

The idea of “two sides, one coin” shows the divide of children born in poverty in West African countries. Children living under harsh conditions with corrupt governments, can be compared to those living in stable, well-developed countries. A contrast is obvious when comparing regions in West Africa to a more developed society like New Zealand.

The cycle of poverty in many countries in West Africa has huge effects on people. Men, children and women often suffer from Chronic Malnutrition from food insecurities, each family commonly living off less than \$2 a day. Malnutrition, caused by prolonged inadequate intake of nutrients, leads to diminutive growth and development in children, most commonly in children under 5 years of age. Chronic malnutrition leads to victims being physically and mentally disadvantaged, making their day-to-day lives more challenging. Families living in poverty in West Africa have poor access to water, and it's not uncommon for mothers and children to walk miles carrying large buckets of water, leading to long-term spinal fatigue and sprain. With no food and no safe drinking water it is extremely difficult for children to climb out of poverty.

Education, which should be a pathway out of poverty, is limited due to poorly resourced schools caused by the government's lack of spending. Having less than an average of 12% of its budget spent on education, the government is failing to pay teachers, and some students are forced to walk miles to attend school for less than five hours a day. On average, children spend less than six years of total in schooling. This is shocking because there is enough wealth and resources in West Africa to give everyone a good education (Oxfam). Compared to a more developed society like New Zealand, children are educated and are given fair chances to gain school qualifications which leads to families getting fair wages based on their jobs, and access to clean water and electricity. These factors shape an individual's whole future.

The root cause of these daily struggles for the people living in poverty is greatly caused by the government's mismanagement. There's a lack of care, there's also corruption and a lack of investment in essential services/infrastructure. (Wikipedia).

In contrast, children born in developed countries experience an entirely different life. They have access to clean drinking water at all times, as well as nutritional meals, decent family income and a developed education system supported by the government. Students are schooled for 13+ years on average and use actual resources appropriate for a wide variety of subjects, offering a wide variety of career pathways. This clear imbalance reveals something unfair; the difference between the birthplace of a child causes a significant impact on its life. It's not fair that a child's birthplace should determine a life in poverty or a life enriched with the luxuries of a developed society.

In summary, global inequality would be reduced if politicians and world leaders could move past their political insecurities and start prioritising each other and unite as one large nation. A united, cooperating world system would allow all people, regardless of birthplace, access to all rights, necessities, end current and future wars, and provide fair opportunities for every person. Ultimately, we should eliminate global poverty, ensuring that everyone lives a fair life.