No poverty
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Ending extreme poverty is at the heart of the SDG agenda. Between 1990 and 2013 the number of people living below $1.90 a day fell by over 1 billion.

People (billions)

In 1990, 1.9 billion people—or 35 percent of the world—lived on less than $1.90 a day. By 2013, this had fallen to 769 million—or 10.7 percent of people.

In 2013, 4 billion people—over half the world’s population—lived on between $1.90 and $10 a day.


The world’s population has grown, and the regional distribution of poverty has changed. Compared with 1990, there are now more poor people in Sub-Saharan Africa and fewer in South Asia and East Asia & Pacific.

The percentage of people living in extreme poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa has fallen, but the number of extremely poor people in the region has grown.

SDG 1.1

Goal 1 No poverty
Populous countries such as China, India, Indonesia, and Bangladesh are home to a significant share of the total number of people living in extreme poverty.

Number of people living on less than $1.90 a day (2011 PPP), most recent value in 2010–13 (millions)

Poverty headcount ratio, most recent value in 2010–15 (% of population)

Source: World Bank PovcalNet. World Development Indicators (SI.POV.DDAY; SI.POV.NAHC; SI.POV.RUHC; SI.POV.URHC).

Some extreme poverty persists even in wealthier countries.

In Sub-Saharan Africa more than 390 million people lived on less than $1.90 a day in 2013.

In 2011 India was home to more than 260 million people in extreme poverty.

In 2013 there were 25 million extremely poor people in both China and Indonesia.

Poverty rates at national poverty lines are generally higher than at the international $1.90 a day line, and they are higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

In countries on this side of the line, poverty rates are higher in urban areas than in rural areas.

In countries on this side of the line, people living near $1.90 a day are not considered poor by national definitions.

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Richer countries have more comprehensive social protection programs. Within countries the poorest are more likely to be covered by such programs, but targeting support toward the poor remains challenging.

The most common social protection programs in every region are cash based.

Cash transfer programs are the most likely to be directed toward the poor.

Note: Calculated using simple averages of country-level coverage rates across income groups. Actual coverage may be higher as not all programs are captured by household surveys in some countries. Poorest quintile is calculated using pre-transfer welfare (income or consumption) per capita.

Note: Based on administrative data. Cash-based programs include universal cash transfers, conditional cash transfers, and social pensions. In-kind programs include school feeding, fee waivers and other in-kind transfers.

Note: Calculated using simple averages of country-level coverage rates across regions. Poorest quintile is calculated using pre-transfer welfare (income or consumption) per capita.

Land rights provide security of tenure and are important for reducing poverty. But many countries lack a comprehensive land registry that records ownership.

Number of components related to property registration from Doing Business Index (0–4, higher is better)

| Country | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Data? 
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|--------

People with documented ownership of land and property feel more secure.

Share of households, most recent value in 2010–15 (%)

- **Rwanda**: 55
- **Lesotho**: 2
- **Mozambique**: 5
- **Tanzania**: 1
- **Benin**: 10
- **Uganda**: 7
- **Ghana**: 5
- **Nigeria**: 0
- **Malawi**: 0

Note: Data from a study covering selected countries.
Source: Carletto, Deininger, Hilhorst, and Zakout (2018).

In some countries few women are documented on formal land titles.

Share of households that own agricultural land or houses, most recent value in 2001–15 (%)

- **Burkina Faso**: 75
- **Malawi**: 50
- **Nigeria**: 25
- **Cambodia**: 50
- **Ghana**: 25
- **Uganda**: 75
- **Madagascar**: 10
- **Ethiopia**: 10
- **Haiti**: 10
- **Sierra Leone**: 5
- **Tanzania**: 5
- **Mozambique**: 5
- **Colombia**: 25
- **Ecuador**: 25
- **Mexico**: 5
- **Vietnam**: 5
- **Rwanda**: 100

Note: Data from a study covering selected countries.
Source: Carletto, Deininger, Hilhorst, and Zakout (2018).