
THE SEVEN FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EXTREME POVERTY

ONE:

The Earth is changing

Droughts and famines are not theories and they are increasing in frequency, intensity, and duration. They are eroding the land and endangering all forms of life in east Africa.

TWO:

Extreme poverty is not an inconvenience, it is a death sentence

Millions of people die from malnutrition and disease.

THREE:

Big governments are not helping

Developed countries have their own agendas and their own bureaucracies. Curiously, few people believe their own government is effective in solving the major problems of their country, yet naively believe those same governments are solving the crises faced in other countries (sounds silly, doesn't it?)

FOUR:

Relief-based approaches solve today's problems; development-based approaches change the future

Relief-based humanitarian efforts feed people and help the sick, and they are very important for solving "today's problems." Development-focused work trains farmers, healthcare workers, and teachers. Development-focused work adopts and adapts technologies to help people adjust to changing conditions. Food security is growing your own food; health and well-being can only be achieved when you are part of your own healthcare system; and literacy is knowledge of your own culture and the ability to communicate at all levels with the people of your country. Relief helps people to survive and development helps people to thrive. We need them both; however, development is often under-appreciated.



FIVE:

Community-based approaches work, all others fail

To end extreme poverty, we must begin with the needs of the community as defined by the members of the community, then find or develop cheap, practical, and sustainable solutions (that do not create more problems), help get those solutions started and make sure they are working, then move on.

SIX:

The world has the technology and the expertise to end extreme poverty

*There are safe, inexpensive solutions to help solve every major problem facing Ethiopia and other poverty-stricken countries (i.e., tsetse fly control traps, sustainable farming, energy generation from biogas digesters, solar ovens, drip irrigation, malaria prevention using Artemisia, and many others). These are not "theoretical" solutions, they are working in Ethiopia right now; we need to support the spread of the proven solutions and champion the development of new solutions: **that is Praxis Ethiopia's mission.***

SEVEN:

Everyone can do something

Everyone is part of the solution to ending extreme poverty. You can learn more about the reality of extreme poverty. You can be an advocate for community-driven, development approaches to ending poverty. You can be a voice speaking out for compassion and respect for those born into extreme poverty and those extraordinary people who are surviving under some of the most harsh conditions in the world. You can contribute your time and talents and you can support organizations that work to train farmers, healthcare workers, and educators. Your thoughts, your actions, and your words will join with others to bring change into the world.