

**What does poverty mean?**

**How has it changed over the course of history?**

Poverty is defined differently from country to country. Poverty in relation to a person's specific social environment is referred to as relative poverty. On the other hand extreme or absolute poverty describes the situation of people who do not have sufficient financial means to cover their vital basic needs. Absolute poverty is measured by such factors as life expectation, income per capita, child mortality or birth rate.

Although today more than a sixth of the world's population live in extreme poverty the number of those people affected has been substantially reduced in the last decades. In 1960, 20 million children died before the age of five, while in 2010 there were less than 8 million deaths. In the last 25 years the number of people who live in extreme poverty has been halved. The UN has set the goal to eradicate poverty and hunger worldwide by 2030.