

Topic 1: Discussing solutions to the global poverty crisis

General Overview:

The global poverty crisis remains one of the most dire challenges facing our world today. As of 2025, around 700 million people live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than 2.15\$ a day and this represents about 8.5% of the world's population. The majority of these people are found in Sub-Saharan Africa where nearly half the population is extremely poor. Other regions such as South Asia and the Middle East also face high levels of poverty. Where many of those affected are children and people living in conflict zones or areas with unstable governments.

Poverty isn't just a balance in a bank account—the term paints a picture of deprivation that means missing the basics of life. It speaks of homes without running water, schools that families can't reach, clinics that gatekeepers of resources turned guards of geography deny, and walls that no longer shelter but expose. Today, more than 1.1 billion people live that picture in its harshest dimensions. The backdrop of the pandemic and its bruising hangover, grafted onto the persistent tremors of climate change, has thickened the frame. Food that once seemed a routine supper asks for a prohibitive sum, while pulsating cycles of floods and drought strip the land and empty the pockets of farmers and countless working-poor households, turning fleeting survival into a stubborn entrapment.

Solving global poverty requires strong alliances and teamwork between countries, governments and organizations. Some important solutions include opening more job opportunities, increasing access to education and healthcare as well as supporting businesses and farmers. Delegates should think about how countries can work together in order to make sure everyone has a fair chance in building a better, more stable life.

Timeline:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1-22 July 1944	World bank and IMF created at the Bretton Woods conference.
24 October 1945	UN founded, promises better living standards.
10 December 1948	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says everyone has the right to a decent standard of living.
24 October 1970	The UN sets a goal for rich countries to give 0.7% income as aid.
1982-1989	The debt crisis hits many poor countries; the IMF/World Bank offers loans with strict conditions.
6-12 March 1995	The World Summit for Social Development commits to cutting poverty.
8 September 2000	Millenium development goals launched to halve extreme poverty by 2015.
6-8 July 2005	G8 leaders give more aid to Africa and cancel billions in debt.
25 Sept 2015	SDGs launched, aim to end all poverty by 2030.
11 March 2020	COVID-19 pandemic declared, poverty rises for the first time in decades.
18-19 September 2023	UN says world is far behind on ending poverty

Relevant parties:

United Nations (UN):

The main international body addressing poverty through its organs and agencies. It passes resolutions, coordinates aid responses, and sets global goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and SDGs. The UN provides a political and cooperative platform for member states to align on poverty reduction strategies.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

The UN's lead agency on development issues. UNDP works in over 170 countries to design and implement poverty reduction strategies, offer technical expertise, and monitor progress. It helps translate broad UN resolutions into actionable programs on the ground.

World Bank:

An international financial institution providing loans, grants, and policy advice to developing countries for poverty reduction projects. It funds large-scale infrastructure, health, and education programs, which directly impact poverty levels.

International monetary fund (IMF):

Works to maintain global financial stability and assist countries facing economic crises. In the context of poverty, the IMF provides financial packages to stabilize economies, often with policy reforms attached. These can influence poverty reduction outcomes by enabling governments to fund social services.

Developed Countries (Donors):

High-income nations that contribute financial aid, debt relief, and technical support to developing countries. They are key to meeting funding commitments such as the UN's 0.7% GNI aid target. Their policies and priorities heavily influence the scope and effectiveness of global poverty programs.

Developing countries (Recipients):

Nations facing significant poverty challenges. They are the direct implementers of poverty reduction programs and the main beneficiaries of international aid, loans,

and technical assistance. Their domestic policies and governance affect how effectively aid is used.

Malloch-Brown, Mark. "New Challenges Put the Bretton Woods Institutions at a Crossroads." *Subscribe to Read*, Financial Times, 30 Sept. 2024, www.ft.com/content/aac498ea-eea3-40d9-8886-2b700254f984?utm

"United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 .:. Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." *United Nations*, United Nations, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit. Accessed 10 Aug. 2025.

United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, timeline.worldbank.org/content/dam/sites/timeline/docs/migrated/event01-brettonwoods-finalact-1849790.pdf. Accessed 10 Aug. 2025.

"Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." *European Environment Agency*, 9 Aug. 2019, www.eea.europa.eu/policy-documents/resolution-adopted-by-the-general

"Home." *World Bank*, timeline.worldbank.org/en/timeline/home#event-bretton-woods-conference-begins. Accessed 10 Aug. 2025.

Key terms:

- ❖ **The poverty line is a specific income level which is used to determine who is considered poor. It can either be an absolute amount, representing the minimum income needed to afford basic essentials like food and shelter, or a relative measure, as comparing a person's income to the average income in their society. Overall this helps identify those who need support and allows targeted efforts to reduce poverty.**

- ❖ **Economic growth refers to the increase in a country's output of goods and services, leading to higher income levels. It is a major factor influencing poverty reduction, as growth creates jobs, raises wages, and generates resources for social services. However, growth must be inclusive to effectively reduce poverty.**
- ❖ **Armed conflicts and political instability harm the economy, displace people, and divert resources from development to military spending. This makes people more vulnerable and expands poverty because communities become weaker. Furthermore, hunger is one of both the cause and consequence of poverty, as lack of sufficient, nutritious food weakens people's health and productivity, and even their ability to learn and work. Malnourished populations face higher disease rates and mortality, which reinforces the cycle of poverty.**
- ❖ **Stable governments with transparent, accountable institutions foster environments conducive to economic growth and poverty reduction. Good governance promotes fair distribution of resources, rule of law, anti-corruption measures, and policies that prioritize the needs of the poor, creating trust and hope, and enabling sustainable progress.**
- ❖ **Accurate, timely data on poverty and program outcomes enables governments and organizations to design, target, and monitor poverty reduction strategies effectively. Evidence-based policies maximize impact and ensure resources reach those most in need**
- ❖ **Aid and development assistance involve financial, technical, and humanitarian support provided by governments, international organizations, NGOs, and donors to developing countries to help moderate poverty, build capacity, and promote development.**
- ❖ **Sustainable development focuses on meeting the present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs too. In poverty reduction, meaning creating long-term improvements in livelihoods, strength, and environmental stewardship.**

Useful resources:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-prosperity-and-planet>

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/ending-poverty>

<https://globalgoals.org/goals/1-no-poverty/>

<https://plantwithpurpose.org/stories/top-10-world-changing-solutions-to-poverty/>

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