

# Absolute Poverty



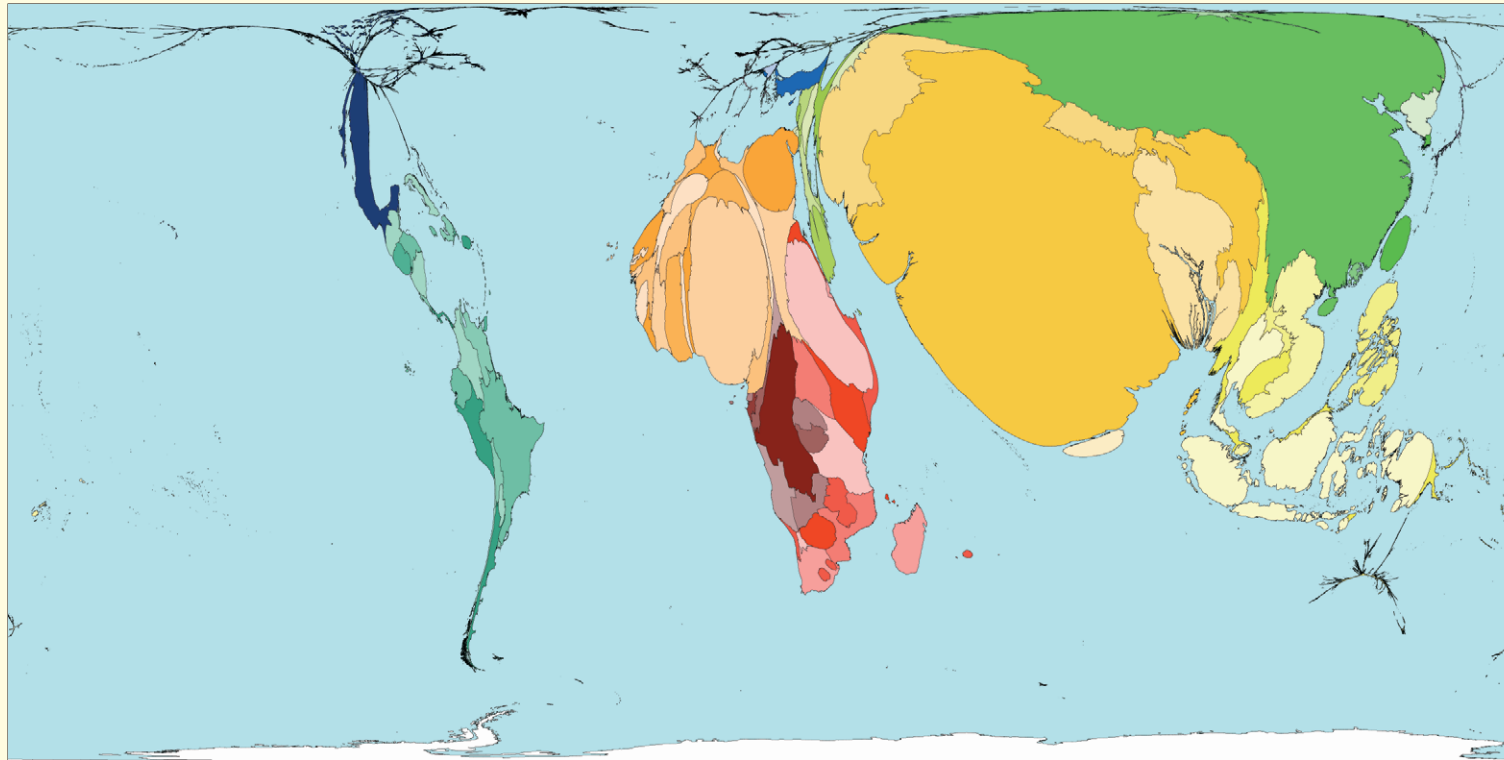
The University of Sheffield.



The Leverhulme Trust



Produced by the SASI group (Sheffield) and Mark Newman (Michigan)

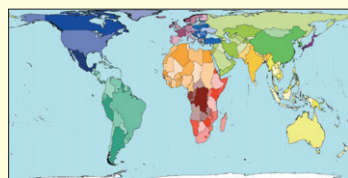


Absolute poverty is defined as living on the equivalent of US\$2 a day or less. In 2002, 43% of the world population lived on this little. This money has to cover the basics of food, shelter and water. Medicines, new clothing, and school books would not be on the priority list.

When almost an entire population lives on this little, it is unsurprising if undernourishment is high, education levels are low, and life expectancy short. In both Nigeria and Mali, 9 of every ten people survives on less than US\$2 a day.

South America has a relatively small poor population, yet 39 million people have less than US\$2 a day in Brazil.

Territory size shows the proportion of all people living on less than or equal to US\$2 in purchasing power parity a day.



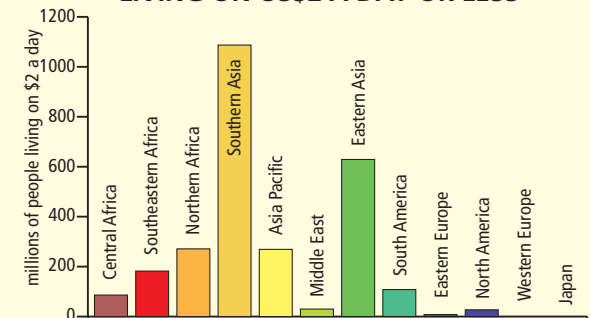
Land area

## TERRITORIES WITH HIGH ABSOLUTE POVERTY LEVELS

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Nigeria	90.8	17	Nepal	82.5
2	Mali	90.6	18	Burkina Faso	81.0
3	Burundi	89.2	19	Ethiopia	80.7
4	Zambia	87.4	20	India	79.9
11	Niger	85.3	20	Nicaragua	79.9
12	Rwanda	84.6	22	Ghana	78.5
13	Central African Republic	84.0	23	Mozambique	78.4
14	Madagascar	83.3	26	Cambodia	77.7
15	Gambia	82.9	27	Malawi	76.1
16	Bangladesh	82.8	28	Sierra Leone	74.5

percentage of population living on US\$2 a day adjusted for purchasing power parity\*

## LIVING ON US\$2 A DAY OR LESS



### Technical notes

- Data are from the United Nations Development Programme's 2004 Human Development Report.
- \*Omitted are territories where the regional average was assumed due to missing data (Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe, and Equatorial Guinea ranked 5th; the Maldives and Bhutan ranked 24th).
- See website for further information.

*“Trickle-down theory – the less than elegant metaphor that if one feeds the horse enough oats, some will pass through to the road for the sparrows.”*

John Kenneth Galbraith, undated