions that have made the evidence of poverty drastically diminished; but has not yet been able to control the spread of poverty that continues to cause enormous problems and millions of deaths worldwide.

Organizations have been able to collect money and supplies from more developed countries, like Canada and the United States, in order to send medical and financial aid to impoverished countries. Organizations, both large and small, have raised money to buy medical supplies for poorer countries that are unable to afford them or are not presented with the opportunity to have them. Supplying medical and financial aid for poor

counties, is one of the many options often taken by people attempting to help people living in poverty, but is not necessarily the best option. Helping through medical and financial methods, although very affective at the time, are methods that are the easiest for people and so are just done as a quick answers to an ongoing problem. As the saying goes, 'money can only be spent once.' Similarly, medical and financial aid can only be used once. The best way to help end poverty is to present developing countries with long-term investments and solutions. Instead of simply supplying the medical supplies, the organization can instead help by building medical facilities and educating the citizens of the impoverished country about how to use the medical equipment and medicines. This type of aid will not only supply additional jobs for the impoverished community, but also give the impoverished nation better self-efficiency that will help them build their way up the economic ladder and become a self-reliable nation. In the same way, instead of simply giving the poverty-stricken nation money and letting them use it as they see fit, organizations should teach the poor country how to invest it into the country in ways both beneficial to the financial and economical stability of the country.

Due to the limited income families face when living in poverty, a short-term solution that people have felt very affective has been sending food, clothing, and games to children living in poor, developing nations.

Sending these supplies is beneficial to people living in poverty for a time, but is more of an emotional solution than economically beneficial one. Although sending clothing makes for one less thing for their parents to buy, it is more about the reaction on a child's face when they receive the gift than it is about solving the reason that the child did not have the soccer ball or t-shirt. Sending this type of one time gift, is emotionally rewarding for both the sender and the receiver, and unlike financial support that can only be spent once, the material gifts can be repetitively used and passed on from person to person in the community. This solution; however, is only about the emotional connection that is created knowing that a poor child could have a smile on his or her face from receiving a gift from a stranger and is not about the root of the issue of poverty. Organizations that help send the gifts of food, clothing, and toys to impoverished communities worldwide are helping the issue of poverty, but are not helping end it. These organizations are helping by giving a person that struggles to survive everyday the assurance that people know of their hardships and are trying to help.

In order to reverse the effects of poverty like violence, drug abuse, poor education, limited housing, and death, groups and organizations have raised money to build schools, churches, hospitals, and homes for people living in poverty. Organizations have sent mission groups from all around

the world to build these lasting infrastructures, as well as sending people that will teach the people living in poverty to help themselves. There is an old saying that, "if you give a man a fish he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish; and he will feed his family for a lifetime." When organizations come in and supply people with the necessities to become self-reliant, the impoverished community is able to take the first step into overcoming poverty. Helping an economy turn away from the direction that poverty has it going is the best solution in ending poverty. Helping people help themselves is the best solution in solving the issue of poverty.

Like all problems, there is always the option of doing nothing. Leaving poverty the opportunity to run its course through countries would leave millions of people starving, homeless, sick, and dead. If poverty is ignored, the global economy will go into an even worse state of chaos, and the issue will become increasingly harder to reverse. If we do nothing to stop poverty or recognize it as an issue, it will eventually take its toll on every economy, both developed and developing.

Conclusion

Poverty is a global issue that has been, and will continue to be apart of our society for years to come. Just as Rome was not built in a day, the

solutions to poverty are going to be continuous actions that buildup until the issue of poverty is eventually controlled or eliminated from the world. In order for poverty to be eliminated, people need to recognize it as an issue that occurs around the world on every continent, in every country, in every region, in every city, and in every town. People need to take action today, to help stop poverty from occurring tomorrow.

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Appendices

Appendices I

Rank	Country	Pop below poverty line (%)			
			20	Principe	
				Senegal	54
			21	Afghanistan	53
			22	Malawi	53
			23	Honduras	50.7
			24	Madagascar	50
			25	Kenya	50
			26	South Africa	50
			27	Eritrea	50
			28	Colombia	49.2
			29	Lesotho	49
			30	Cameroon	48
			31	Nicaragua	48
			32	Guinea	47
			33	Burkina Faso	46.4
			34	West Bank	46
			35	Yemen	45.2
			36	Bangladesh	45
			37	Peru	44.5
			38	Dominican Republic	42.2
			39	Djibouti	42
1	Zambia	86			
2	Chad	80			
3	Haiti	80			
4	Liberia	80			
5	Gaza Strip	80			
6	Sierra Leone	70.2			
7	Suriname	70			
8	Mozambique	70			
9	Nigeria	70			
10	Swaziland	69			
11	Zimbabwe	68			
12	Burundi	68			
13	Niger	63			
14	Comoros	60			
15	Bolivia	60			
16	Rwanda	60			
17	Tajikistan	60			
18	Guatemala	56.2			
19	Sao Tome and	54			

40	East Timor	42	78	Panama	28.6
41	Cote d'Ivoire	42	79	Ghana	28.5
42	Angola	40.5	80	Lebanon	28
43	Kyrgyzstan	40	81	Uruguay	27.4
44	Mauritania	40	82	Belarus	27.1
45	Sudan	40		Micronesia,	
46	Ethiopia	38.7	83	Federated States	26.7
47	Ecuador	38.3		of	
48	Venezuela	37.9	84	Armenia	26.5
49	Ukraine	37.7	85	Fiji	25.5
50	Benin	37.4	86	Romania	25
51	Papua New		87	Albania	25
	Guinea	37	88	Bosnia and	25
52	Mongolia	36.1		Herzegovina	
53	Mali	36.1	89	India	25
54	Tanzania	36	90	Azerbaijan	24
55	Uganda	35	91	Pakistan	24
56	Cambodia	35	92	Tonga	24
57	Namibia	34.9	93	Argentina	23.4
58	Belize	33.5	94	Anguilla	23
59	Uzbekistan	33	95	Algeria	23
60	Burma	32.7	96	Guam	23
61	Grenada	32	97	Sri Lanka	22
62	Togo	32	98	Israel	21.6
63	Paraguay	32	99	Maldives	21
64	Bhutan	31.7	100	Slovakia	21
65	Brazil	31	101	Egypt	20
66	Georgia	31	102	Turkey	20
67	Nepal	30.9	103	Spain	19.8
68	El Salvador	30.7	104	United Arab	19.5
69	Laos	30.7		Emirates	
70	Botswana	30.3	105	Bermuda	19
71	Dominica	30	106	Chile	18.2
72	Turkmenistan	30	107	Iran	18
73	Cape Verde	30	108	Portugal	18
74	Philippines	30	109	Indonesia	17.8
	Macedonia, The		110	Poland	17
75	Former Yugoslav	29.8		Trinidad and	
	Republic of		111	Tobago	17
76	Moldova	29.5	112	Costa Rica	16
77	Virgin Islands	28.9	113	Russia	15.8

114	Belgium	15.2
115	Korea, South	15
116	Morocco	15
117	Jamaica	14.8
118	Vietnam	14.8
119	Jordan	14.2
120	Bulgaria	14.1
121	United Kingdom	14
122	Kazakhstan	13.8
123	Mexico	13.8
124	Slovenia	12.9
125	United States	12
126	Syria	11.9
127	Germany	11
128	Croatia	11
129	Canada	10.8
130	Netherlands	10.5
131	Thailand	10
132	Bahamas, The	9.3
133	Hungary	8.6
134	China	8
135	Mauritius	8
136	Libya	7.4
137	Tunisia	7.4
138	Montenegro	7
139	Ireland	7
140	France	6.2
141	Austria	5.9
142	Malaysia	5.1
143	Estonia	5
144	Lithuania	4
145	Taiwan	0.95

Appendices II

Country	Total Population of country (2008)	Population below poverty line (%)
Canada	33,311,400	10.8% (2005)
Haiti	9,876,402	80% (2003 est.)
India	1,139,964,932	25% (2007 est.)
Zimbabwe	12,462,879	68% (2004)

The portion of the total population of each indicated country below the poverty line.

Appendices III

Rank	country	(children born/woman)	Date of Information
49	Haiti	3.81	2009 est.
51	Zimbabwe	3.69	2009 est.
86	India	2.68	2009 est.
181	Canada	1.58	2009 est.

The Average amount of Children born by each woman in the indicated country's

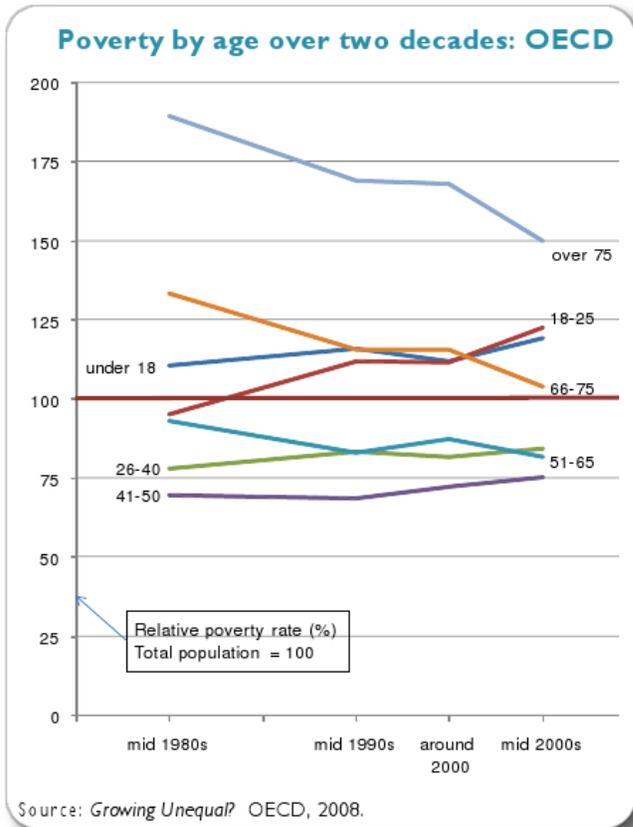
Appendices IV

	Country	Year	Day	Disaster	Region	Continent	Killed
8	India	1920		Epidemic	S.Asia	Asia	2,000,000
11	India	1942		Drought	S.Asia	Asia	1,500,000
12	India	1907		Epidemic	S.Asia	Asia	1,300,000
13	India	1900		Drought	S.Asia	Asia	1,250,000
21	India	1920		Epidemic	S.Asia	Asia	500,000
22	India	1965		Drought	S.Asia	Asia	500,000
23	India	1966		Drought	S.Asia	Asia	500,000

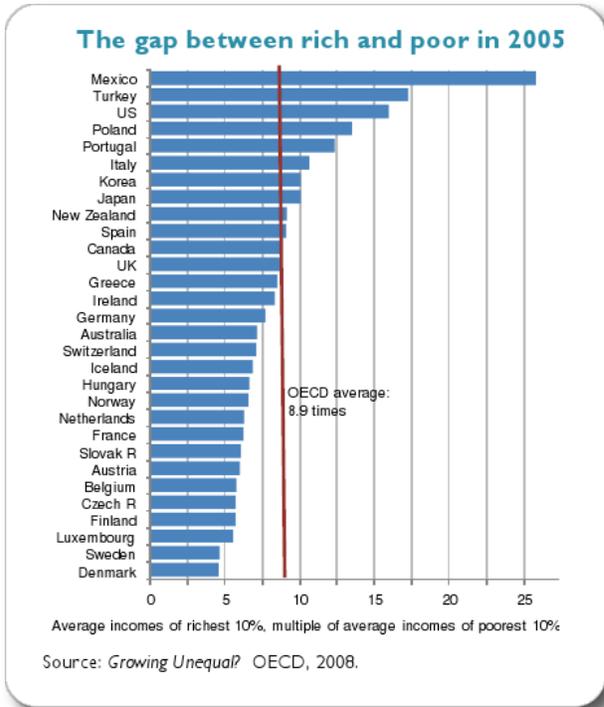
24	India	1967		Drought	S.Asia	Asia	500,000
25	India	1926		Epidemic	S.Asia	Asia	423,000
29	India	1924		Epidemic	S.Asia	Asia	300,000
54	India	1935		Cycl.Hurr.Typh	S.Asia	Asia	60,000
57	India	1935	31	Earthquake	S.Asia	Asia	56,000
61	India	1942	14	Cycl.Hurr.Typh	S.Asia	Asia	40,000
83	India	1905	5	Earthquake	S.Asia	Asia	20,000
89	India	1977	12	Cycl.Hurr.Typh	S.Asia	Asia	14,204

Many of the Natural disasters that have struck India in the past 100 years.

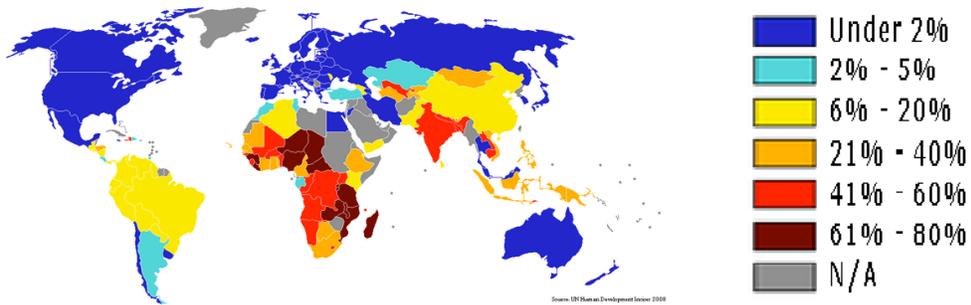
Appendices V



Appendices VI

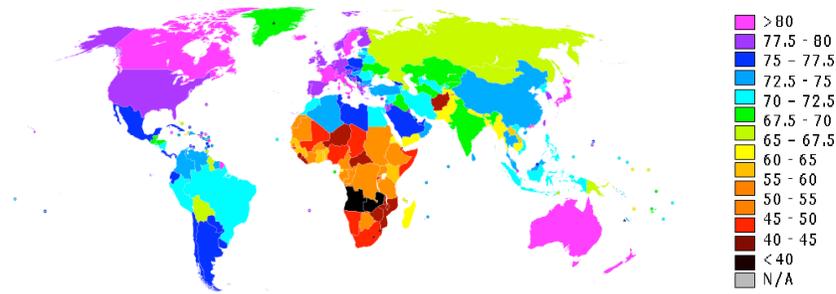


Appendices VII



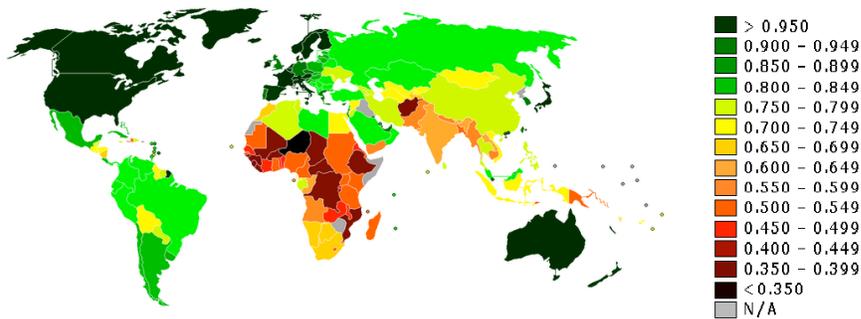
Map of world poverty by country, showing percentage of population living on less than \$1.25 per day.

Appendices VIII



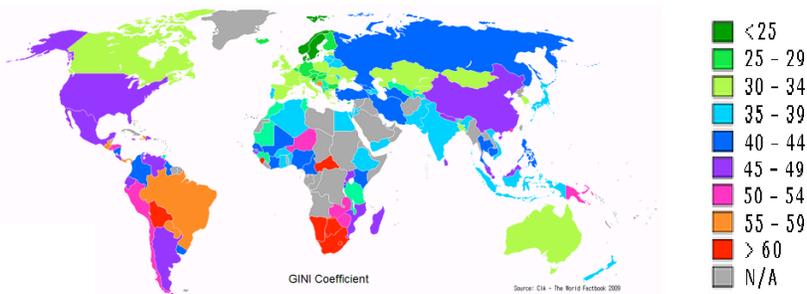
World map showing Life expectancy.

Appendices IX



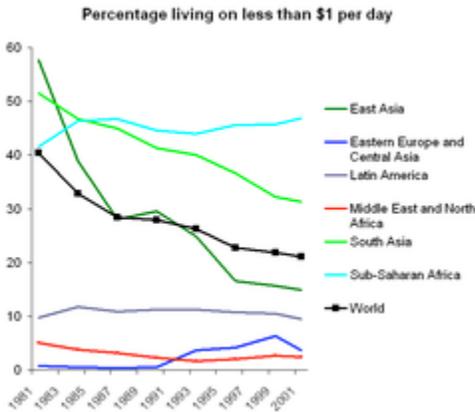
World map showing the Human Development Index.

Appendices X



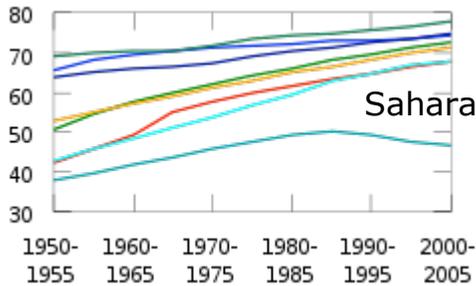
World map showing the Gini coefficient, a measure of income inequality.

Appendices XI



The percentage of the world's population living on less than \$1 per day has halved in twenty years. However, most of this improvement has occurred in East and South Asia. The graph shows the 1981-2001 period.

Appendices XII



Life expectancy has been increasing and converging for most of the world. Sub-Saharan Africa has recently seen a decline, partly related to the AIDS epidemic. The graph shows the 1950-2005 periods.