

# CHV20 Unit 3: Global Citizenship

## Activity 3: Contemporary Global Issues

---

### Overview

This Activity will have students examine some contemporary global concerns such as access to clean water, child labour and poverty, health and education.

### Lesson

#### *What Concerns You?*

Why are children working when they should be in school? Why are three billion people in the world living on less than two dollars a day? Can all governments provide lower-cost pharmaceutical products for AIDS victims in developing countries?

Why is it important to look at these issues if they don't affect me? Because they affect others! Young people are the future and education about issues and solutions to these issues is needed to promote development. Hopefully you will gain knowledge and skills that will empower you to make a difference.

### Assignment

Visit <http://www.weday.com/We-Schools/Issues-Backgrounders> to learn more about the **Global issues** related to water, child labour, education, health and poverty.

#### *Water*

1. How many people lack access to safe drinking water?
2. How many people lack access to proper sanitation facilities?
3. How many people die each year from infections spread by dirty water or lack of toilets? Name 3 specific diseases that are spread by water.
4. How does clean water especially help girls?

#### *Child Labour*

1. What does child labor involve?
2. As of 2004, how many child laborers are there around the world?
3. What percentage of children in Africa are workers?

4. What kind of work are these children mostly doing?
5. What is the difference between good work and harmful work?
6. How many children die each year from accidents related to work?
7. What are the two extreme types of child labor? Include examples.
8. What are some reasons for becoming a child laborer?

### ***Education***

1. How many children drop out of primary school before they have completed 5 years of education?
2. How many young people cannot read or write around the world?
3. When a woman has at least a secondary education, what is the benefit to her children?
4. Which disease spreads twice as quickly among uneducated girls?
5. What is the “cycle of poverty”? How does education break this cycle?
6. What are some of the reasons why school attendance isn’t higher in many countries?

### ***Health***

1. How many become infected with TB each year? How many die from it each year?
2. How many people die each year from AIDS related conditions?
3. How many children die each year from diarrhea?
4. What is “good health” and why is it important?

### ***Poverty***

1. What is poverty?
2. How many children live below the poverty line in Canada?
3. What is chronic hunger? How many people in the world in 2003 suffered from chronic hunger?
4. What is “extreme poverty”?
5. How does poverty also effect the environment and the sustainability of communities?
6. Gandhi said, “Poverty is the worst form of violence”. Explain what he meant by this comment.