

# Injustice - Poverty

Let's pray for those suffering poverty around the world, particularly during COVID-19.

Coronavirus has changed the world - it's changed all of us. But what it hasn't changed is our faith in God and our calling to live as Jesus commands us. We continue to **love our neighbours, pray and take action**, both in our local communities and across the world. We go to where the need is greatest, as Jesus would do.

In some of the poorest countries life is already difficult. Many people are already struggling to get food and clean water, earn a daily wage and are at risk from sexual and gender-based violence. The impact of coronavirus and the lockdowns used to limit its spread are compounding the huge challenges people already face.

A new analysis by researchers including King's College London, warns that the economic contraction caused by Covid-19 could push an **additional 500 million people – about 8 percent of the Earth's population – into poverty**, reversing 30 years of economic improvement. "We were surprised at the sheer scale of the potential poverty tsunami that could follow Covid-19 in developing countries," said Andy Sumner, one of the study's authors.

A new study by the WFP found that lockdowns and the economic recession caused by Covid-19 may exacerbate an already dire worldwide hunger crisis, **almost doubling the number of people who could go hungry**, pushing a total of 265 million people to the brink of starvation by the end of the year.

## Areas of Prayer

- **Yemen** - Silently but steadily the virus has taken root in the Arab world's poorest country. Its spread can be glimpsed in anecdotes from doctors and snippets on social media. Half of the health facilities have been destroyed by five years of conflict. Numerous diseases are already endemic in Yemen and years of civil war has displaced millions. More than 24 million Yemenis - 80% of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance. Half of the country's health facilities are dysfunctional and nearly a quarter of the country's districts have no doctors. **Pray for** medical staff who have been overwhelmed. The United Nations and other

donor states to urgently find ways to step up the response, including through hands-on interventions of medical humanitarian agencies and support to the Yemeni health system with money to pay healthcare staff, equipment to protect them, and oxygen concentrators.

- **Routine immunisations** - In the early days of COVID-19, mass vaccination campaigns were paused to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. A recent statement from the World Health Organization, UNICEF and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance showed that routine immunisation services have been substantially hindered in at least 68 countries, affecting approximately 80 million children under the age of 1. A further 24 million people in Gavi-supported lower-income countries are at risk of missing out on vaccines against polio, measles, typhoid, yellow fever, cholera, rotavirus, HPV, meningitis A and rubella. It is in these communities, that often have poor access to health care and treatments, that vaccines are of the highest importance. By providing protection against infection in the first place the vaccines can mean the difference between life and death. **Pray** that governments continue to champion and invest in immunisation systems in every country.
- **Refuge Camps** - COVID-19 threatens refugee camps. People in refugee camps in Syria, Greece and Bangladesh face a heightened risk of COVID-19 due to more densely populated conditions.

## COVID-19 is a powerful reminder of the world's inequalities. Some statistics...

- Yemen has only 31 coronavirus tests for every million people, Nigeria had only 165 tests per million people, northeast Syria just 59.
- There are 11 ventilators for Burkina Faso's population of 20.9 million.
- 1/2 of Venezuela's doctors have left the country because of humanitarian crisis.
- There are 204 people per 1,000 meters squared in Moria refugee camp in Greece.

## Prayer for an end to poverty:

Before praying remember that there is nowhere God is absent, powerless or irrelevant; no situation in the universe in the face of which God is at a loss. (Rowan Williams)

“Creator God,  
you loved the world into life.  
Forgive us when our dreams of the future  
are shaped by anything other than glimpses of a kingdom  
of justice, peace and an end to poverty.  
Incarnate God,  
you taught us to speak out for what is right.  
Make us content with nothing less than a world  
that is transformed into the shape of love,  
where poverty shall be no more.  
Breath of God,  
let there be abundant life.  
Inspire us with the vision of poverty over,  
and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen.”

## Practical ways to help:

**Give** - [https://help.rescue.org/donate/monthly-donor?  
ms=ws\\_h2hnav\\_sust\\_cta&initialms=ws\\_h2hnav\\_sust\\_cta](https://help.rescue.org/donate/monthly-donor?ms=ws_h2hnav_sust_cta&initialms=ws_h2hnav_sust_cta)

[https://www.tearfund.org/en/latest/coronavirus\\_emergency\\_appeal/](https://www.tearfund.org/en/latest/coronavirus_emergency_appeal/)

**Champion the rights of refugees** - [https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/  
news/changes-to-home-office-asylum-resettlement-policy-and-practice-in-  
response-to-covid-19/](https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/changes-to-home-office-asylum-resettlement-policy-and-practice-in-response-to-covid-19/)