



# Can we eradicate child poverty and reduce health inequalities?

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**Reducing child poverty to improve health and development: what works and how?**

INRICH 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop

CRCHUM Amphitheatre B

Montreal

27<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**First the Good News**

# The idea that poverty can be ended is 230 years old

The French genius and revolutionary philosopher Marie Jean Antonine Nicolas de Caritat, Marquis de Condorcet argued in *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind* (published posthumously in 1794) that poverty was not a result of natural laws or divine will but was caused by ‘*the present imperfections of the social arts*’

He argued that poverty could be ended by the universal provision of pensions, grants to the young, sickness benefits and state education

Condorcet also believed that slavery, monarchy and clericalism should be abolished, women should have political rights and that democratic society could be achieved through rational rules and the improvement of the population by making high quality education free.

He died in prison.

# **It is the hundredth anniversary of International Human Rights agreement**

## **Declaration of the Rights of the Child 1924**

It is the hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child – the first international human rights agreement, drafted by Eglantyne Jebb (the founder of Save the Children) and adopted by the League of Nations in 1924.

- 1.The child must be given the means requisite for its normal development, both materially and spiritually.
- 2.The child that is hungry must be fed, the child that is sick must be nursed, the child that is backward must be helped, the delinquent child must be reclaimed, and the orphan and the waif must be sheltered and succoured.
- 3.The child must be the first to receive relief in times of distress.
- 4.The child must be put in a position to earn a livelihood and must be protected against every form of exploitation.
- 5.The child must be brought up in the consciousness that its talents must be devoted to the service of its fellow men.

**All cultures have a concept of poverty and All politicians think that both poverty and ill health are ‘bad’ things.**

*“In Wealth, many friends, in poverty not even relatives”*

- Japanese Proverb

*“Poverty is the worst form of violence!”*

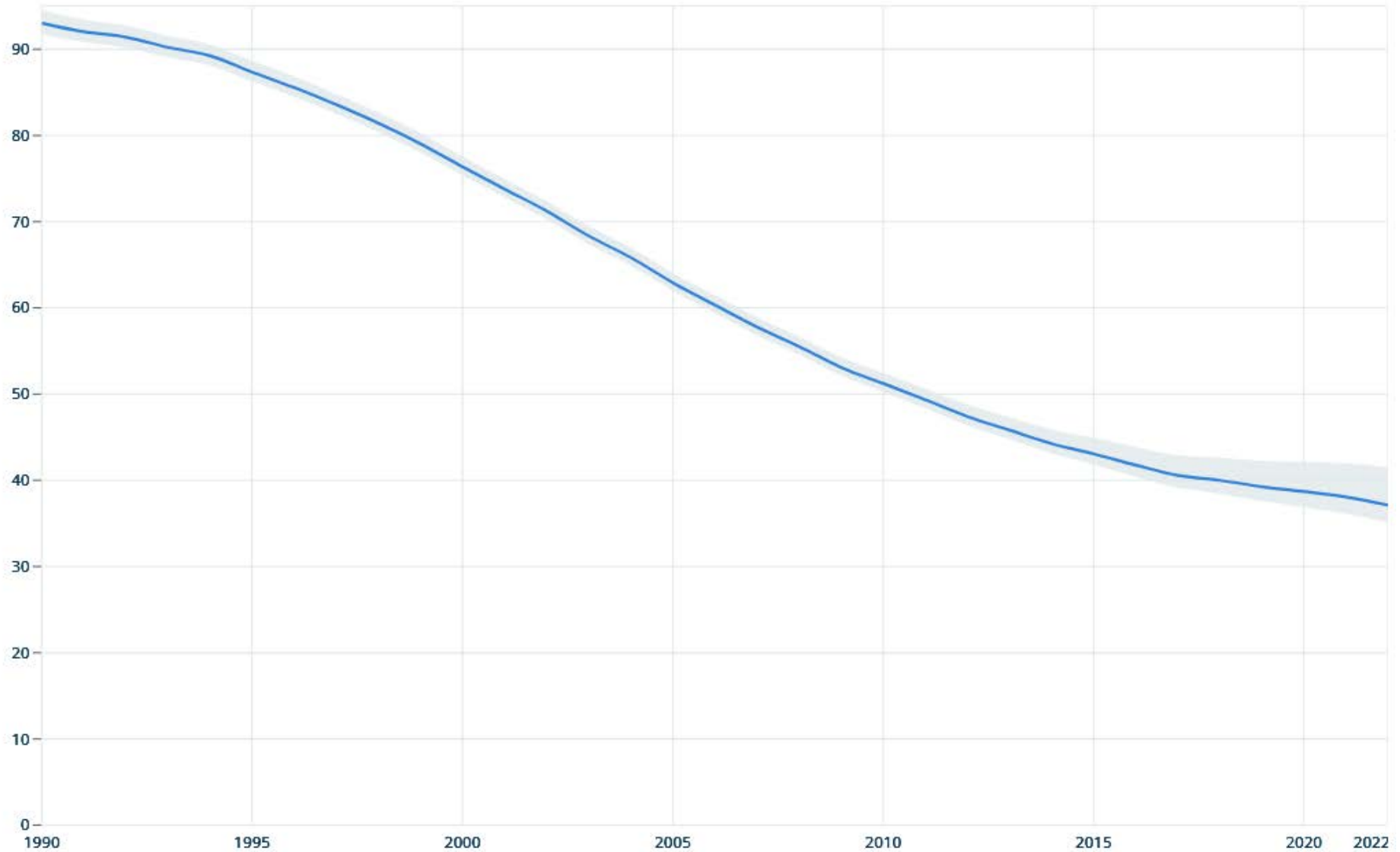
- Mahatma Gandhi - Indian Philosopher & Freedom Fighter

*“The greatest evils and the worst of crimes is poverty”*

George Bernard Shaw - Irish Playwright & Novelist

# Global Under Five Mortality Rate

Deaths per 1,000 live births



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

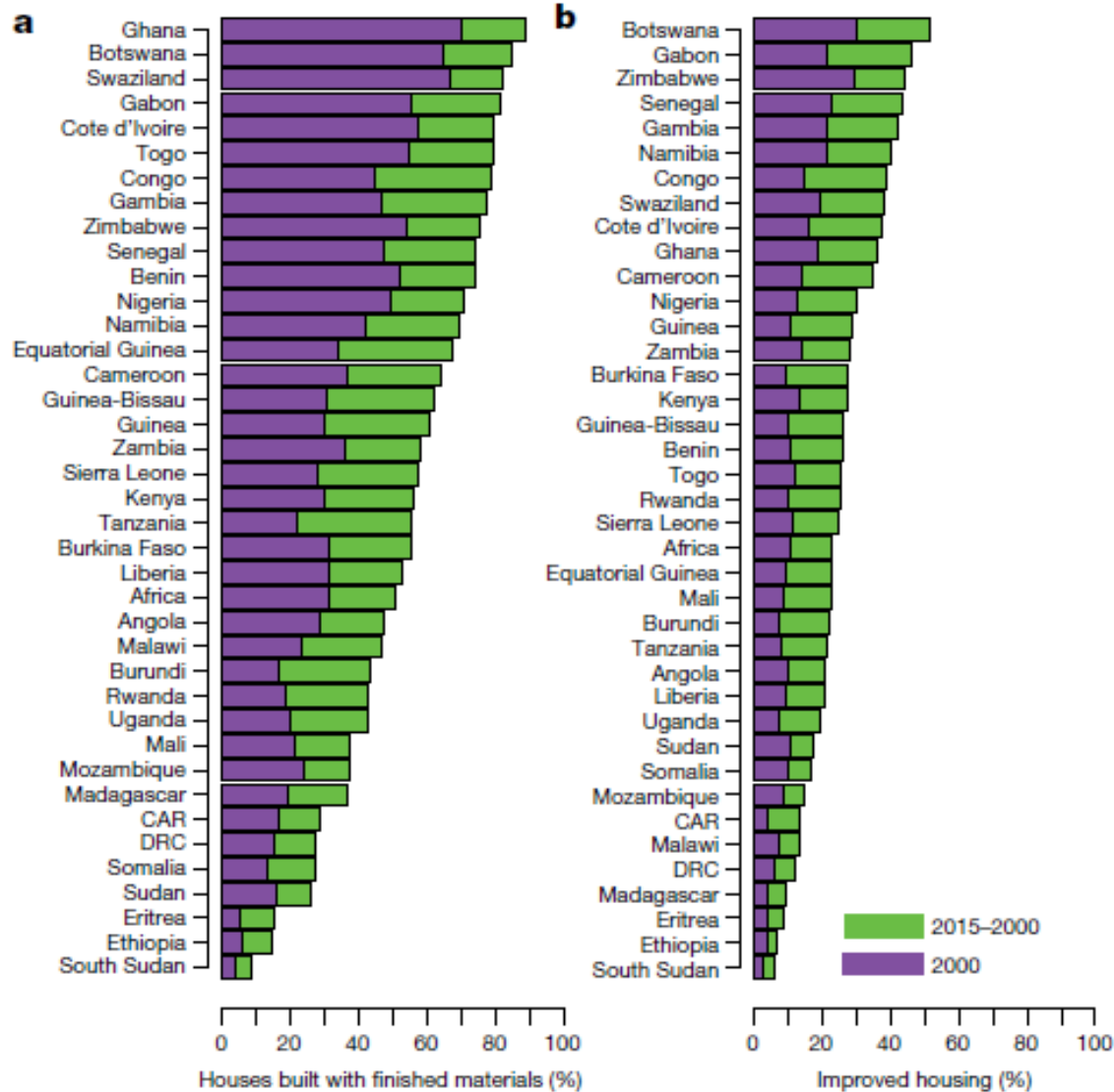
<https://childmortality.org/all-cause-mortality/data?refArea=WORLD&sex=T>

## Education: things will only get better?

### Average years of schooling of the population aged 15–24: 1950-2040



# Improvements in Housing Quality in Sub-Saharan Africa: 2000 to 2015

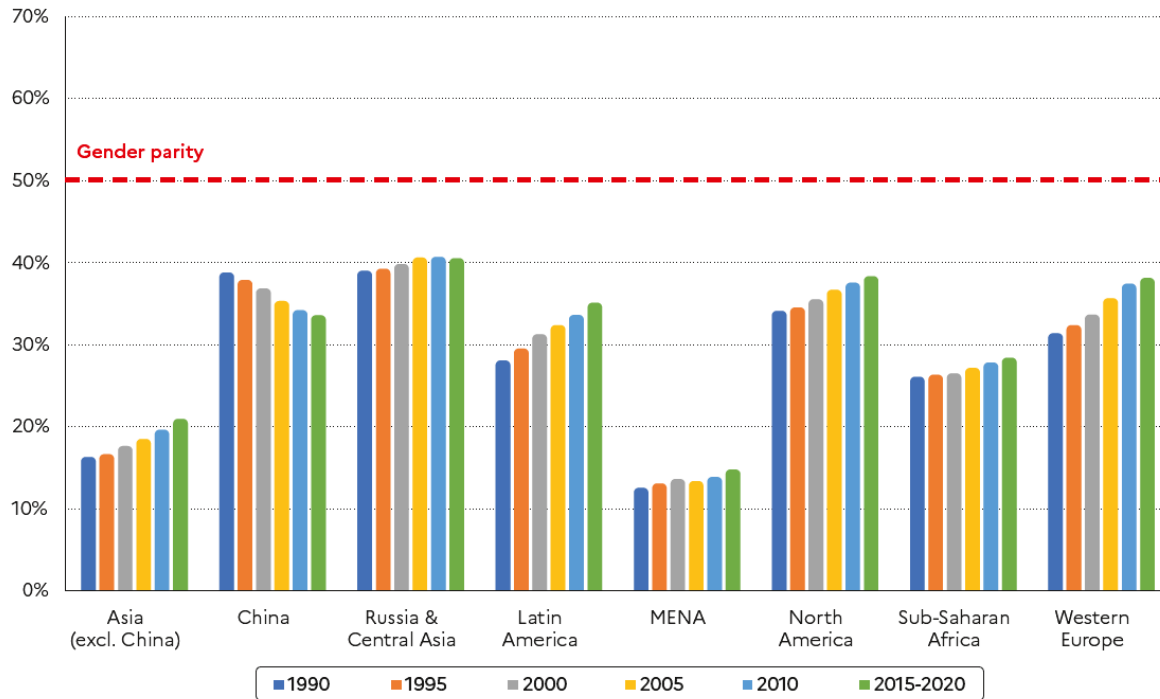




# The gender pay gap has narrowed in most regions

## On current trends Men and Women will have equal pay by 2154

Women's Share of Earned Income as a proportion of Men's Share: 1990 to 2020



*“it will take 132 years to close the gender pay gap worldwide if the current trajectory continues.”*

Global Gender Gap Report 2022

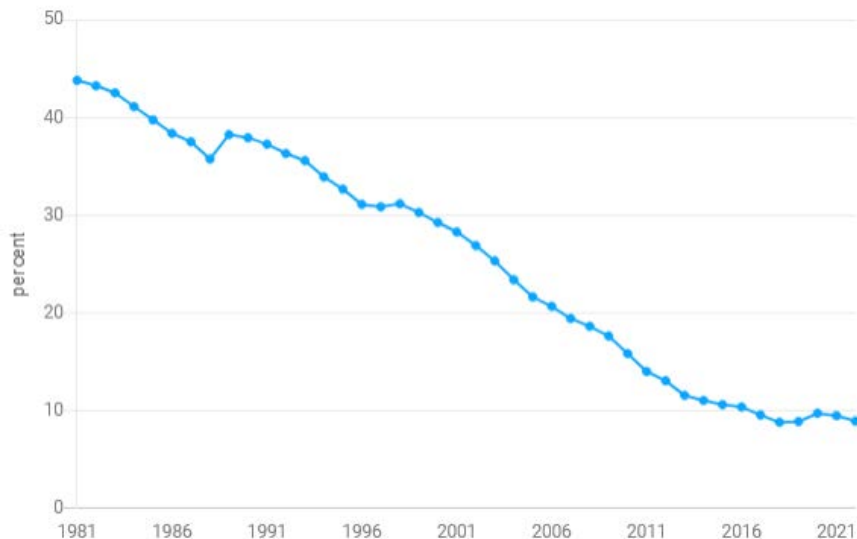
<https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2022/digest/>

**Interpretation:** The female labour income share rose from 34% to 38% in North America between 1990 and 2020. **Sources and series:** [wir2022.wid.world/methodology](http://wir2022.wid.world/methodology) and Neef and Robilliard (2021).

# Global extreme poverty (\$2.15 per person per day PPP): proportion and number of people living below the World Bank's extreme poverty line 1981-2022

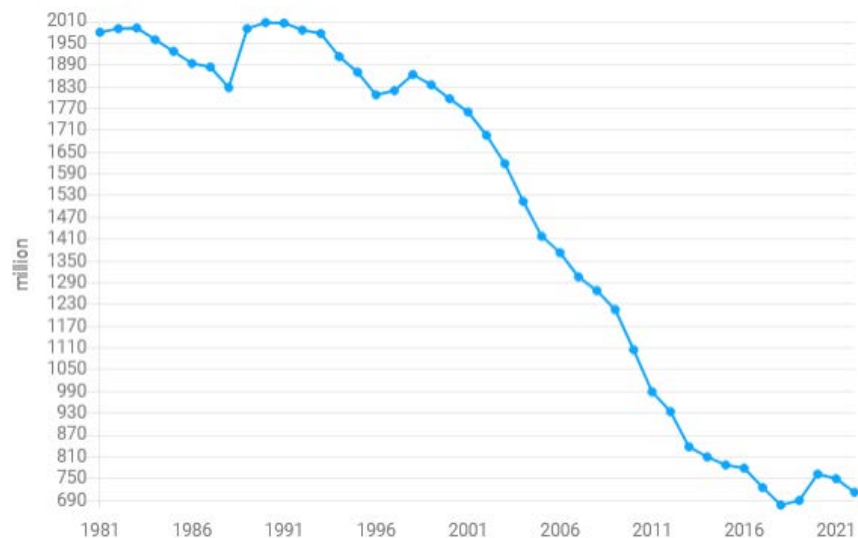
**Poverty rate, percent \$2.15**

Poverty headcount ratio (2017 PPP) (% of population)



**Population living in poverty, million \$2.15**

Population living below the poverty line (2017 PPP)



Source: World Bank Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP) <https://pip.worldbank.org/#home>

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015 to 2030



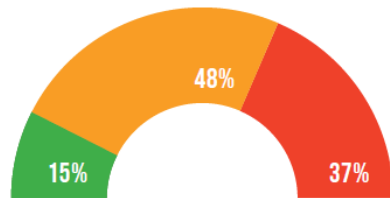
**17 Goals, 169 targets, 232 Indicators**

**Now the Bad News**

# Progress for the Sustainable Development Goals?

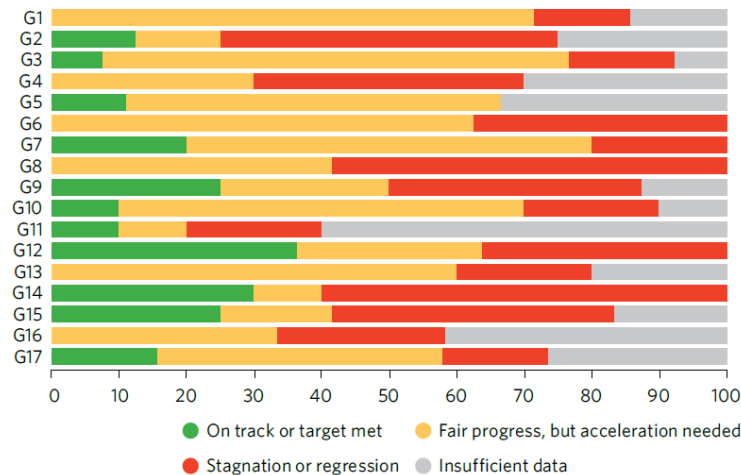
UN SDG Report 2023 key findings:

## A CONCERNING PICTURE OF SDG PROGRESS AT THE MIDPOINT:



- ON TRACK
- MODERATELY OR SEVERELY OFF TRACK
- STAGNATION OR REGRESSION

Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)



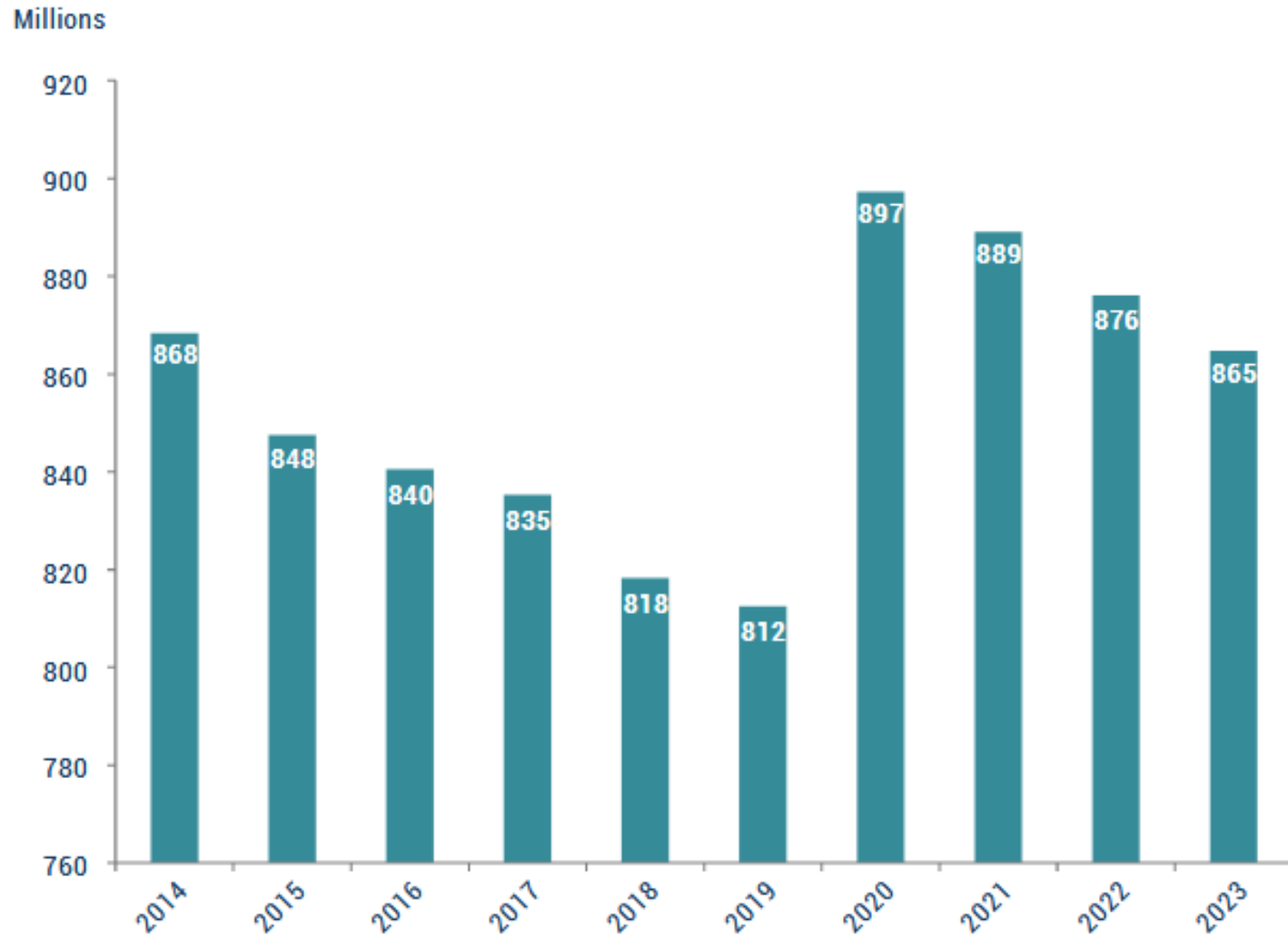
*“Unless we act now, the 2030 Agenda will become an epitaph for a world that might have been.”*  
 United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

Goal 1: If current trends continue, 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030

Goal 2: The number of people facing hunger and food insecurity has been rising since 2015. 45 million children <5 years old suffered from wasting, 148 million had stunted growth

Goal 3: Childhood vaccinations have experienced the largest decline in three decades, tuberculosis and malaria deaths have increased and 381 million people were pushed or further pushed into extreme poverty in 2019 due to out-of-pocket payments for health

# UN Estimates of the Number of People in Extreme Poverty: 2014-2023

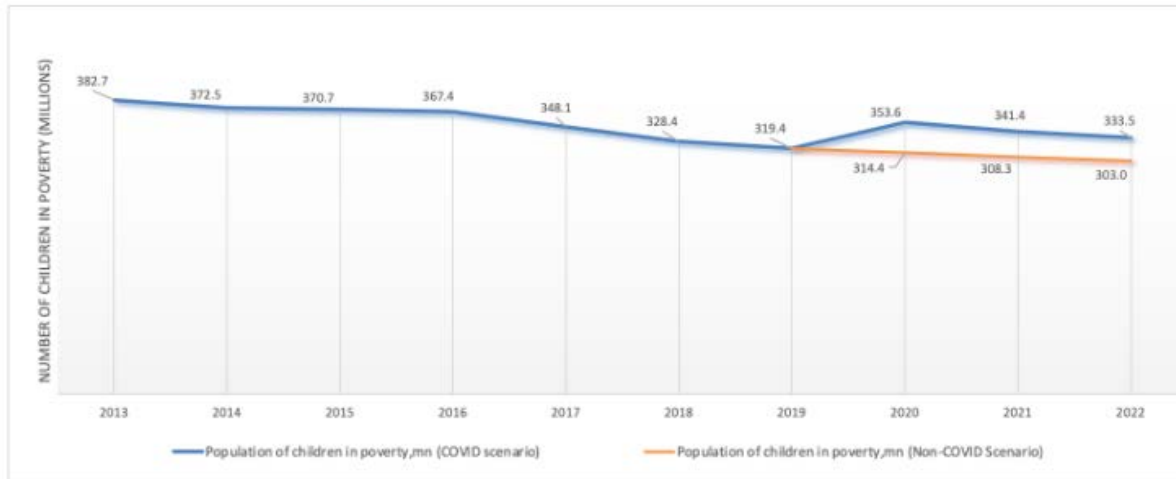


Source: UNDESA (2022) World Economic Situation & Prospects.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-2022/>

# Extreme Monetary Child Poverty (World Bank Measure <\$2.15 PPP a day)

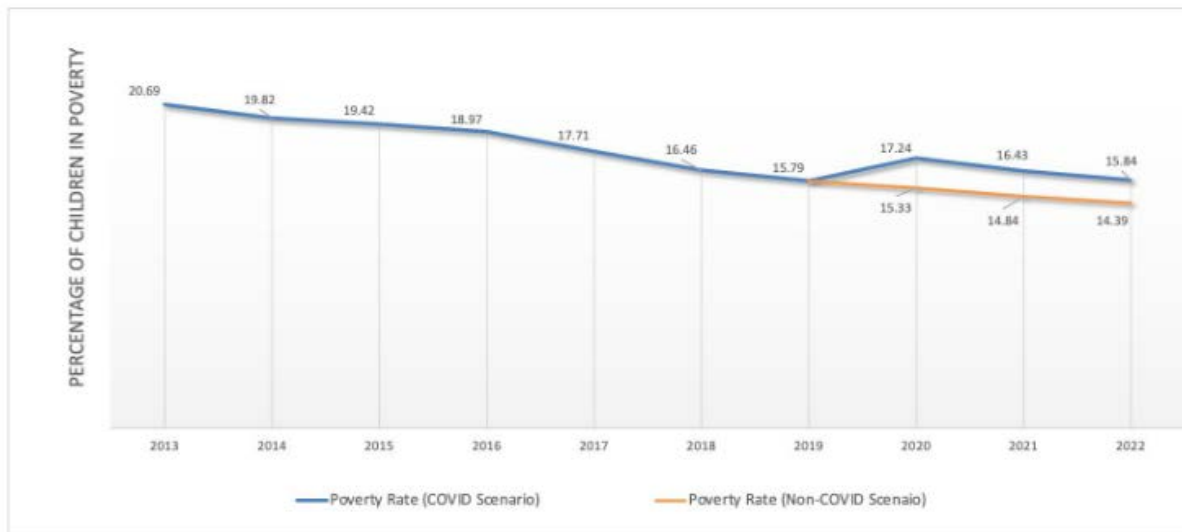
Figure 1: Children (millions) living in extreme poverty (\$2.15), trends.



*An estimated 333 million children globally – or 1 in 6 – live in extreme poverty*

*Children are more than twice as likely as adults – 15.8% versus 6.6% – to live in extremely poor households, lacking the food, sanitation, shelter, health care, and education they need*

Figure 2: Children (%) living in extreme poverty (\$2.15), trends



**What would be the results be for children if SDG Target 1.1 was met and ALL extremely poor people had their incomes increased to the international poverty line (\$2.15 PPP per person per day)**

In households which were at the World Bank's extreme poverty line (i.e. not poor according to the World Bank) on average:

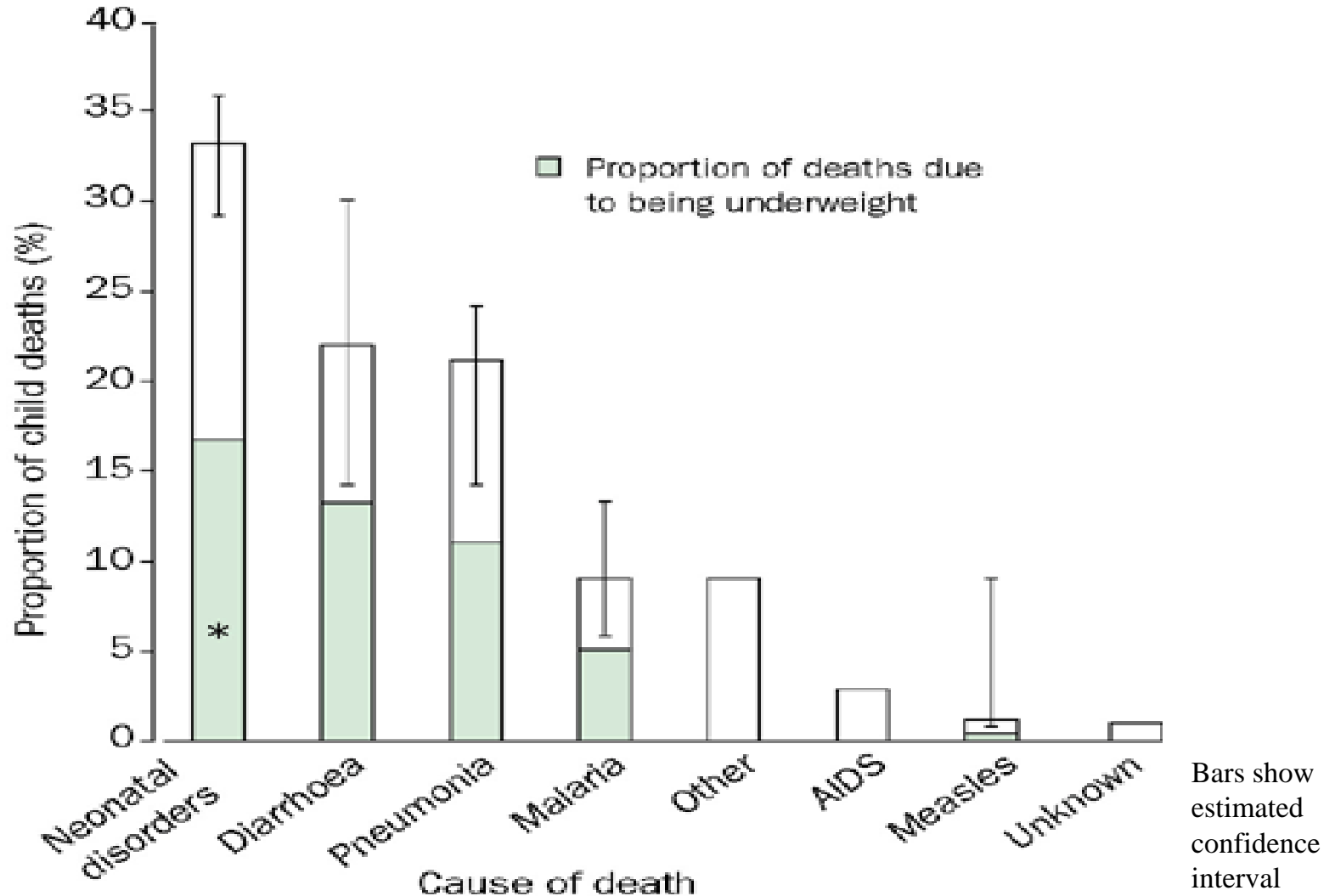
- **14% of children would die before their fifth birthday** and of those who survived
- **40% would be stunted** and,
- **30% would be underweight**

This shows the inadequacies of the International Extreme Poverty Line for children



# What kills the poorest children?

## Cause of death for children under five



# Severe Deprivation of Basic Human Need for Children in 2010

(Items in **Bold** have improved since 2000)

- Almost a third of the world's children live in dwellings with more than five people per room or which have a mud floor.
- Over half a billion children (25%) have no toilet facilities whatsoever.
- **Over 230 million children (11%) are using unsafe (open) water sources or have more than a 30-minute round trip to walk to collect water.**
- **About one child in ten, aged 3 to 18, lacks access to radio, television, telephone or newspapers at home.**
- Seventeen percent of children under five years in the world are severely malnourished, almost half of whom are in South Asia.
- **80 million children (9%) have not been immunised against any diseases or have had a recent illness causing diarrhoea and have not received any medical advice or treatment.**
- **One child in fifteen aged between 7 and 18 (over 87 million) are severely educationally deprived - they have never been to school.**

# Direct comparisons of child poverty in low, middle & high income countries : Uganda, Tonga & UK

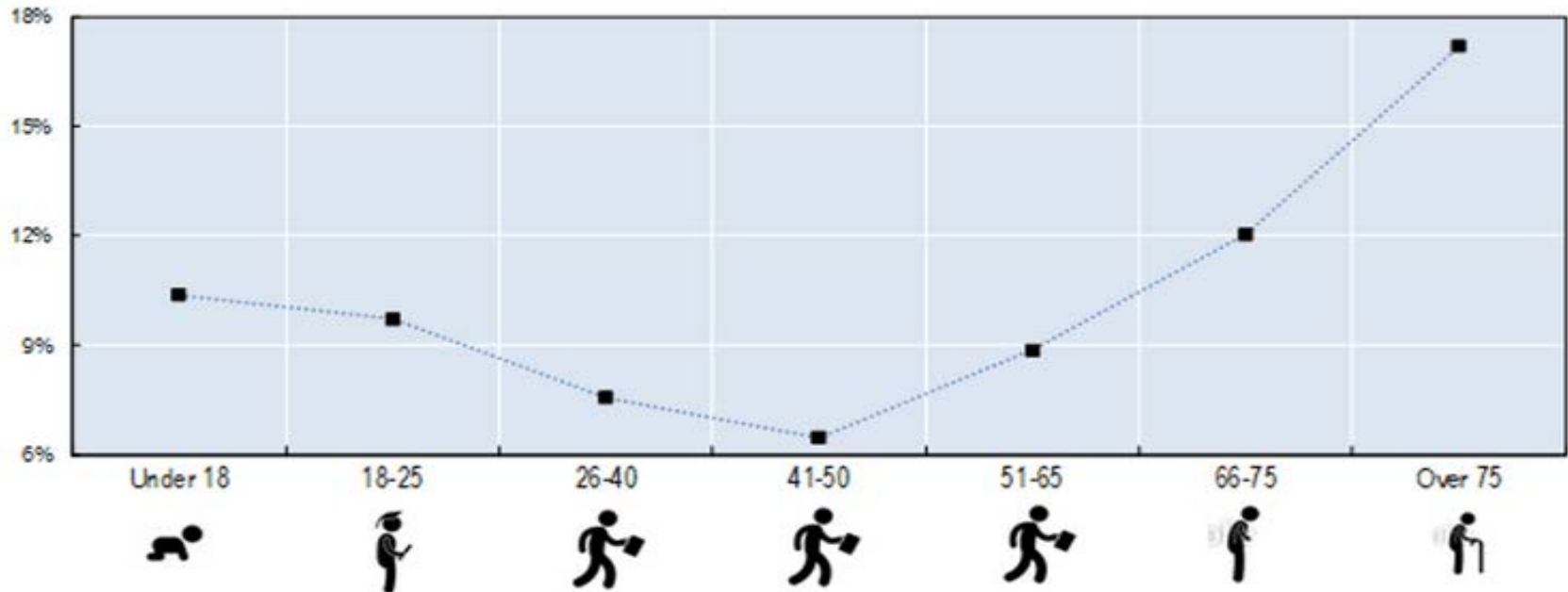
Items for children	Uganda	Tonga	UK
	Percentage who can't afford item		
Three meals a day	48%	8%	1%
One meal with meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent daily		8%	3%
Enough beds for every child in the household	74%	11%	-
A suitable place to study or do homework <sup>2</sup>	45%	10%	5%
New properly fitting shoes <sup>1</sup>	71%	12%	4%
Some new not second-hand clothes	63%	15%	4%
All school uniform and equipment required <sup>3</sup>	38%	6%	-
Participate in school trips and school events that costs money	34%	11%	8%
Celebration on special occasions	70%	17%	1%

<sup>1</sup> Uganda - Two pairs of shoes, <sup>2</sup> Uganda - Desk and chair for homework, <sup>3</sup> Uganda - All fees and uniform

# Summary of Outcomes of Child Poverty in Rich Countries

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Are Outcomes Associated with Poverty?</i>
• Mortality	Yes, strong association with social class
• Morbidity	Yes, strong association for most diseases
• Accidents	Yes, for fatal accidents (but not accident morbidity)
• Mental Illness	Yes
• Suicide	Yes
• Child Abuse	Yes, except sexual abuse
• Teenage Pregnancy	Yes
• Environment/Housing Conditions	Yes
• Homelessness	Yes
• Low Education attainment	Yes
• School exclusions	Don't Know
• Crime	No
• Smoking	Mainly after childhood
• Alcohol	No
• Drugs	No
• Child Labour	No

## Income Poverty Rates by Age Group in OECD Countries in the mid-1980s

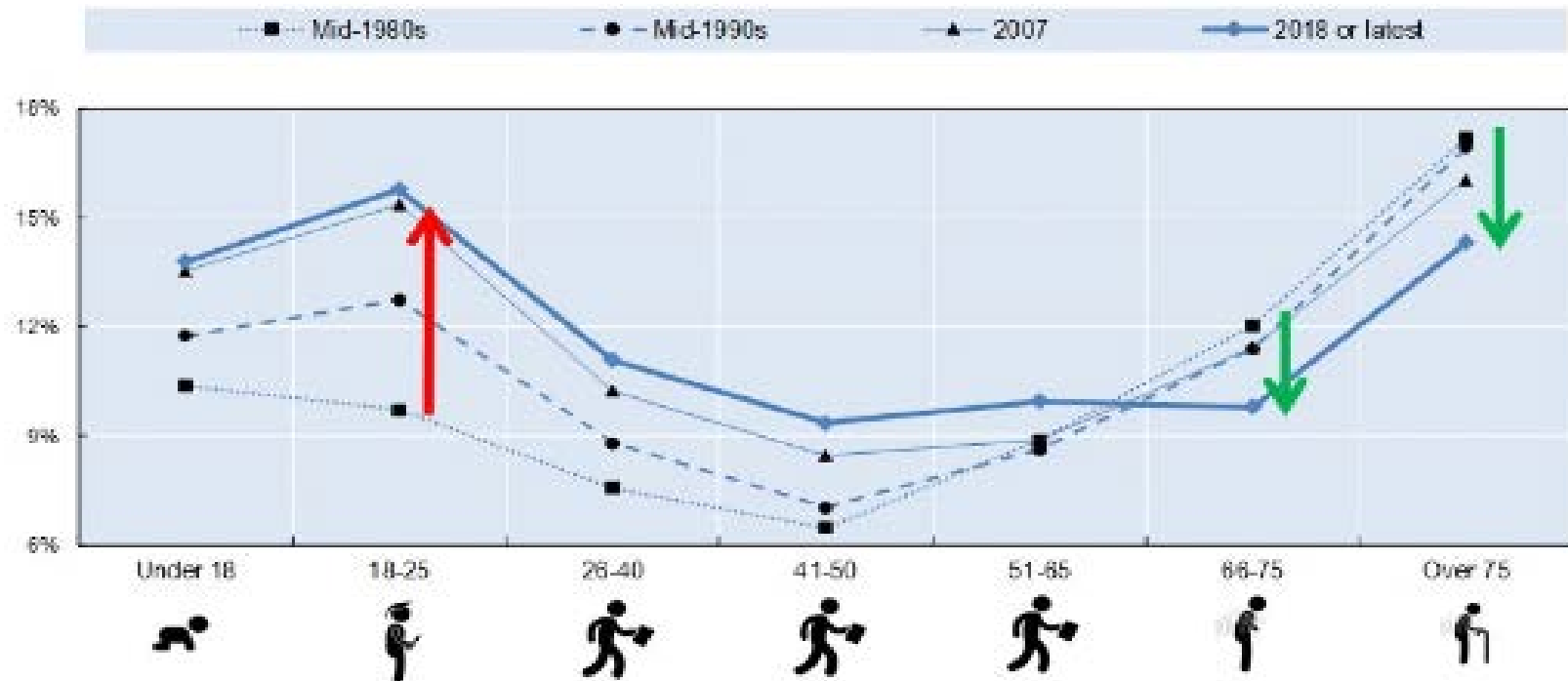


In the mid-1980s, older people were on average more likely to be poor than children or people of working age.

OECD poverty = less than half the median national household income.

<https://www.oecd-forum.org/posts/the-poverty-risk-has-shifted-from-the-elderly-to-young-people>

## Changes in Income Poverty Rates by Age Group in OECD Countries 1980s to 2018



Source: OECD Income Distribution Database (<http://ce.cd/idd>).

Poverty amongst older people has declined and child and youth poverty has increased over the past 40 years. This long term trend accelerated considerable after the 2008 financial crisis in OECD countries.

OECD poverty = less than half the median national household income.

<https://www.oecd-forum.org/posts/the-poverty-risk-has-shifted-from-the-elderly-to-young-people>

# Global Inequality 1995 to 2021

The richest 1% continue to own more wealth than the whole of the rest of humanity

Credit Suisse. (2017). Global Wealth Databook 2017

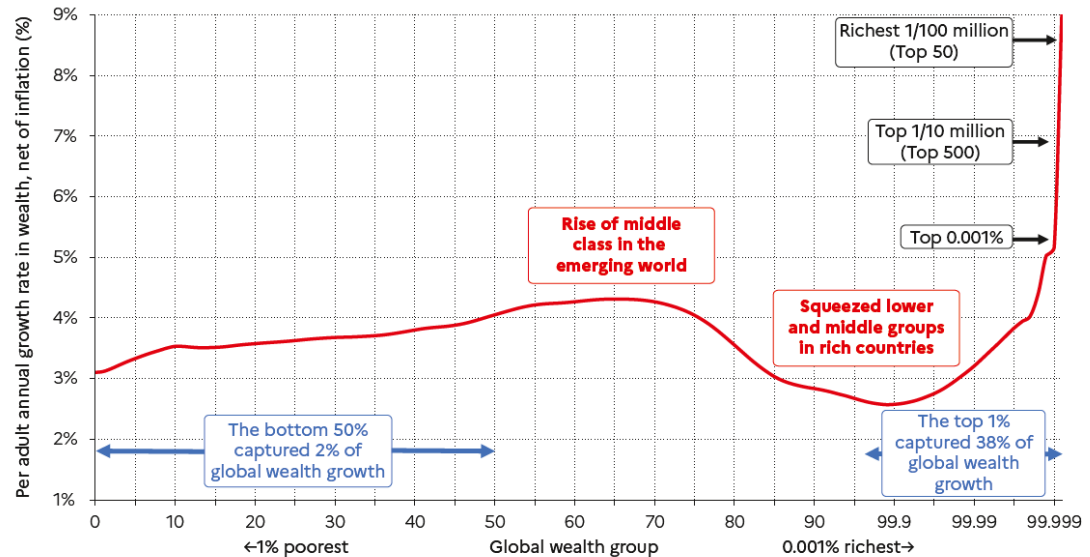
The world's ten richest men own more wealth than the bottom 40 percent of humanity, 3.1 billion people

Oxfam (2022) *Profiting From Pain*

If the pre-pandemic trends continue then the richest 1% will own 64% of the world's wealth by 2030

UK House of Commons Library Research: Inclusive Growth, April 2018

<https://www.inclusivegrowth.co.uk/house-commons-library-research>



**Interpretation:** Growth rates among the poorest half of the population were between 3% and 4% per year, between 1995 and 2021. Since this group started from very low wealth levels, its absolute levels of growth remained very low. The poorest half of the world population only captured 2.3% of overall wealth growth since 1995. The top 1% benefited from high growth rates (3% to 9% per year). This group captured 38% of total wealth growth between 1995 and 2021. Net household wealth is equal to the sum of financial assets (e.g. equity or bonds) and non-financial assets (e.g. housing or land) owned by individuals, net of their debts. **Sources and series:** [wir2022.wid.world/methodology](http://wir2022.wid.world/methodology).

## Estimated distribution of global wealth under different scenarios, 2017-2030

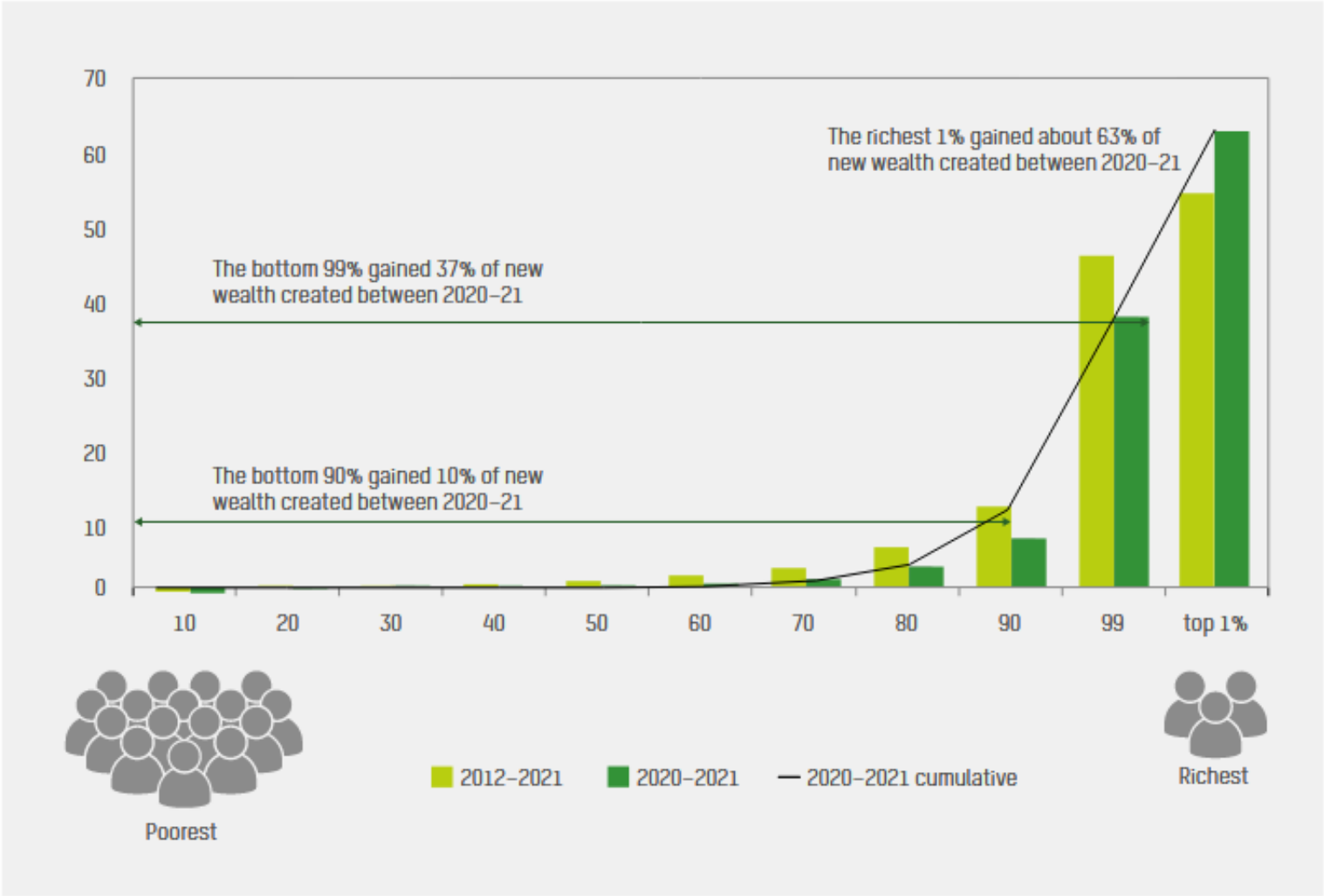
	Least wealthy	
	Wealthiest 1%	99%
<b>Share of total wealth in 2017</b>	50%	50%
<i>Total wealth, annual rate of increase 2000-17</i>	6%	5%
<i>Total wealth, annual rate of increase 2008-17</i>	6%	3%
<b>Share of total wealth in 2030</b>		
Assuming total wealth grows at 2000-17 annual rate	54%	46%
Assuming total wealth grows at 2008-17 annual rate	64%	36%

Note: the composition of each group will change from year to year. Someone who is in the wealthiest 1% in one year may be in the least wealthy 99% in the next.

Source: Estimates based on wealth data for 2000-2017 published in Credit Suisse, *Global Wealth Report 2017* and *Global Wealth Databook 2017*

# Increasing Global Wealth Inequality During the COVID Pandemic

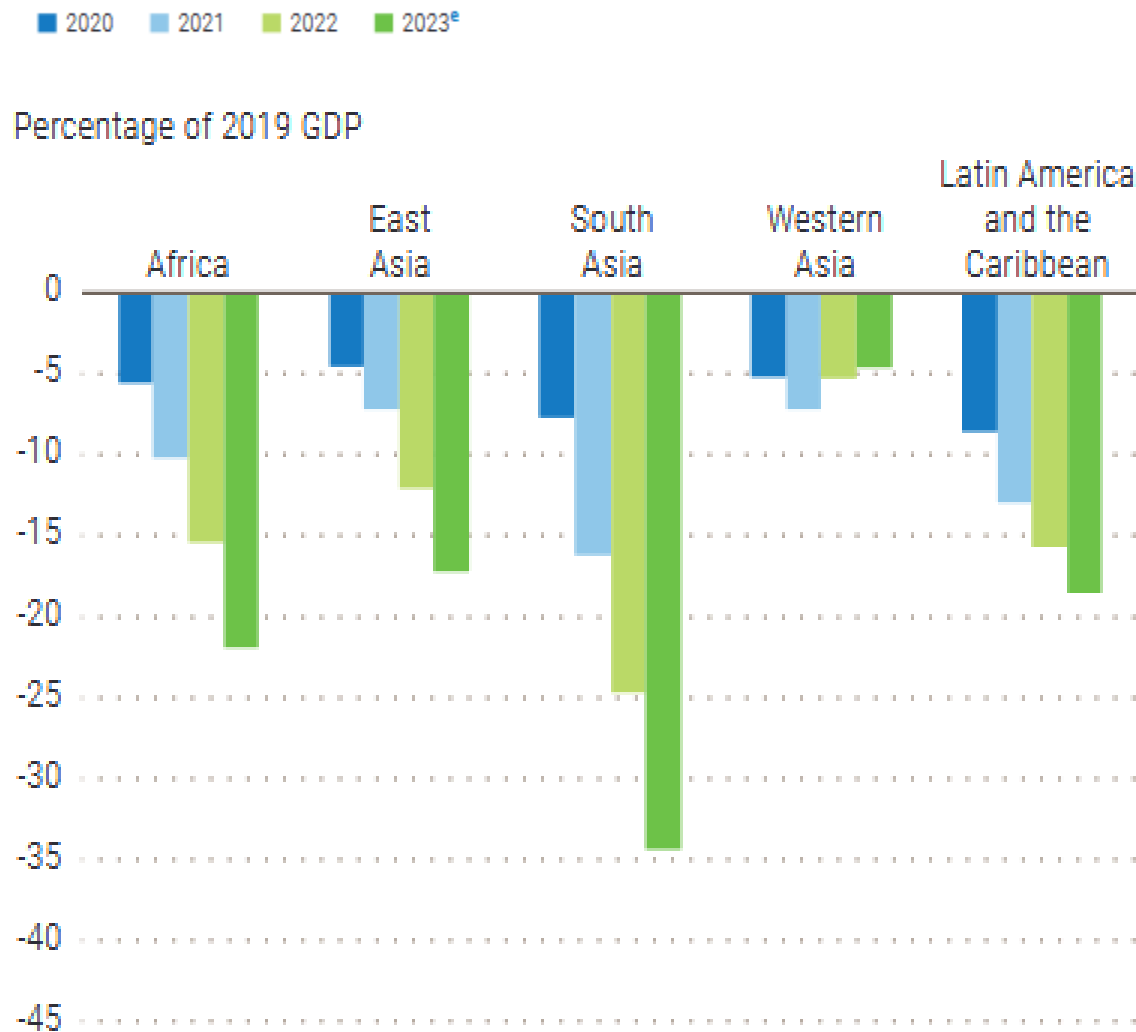
**FIGURE 1** SHARE OF NEW WEALTH GAINED (% OF TOTAL NEW WEALTH)



Source: Oxfam calculation based on Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report.<sup>23</sup>



## Cumulative Losses in GDP: 2020 to 2023 relative to pre-pandemic projections



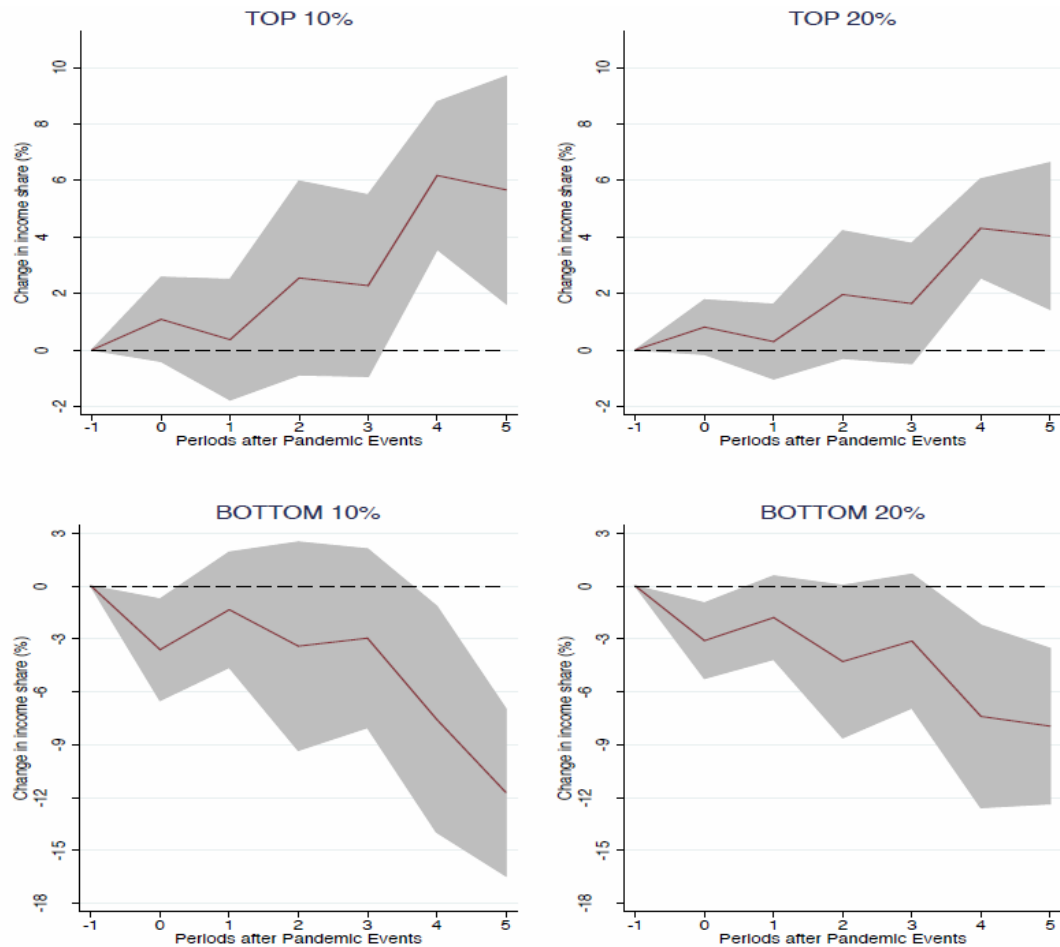
Source: UNDESA (2024) World Economic Situation & Prospects.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-2024/>

# Pandemics have always done greater harm to poor and vulnerable people and resulted in increases in poverty and inequality

## Average impact of the last five epidemics on Inequality: Income shares of the richest and poorest in 64 Countries

(SARS in 2003, H1N1 in 2009, MERS in 2012, Ebola in 2014 and Zika in 2016)



'Periods' are years before & after the epidemic

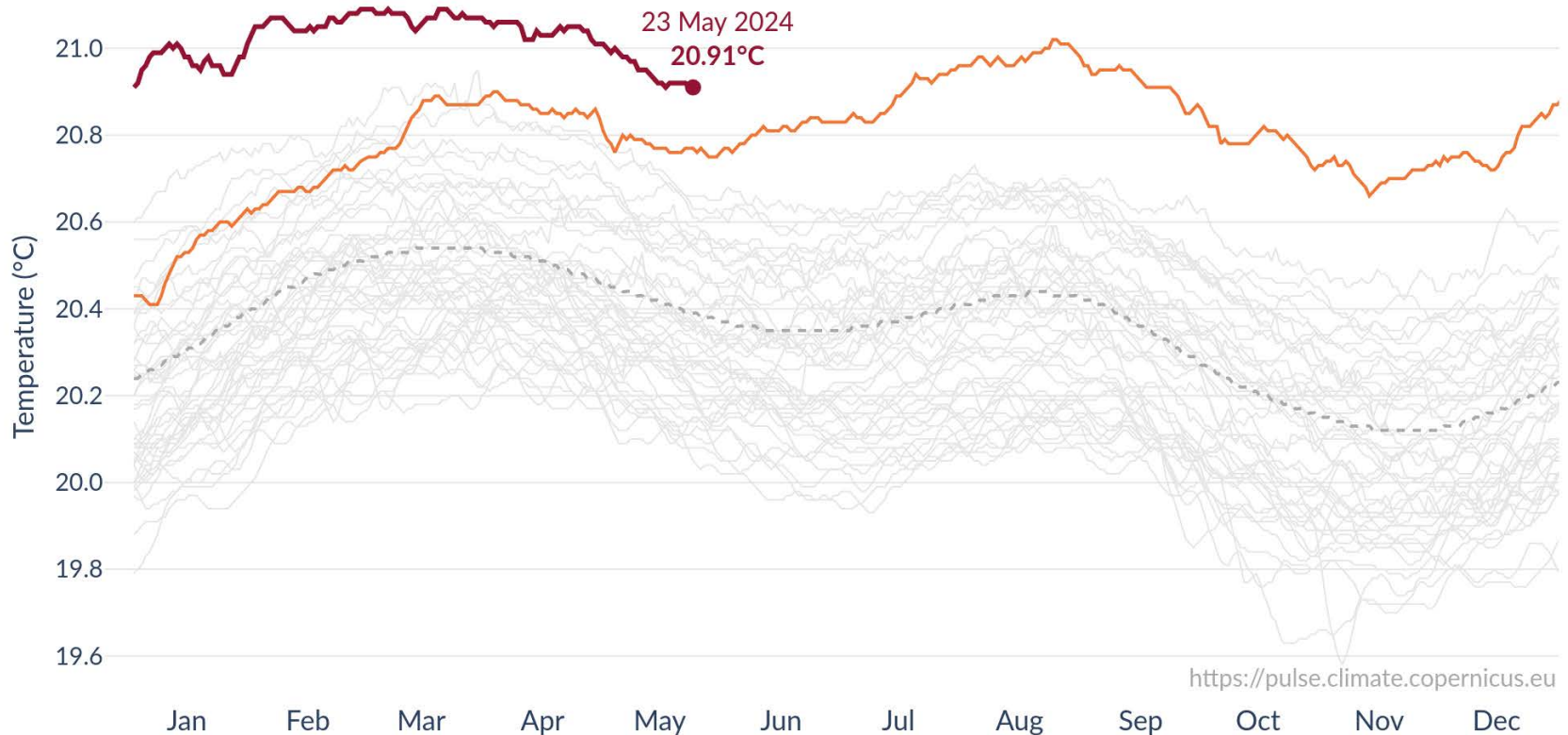
Source: Furceri et al, (2020) Will Covid-19 affect inequality? Evidence from past pandemics. *Covid Economics*, 12, 138-157

# The Sea Surface Temperature in January 2024 was 1.52°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average

## Daily sea surface temperature for 60°S–60°N

Data: ERA5 1979–2024 • Credit: C3S/ECMWF

— 2024 — 2023 — 1979–2022 - - - 1991–2020 average

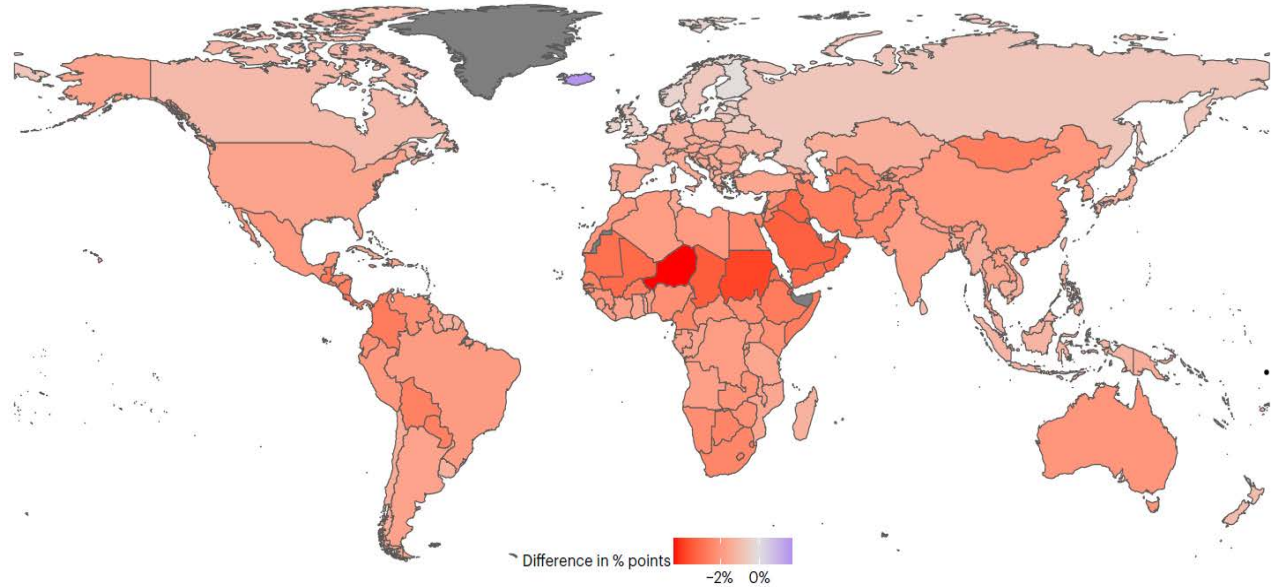
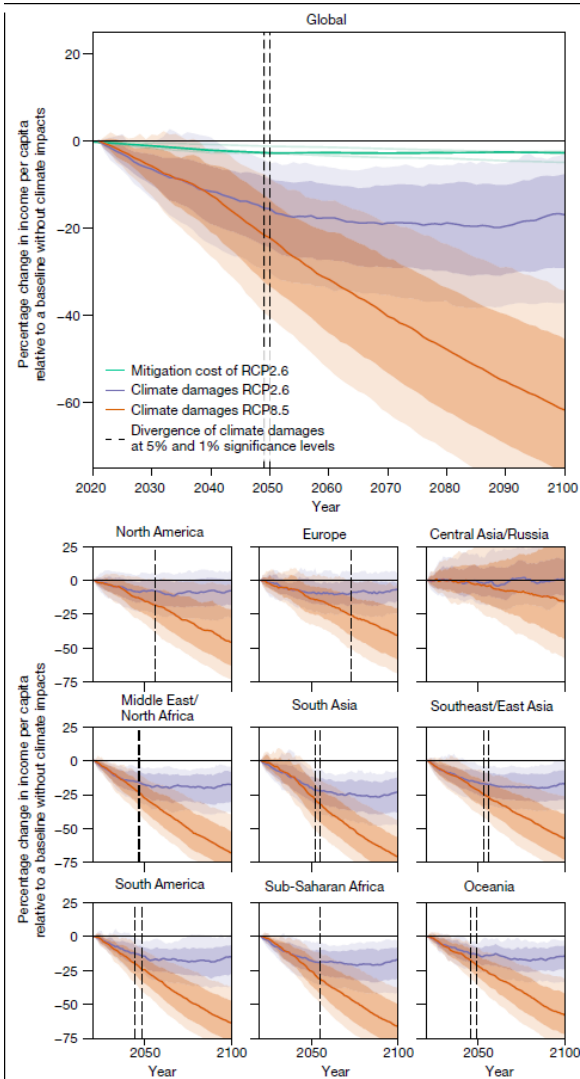


PROGRAMME OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION



# Estimated reduction in income per capita due to Climate Change

## Estimated reduction in GDP from + 3° C global warming



Sources:

Kotz et al (2024) The economic commitment of climate change. *Nature* 628, 551–557

Waidelich et al (2024) Climate damage projections beyond annual temperature. *Nature Climate Change*

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-024-01990-8>

# WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health

- 1** Improve the conditions of daily life – the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.
- 2** Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money, and resources – the structural drivers of those conditions of daily life – globally, nationally, and locally.
- 3** Measure the problem, evaluate action, expand the knowledge base, develop a workforce that is trained in the social determinants of health, and raise public awareness about the social determinants of health.

## Don't Be Poor – the social determinants of health.

The Chief Medical Officer's Ten Tips for Better Health	Alternative Tips
1 Don't smoke. If you can, stop. If you can't, cut down.	Don't be poor. If you are poor, try not to be poor for too long.
2 Follow a balanced diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables.	Don't live in a deprived area. If you do, move.
3 Keep physically active	Don't be disabled or have a disabled child.
4 Manage stress by, for example, talking things through and making time to relax.	Don't work in a stressful low-paid manual job.
5 If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.	Don't live in damp, low quality housing or be homeless.
6 Cover up in the sun, and protect children from sunburn.	Be able to afford to pay for social activities and annual holidays.
7 Practise safer sex.	Don't be a lone parent.
8 Take up cancer screening opportunities.	Claim all benefits to which you are entitled.
9 Be safe on the roads: follow the Highway Code.	Be able to afford to own a car.
10 Learn the First Aid ABC: airways, breathing and circulation.	Use education as an opportunity to improve your socio-economic position.
Source: DoH (1999) Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation. London: The Stationery Office	Source: Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research, University of Bristol

# **Redistribution is the only Solution to Child Poverty**

The economics are very simple and are entirely concerned with redistribution – where sufficient resources are redistributed from adults to children there is no child poverty; where insufficient resources are redistributed from adults to children child poverty is inevitable

Children cannot and should not do paid work to generate the resources they need to escape from poverty. This is the job of adults.

Children should be spending their time playing and learning not working at paid labour.