

## Complete Poverty Quiz – Questions & Answers

1. Why are so many people starving? Isn't there enough food in the world?
2. Why should we be concerned about world poverty when there are so many poor people in the U.S.?
3. Why can't rich countries just ship food to the poor?
4. Doesn't the U.S. spend a huge amount of money on foreign aid?
5. Does all of the foreign aid really make a difference? Isn't it true that for all of the money spent on aid, we could just give each poor person \$1,000?
6. Why do so many charities ask for funds to help the poor overseas if our government is already helping so much?
7. Why is clean water so important and why is it so hard to obtain in poor countries?
8. Why is there so much emphasis on helping women in poor countries?
9. Isn't corruption a big problem in poor countries?
10. What are the Millennium Development Goals and what do they have to do with poverty?
11. What is microfinance and does it really help?
12. What is advocacy and can it really make a difference?

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Answers:

1. There actually is plenty of food in the world to feed every person, yet nearly 800 million people are chronically hungry. The problem is not food production, but food availability and distribution.
2. It's true that a significant percentage of Americans are poor. However, millions around the world are starving, dying of thirst and common causes like malaria and diarrhea. The U.S. offers emergency medical care and food banks, while overseas people have no safety net. There is a need to help both groups.
3. Although some food is shipped during times of immediate crisis, as in following a natural disaster, it is expensive and difficult for food to reach people in outlying areas which are not easily accessible. If food is sent, it can depress local agricultural products and cause a decrease in income for farmers in the country in need.
4. The U.S. gives more than any other country, but as a percentage of our national budget, we are not even in the top 20 in giving.
5. In the short run, cash would help some people buy food or clothing, but for many poor people, there are not stores or banks nearby. Schools, roads, access to clean water and other aspects of infrastructure are what is really needed to build community and a means of self-sufficiency.
6. Certain charities have access to countries and communities that governments do not. Many charitable organizations have established staff in local areas, and are uniquely qualified to assess needs and make sure money goes where it's needed.
7. When a community has ready access to clean water, health improves, sanitation improves, and people spend much less time searching for and retrieving water. Poor children are often given the job of retrieving water, and therefore cannot attend school. Many poor countries do not have the resources to drill wells, and often the geography requires deep drilling.

8. Studies have shown that educated women are better able to understand and take care of their family's health. They are better able to teach their own children to read, and better able to begin a small business or enterprise and meaningfully contribute to the financial well-being of the family.
9. Corruption has been and continues to be a problem in poor countries. Resources earmarked for the good of the people has been funneled toward political leaders. President Obama has made a plea to many impoverished countries to put an end to corruption and for leaders to work for the good of all people.
10. The Millennium Development Goals were developed by the United Nations in 2000, as a way to set goals for eradication of poverty, promoting education of women, reducing child mortality, fighting disease, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The U.S. government agreed to support these goals and work toward reaching them.
11. Microfinance is a way of making small loans to poor people so they can begin or work to improve a small local business. When a loan is repaid, the money is often used to finance another small loan. Microfinance helps build local economies and financial self-sufficiency in poor communities.
12. Advocacy simply means lending your voice to a cause as a private citizen. Citizens who write letters to their representatives or letters to the editor, or in other ways voice their opinion about taking action, are an important force in policy-making. Each person's voice can make a difference, and does count.