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Things that cause and keep people in poverty

1. Conflicts and unrest

Many communities that are really poor also live in places of conflict. This means people can have their homes damaged, fall ill and even get killed because of the fighting, so it's hard for them to even survive.

2. Location and poor-quality land

Some places in the world have no good land for growing crops and not many jobs for people to earn money. These places can also be far from the roads, shops and businesses that people need access to for the chance to work to avoid poverty.

3. Natural disasters, climate change and extreme weather

Many poorer places in the world are badly affected by extreme weather such as drought and floods. This problem is getting worse due to man-made climate change, partly caused by pollution from cars, farming and industry in richer countries.

4. Lack of government funding

Governments can use money they collect from taxes to pay for things like schools and hospitals, which can reduce poverty. Some governments choose to spend money in other ways, rather than helping the poorest.

5. International trade

Some rules of international trade are better for richer countries and worse for poorer countries. For example, a rich country might pay its farmers more to produce food, which the rich country can sell at a cheaper price than the food grown by farmers in a poor country.

6. Debt

Across the world many banks encourage families to borrow money to buy things like houses, cars and household appliances. Borrowing is also called debt and sometimes banks increase the cost of borrowing this money, which can leave people struggling to repay debt and still have enough to spend on essential things like food and shelter. Debt can also be a big problem for poor countries, as the more money needed to pay off debt, the less there is to spend on reducing poverty.

7. Prices going down in the world market

Many poor countries make their money from selling crops they grow, such as coffee, tea, rice and wheat to other countries in the world. The prices for these goods can go up or down. If the prices go down then the farmers in the poor country get less money for the crops they've grown, increasing poverty.

8. Low wages and exploitation

In many jobs the amount that people get paid is not enough for them to escape poverty, even if they work very long hours. People around the world expect to pay low prices for clothes and food and this can mean that the poorer people making the clothes or growing the food stay on low wages.

9. Ill health and disability

Poverty can get worse if communities are affected with diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS. Diseases cause many deaths and children can even be left with no-one to look after them. Where people are disabled it can be much harder for their household to find ways out of poverty.

10. Lack of education, training and skills

People who are educated and trained in new skills are better prepared to get well-paid jobs that can improve their lives. Without education, people cannot help themselves, they find it harder to prevent diseases, and the result is that their poverty situation is worse.

11. Gender discrimination

Around the world, women still get less pay than men for doing similar jobs. In some countries women are not even allowed to do certain jobs and so they don't get these chances to improve their lives. Where women can work in well-paid jobs, the whole family has a better chance of getting out of poverty.