

# POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

**559,850 people are living in poverty in Ireland today,** defined as having an income below 60% of the national median. **That's 10.7% of the population.**<sup>1</sup>

**2.2 billion people worldwide have a near or distance vision impairment.** The vision loss of over 1 billion people could have been prevented with adequate healthcare.<sup>2</sup>



**The richest 1% in the world own 43% of the world's wealth.**<sup>3</sup>



**754 million people worldwide do not yet have basic reading and writing skills.** Two out of three are women.<sup>4</sup>

## 1.1 billion

people in the world experience acute multidimensional poverty\*. Over half are children.<sup>5</sup>

\*Acute multidimensional poverty means experiencing severe shortages in basic needs like food, clean water, healthcare, education, & housing all at the same time.

### Women in politics:<sup>6</sup>

Only 19 countries have a female head of state, and 17 have a female Head of government.

73% of seats in parliaments worldwide are held by men.

Only 6 countries have 50% or more women in their national parliament.

### Women and girls put in 12.5 billion hours of unpaid work every day.<sup>7</sup>

This includes:

**direct caring** for children, the sick or elderly



**indirect caring** e.g. cooking, cleaning, shopping etc.



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1 [Social Justice Ireland \(2024\)](#) | 2 [WHO \(2023\)](#) | 3 [Oxfam \(2024\)](#) | 4 [UNESCO \(2024\)](#) | 5 [Human Development Reports \(2024\)](#) | 6 [UN Women \(2024\)](#) | 7 [Oxfam International \(2020\)](#)