

Quotations and facts relating to Global Health

Nelson Mandela

- Health is a basic human right
- Global ill health is primarily a symptom of poverty and inequality
- While poverty exists there is no true freedom

UN and UNICEF see <http://www.unicef.org>.

- Approximately 1.2 billion people from a total population of 6.6 billion in the world live in extreme poverty; (less than one dollar per day).
- At any given time, close to half of all people in developing countries suffer from a health problem caused by water and sanitation deficits
- In 2005, about 10.1 million children died before they reached their fifth birthday. Almost all of these deaths occurred in developing countries, three-quarters of them in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia; the two regions that also suffer from the highest rates of hunger and malnutrition.
- The lack of food erodes relationships and feeds shame so that those most in need of support are often least able to call on it
- The four most common childhood illnesses are diarrhoea, acute respiratory illness, malaria and measles. All of these illnesses are both preventable and treatable.
- Poverty interferes with parents' ability to access immunizations and medicines.
- Chronic undernourishment on top of insufficient treatment greatly increases a child's risk of death.
- An overwhelming 31 percent of 5 year-olds in developing countries are moderately to severely stunted, or seriously below normal height for one's age
- Poverty interferes with parents' ability to access immunizations and medicines.
- Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names; two in every three of these are female.
- 20% of the population in the developed nations (*i.e. 5% of the global population*) consume 86% of the world's goods
- In 1999 the developing world was spending \$13 on debt repayment for every \$1 it received in grants
- Sub-Saharan Africa loses about 5% of GDP, or some \$28.4 billion annually, a figure that exceeds total aid flows and debt relief to the region in 2003
- To these human costs can be added the massive economic waste associated with the water and sanitation deficit.... The costs associated with health spending, productivity losses and labor diversions ... are greatest in some of the poorest countries.
- A world where some live in comfort and plenty, while half of the human race lives on less than \$2 a day, is neither just, nor stable
- An estimated 38.6 Million people worldwide were living with HIV in 2005. An estimated 4.1 Million became newly infected with HIV and an estimated 2.8 million lost their lives to AIDS
- In Sub-Saharan Africa for every young man with HIV there are three young women infected.

Mary Robison former President of Ireland and former UN Commissioner for Human Rights

- Article 1 of the Declaration of Human Rights (1948) says “*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights*” How far we are from implementing in reality for the millions living in poverty for the millions who don't have access to emergency dental care or to preventive measures to help them in their own oral health.
- About 210,000 children die each week, or just under 11 million children under five years of age, each year due to poverty. This is the equivalent of a weekly “silent Tsunami” that passes virtually without recognition by the rest of the global community

Safe Water for International Travellers see:

<http://www.aldeaglobal.com.ar/agua/superior.htm>.

- 5,000 children die each day as a result of water-borne diseases in developing areas of the world
- One billion of the six billion people in the world do not have access to safe water.
- It is estimated that diarrhoeal diseases that result from contaminated water kill about 2 million children and cause about 900 million episodes of illness each year
- Some 2.6 billion people have no sanitation and, every year, 1.6 million children under the age of five die because of such a lack of access.
- Only 20% of countries in the world have been designated as having safe water supplies where water borne infections are non-existent
- Some Young girls who have to walk miles to fetch the family's water do not have time to go to school
- Three billion people do not have access to modern sanitation and have to think about where their waste will go.

Bread for the World

<http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-basics/hunger-facts-international.html>.

- 820 million people in the developing world are seriously undernourished.
- A lack of food can stunt growth, cause slow thinking, sap energy, hinder foetal development and contribute to mental retardation
- Poor nutrition and calorie deficiencies cause nearly one in three people to die prematurely or have disabilities
- Pregnant women, new mothers who breastfeed infants and children are among the most at risk of undernourishment.
- It has been estimated that less than one per cent of what the world spent every year on weapons was needed to put every child into school by the year 2000 – that did not happen
- Every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes
- In other words, one child dies from hunger-related causes every five seconds.

Jimmy Carter (Carter Foundation) see <http://www.cartercenter.org/homepage.html>.

- Ghana has lost 604 of 871 Medical Officers
- Zambia lost 550 of 600 trained in 4 years
- 360 doctors left in Zimbabwe (1200 trained)
- Malawi has lost
 - 85% of its doctors

- 65% of its nurses
- 53% health administrators
- 930,000 people have HIV/AIDS in Malawi
- Where does responsibility lie?

The Institute for Food and Development Policy 2001

- 0.13% of the world's population controlled 25% of the world's assets in 2004
- Each year 2.2 million children die because they are not immunized.

New Internationalist

- Every year, more than 20 million low-birth weight babies are born in developing countries. These babies risk dying in infancy, while those who survive often suffer lifelong physical and cognitive disabilities

Jeffrey Sachs on poverty and global health

<http://www.earth.columbia.edu/about/director/publicat.html>.

- Some villages are dependent on water from holes that collect run-off water and excrement from humans and animals.
- Some hospitals operate without electricity or running water.
- Access to hospital described as 4 hours by wheel-barrow in one region.
- Total spent annually per person on health in sub-Saharan Africa is \$20 (compare US \$6,000).
- In the region of Ruhira, Uganda annual budget for health care is \$1.90 per person.
- Female genital mutilation at 6 years of age is a normal and accepted practice in some regions.
- The developed world spends too little on global poverty alleviation
- Target agreed is 0.7 % of GDP but that is only reached by a small number of countries
- US biggest contributor - yet only at 0.17% of GDP
- \$250 Billion per year is required according to Sachs to eliminate global poverty. That is the equivalent of:
 - just 1% of total income of developed world,
 - or one half of the annual US military budget.
- Corruption and inadequate infrastructure should not be allowed to prevent aid efforts
- People are dying – its an emergency
- Foreign aid to alleviate poverty makes sound economic sense:
 - promotes self-sufficiency and investment in local produce and increased crop yield,
 - drives economic growth and greater political and social stability,
 - could transform a health catastrophe into a business proposition,
 - calculated to generate economic benefits of \$360 Billion per year,
 - could save 8,000,000 lives per year.

Bush NYT July 18th. 2001

- “Almost half the world's population lives on less than two dollars a day, yet even this statistic fails to capture the humiliation, powerlessness and brutal hardship that is the daily lot of the world's poor. A world where some live in comfort and plenty, while half of the human race lives on less than \$2 a day, is neither just, nor stable”

Koffi Anan October 2000

- The Universal Declaration on Human Rights states that "everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his/her family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services".
- For the most of humanity, these rights are increasingly inaccessible.
- 30,000 children die each day due to poverty. They "die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. Being meek and weak in life makes these dying multitudes even more invisible in death."
- That is about 210,000 children each week, or just under 11 million children under five years of age, each year.