



November 2021

# Poverty trends: global, regional and national

factsheet

## Contents

Key facts.....	3
Global poverty trends.....	3
Regional and national poverty trends .....	3
Data availability and timeliness.....	4
Introduction.....	5
What does it mean to live in poverty? .....	5
How is economic poverty measured? .....	5
Global poverty trends .....	7
The Covid-19 pandemic is expected to have increased extreme poverty around the world.....	7
The number of people living in poverty as measured by the higher international poverty lines of \$3.20 and \$5.50 has also increased since 2019.....	9
Regional and national poverty trends .....	11
Extreme poverty has fallen dramatically in countries in East Asia, the Pacific and South Asia, particularly in China and India .....	11
Extreme poverty has increased in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa .....	15
Annex .....	19

# Key facts

This factsheet provides an overview of economic poverty trends at the global and national levels. It unpacks the terminology used to describe poverty and explains how poverty is measured. Measuring poverty is vital because it supports action to improve the lives of those living in poverty now, or at risk of experiencing poverty in the future. Data on poverty and poverty trends can provide the information needed to support better policy decisions and increase accountability.

## Global poverty trends

- In 2021 an estimated 698 million people, or 9% of the global population, are living in extreme poverty – that is, living on less than \$1.90 a day.<sup>1</sup> Over one-fifth of the global population live below the higher \$3.20 poverty line (1,803 million people), and over two-fifths (3,293 million people) live below \$5.50 a day.<sup>2</sup>
- Between 2019 and 2020, the number of people living in extreme poverty increased by an estimated 50 million due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting global economic downturn. The number of people living in extreme poverty is estimated to have fallen during 2021 as the global economy has started to recover, but there remains an estimated eight million more people living in poverty today than there were in 2019.
- This follows decades of impressive poverty reduction. An estimated 1.1 billion people, or 16% of the global population, lived in extreme poverty in 2010 and almost two billion in 1990.

## Regional and national poverty trends

- China and India have experienced the greatest national reductions in people living in extreme poverty. More than 407 million people across those two countries moved out of extreme poverty between 2010 and 2021.
- For 26 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people living in extreme poverty has increased between 2010 and 2020.<sup>3</sup> The largest increases have occurred in Angola (9.4 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (8.8 million) and South Sudan (7 million). In 2021, 66% of the global population living in extreme poverty live in countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Poverty has also increased in countries affected by conflict and fragility. Between 2010 and 2021, Yemen has seen the highest increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty across the world, with 16 million more people below the extreme poverty line in 2021 than in 2010. In Venezuela, the number of people living in extreme poverty increased by 10 million, and in Syria the number is estimated to have increased by 6.7 million, though accurate data is difficult to obtain in these contexts.

## Data availability and timeliness

- As we enter the [Sustainable Development Goals' \(SDGs\)](#) decade of delivery, essential poverty data remains out of date: the most recent year for which we have global poverty data published by the World Bank is 2017. Partial data is now reported up to 2019; however, missing data from India has prevented global estimates from being published.
- To produce 2020 and 2021 estimates, we have taken income distribution data from the World Bank's [PovcalNet](#) and multiplied incomes by 85% of the forecasted GDP per capita growth rates published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s World Economic Outlook, which is the estimated share of GDP growth that passes on to households.
- Current measures of global poverty are incomplete in several important ways. For example: data is measured at a household level, masking differences in poverty within households; some countries have no data at all; and poverty measured by a threshold line does not consider the living standard of the very poorest people (those with the lowest expenditure or income). The projections that go beyond the year of last available data assume that the income distribution is unchanged.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised how important detailed and timely data is to understand poverty dynamics in order to respond appropriately where need is greatest. Timeliness of this data must improve if we are serious about monitoring the SDGs.

# Introduction

## What does it mean to live in poverty?

To live in poverty is to lack the resources required to meet basic needs. One way to measure poverty is to consider a person's economic resources – either the amount of money a person receives (income), the amount they spend (expenditure or consumption), or the amount they have saved or the value of their assets (wealth). Poverty defined in this way is **economic poverty**. Economic poverty is just one measure of the poorest people's needs: poverty can also be social, nutritional, cultural or multidimensional. The global definition of extreme poverty does not directly measure these other factors.

The first goal of the SDGs – ending poverty in all its forms everywhere – requires a better understanding and reporting of economic, social, nutritional and cultural needs and resources at an individual level. Poverty can only be comprehensively assessed with metrics that expand the scope beyond purely economic terms. Measures such as the Multidimensional Poverty Index,<sup>4</sup> [food poverty](#), inequality indices and fragility and vulnerability measures are all indispensable tools in attempts to end poverty.

People living in poverty are among the most vulnerable in society: as well as a lack of resources, the poorest families on average also see higher infant mortality, higher stunting in children and lower educational attainment.<sup>5</sup> Ending poverty and improving the livelihoods of the poorest people requires policymakers to be able to access accurate information regarding who is impoverished, where and why. Tracking poverty – globally, regionally and nationally – is paramount to achieving this goal. It is a universal target for all countries, with the first SDG committing countries to reduce poverty in all its dimensions and according to national definitions.

## How is economic poverty measured?

Poverty can be defined by a fixed value (absolute poverty) or by a value in relation to the rest of the population (relative poverty). Absolute poverty is measured by a minimum amount of money required to meet basic needs, known as a **poverty line**. A person is considered to be living in poverty if their income, expenditure or wealth falls below this line. In contrast, relative poverty is determined in relation to others: a person is in poverty if their income, expenditure or wealth is significantly below the average of the rest of the population.

The international standard for measuring poverty is the **extreme poverty line**, a measure of absolute poverty with a threshold equivalent to **US\$1.90 per person per day**. The extreme poverty threshold is considered as the minimum income or expenditure required to meet very basic needs.<sup>6</sup> Many have argued that the extreme poverty line is too low. Two more poverty lines, which reflect the costs of higher basic needs in more developed countries, are also used internationally: **US\$3.20** and **US\$5.50 per person per day**. Countries also adopt their own national poverty lines to reflect what poverty looks like relative to average incomes in that country.

The extreme poverty line of \$1.90 is standardised across countries using purchasing power parity (PPP) currency conversions in 2011. PPP conversions reflect the real buying power of a currency, so that the value of the \$1.90 line reflects the same local value of goods and services in different countries at different times.

International poverty is measured using data available from national household surveys, which capture population income and/or expenditure data. The World Bank's PovcalNet, a global repository for poverty data, contains data from over two million household surveys, for 168 economies, for the period 1981–2019.<sup>7</sup> Data from PovcalNet and national sources is used to generate international, regional and national poverty measures and track poverty over time; however, it remains limited due to the people that are often missing from household surveys, the inability to disaggregate within households and the time delay between collecting the data and it being available for analysis, which can be years.

# Global poverty trends

Reducing global poverty was a key aim of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs). The target for the MDGs was to reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015. At the global level, this was achieved three years ahead of schedule, in 2012.<sup>8</sup> Ending poverty now stands at the core of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), launched in 2015; the first of its 17 goals is 'no poverty by 2030'. Tracking global progress on extreme poverty tells us how close the world is to achieving this aim.

In 2010, it was estimated that 1.1 billion people were living below the extreme poverty line –16% of the global population at the time.

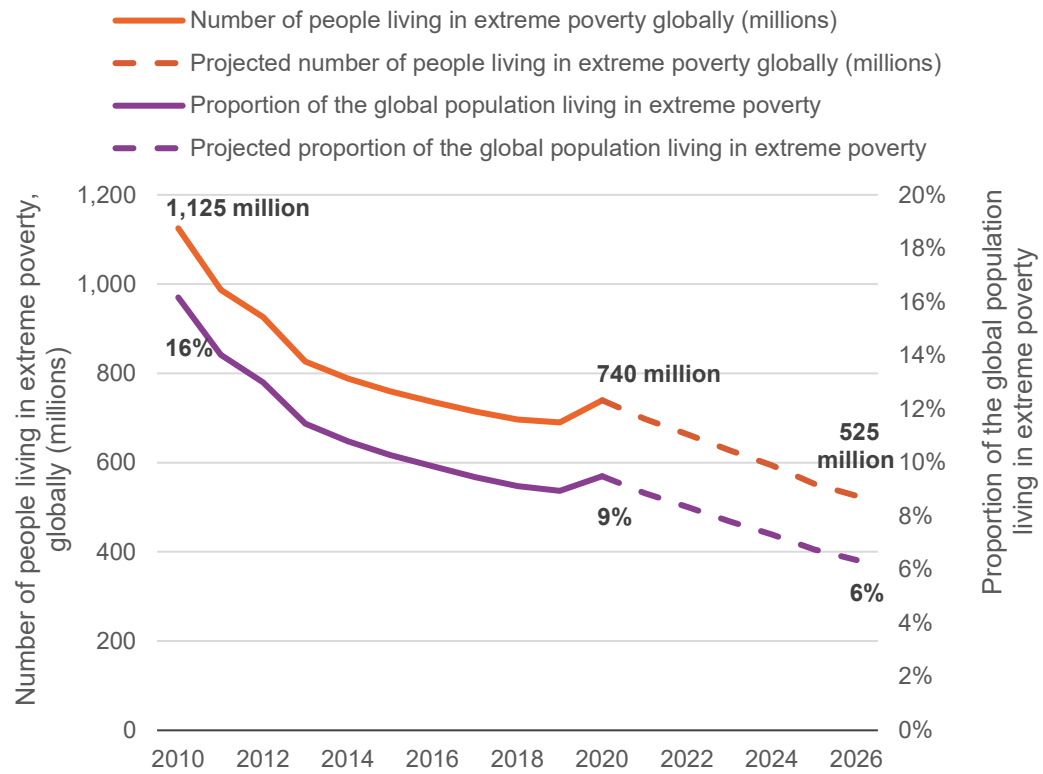
In 2017 (the most recent year for which global estimates have been published by the World Bank), 714 million people were living in extreme poverty – 9% of the global population. We estimate that extreme poverty continued to decline towards 2019, with 690 million people living in extreme poverty in 2019.

## **The Covid-19 pandemic is expected to have increased extreme poverty around the world**

However, the global economic contraction in 2020 associated with the Covid-19 pandemic is estimated to have increased the number of people living in extreme poverty by 50 million between 2019 and 2020. As most economies around the world have been rebounding in 2021, the number of people living in extreme poverty is estimated to have fallen again, but there remains an estimated 679 million people living in poverty – eight million more today than there were in 2019.

As the global economy recovers from the pandemic, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank project that most countries are likely to grow in the next five years. We use these projections to estimate that the number of people living in poverty is expected to be 525 million, 6% of the global population, by 2026. This would make reaching the SDG target to end extreme poverty by 2030 extremely unlikely.

**Figure 1: Globally, the number of people in extreme poverty has almost halved between 2010 and 2021, but 698 million, almost 9% of the world's population, are still living below the \$1.90 poverty line in 2021**



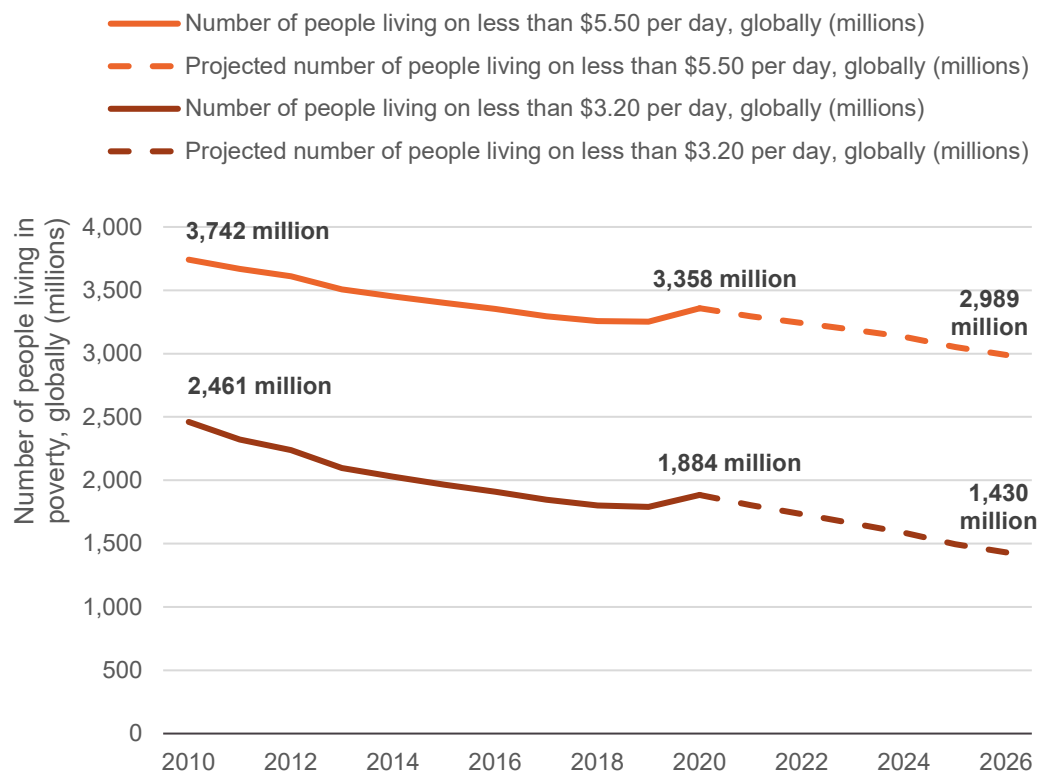
Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook.

These projections to 2026 should be interpreted with caution, however. As the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated, positive trends in growth and poverty reduction cannot be taken for granted. People living just above or below the extreme poverty line of \$1.90 a day live extremely precarious lives, typically with few assets or state-provided social protection support. Global, national and local events and policy changes can therefore have an enormous impact on lives and livelihoods, presenting opportunities to accelerate poverty reduction as well as holding it back.



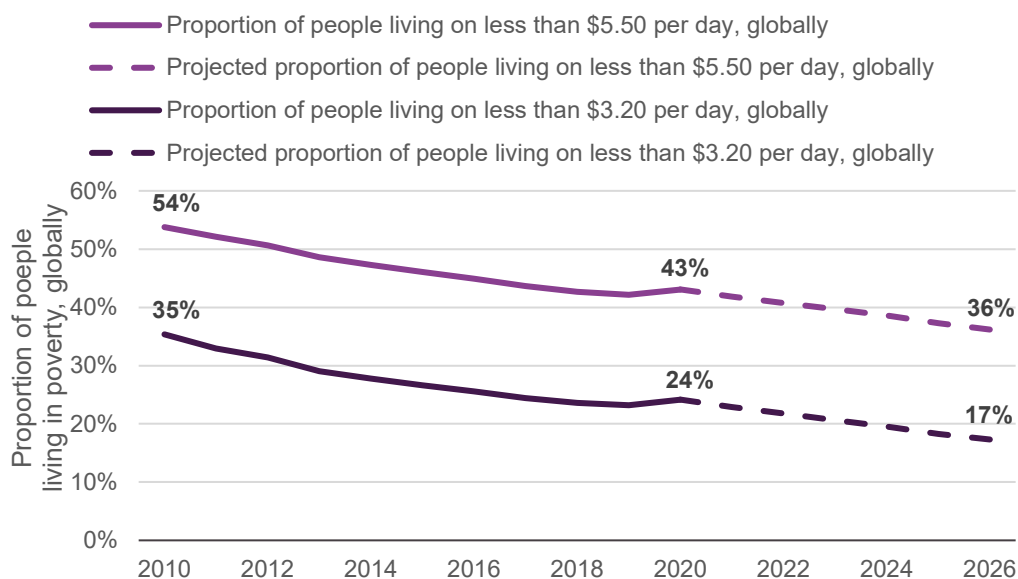
## The number of people living in poverty as measured by the higher international poverty lines of \$3.20 and \$5.50 has also increased since 2019

Figure 2a: The number of people living below the \$3.20 and \$5.50 poverty lines has been falling since 2010 and is projected to continue to fall, but it is still estimated that almost 3 billion people around the world will have less than \$5.50 a day in 2026



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook.

**Figure 2b: Over one-fifth of the global population remains below the \$3.20 poverty line and almost half are below the \$5.50 poverty line**



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook.

Between 2010 and 2019, the global proportion of people living on less than \$3.20 a day decreased from 35% to 23%, and the number of people fell by 671 million. However, the number is estimated to have increased by about 95 million between 2019 and 2020, before falling again by 80 million between 2020 and 2021, a net increase between 2019 and 2021 of around 15 million. As of 2021, over a quarter of the global population (1.8 billion people) were living below \$3.20 a day.

Looking at a higher poverty line of \$5.50, between 2010 and 2019 the global proportion of people living in poverty decreased from 54% to 42%, and the number of people decreased from 3.7 billion to 3.2 billion. However, the impact of the pandemic is expected to increase this figure by 106 million from 2019 to 2020, before falling again by 64 million between 2020 and 2021, resulting in a net increase between 2019 and 2021 of 41 million. In 2021, about two-fifths of the world's population (42%) lived on less than \$5.50 a day.

Although significant headway has been made in bringing people above the threshold of extreme poverty (\$1.90), slower progress against higher poverty lines suggests many people are still at risk of being pushed back into extreme poverty and that greater efforts are needed to improve living standards of the poorest people above very basic levels. Projections using latest growth estimates from the IMF estimate that by 2026, there will remain three billion people below the \$5.50 poverty line and 1.5 billion on less than \$3.20 per day.

Again, these projections to 2026 should be interpreted with caution. With almost half the population currently living on less than \$5.50 a day, there is huge diversity in the experiences and events that will affect this group in the years to come.

# Regional and national poverty trends

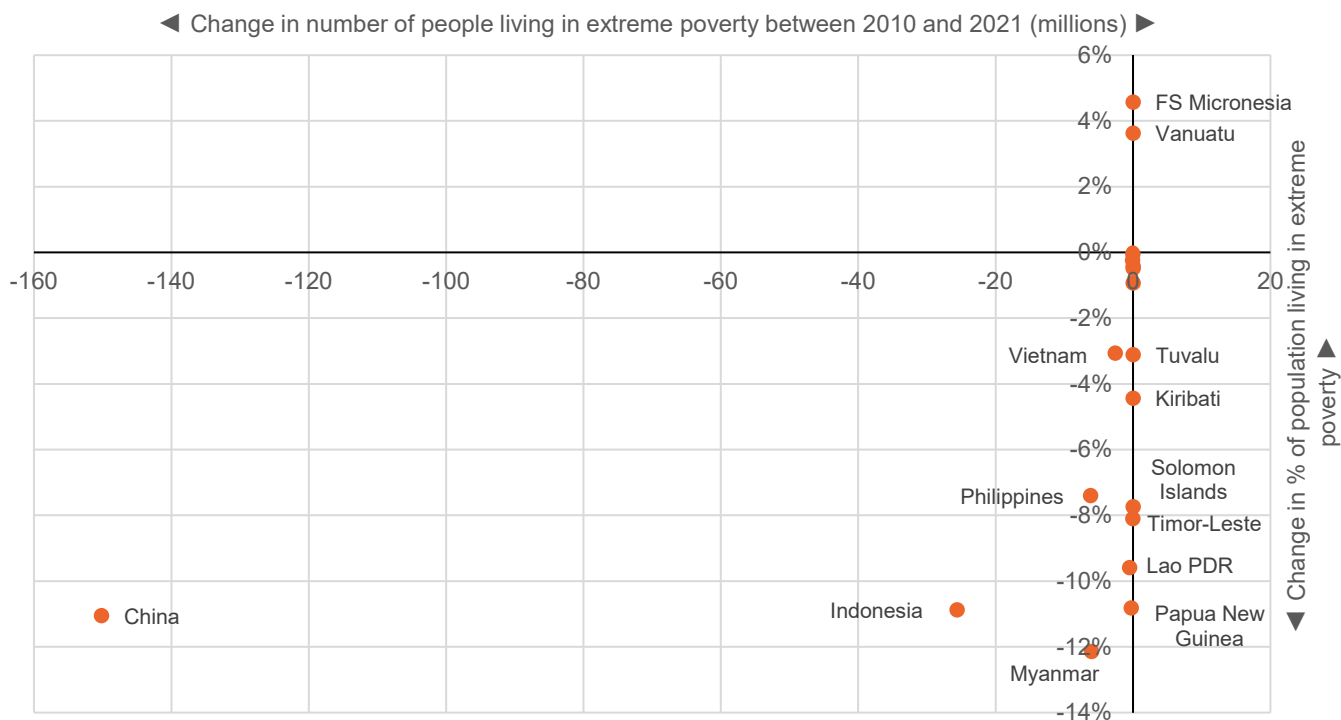
## **Extreme poverty has fallen dramatically in countries in East Asia, the Pacific and South Asia, particularly in China and India**

Since 2010, countries in the regions of East Asia, the Pacific and South Asia have significantly reduced the numbers of people living in extreme poverty. East Asia and the Pacific has seen the most significant change: in 2010 the region was home to 19% of the world's people who live in extreme poverty (over 214 million), but by 2021 this had dropped to 3% (19 million people). This rate of poverty reduction is unmatched anywhere else in the world.

Rapid economic growth in economies with the largest populations has been a key factor in global poverty reduction.<sup>9</sup> In 1990, China was home to almost 777 million people living in extreme poverty, and India was home to a further 427 million, together representing over 60% of the world's poorest people at that time. By 2010, this had fallen to 152 million in China and 365 million in India, and poverty rates have continued to decline in the last decade, to two million in China and almost 109 million in India.

Beyond China and India, Indonesia's poverty headcount dropped from 13% in 2010 to 2% in 2019. The Philippines dropped from 12% in 2010 to 4% in 2021. As of 2021, only a group of mostly small island states in the region (Vanuatu, Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Micronesia and Lao PDR) had extreme poverty headcounts above 4%. This is still the case in 2021.

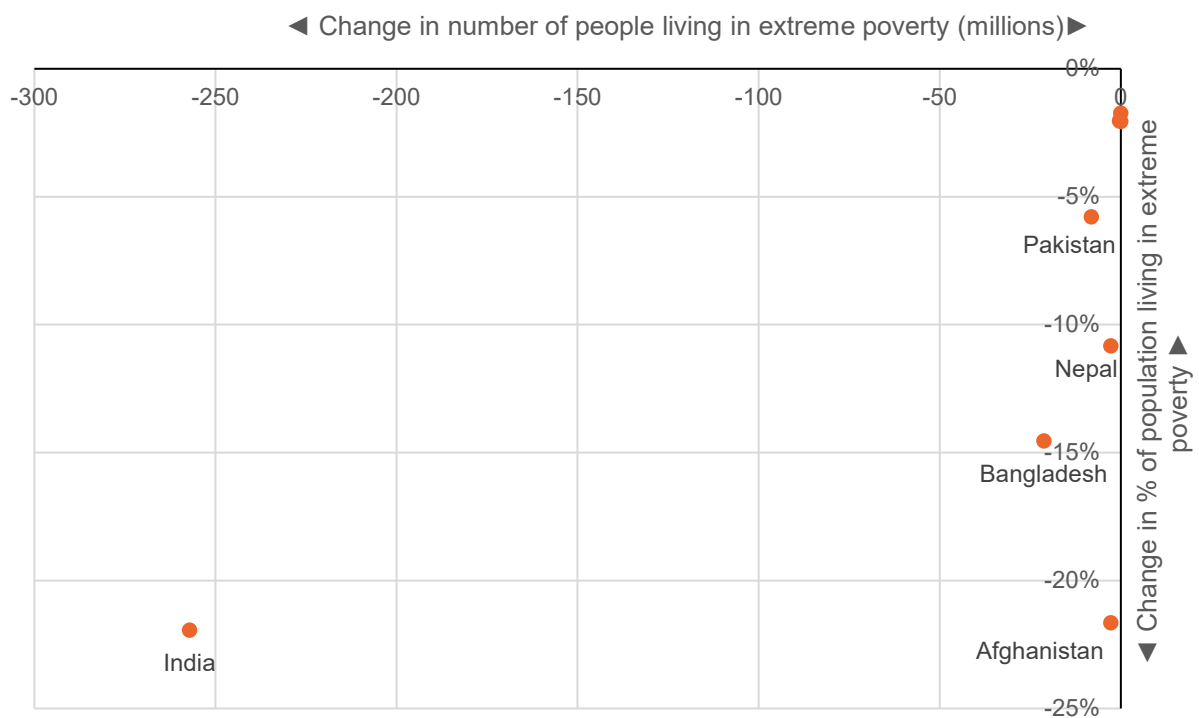
**Figure 3: Change in numbers of people (millions) and the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty in countries in East Asia and the Pacific (2010–2021)**



Source: FS Micronesia = Federated States of Micronesia. Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic. Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook. Full data for all countries is available in the Annex.

Countries plotted in the bottom left-hand corner of the chart saw both the numbers and the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty fall between 2010 and 2021. China stands out, with a decrease of 150 million, which corresponds to a 11% decline in the poverty across population. Indonesia saw a decrease of 25.6 million and 11%. A number of other countries in the region saw significant declines in the proportion of the population living in poverty, but with much smaller total populations, this corresponds to a relatively much smaller decline in the number of people living in poverty.

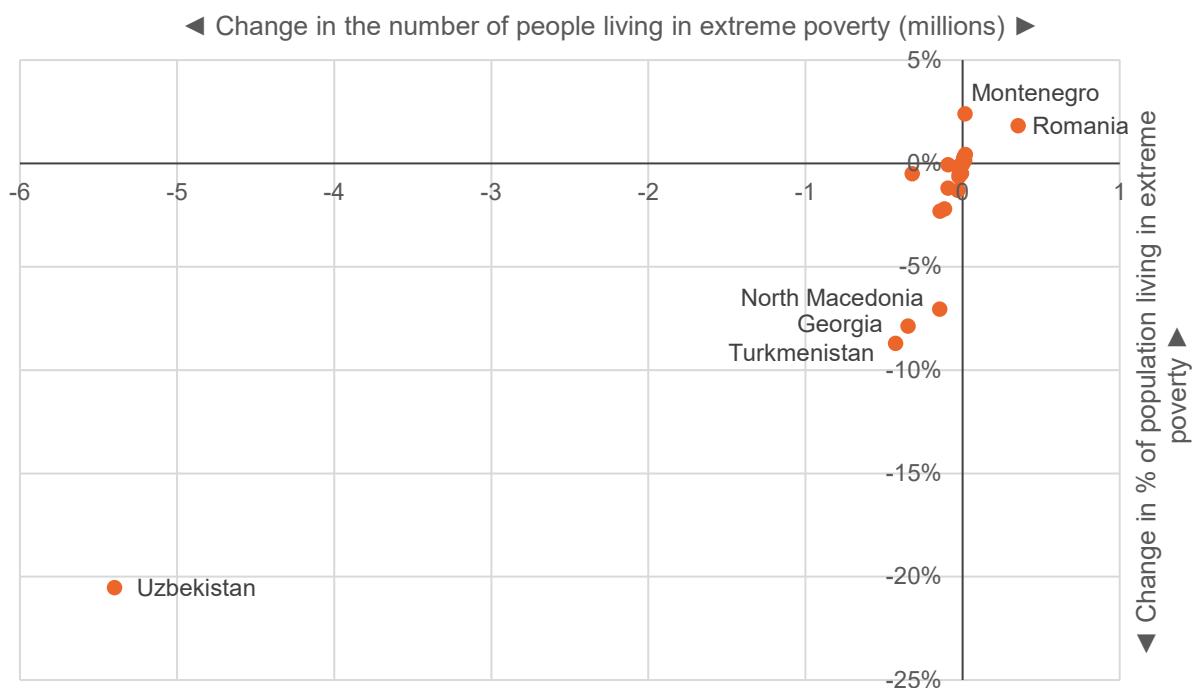
**Figure 4: Change in numbers of people (millions) and the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty in countries in South Asia (2010–2021)**



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook. Full data for all countries is available in the Annex.

All countries in South Asia saw poverty fall between 2010 and 2021. India stands out in this chart, with 257 million people no longer living in extreme poverty: the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty reduced by 22% from 30% to 8%.

**Figure 5: Change in numbers of people (millions) and the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty in countries in Europe and Central Asia (2010–2021)**

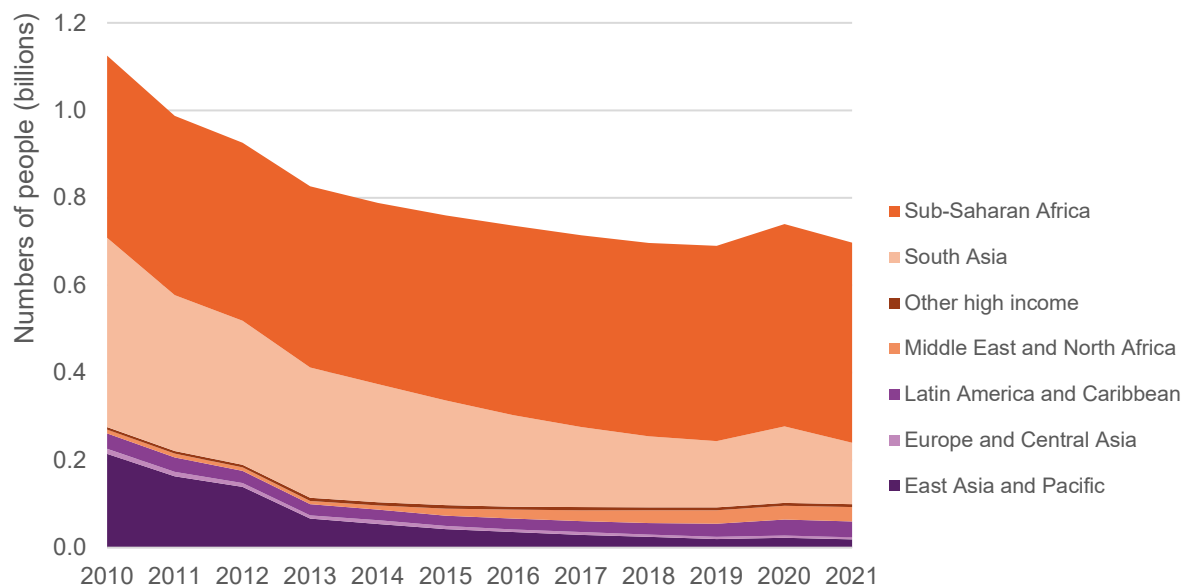


Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook. Full data for all countries is available in the Annex.

In the bottom left-hand corner of the chart, the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty in Uzbekistan dropped by 21% (from 30% to 9%): 5.4 million people now longer living in poverty.

## Extreme poverty has increased in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa

**Figure 6: The number of people living in extreme poverty outside of sub-Saharan Africa fell from 708 million in 2010 to 240 million in 2021, while the number in countries in sub-Saharan Africa rose from 417 million to 458 million, an increase in the global share of poverty from 37% in 2010 to 66% in 2021**

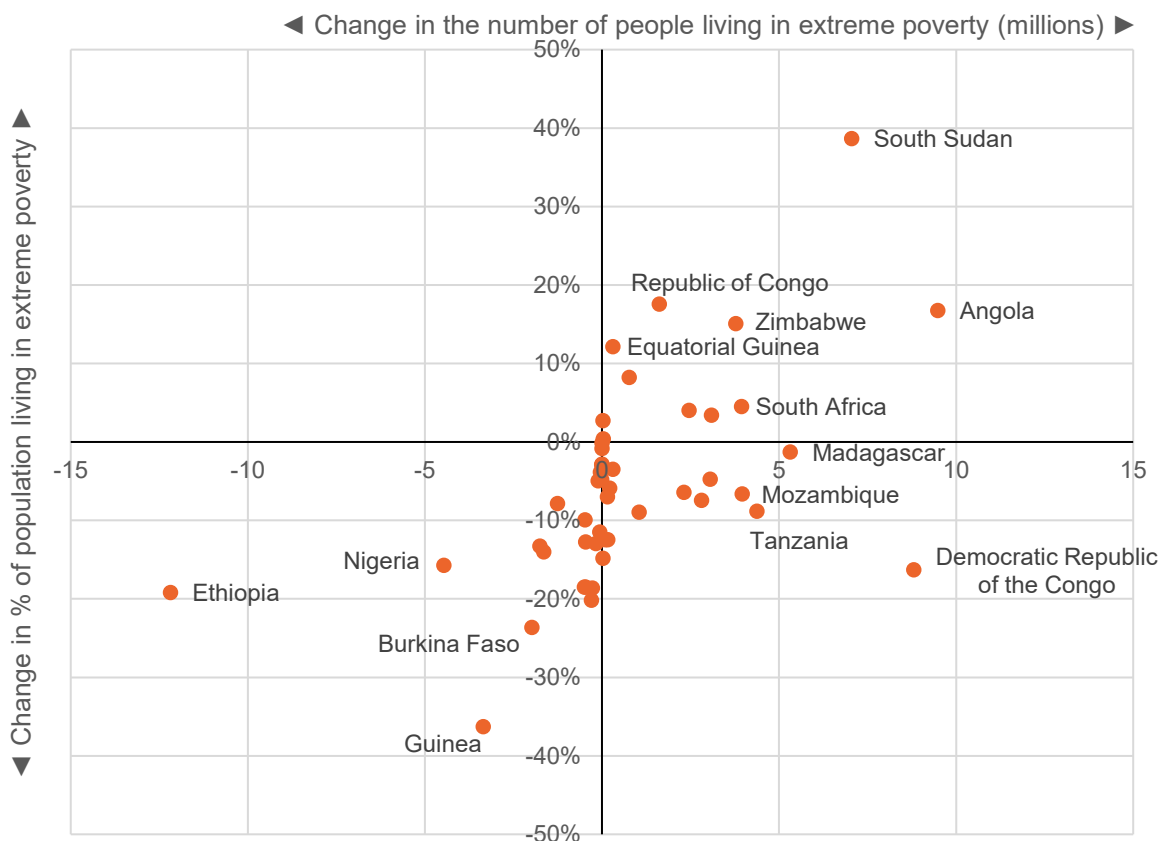


Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and national sources.

Note: 'Other high income' countries is composed of countries classified by the World Bank as high income, from any geographic region, with GNI per capita of more than \$12.

In countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people living in extreme poverty significantly increased between 1990 and 2002 and has remained almost level since then. In 2010, 416 million people in countries in sub-Saharan Africa were living below the extreme poverty line – this was 37% of the global population living in extreme poverty. By 2021, the region is still home to more than 457 million people living in extreme poverty. As poverty has reduced elsewhere around the world, extreme poverty in countries in sub-Saharan Africa now represents a global share of over 66% of the people who live in extreme poverty around the world.

**Figure 7: Change in numbers of people (millions) and the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty in countries in sub-Saharan Africa (2010–2021)**



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook. Full data for all countries is available in the Annex.

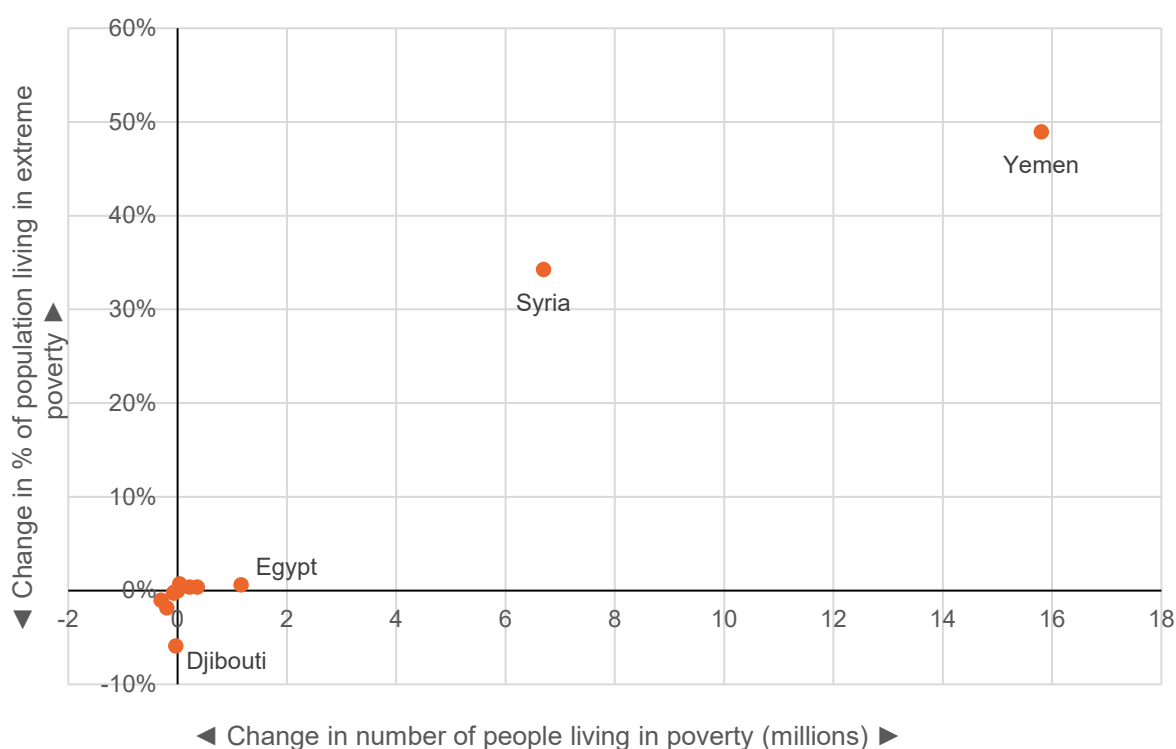
For 26 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people living in extreme poverty has increased between 2010 and 2020. The largest increases have occurred in Angola (9.4 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (8.8 million) and South Sudan (7 million). Although the Democratic Republic of the Congo saw a reduction in the proportion of its population below the extreme poverty line over the same period, the number of people living in extreme poverty increased by over 8 million due to population growth. The number of people living in extreme poverty has reduced significantly in Ethiopia (12 million), Guinea (3.4 million) and Nigeria (4.5 million), as the percentage of people living in extreme poverty has also declined in these countries. In other countries, the unequal distribution of economic gains along with population growth has led to a steady rise in the number of people living in poverty, despite general economic expansion.<sup>10</sup>



Countries plotted in the top right-hand corner of the chart saw both the numbers and proportion of population living in extreme poverty increase between 2010 and 2021. South Sudan stands out, with an increase of 39% of the population, corresponding to an extra 7 million people in extreme poverty. On the furthest right-hand side of the chart, the countries with the largest increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty was in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (8.8 million) and Angola (9.5 million), however in Angola this corresponded to a 17% increase in the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty, while in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there was a 16% decrease.

## Extreme poverty has increased in countries affected by conflict

**Figure 8: Change in numbers of people (millions) and the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty in countries in Middle East and North Africa (2010–2021)**



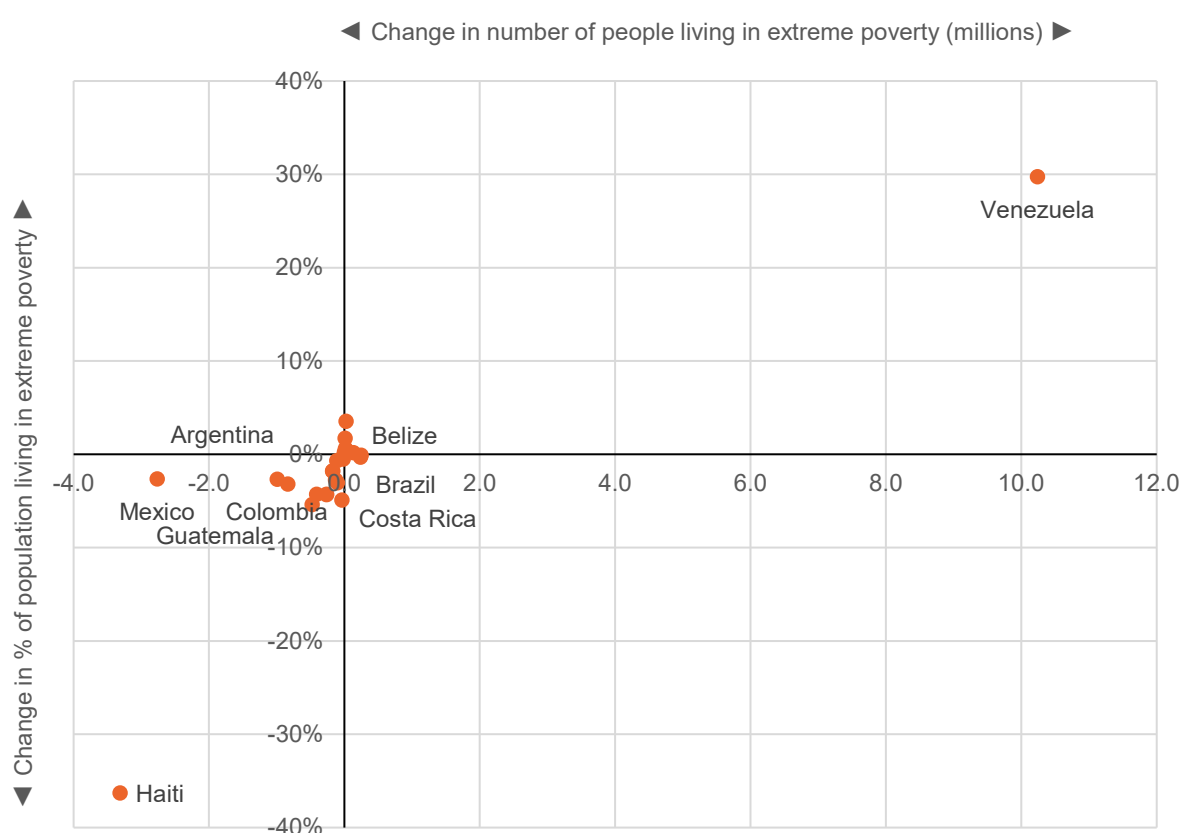
Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook. Full data for all countries is available in the Annex.

Between 2010 and 2021 poverty has increased in countries affected by conflict and fragility. Yemen has seen the highest increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty across the world, with 16 million more people below the extreme poverty line. In Venezuela, the number of people living in extreme poverty increased by 10 million, and

in Syria the number is estimated to have increased by 6.7 million, though accurate data is difficult to obtain in these contexts.

Countries plotted in the top right-hand corner of the chart saw both the numbers and proportion of the population living in extreme poverty increase between 2010 and 2021. Yemen stands out, with an increase of 49% of the population, corresponding to an extra 16 million people in extreme poverty. Syria saw an increase of 34%.

**Figure 9: Change in numbers of people (millions) and the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty in countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (2010–2021)**



Source: Development Initiatives based on World Bank PovcalNet and IMF World Economic Outlook

Venezuela, marked in the top right-hand corner of the chart, saw the proportion of their population living in poverty has increase by 30%. This has resulted in an increase of 10.2 million people living in extreme poverty. In contrast, Haiti saw the proportion fall by 36%, corresponding with 3.3 million fewer people living in extreme poverty.

# Annex

---

**Table A1: The number of people living in extreme poverty in 2010 and 2021 by region**

Region	Number of people living in extreme poverty (2010)	Number of people living in extreme poverty (2021)
Sub-Saharan Africa	416,672,141	457,864,576
South Asia	432,768,777	140,242,131
Latin America and the Caribbean	35,455,762	36,270,532
Middle East and North Africa	8,975,997	32,956,650
East Asia and the Pacific	214,547,245	19,162,111
Other high income	5,288,488	6,758,077
Europe and Central Asia	11,303,522	4,527,065

**Table A2: Percentage of people living in extreme poverty in 2010 and 2021 by country and headcount change**

Country	% of people living in extreme poverty, 2010	% of people living in extreme poverty, 2021	Increase/decrease in % of people living in extreme poverty	Increase/decrease in number of people living in extreme poverty (millions)
Afghanistan	56%	34%	-22%	-2.8
Albania	1%	1%	0%	0.0
Algeria	1%	0%	0%	-0.1
Angola	36%	53%	17%	9.5
Argentina	1%	2%	0%	0.1
Armenia	1%	1%	0%	0.0
Australia	0%	0%	0%	0.1
Austria	0%	1%	0%	0.0
Azerbaijan	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Bangladesh	19%	5%	-15%	-21.2
Belarus	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Belgium	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Belize	14%	17%	4%	0.0
Benin	53%	40%	-12%	0.2
Bhutan	3%	1%	-2%	0.0
Bolivia	9%	3%	-5%	-0.5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Botswana	16%	13%	-3%	0.0
Brazil	5%	5%	0%	0.2
Bulgaria	2%	1%	-1%	-0.1

Burkina Faso	53%	29%	-24%	-2.0
Burundi	76%	79%	3%	3.1
Cabo Verde	6%	3%	-3%	0.0
Cameroon	33%	23%	-10%	-0.5
Canada	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Central African Republic	62%	70%	8%	0.8
Chad	37%	41%	4%	2.5
Chile	1%	0%	-1%	-0.1
China	11%	0%	-11%	-150.2
Colombia	8%	5%	-3%	-1.0
Comoros	18%	18%	0%	0.0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	86%	69%	-16%	8.8
Republic of Congo	41%	59%	18%	1.6
Costa Rica	2%	1%	-1%	0.0
Cote d'Ivoire	33%	19%	-14%	-1.6
Croatia	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Cyprus	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Czech Republic	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Denmark	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Djibouti	19%	14%	-6%	0.0
Dominican Republic	2%	1%	-2%	-0.2
Ecuador	6%	4%	-2%	-0.2

Egypt	3%	3%	1%	1.2
El Salvador	6%	1%	-4%	-0.3
Equatorial Guinea	26%	38%	12%	0.3
Eritrea	47%	40%	-7%	0.2
Estonia	1%	0%	0%	0.0
Eswatini	40%	28%	-12%	-0.1
Ethiopia	36%	17%	-19%	-12.2
Fiji	1%	0%	-1%	0.0
Finland	0%	0%	0%	0.0
France	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Gabon	7%	3%	-4%	0.0
The Gambia	25%	7%	-19%	-0.3
Georgia	12%	4%	-8%	-0.3
Germany	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Ghana	18%	10%	-8%	-1.3
Greece	1%	0%	-1%	-0.1
Guatemala	10%	6%	-4%	-0.4
Guinea	53%	17%	-36%	-3.4
Guinea-Bissau	68%	63%	-6%	0.2
Guyana	9%	4%	-5%	0.0
Haiti	58%	21%	-36%	-3.3
Honduras	16%	15%	0%	0.2
Hungary	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Iceland	0%	0%	0%	0.0
India	30%	8%	-22%	-257.1

Indonesia	13%	2%	-11%	-25.6
Iran	1%	1%	0%	-0.1
Iraq	2%	2%	0%	0.4
Ireland	1%	0%	0%	0.0
Israel	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Italy	1%	1%	0%	0.1
Jamaica	2%	2%	1%	0.0
Japan	0%	1%	1%	0.9
Jordan	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Kazakhstan	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Kenya	41%	28%	-13%	-1.8
Kiribati	15%	10%	-4%	0.0
Korea	0%	0%	0%	-0.1
Kyrgyz Republic	3%	1%	-2%	-0.1
Lao PDR	18%	8%	-10%	-0.5
Latvia	2%	0%	-1%	0.0
Lebanon	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Lesotho	42%	29%	-13%	-0.2
Liberia	62%	48%	-15%	0.0
Libya	34%	35%	0%	0.2
Lithuania	2%	1%	-1%	0.0
Luxembourg	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Madagascar	78%	77%	-1%	5.3
Malawi	71%	66%	-5%	3.1
Malaysia	0%	0%	0%	-0.1

Maldives	2%	0%	-2%	0.0
Mali	50%	41%	-9%	1.0
Malta	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Mauritania	10%	5%	-5%	-0.1
Mauritius	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Mexico	5%	2%	-3%	-2.8
FS Micronesia,	12%	16%	5%	0.0
Moldova	1%	0%	0%	0.0
Mongolia	1%	0%	0%	0.0
Montenegro	0%	2%	2%	0.0
Morocco	2%	1%	-1%	-0.3
Mozambique	68%	62%	-7%	4.0
Myanmar	13%	1%	-12%	-6.0
Namibia	22%	17%	-5%	0.0
Nauru	8%	0%	-8%	0.0
Nepal	15%	5%	-11%	-2.8
Netherlands	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Nicaragua	7%	4%	-3%	-0.1
Niger	55%	35%	-20%	-0.3
Nigeria	55%	39%	-16%	-4.5
North Macedonia	10%	3%	-7%	-0.1
Norway	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Pakistan	10%	4%	-6%	-8.2
Panama	4%	1%	-3%	-0.1



Papua New Guinea	37%	26%	-11%	-0.3
Paraguay	5%	1%	-4%	-0.3
Peru	6%	2%	-3%	-0.8
Philippines	12%	4%	-7%	-6.2
Poland	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Portugal	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Romania	0%	2%	2%	0.4
Russia	0%	0%	0%	-0.1
Rwanda	64%	46%	-19%	-0.5
Samoa	1%	1%	0%	0.0
Sao Tome and Principe	35%	37%	3%	0.0
Senegal	38%	25%	-13%	-0.5
Serbia	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Seychelles	1%	1%	-1%	0.0
Sierra Leone	58%	40%	-19%	-0.5
Slovak Republic	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Slovenia	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Solomon Islands	32%	24%	-8%	0.0
South Africa	16%	21%	5%	3.9
South Sudan	42%	81%	39%	7.1
Spain	1%	1%	0%	0.1
Sri Lanka	3%	1%	-2%	-0.4
St. Lucia	5%	5%	0%	0.0
Sudan	18%	15%	-3%	0.3

Suriname	17%	19%	2%	0.0
Sweden	0%	1%	0%	0.0
Switzerland	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Syria	0%	35%	34%	6.7
Taiwan, China	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Tajikistan	4%	2%	-2%	-0.1
Tanzania	54%	46%	-9%	4.4
Thailand	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Timor-Leste	31%	23%	-8%	0.0
Togo	56%	43%	-12%	0.1
Tonga	1%	1%	0%	0.0
Trinidad and Tobago	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Tunisia	2%	0%	-2%	-0.2
Turkey	1%	0%	0%	-0.3
Turkmenistan	10%	2%	-9%	-0.4
Tuvalu	3%	0%	-3%	0.0
Uganda	44%	36%	-7%	2.8
Ukraine	0%	0%	0%	0.0
United Arab Emirates	0%	0%	0%	0.0
United Kingdom	0%	0%	0%	0.1
United States of America	1%	1%	0%	0.3
Uruguay	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Uzbekistan	30%	9%	-21%	-5.4

Vanuatu	13%	17%	4%	0.0
Venezuela	6%	35%	30%	10.2
Vietnam	4%	1%	-3%	-2.6
West Bank and Gaza	0%	1%	1%	0.0
Yemen	9%	58%	49%	15.8
Zambia	66%	59%	-6%	2.3
Zimbabwe	27%	42%	15%	3.8
Somalia		68%	n/a	n/a

# Notes

---

<sup>1</sup> Figures are given using purchasing power parity (PPP) currency conversions.

<sup>2</sup> These alternative poverty lines (US\$3.20 and US\$5.50 per person a day) reflect the costs of higher basic needs, are also used internationally. They are produced by the World Bank to cater to poverty in middle income countries and upper-middle income countries. See Ferreira, F. and Sánchez-Páramo, C. (2017), A richer array of international poverty lines. World Bank. Available at: <http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/richer-array-international-poverty-lines?CID=POV TT Poverty EN EXT>

<sup>3</sup> Development Initiatives names regions according to World Bank terminology to remain consistent with our data sources.

<sup>4</sup> Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (2018), Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2018. Available at: [https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/G-MPI\\_2018\\_2ed\\_web.pdf](https://ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/G-MPI_2018_2ed_web.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Development Initiatives (2019), Closing the gap: priorities for the High-level Political Forum 2019. Available at: [https://devinit.org/documents/60/Briefing\\_Closing-the-gap\\_Priorities-for-the-High-level-Political-Forum-2019.pdf](https://devinit.org/documents/60/Briefing_Closing-the-gap_Priorities-for-the-High-level-Political-Forum-2019.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> World Bank (2015), A Measured Approach to Ending Poverty and Boosting Shared Prosperity: Concepts, Data, and the Twin Goals. Policy Research Report. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/20384/9781464803611.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Jolliffe, D. and Prydz, E.B. (2016), Estimating international poverty lines from comparable national thresholds: a robust approach for estimating relevant thresholds. Policy Research Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/837051468184454513/pdf/WPS7606.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> McArthur, J. and Rasmussen, K. (2017), Change of Pace: Accelerations and advances during the Millennium Development Goal Era. The Brookings Institution.

<sup>9</sup> World Bank (2018), Macro Poverty Outlook: East Asia and Pacific. Available at: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/879251567711913460/mpo-eap.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> World Bank (2018), Macro Poverty Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa. Available at: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/720441492455091991/mpo-ssa.pdf>

---

Development Initiatives (DI) applies the power of data and evidence to build sustainable solutions.

Our mission is to work closely with partners to ensure data-driven evidence and analysis are used effectively in policy and practice to end poverty, reduce inequality and increase resilience.

While data alone cannot bring about a better world, it is a vital part of achieving it. Data has the power to unlock insight, shine a light on progress and empower people to increase accountability.

Content produced by Development Initiatives is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution BY-NC-ND 4.0 International license, unless stated otherwise on an image or page.

#### Contact

Zach Christensen

Senior Analyst

Zach.Christensen@devinit.org

To find out more about our work visit:

[www.devinit.org](http://www.devinit.org)

Twitter: @devinitorg

Email: [info@devinit.org](mailto:info@devinit.org)

Development Initiatives is the trading name of Development Initiatives Poverty Research Ltd, registered in England and Wales, Company No. 06368740, and DI International Ltd, registered in England and Wales, Company No. 5802543. Registered Office: First Floor Centre, The Quorum, Bond Street South, Bristol, BS1 3AE, UK

#### **GLOBAL HUB**

Development Initiatives  
First Floor Centre, The Quorum  
Bond Street South, Bristol  
BS1 3AE, UK  
+44 (0) 1179 272 505

#### **EAST AFRICA HUB**

Development Initiatives  
Shelter Afrique Building  
4th Floor, Mamlaka Road  
Nairobi, Kenya  
PO Box 102802-00101  
+254 (0) 20 272 5346

#### **AMERICAS HUB**

Development Initiatives  
1100 13th Street, NW, Suite 800,  
Washington DC 20005, US