

Poverty

Why is this a global justice issue (GJI)?

Poverty is a global justice issue because people have unequal access to basic needs and human rights such as food, housing, healthcare, education and decent work. Poverty exists in all countries, but some people and communities are more affected because of unfair systems linked to wealth, power, discrimination and inequality. Addressing poverty means looking at the root causes of inequality and working towards a fairer world for everyone.



Connected Global Justice Issues

Health, Climate Justice, Education, Migration, Labour Rights and Working Conditions, Human Rights, Conflict and War, Gender Equality.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1: No Poverty. 2: Zero Hunger. 3: Good Health and Well-being. 4: Quality Education. 5: Gender Equality. 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. 10: Reduced Inequalities.

Topic	Teaching and Learning Activity	Resource for Activity
Understanding Poverty	Maslow's Pyramid of Needs: Learners distinguish between needs and wants by placing items on Maslow's pyramid and explore what people need to survive and thrive.	All 3 activities are available in the No Poverty Resource , by Concern
	Poverty Web: Using cards and wool, learners create a web showing how factors such as climate change, discrimination and unemployment contribute to poverty.	
	True or False?: Learners respond to statements about poverty and discuss common misconceptions, causes and global inequalities.	



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The World is Not Equal. Is that Fair?	Unequal Distribution Activity – Students receive different amounts of resources to explore inequality and discuss fairness, privilege and access to opportunities.	The World Is Not Equal. Is That Fair? from the World’s Largest Lesson.
	True or False? – Students decide whether statements about wealth, disability, gender and other forms of inequality are true or false, followed by a class discussion.	
	Speech Bubble Alignment – Students read statements from activists and stand beside the one they most agree with, explaining and discussing their choices.	
Inequality and Poverty	This teaching resource contains 2 lessons on poverty . The lessons explore the concept of poverty, global poverty today and investigate some root causes of poverty.	Global Education Time : Inequality and Poverty, pgs. 38-42.
Root Causes of Poverty	Inequality Mapping Exercise – Students create a visual map or infographic showing how global wealth and income are distributed. Using data from the article, they highlight inequalities and discuss possible ways to reduce them.	Article: We cannot grow our way out of poverty , in the New Internationalist (2020) by Jason Hickel
	Policy Proposal Workshop – In groups, students design a policy to reduce global poverty without relying on economic growth. They explore issues such as inequality and unfair trade, develop a solution, and present their ideas before discussing their potential impact and feasibility.	

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Notions of Poverty	Learning to Read the World Through Other's Eyes – a resource filled with ready-to-use classroom activities . See Chapter 4 'Notions of Poverty'.	Learning to Read the World Through Other Eyes , by Vanessa Andreotti and Lynn Mario T. M. de Souza 
Poverty Simulation Game	Paper Bag Game – In groups, students make and sell paper bags while managing limited resources and changing conditions. The activity simulates economic pressures faced by children in poverty and encourages discussion about child labour, inequality and social justice.	How to play the paper bag game , by Christian Aid 
Biscuit Game	This short video explores how global wealth is concentrated among a small number of people while billions live in poverty. It can be used as a stimulus for the Biscuit Game .	Global Wealth Inequality Video 2013 from the RulesOrg (3.50mins). 
		Biscuit Game (bottom of the page) 
Local Context	The Hidden Cost of Poverty 1. Conduct research on the hidden cost of poverty using the St. Vincent de Paul report. 2. Highlight the key findings in this report, see visual on page 7. 3. Consider how these findings are connected to global poverty. 4. Choose questions from 1-5 on the Digging Deeper Tool to explore these further. 5. Use sections 6-7 to allow learners to plan action in response to the findings of this report.	The Hidden Cost of Poverty Report , SVP 
		Digging Deeper Tool 

Topic	Teaching and Learning Activity	Resource for Activity
Global Systems of Poverty	Historical Inequality Timeline – Create a timeline of key events such as colonisation, structural adjustment and neoliberal policies. Using evidence from the article, explore how these events contributed to global inequality and reflect on how the past continues to shape economic disparities today.	Article: A brief history of impoverishment , in the New Internationalist (2020) by Dinyar Godrej.
	Debate: Responsibility and Solutions – In groups, students represent different stakeholders and debate the causes of global poverty and possible solutions. The activity encourages critical thinking about justice, responsibility and global systems.	
Poverty Unpacked: Podcast	Guided Listening and Reflection Journals – Learners listen to a podcast episode and write a reflection linking its themes to real-world issues, local contexts or their own experiences.	Poverty Unpacked podcast. Length of podcasts vary from 10-30mins
	Multimedia Project – Students create a short podcast or video exploring a poverty-related issue inspired by the episode.	
Focus on Solutions	Access the Concern article which presents 11 solutions to poverty. Carry out a Jigsaw activity or for a more active approach try Each-One-Teach-One.	11 Solutions to Poverty that Actually Work (2025) from Concern
		Jigsaw from OIDE
	At the bottom of the article, there are case studies which present solutions and success stories from Concern. Groups of learners carry out research on a case study of their choice and present a summary to their peers.	Each One Teach One



TAKE ACTION

- Host an event for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (usually in October). The [United Nations website](#) has information, also explore [Oxfam](#), [Trócaire](#), and [Self Help Africa](#).
- Explore the [St Vincent de Paul website, schools section](#), for ideas on raising awareness and taking action to address poverty locally.
- See [All Together in Dignity Ireland](#), is part of an international movement of solidarity among and in collaboration with the most disadvantaged and excluded families around the world, with more than sixty years' experience of tackling inequality and promoting social justice'. Their website has resources, action ideas and projects to get involved in.
- [Global Call to Action Against Poverty](#) has videos, resource and campaigns which may inspire student action.
- Consult the [WWGS Teacher Handbook](#) p.16-18 for ideas on student action.
- For workshop facilitators on poverty and linked issues, see the [WWGS Directory of GCE facilitators](#).

