

World statistics icebreaker

Aim

Young people learn about the reality of injustice in the world using statistics, sourced July 2019.

You will need

- 20 minutes.
- Any type of room - use your space creatively.
- 20 cards with a statistic or statement on each one. You could print and cut up the ones below.
- A prop to represent each statistic. Use anything that is to hand, some examples below.
- A timer: e.g. stopwatch on phone, Countdown timer audio.

Activity

1. The group sits in a circle.
2. Lay out the cards and props all mixed up.
3. Check the group's understanding of the statements. For example, persecution is "mistreatment due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion or being a member of a social group. For example, threat to life, freedom or other human rights" ([UNHCR](#), paragraph 51).
4. Divide the group into two and ask for a volunteer from each team.
5. Tell the two volunteers they have 30 seconds to match a statistic with a statement and a prop. They should match up as many 'threes' as they can in the time limit. Encourage the team to call out with advice.
6. After 30 seconds check if they have matched the correct statistic, statement and prop. Give points for correct matches. Spread out incorrect matches again.
7. Discuss the correct statistics as you go - what are their responses? How do the statistics make them feel? Can they relate the statistics to their life? What questions do these statistics raise?
8. Invite two more volunteers to play, proceeding as before until all statistics are matched up.
9. Declare the winning team!

Make sure you have discussed each of the statistics and the young people's reactions to them. The statistics sheet has hyperlinks to all the facts and figures for further information.

Taking it further



Ask the group to choose the most surprising/worrying/hard-to-solve statistic. Ask individuals to stand next to the one they choose, then feed back, or come to a group decision through discussion.



Challenge the group to make a human pie chart for each statistic. If your group represented the seven billion people in the world, how many would, for example, have no access to clean water? (This will require some maths!)



Explore some Catholic social teaching or scripture, for example the parable of the sheep and goats, Matthew 25:31-46 (PowerPoint on [cafod.org.uk/secondary](#)). How does our faith call us to respond to inequality in the world?



Use this icebreaker for a session on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 17 global goals to end poverty. (Animation and factsheet at [cafod.org.uk/secondary](#))

Check out [cafod.org.uk/youth](#) for our latest global justice resources for youth groups.

Pray

Use the props and a candle as the focal point for a prayer at the end of the session. (You can find lots of prayers at [cafod.org.uk/pray](#))

Icebreaker statistics

Leader: use the table to link the statistics and props.

The Sustainable Development Goals are 17 global goals to end poverty and protect the planet, adopted in 2015 by all 193 countries of the UN. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/secondary

Statistic & source	Statement	Prop	Relevant Sustainable Development Goals
736 million UNstats	People living on less than £1.50 a day. Extreme poverty has been reduced for more than a billion people since 1990, falling every year. 413 million of people living in poverty were in sub-Saharan Africa. This figure is higher than the rest of the world combined. 46% of those living in extreme poverty are under 14 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1.50 cash 	1: No poverty 2: Zero hunger 8: Decent work and economic development
5.4 million UNstats	Children who will die this year before their fifth birthday. This is the equivalent of nearly 15,000 children dying every day. About 20,000 fewer children died every day than in 1990. However, Almost half (2.5 million) of the total number of under-5 deaths took place in the first month of life—the most crucial period for child survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cake with five candles or a picture of a cake 	1: No poverty 2: Zero hunger 3: Good health and well-being 6: Clean water and sanitation
64 million UNstats	Children not in primary school this year. Down from 100m in 2000. 262 million children and young people (6 to 17 years old) were still out of school in 2017. That is nearly one fifth of the global population in that age group. Of that number, 64 million were children of primary school age (about 6 to 11 years old), 61 million were of lower secondary school age (12 to 14 years old), and 138 million were of upper secondary school age (15 to 17 years old). “15 million girls of primary-school age will never get the chance to learn to read or write in primary school compared to about 10 million boys.” (UIS, 2016) 22 million (35%) of these children live in conflict-affected areas. (UIS, 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise book Text book Pen 	1: No poverty 4: Quality education 5: Gender equality
785 million UNstats	People with no access to safe drinking water. 785 million people still lack even basic drinking water services. A basic safe water drinking water service is defined as being within a 30 minute round trip of their home. 2.6 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water sources since 1990.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cup of water 	3: Good health and well-being 6: Clean water and sanitation
2.0 billion UNstats	People with no access to a household toilet. More than 1 in 3 people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets, at home. More people have a mobile phone than a household toilet. 673 Million people have open defecation, another 12% have access to unimproved pit or bucket latrines, and 8% have to share improved toilet facilities with two or more households. Globally, an estimated 3 billion people are still unable to properly wash their hands at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll of toilet paper 	3: Good health and well-being 6: Clean water and sanitation
840 million UNstats	People with no access to electricity. 1 in 10 people in the world do not have access to electricity. 87% of these people live in rural areas. 17.5% of energy consumption comes from renewable sources, 3 billion people do not have access to clean cooking facilities: that is nine times the population of the United States.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone charger 	7: Sustainable energy for all 12: Sustainable consumption and production
70.8 million UNHCR	People forced from their home by conflict or persecution. Among them are nearly 29.5 million refugees, over half of whom are under 18. 30 people are forcibly displaced every minute as a result of conflict or persecution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House keys 	10: Reducing inequalities 16: Peace and justice

<p>821 million UNstats</p>	<p>People without enough nutritious food 178 million more people have enough to eat than in 1990 but the number of people without enough food has increased for a second consecutive year (having fallen every year since 2008) mainly due to conflicts and drought and disasters linked to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some vegetables 	
Statistics for comparisons			
<p>7.72 billion worldometer</p>	<p>People in the world. 84% of the world's population live in developing countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globe or map 	
<p>66.9 million worldometer</p>	<p>People in the UK. That's less than as the number of displaced people and refugees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Jack • UK souvenir 	
<p>1.31 billion Vatican</p>	<p>Catholics in the world. The number of baptised Catholics in the world is rising.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romero cross 	

All statistics accurate as of July 2019. CAFOD is not responsible for the content of external websites.



5.4 million

**Children who will
die this year
before their 5th
birthday**



70.8 million

**People forced
from their home
due to conflict or
persecution**



64 million

**Children not in
primary school
this year**



66.9 million

**People who
live in the UK**



785 million

**People who
have no access
to safe drinking
water**



1.31 billion

**Catholics in
the world**



736 million

**People who live
on less than
£1.50 a day**



7.72 billion

**People living on
Earth**



840 million

**People who have
no access to
electricity**



2 billion

**People who have
no access to a
household toilet**



821 million



**People without
enough nutritious
food**