



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

March 2026; Vol. 21. No. 03

New Perspectives

Openness in science is an essential component of the scientific process. Making science more accessible, affordable, inclusive and equitable, especially in health and education sectors, is the way forward. It is essential to achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by 2030. Our initiatives suggest avenues for providing Universal Health Care (UHC), quality educational networks and use of artificial intelligence (AI) and Big Data management for low- and middle-income countries. Science, technology and innovation is essential for building back better. The United Nations 2030 Agenda – is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

Initiatives of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) have an unique role to play in strengthening the health and educational systems worldwide. Cultural diversity is now the norm in each and every country. The e-Health, e-Learning and Mobile-Health, are providing healthcare services and achieving better health outcomes, in both developed and developing countries. Access to reliable *Broadband Internet*, is becoming essential to Education & Health Sectors, in every country – rich and poor alike.

Imagine students in developing countries and developed countries, simultaneously reviewing the same medical education, and learning from each other. That is, e-Learning at its BEST, in an *Internet Classrooms*. With this goal, WHEC in collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations (UN) had launched a Global Platform: <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> in 6 official languages of the UN. Its work began on 24 October 2002. Today we are serving in 227 countries and territories, via **WHEC's Global Health Line (WGHL)**. Our special focus is on SDGs # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16 and 17. AI and Big Data management presents opportunities for the advancement of all 17 SDGs and offers vast analytical possibilities to track and monitor progress of SDG indicators.

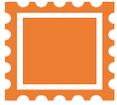
By promoting science, which is more accessible, inclusive and transparent, open-science furthers the right of everyone to share in scientific advancement and its benefits as stated in Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Open-science encourages us to develop tools and method for managing data so that as much as possible can be shared, as appropriate. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the importance of science, technology and innovation for humans wellbeing and survival, as well as a need for greater cooperation. STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medical) programs with special focus on girls, women, migrants and marginalized population are at the core of our initiatives. Digital technology does not exist – it has enormous potential for positive change. But it can also reinforce and magnify fault lines and worsen economic and other inequalities.

Sexual and reproductive health is critical and wellbeing across the life course and therefore has to be embedded and integrated with universal health care and universal access to all. [Science and Knowledge Translation](#) in reproductive health research and [dissemination](#), exchange and clinical application of scientific knowledge with the healthcare professionals worldwide and communities, is the purpose of [WHEC's LINK Access Project](#). It aims to provide access to quality health information and educational programs and reproductive health research and resources to 227 countries and territories.

Your opinions are welcome and please continue to share your projects and programs!

Open Science Capacity Building Efforts

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

How to best apply technology in the learning process? Who has most to gain in Open Science initiatives? Are the projects and programs of Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) based on equity?

Building the Capacity to Care: WHEC's Open-Science projects / programs are based on the concepts of equity and inclusiveness. We recommend respecting ethical considerations of producing and using open science resources. We focus on building inclusive governance of *Open Science Infrastructure*. Creating two-way engagement with those affected by the policy is of utmost importance. Our collaboration will be helpful in developing and enabling policy environment for *Open Science*, AI application and Big-data Governance. These initiatives open access while respecting intellectual property and other applicable legislations.

Our webinars, Side Events at the United Nations, and literature reviews, aim to give readers and participants evidence-based information. It provides guidance on strategies that are helpful in achieving UN 2030 agenda.

When Open Science, AI and big data meet the social reality of human coordination and governance, it becomes more sustainable, and might help to close digital divide. It requires the construction of dynamic, robust and inclusive infrastructure and capacity building. If we wish to leave no one behind, we must ensure that we give voice and work to all. Moving governance away from private sector and public-private partnerships or impartial algorithms towards an economy of information, which is open and transparent in civic engagement. This process should be rooted in the three pillar concepts of international data justice, which would integrated transnational data rights and privacy-based freedoms into publicly owned data systems and analytics. We must advance and establish effective good digital governance procedures and regulatory policies, which establish accountability for global societal data.

Algorithmic Accountability programs and Data-ecosystem are essential to ensure AI-based systems in health and education sectors, do not reinforce institutional bias, unequal power structures and inequalities. Establishing consistent systemic examination of pre- and post-processing method of data and AI are beneficial.

WHEC's Global Health Line (WGHL) is currently easily accessible in 227 countries and territories, and serving about 14 million subscribers, every year. We aims to reach millions of people (healthcare professionals and general public) worldwide, offering high-tech learning environments. Providing learning opportunities for leaders, educators, researchers, healthcare workers and the broader public, and will deliver quality, multilingual learning, both online and in-persons, alongside a cutting edge simulation center for health emergencies.

Quality education and providing timely evidence-based information in health sector, which is accessible to all, and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to health with the measurements of progress of United Nations 2030 Agenda, especially in health and education sectors. To ensure that no one is left behind, Open Science, AI and Big Data management will be the key to the decision-making process, in the future. the utilization of AI and Big Data can be capitalized upon through the construction of dynamic, robust and inclusive public data ecosystems, via UN funded Co-operatives and algorithmic accountability programs.

Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whhec/faq.php3>



Benefits of Participation @ UN Side Events

Global Exposure: Gain recognition from UN Member States, researchers, funders and development organizations.

Networking Opportunities: Build relationships with collaborators, investors, and policy-makers.

Knowledge Exchange: Contribute to sharing ideas that can drive the final push for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation to 2030.

WHEC @ 2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Virtual Side Event: **Our Collective Advocacy and Global Platform for Education and Health Sectors**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/wh/ecosoc-partnership-forum.php3>

WHEC @ 64th CSocD (Commission for Social Development)

Written Statement: **Social Development through multistakeholder and Intergenerational Platform;** UN Document: E/CN.5/2026/NGO/17

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/n2530719.pdf>

Virtual Side Event: **Developing Inclusive Societies and Intergenerational Platform**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/wh/ec/csocd.php3>

WHEC@ 70th Session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)

WRITTEN STATEMENT

Our Response Framework for Girls, Women, and Marginalized Segment of Population

UN Document: E/CN.6/2026/NGO/6

<https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.6/2026/NGO/6>

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/n2528654-2026-Written-Statement.pdf>



United Nations at a Glance

Seychelles became UN Member State on 21 September 1976



Seychelles, officially the **Republic of Seychelles**, is an island country and archipelagic state consisting of 155 islands in the Indian Ocean. Its capital and largest city, Victoria, is 1,500 kilometers (800 nautical miles) east of mainland Africa. Nearby island countries and territories include Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and the French overseas departments of Mayotte and Réunion to the south; and the Chagos Archipelago to the east. Seychelles is the smallest country in Africa as well as the least populated sovereign African country, with an estimated population of 100,600 in 2022. Official Languages: Seychellois Creole, English and French; Minority language: Tamil; Ethnic groups: Seychellois Creole – 97% (94% of African and French origins) 3% of Malagasy origins. Religion 75% Christianity, 6% Hinduism, 3% Islam. Legislature: National Assembly; Currency Seychellois rupee (SCR); Government: Unitary presidential republic. Total area: 457 km² (176 sq. mi)

Seychelles was uninhabited throughout most of the recorded history, although simulations of Austronesian migration patterns indicate a good probability that Asians visited the islands. The earliest recorded landing was in January 1609, by the crew of the *Ascension* under captain Alexander Sharpeigh during the 4th voyage of the British East India Company. A transit point for trade between Africa and Asia, the islands were said to be occasionally used by pirates until the French began to take control in 1756 when a Stone of Possession was laid on Mahé by Captain Nicholas Morphey. Britain eventually assumed full control upon the surrender of Mauritius in 1810, formalized in 1814 at the Treaty of Paris. Seychelles became a crown colony separate from Mauritius in 1903.

In 1976, Seychelles gained independence from the United Kingdom as a republic. It has since become a member of the Commonwealth. In June 2012, during a conference at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, a commitment was made by the Seychelles government to protect 30% of its 1.35 million square kilometers marine waters within the country's marine protected areas. In January 2023, Seychelles announced its final stages of competing its marine spatial plan. It would become the second largest ocean area at 1.35 million km² (520,000 sq. mi) behind Norway, in support of its blue economy.



Map of Seychelles

Seychelles is divided into 26 administrative regions comprising of the inner islands. 8 of the districts make up the capital of Seychelles and are referred to as Greater Victoria. Another 14 districts are considered the rural part of the main island of Mahé. Two more districts divide the island of Praslin and one covers La Digue as well as satellite and other Inner islands. The rest of the Outer Islands make up the last district recently created by the tourism industry.

Today, Seychelles is described as a fusion of peoples and cultures. Numerous Seychellois are considered multiracial: blending from African, Asian and European descent to create a modern creole culture. The prime agricultural products currently in Seychelles include sweet potatoes, vanilla, coconuts and cinnamon. These products provide much of the economic support of the locals. Seychelles has emerged as the least corrupt country in Africa in the latest Corruption Perception Index report released by Transparency International in January 2020. Seychelles has the highest literacy rate of any country in Sub-Saharan Africa.

<https://sdgs.un.org/statements/seychelles-12818>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Seychelles



Health Situation

Seychelles is the only African country now declared a high-income country having made remarkable political, social and economic progress in the recent past. Instituting a firm social growth mechanism embedded in its constitution. Seychelles provides universal health coverage for a comprehensive health package at all levels including anti-retroviral therapy and non-communicable diseases, universal access to education at all levels and safe drinking water, good sanitation and housing. High political commitment for social services including health enabled the country to achieve most of the SDGs.

Notwithstanding the country's impressive health achievements, emerging and re-emerging issues remain a challenge. Whilst responding to health, climate change, environmental and other threats faced by other small island developing states. Seychelles is additionally burdened by increasing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) due to prevailing risk factors such as poor diet, physical inactivity, substance abuse and increasing alcohol consumption. As a result, the country's health expenditure continues to balloon raising doubts concerning sustainability of the tax-based health financing in the medium term.

Health Policies and Systems

Comprehensive national health policy and national health strategy have been elaborated within the context of Sustainable Development Strategy. Seychelles is reasonably committed towards attainment of health SDGs through consolidation of MDGs gains, enhanced focus on patient-centered quality health services, preventive and promotive services for NCDs, innovative interventions to address HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C, whilst strengthening health security using an all hazard approach.

In order to achieve the aforementioned, Seychelles recognizes the need to improve health workforce productivity and sustainability including availability of specialized healthcare workers. An identified high priority is improvement of the health information system for evidence-based policy decisions making and incremental shift to a results-based management approach.



Cooperation for Health

Due to the high-income status, very negligible development partners work in Seychelles health sector. WHO remains the main partner to Government in health due to its unique mandate providing much needed policy advice and technical support to address the MDG unmet needs as the country committed advances towards SDG attainment.

Seychelles has been in the forefront of sustainable development within the Indian Ocean Countries network as well as the FRO Small Island States (SIDS) platform using these avenues to learn and share experiences.

Seychelles became a Delivering as One (DaO) country in 2013, bringing greater harmonization and alignment of cooperation programs in the UN. The work of UN agencies locally is coordinated through the Strategic Partnership Agreement 2021 – 2025.

Details: <https://www.who.int/countries/syc/>



Seychelles is UNESCO Member State since 1976



Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve

In the heart of small island of Praslin, the reserve has the vestiges of a natural palm forest preserved in almost its original state. The famous *coco de mer*, from a palms tree once believed to grow in the depths of the sea, is the largest seed in the plant kingdom. Located on the granitic island of Praslin, the Vallée de Mai is a 19.5 ha area of palm forest which remains largely unchanged since prehistoric times. Dominating the landscape is the world's largest population of endemic *coco-de-mer*, a flagship species of global significance as the bearer of the largest seen in the plant kingdom. The forest is also home to five other endemic species of palms and many endemic fauna species. The property is a scientifically attractive area with a distinctive natural beauty. The property's low and intermediate-altitude palm forest is characteristic of

the Seychelles and is preserved as something resembling its primeval state.



Aldabra Atoll

The atoll is comprised of four large coral islands which enclose a shallow lagoon; the group of islands is itself surrounded by a coral reef. Due to difficulties of access and the atoll's isolation, Aldabra has been protected from human influence and thus retains some 152,000 giant tortoises, the world's largest population of this reptile. Located in the Indian Ocean, the Aldabra Atoll is an outstanding example of a raised coral atoll. Due to its remoteness and inaccessibility, it is home to the largest giant tortoises. The richness and diversity of the ocean and landscapes result in an array of colors and formations that contribute to the atoll's scenic and aesthetic appeal. Aldabra Atoll consists of four main islands of coral limestone separated by narrow passes and enclosing a large shallow lagoon, providing a superlative spectacle of natural

phenomena. The lagoon contains many smaller islands and the entire atoll is surrounded by an outer fringing reef. Marine habitats range from coral reefs to seagrass beds and mangrove mudflats.



Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Moutya was brought to Seychelles by the enslaved Africans who arrived with the French settlers in the early 18th century. They used to practice this dance at night in the forest, at a distance from the plantation house where their masters lived. Historically, Moutya was a psychological comfort against hardship and poverty and a means of resisting servitude and social injustice. A sensual dance with simple choreography, it is traditionally performed around a bonfire. The musical instrument used is a large drum with a narrow rim made of goat hide which is played mostly by men. The dance begins with the heating of the drums over a bonfire. Once the drums have been warmed, the

drummers set the beat and men in crowd call out various themes, usually social commentaries, to which the female dancers respond in high-pitched tones.

Details: <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/sc>

Bulletin Board

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015

..... *Sustainable Development Goals Continued*

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$ 100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

*Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

The Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is a **legally binding international treaty on climate change**. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016.

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

To be continued.....



IN THE MAIL

- Greetings and Acknowledgement, UN Secretary General, Honorable António Guterres

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/UN-2026-greetings.jpg>



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research)
Expert Series on Health Economics

A bottom-up analysis of International Monetary Fund tax work in Panama, Seychelles, and the Netherlands.

Author analyzed the evolution of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) tax policy advice in three countries commonly used for tax evasion or avoidance: Panama, **Seychelles**, and the Netherlands. A review of loan agreements and Country Reports covering 1999 to 2017 highlights the dependence of the Fund's country teams on external assessments produced by the Fund's other departments and smaller international organizations. In so far as the Fund has paid attention to international tax flight, its focus has largely been on individual-level tax evasion instead of corporate tax avoidance. The responses have been inconsistent, with the tax haven regime of Seychelles getting much more attention than Panama and the Netherlands.

The IMF advises its members states in relation to its loan programs and as an ongoing activity, and the soft power of the IMF can influence national legislations even in non-indebted countries. It also gives a green light to loan programs managed by the World Bank. The IMF's work is based on its Article of Agreement (hereafter the Articles), originally negotiated at the Brentton Woods Conference in 1944. They stipulate that the IMF should promote 'international monetary cooperation through a permanent institution which provides the machinery for consultation and collaboration in international monetary problems' and facilitate 'the expansion and balanced growth of international trade.' Loan conditions have been a heated political topic since the Mexican debt crisis escalated in 1982.

At first glance, Panama, the Seychelles, and the Netherlands may not have much in common. Panama is developing country and one of the world's oldest tax haven, whereas the smaller Seychelles is a recent entrant in this business, and the Netherlands is an EU member state that rarely features in tax haven lists. However, the one thing that connects these countries is their central role in international tax flight. The most pressing issue with Panama and the Seychelles is their role in international tax evasion and money laundering, whereas the Netherlands is a major hub for corporate tax avoidance structure.

Seychelles

In 2003, IMF commended Seychelles for making 'progress in establishing a credible supervision framework', even though 'additional steps are necessary to bring the legal and regulatory framework system in line with international practices and standards. In 2008, the IMF initiated a loan program with Seychelles, and the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group – A FATTF-styled regional body – published its mutual evaluation report on the Seychelles efforts towards AML and combating the financing of terrorism. Especially since 2015, the IMF tax policy has drawn from a broad range of outside assessments in Seychelles, focusing on compliance with both the FATF and the Global Forum criteria, even though both criteria have their faults. However, it should also be noted that these issues have only recent features in the structural benchmark criteria.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Author: Matti Ylönen; Sponsors: The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research provides economic analysis and policy advice with the aim of promoting sustainable and equitable development. The Institute began operations in 1985 in Helsinki, Finland, as the first research and training center of the United Nations University.

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/>

Two Articles of Highest Impact, February 2026

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Fully open-access with no article-processing charges

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. **Update on Asthma Management in Pregnancy;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsmd/Update-on-Asthma-Management-in-Pregnancy.pdf>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

2. **Nitrous Oxide Analgesia for Labor;**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obspm/Nitrous-Oxide-Analgesia-for-Labor.pdf>

WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor. Join us at WHEC Global Health Line for discussion and contributions.

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (World Health Organization)

PMNCH Member

Worldwide service is provided by the WHEC Global Health Line



From Editor's Desk

WHEC Projects under Development

Poverty and Malnutrition: Will poverty related SDGs be met by 2030?



Is poverty really declining again? What falling poverty does not tell us.

After temporary increase in 2020 due in COVID-19, global extreme income poverty is reportedly falling again, according to World Bank estimates. However, undernourishment is rising, and the number of people in need of humanitarian aid as nearly quadrupled since 2015.

How is this seemingly contradictory picture to be understood? And what does it mean for donor policies?

Three key indicators

The World Bank estimate of global extreme Income poverty (below USD 2.15 per day) is the first indicator under **SDG 1, No Poverty**. The underlying data come from national household surveys. As many countries lack recent surveys the World Bank relies on extrapolations based on assumed GDP growth and income distribution. In some cases, where even this data is unavailable, trends in neighboring countries are used. In the long term, there has been dramatic decline in extreme poverty, from 29% of the world's population in 2000 to 8.5% today (equivalent to about 700 million people).

SDG 2, Zero Hunger, has grown since 2018 and in 2023 it exceeded extreme income poverty for the first time. It is a model estimate based on income trends, income inequality, food prices and crop yields.

This global humanitarian needs are reported annually by UNOCHA in its Global Humanitarian Overview. Needs are defined here as the lack of the most basic access to food, healthcare, water, education, housing and protection. The methodology for estimating 'People in Need' has been refined over time and is increasingly based on multisectoral surveys (UNOCHA-JIAF, Joint International Analysis Framework).

Unlike the other two indicators, this estimate does not rely on extrapolations and model assumptions but rather on directly collected data in identified crisis areas.

Since 2015, people in need of humanitarian support have nearly quadrupled, now corresponding almost half the number of people living in extreme income poverty. The increase in armed conflicts and climate-related extreme weather are among the main causes, with approximately 90% of humanitarian needs concentrated in just about 20 countries and their refugee-hosting neighbors.

How can three indicators expected to be closely related move in such different directions?

Although the indicators are supposed to measure different things, it can be assumed that a significant portion of the undernourished and those in humanitarian need are also income poor. The most plausible explanation is that the World Bank's extrapolation model for estimating global income poverty simply misses significant population groups. The World Bank has already noted the problem with the rising numbers of external refugees (approximately 40 million often excluded from both home and host country statistics) and with internally displaced persons (approximately 80 million people, often hard to capture in income poverty statistics). An even larger issue is probably the lack of data on income poverty in countries where humanitarian needs are greatest. Only about a third of humanitarian needs are in countries with a survey conducted in 2020 or later. Half of humanitarian needs are in countries where household surveys are conducted before 2016 or are entirely absent, or in refugee-hosting neighboring countries.

Global Humanitarian Overview 2024

The 2024 Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) requires \$49 billion to assist 187.6 million of the people in need across 73 countries through 43 coordinated response plans. More than \$1.7 billion was reported during the month of September, bringing GHO funding to \$16.21 billion. This is \$1.42 billion or 8% less than at the same time last year. Coverage of appeal requirements has reached 32.7%, meanwhile, the gap between the financial requirements and funding currently stands at more than \$32 billion. Total reported humanitarian funding has reached \$22.48 billion, which is a decrease of around 7% compared to the amount recorded at the same time last year (\$24.3 billion).

Measuring Poverty in Forced Displacement Contexts

Poverty measurement among forcibly displaced population, including refugees and internally and internally displaced persons, has been, for long, neglected by the economics profession and by poverty specialists working across the social sciences. This has changed since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in 2011 and the peak of the European migration crisis in 2015. We believe, the evolution, current status, and future prospects of the poverty measurement literature on forcibly displaced populations; discusses the main data and measurement challenges associated with this type of population; illustrated selected empirical findings that have emerged from the recent literature; and provides an overview of the substantial effort that humanitarian and development organizations are currently undertaking to close this historical gap in poverty measurement. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that the global number of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) in the world surpassed 84 million in 2021, up from around 40 million in 2010 and accounting for over 1% of the global population.

Does ending poverty mean ending poverty?

That said, ending global poverty is often equated with ending extreme monetary poverty. For example, SDG1 to 'end poverty in all its forms everywhere' is measured, in target 1.1, indicator 1.1.1, using extreme monetary poverty. Critiques of the extreme poverty line are widespread and long standing. Specifically, most of the world's extreme poor do not live in the poorest countries, whose poverty lines are the basis of the \$2.15 line. Instead, the majority live in lower-middle-income countries (LMICs), where the \$3.65 poverty line is the average poverty line of those countries.

Real life and real world is not that simple. Getting the funds to those living in poverty can be incredibly difficult logistically and administratively. However, these estimates do point to the fact that the necessary funds to end global extreme monetary poverty and 60% of absolute monetary poverty are already available.

Eliminating Poverty: What Should be done? What can be done?



Urgent policy action is required. There is an urgent need for redistributive measures. To change course, we need urgent action on two fronts:

First, a stronger focus is needed on inclusive growth and productive capacities. Specifically, new international financing needs to be made available through debt relief or other forms of finance to expand fiscal space across countries of the Global South to ensure that a stronger

focus on SDG 8 can happen. This financing should ensure social and productive spending expands, rather than contracts.

Second, that focus should entail redistribution alongside growth, through policies that build productive capacities, introduce, or expand income transfers to meet the extreme poverty target, and ensure sufficient public investment to meet the health, water, and sanitation SDGs. In short today's trajectory demands a forceful, seismic shift towards redistribution, nationally and globally. It also requires new finance to flow to the Global South. Facing lost decades past and present, radical policy changes now provide the only hope of ending global poverty.

Creating peaceful, just and inclusive societies

Poverty has multiple dimensions, some visible and others hidden, but all interlinked. People living in poverty face negative attitudes. They are stigmatized, discriminated against, judged for example by their appearance, accent, address – or lack of it, blamed for their situation, and treated with disrespect. Social maltreatment creates a setting for institutional maltreatment interact and amplify.

It is often noted that global poverty is increasingly focused with sub-Saharan Africa and in fragile and conflict-affected states. Ending poverty needs to mean ending more than extreme monetary poverty. Most importantly, if extreme monetary was ended by 2030, a billion or so people would probably live just above that line and still live in absolute poverty. Getting the funds to those living in poverty can be incredibly difficult logistically and administratively. However, estimates do point to the fact that the necessary funds to end global extreme monetary poverty and 60% of absolute monetary poverty are already available.

Investments in Decent-Work

Ending poverty demands that we prioritize investments in decent work, learning opportunities and social protection. It calls on us to fully implement the new Pact for the Future by supporting an SDG stimulus and reforming the global financial architecture to help developing countries invest in their people. Social maltreatment creates a setting of institutional maltreatment, with a combination of negative attitudes, like mistrust and disrespect, as well as controlling discriminatory policies and practices, denying people of their fundamental human rights, for example, access to healthcare, education, housing, and the right to legal identity.

A meaningful understanding of poverty and how the different forms of violence and domination interact with each other and impact people in poverty is critical. Daily experiences of injustice and dehumanization undermines self-esteem, destroys personal agency, denies people of their dignity and the chance of getting out of poverty. Social institutional maltreatment is a catastrophic loss of human potential to society.

This is the pathway to have any hope of achieving the poverty-related SDGs.



Thoughts

Your thoughts are heaven above you,
Your thoughts are hell below;

Bliss is not engross in thinking,
Torment naught, but thought can know,

Dwell in thoughts upon the grandest –
And the grandest you shall be;

Fix your mind upon the highest,
And the Highest you shall be.

- James Allen (28 November 1864 – 24 January 1912) English author and poet.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

