

## Where Are Our Priorities?

### Should money be spent on fighting world poverty or space exploration or professional sports teams?

Directions: Write an essay in which you argue where governments or societies should spend their money.

Your essay must be based on ideas and information that can be found in the passage set.

#### Article Titles, Sources, and Authors:

*10 Facts You Should Know About Poverty*

Unnamed Editor

Global Citizen

*Out of this World: 5 Reasons Why Space Exploration is Important*

By Chris Young

Science Space

*TV is biggest driver in global sport league revenue*

By TJ Mathewson

Global Sport Matters

#### ***10 Facts You Should Know About Poverty***

***Hunger, gender inequality, climate change, and more all affect the fight against extreme poverty.***

**Sept. 25, 2020**

**Global Citizen**

#### **Why Global Citizens Should Care**

The United Nations' Global Goals were developed in 2015 to achieve a more sustainable world free of poverty. Now, the reality of achieving those goals by 2030 is becoming less likely and millions are at risk of falling into extreme poverty. You can join us in taking action on this issue here. Friday marks the fifth anniversary of the international community's commitment to the United Nations' Global Goals. The organizers are focusing on 10 up-to-date facts on extreme poverty, inequality, and the planet that need to be addressed to achieve the goals by 2030.

#### **1. 1% of our population holds nearly half of our wealth.**

Global Goal 1 revolves around ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. Although the COVID-19 pandemic caused the first increase in global poverty in decades, the world was off track to end poverty by 2030 even before the crisis began. The UN estimates that 71 million were pushed into extreme poverty in 2020. Today, too many people's well-being and potential is determined by where they live or how much money they have.

#### **2. Nearly 1 billion people don't have enough to eat.**

Before COVID-19, food insecurity was already on the rise. In 2014, 23.2% of the population were affected by moderate or severe food insecurity. In 2018, that number rose to 26.4%. The pandemic has

hit small-scale food producers in developing countries the hardest, putting millions of people at risk of going hungry or not having access to food.

### **3. 84 million people in sub-Saharan Africa can't access essential health care.**

The UN wants to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for everyone at all ages. The COVID-19 pandemic has strained health care infrastructures and severely impacted millions of people's health around the world. The disruptions to health care systems could reverse decades of improvements. However, in order to respond to COVID-19 and be prepared for any future outbreaks, health progress needs to be accelerated.

### **4. COVID-19 has disrupted the education of 1 billion students.**

COVID-19 forced schools to close and kept 90% of students out of school worldwide, which has reversed years of progress in education. The UN is working to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, but by 2030 over 200 million children will still be out of school.

### **5. Men make up 75% of parliamentarians (government representatives).**

Gender equality has improved around the world as instances of human rights issues like child marriage and female genital mutilation have declined in recent years. However, the hope of achieving a world of gender equality where all women and girls are empowered is still not a reality. For example, the vast majority of leaders and people in government positions are men, with only 25% of parliamentary seats filled by women. Representation isn't the only issue, especially during the pandemic. In some countries, the UN has reported a 30% increase in violence against women during COVID-19 lockdowns. Women are also fighting COVID-19 on the front lines — 70% of health care and social workers are women.

### **6. The world lost a football pitch's (field) worth of tropical forest every 6 seconds in 2019.**

The world is also falling short on its target to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of ecosystems on land. A 2020 report by the UN found that forest areas are continuing to decline at an alarming rate, biological diversity is threatened, and many species are at risk of extinction. Only one-third of countries were on track to achieve their national targets to integrate biodiversity into national planning.

### **7. 615 million people suffer from water stress.**

2019 was the second-warmest year on record, defined by massive wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, and other climate disasters across nearly every continent. By the end of the century, global temperatures are expected to rise as much as 3.2 degrees Celsius. The lockdowns during the pandemic did result in a drop in greenhouse gas emissions, but experts say even that was not enough to stop global warming.

### **8. Nearly 80 million people were forcibly displaced in 2019.**

A record 79.5 million people fleeing war, persecution, and conflict in 2019. With the COVID-19 pandemic putting millions at risk, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for a global ceasefire so that humanitarian aid could safely be delivered.

### **9. Two-thirds of the world's population is breathing polluted air.**

Rapid urbanization means that 4 billion people in cities face air pollution, inadequate infrastructure, and unplanned urban sprawl. Air pollution can increase the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory disease and led to nearly 7 million deaths around the world in 2016. People living in cities are more

likely to live in crowded spaces, and even 24% of the urban population was living in slums in 2018. Over 90% of COVID-19 cases were also reported in urban areas.

### **10. Almost half of the world's population has no access to the internet.**

Fewer than 1 in 5 people in the least-developed countries are connected to the internet. The Global Goals aim to promote resilient, inclusive, and sustainable infrastructure. During a pandemic, when everyone is confined to their homes and using technology to work and go to school, the need for internet access has only been heightened.

## ***Out of this World: 5 Reasons Why Space Exploration is Important***

***What is it that draws us to space, and is it really worth the billions of dollars of investment?***

**By Chris Young**

**December 19, 2019**

**Science Space**

Since its inception, the United States has spent nearly \$650 billion on NASA. When adjusted for inflation the cumulative figure is closer to \$1.19 trillion, an average of \$19 billion per year over its entire history.

The thought of humans on Mars is a prospect that fires up the imagination. And yet, some people aren't convinced we should even make the journey to the Red Planet. How can we justify spending billions to go to Mars, and beyond, with all of the problems we have here on Earth? Shouldn't we deal with Earth's issues first before creating an extraterrestrial colony? As the far-reaching exploration of the cosmos becomes more realistic every day with the work being done by NASA, SpaceX, Blue Horizon, and many other companies, we take a look at why we should be heading out there in the first place.

### **1. Riches await amongst the stars**

With private businesses taking us to space, and huge debate over how much of the U.S.'s annual budget should go to NASA, it goes without saying that there has to be some kind of financial imperative for going to space — and there certainly may be one. Our solar system has seen what, may be, an asteroid filled with gold, and a number of companies want to mine this asteroid and others like it for its resources within ten years.

### **2. We should never legislate what frontier gets breached next**

Neil deGrasse Tyson, famed astrophysicist, is a vocal champion for space exploration. In a StarTalk video, he states his case by claiming that, “we should never legislate what frontier gets breached next.” Why is that? Well, we simply can never fully know what's on the other side of a frontier, and how the discovery will benefit humanity. A look back at our history up to this point is proof of that.

NASA's then-associate director of science, Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger, gave a great example back in 1970. A Zambia-based nun sent him a letter asking how the organization could justify the billions being spent on space programs with the good that money could do for poverty-stricken people on Earth. Stuhlinger expressed his admiration for her “compassionate heart” before replying with a story: 400 years ago, when people were suffering from the plague, the German government's investment in the gradual

development of glass lenses was protested for its wastefulness. What did this lead to? The creation of the microscope, a giant leap for medicine.

Exploration and scientific advancement present financial risk and real danger to the people undertaking it. But they also hold out the hope of unimaginable rewards, Tyson explains.

### **3. Space tech comes back down to Earth**

Technology developed for space might be incredibly expensive, but the benefits come back down to Earth. GPS technology, for example, which is connected to practically every smartphone today, allowing people to find their way, was originally developed for space. As NASA explains: "GPS has its origins in the Sputnik era when scientists were able to track the satellite with shifts in its radio signal, known as the 'Doppler Effect,' which became the foundational idea for modern GPS." Technology developed for use in space has also found uses in detecting Alzheimer's, revolutionizing solar power and even fighting bank fraud.

### **4. Planet B and the excluded middle argument**

Once again, the cost argument. Reaching Mars would need substantial government backing – estimates say it could cost around \$450 billion to reach the Red Planet. When children are starving, and millions are homeless how can we justify spending those amounts? As Carl Sagan, the famous science popularizer, explains, this is an excluded middle argument. This means that a middle ground, in which both outcomes are possible, is completely disregarded. According to Sagan's argument, there is enough wealth on planet A (Earth) to take us to planet B (Mars) as well as tackling the problems of poverty and hunger.

### **5. We are explorers by nature**

Human beings are naturally inclined to explore and to push the boundaries of what is known. A testament to this is not only our plans to go to Mars and beyond with SpaceX and NASA's Project Artemis, but also the development of space tourism, which aims to one day democratize space travel. All of this suggests the willingness of the average person to explore space. On this topic, Carl Sagan once said: "human beings are a curious, inquisitive, exploratory species. I think that has been the secret of our success as a species."

Our ancestors explored the world, acquired new knowledge, and thrived because of it. And now, as Sagan says, "we have committed ourselves to space, and I do not think that we are about to turn back." Still, investment is needed. "Space is difficult," Virgin's Richard Branson explains, "it is rocket science."

If we turn our backs on it now, what cosmic discoveries will be lost forever?

## ***TV is biggest driver in global sport league revenue***

**By TJ Mathewson**

**Thursday, Mar 7, 2019**

**Global Sport Matters**

An enormous amount of money was poured into the professional sports market in 2018. One-hundred and six sports franchises worldwide are valued at more than \$1 billion each and profit millions of dollars every year. Here's where that revenue came from:

### **National Football League**

How leagues make their money says a lot about their growth, viability and future. No league tops the NFL when it comes to bringing in revenue globally. The league generated \$13 billion and has 29 of the top 50 most valuable sports franchises in the world.

The Dallas Cowboys, according to Forbes, are the most valuable sports franchise in the world with an estimated worth of \$4.8 billion. That number is up 14 percent from 2017, tied for the largest jump amongst the top-50 most valuable teams. Much of the revenue for the NFL is generated by its TV contracts. According to Statista, the NFL will collect \$54.6 billion from TV contracts with FOX (runs from 2014-2022), CBS (2014-2022), NBC (2014-2022), ESPN (2014-2021) and DirecTV (2015-2022).

### **Major League Baseball**

The second-highest grossing league in the world is Major League Baseball, which grossed a little more than \$10 billion in 2017. The league became the second sports league to exceed that threshold.

Major League Baseball can't match the NFL in its number of valuable franchises; only six teams place on Forbes' list of 50 most valuable sports franchises. However, MLB's most valuable franchise, the New York Yankees, ranks fifth on the list at \$4 billion, greater than every NFL franchise except the Dallas Cowboys.

After signing a new television deal in 2014 with Spectrum Sportsnet LA worth \$8.35 billion over 25 years, the Los Angeles Dodgers, who are the majority owner of the regional sports network, made \$204 million in revenue off TV money alone in 2016. Only one other team, the Los Angeles Angels, collected more than \$100 million (\$118) in TV revenue in 2016. The after-effects of these types of contracts are massive.

### **National Basketball Association**

The NBA is the third-highest grossing league in North America. The association brought in \$7.4 billion in revenue during 2017, which represents a 25-percent increase from the previous season.

For the first time, every NBA franchise is worth at least \$1 billion according to Forbes. The New York Knicks are the most valuable franchise ahead of the Los Angeles Lakers, Golden State Warriors and Chicago Bulls. The Knicks are worth an estimated \$3.6 billion and generate \$426 million in revenue. The NBA's national TV deals generate \$2.66 billion annually for the league. The contracts run through the 2024-25 season. Merchandise sales set new marks in the 2017-18 season, increasing 25 percent from the previous year. Finally, NBA League Pass subscriptions increased 63 percent.

### **National Hockey League**

The NHL generated \$4.43 billion during the 2017-18 season. None of the 31 NHL franchises rank in the top 50 of the most valuable sports' franchises in 2018 by Forbes. Only four NHL franchises were valued at more than \$1 billion in 2017. The New York Rangers were valued at \$1.5 billion in 2017, making the franchise the league's most valuable. That is \$450 million behind 2018's 50th most valuable franchise in sports, the Cleveland Browns, which were valued at \$1.95 billion.

With six franchises in Canada and 25 in the United States, the NHL splits its TV contract between both countries, doubling the amount of revenue possible. However, the league is working under the oldest contract of North America's four major pro sports leagues. In 2011, the NHL signed a 10-year, \$2 billion deal with NBC (network) and Versus (cable) for the exclusive national broadcasting rights in the United States, showing 100 regular-season games plus playoffs.

### **English Premier League**

The Premier League, the top pro football league in England, is another league benefitting from an influx of TV money. It ranks as the third-highest grossing league globally, raking in \$5.3 billion (U.S. dollars) in 2016. It generates almost double the revenue of the next closest top professional football league (Germany's Bundesliga, \$2.8 billion). European football leagues have massive international followings, which boosts the amount of money that can be made.

The Premier League's TV contract, agreed to in 2016, runs through the 2019 season and is worth £10.4 billion (\$13.6 billion), which is distributed among the 20 member clubs. In that deal, £5.3 billion is for domestic TV rights. The rest is from overseas rights.

### **Indian Premier League**

In its 11th year, the Indian Premier League (cricket) is the fastest growing in the world. Its rapid revenue growth can be attributed to cricket's popularity in India. The top-10 most-watched television broadcasts of all time in India are cricket matches. Though the league consists of eight teams that play 60 matches during a 47-day period plus playoffs, the league is valued at \$6.3 billion. That figure represents a 19-percent increase from 2017.

### **Australian Rules Football**

Australian Rules Football draws some of the biggest crowds in the world, bringing in an average of 36,687 fans per game during the 2018 season. The clubs combined for \$240 million in seating revenue, nearly a fourth of all total revenue.

The AFL collected \$998.13 million (\$720.25 million U.S. dollars) in 2017. Each team averaged about \$55 million (\$36.69 million U.S.) in revenue. The top teams, such as Collingwood Football Club and Hawthorne Football Club, brought in more than \$70 million in revenue. In 2015, the league signed a TV rights deal that runs from 2017 to 2022 worth \$2.508 billion. The deal brings in \$418 million a year, a 67 percent increase from the previous broadcasting rights deal. All matches except the AFL final are broadcast on Foxtel.