

Company

THE POVERTY FOOTBALL GAME



GET INVOLVED



45 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED



AIM

Use the sport of football to explore the causes of poverty and the impact it has on people's lives. What can be done to reduce poverty and how are some famous footballers leading the way?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- The Poverty Football Game Leader's Instructions Sheet
- Carrier Bags & String
- Access to YouTube & a Projector / TV screen



GET INVOLVED: THE POVERTY FOOTBALL GAME

THEME: WORKING AS A TEAM



LEADER PREPARATION

A leader will need to download the leader's sheet that provides the full instructions for this activity. A suitable football playing area will also need to be set up.



[Download The Football Poverty Game Leader's Instructions Sheet](#)



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

This activity explores the causes and consequences of poverty, using a game of football to help illustrate. The full leader instructions can be found on the downloadable leader's sheet. A summary of the activity can be found below.

- 1 What is Poverty?** Ask the group to come up with a definition of 'poverty'. What key words do they come up with?
- 2 Causes of Poverty.** Brainstorm the causes of poverty. What factors cause and keep people in poverty?
- 3 The Plastic Bag Football.** Create a football out of carrier bags and string, showing how people in poverty often have to get resourceful using the things available to them.
- 4 The Poverty Football Game.** Play a game of football, however with our poverty consequence cards disrupting play who knows what the result of the game will be.
- 5 Group Discussions.** Reflect on the impact that the poverty consequences had on the game of football. In what ways do the consequences experienced during the game reflect the consequences people experiencing poverty face every day?
- 6 Sadio Mané's Story.** Mané is one of the best footballers in the world. His experience of poverty growing up has shaped his life and he is now using his fame and wealth to make a positive difference to the community he grew up in, in Senegal. Find out more about Mané's story and the difference he is making, by watching a short video.



DID YOU KNOW?

- **689 million people live in extreme poverty**, surviving on less than \$1.90 a day.
- Children and young people account for **two-thirds** of the world's poor.
- Nearly **22,000 children die each year** due to poverty.
- **2 billion people** lack access to safely managed drinking water at home.
- **People experience 'poverty' in the UK too.**
This is where a household's income is below a necessary level to maintain basic living standards.



IDEAS TO TAKE THIS FURTHER...

Find out more about a charity that tackles poverty. Which countries do they work in and what projects do they champion? What could you do to support that charity?



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

A leader should ensure the football game takes place in an appropriate area and is managed for risks throughout the game.

THE POVERTY FOOTBALL GAME

WHAT IS POVERTY?

- 1) Ask the group to try and come up with a definition of 'poverty'. What key words stand out from their definitions?
- 2) Share the definition below. How does it compare to the definition(s) created by the group?

Poverty = Poverty refers to lacking enough resources to provide the necessities of life — food, clean water, shelter and clothing. But in today's world, that can be extended to include access to healthcare, education and even transportation.

CAUSES OF POVERTY

The causes of poverty can vary from country to country and from one situation to another. As a group brainstorm what they believe some of the causes of poverty might be. We've listed some examples below. If groups are struggling, then give them one of two causes to get them started.

CARRIER BAG FOOTBALL

Often, those experiencing poverty struggle to access basic needs, let alone have resources to spend on recreational items such as footballs. However football is a popular sport around the world, from the world's richest countries to the poorest. Some people therefore have to get inventive by creating footballs of their own, using resources they can find lying around.

One way to do this is using carrier bags and string. Follow the instructions below to make a carrier bag football, ready to be used in the next activity. You'll only need one ball for the group.

Scrunch a carrier bag in the palm of your hand, until it is a small ball.

Place that carrier bag ball inside another bag and scrunch again.

Continue doing this, trying to keep a ball shape, until you're happy with the size of the ball. Tie a knot with the handles of the final carrier bag.

Wind string (or elastic bands) around the outside to keep the shape of the ball and help make the ball as dense as possible.

THE POVERTY FOOTBALL GAME

THE POVERTY FOOTBALL GAME

Use a game of football to explore the impacts of poverty, how it causes further inequalities and how difficult it can be to escape poverty.

- 1) Split into two team (if a large group, then split into more teams and play a football tournament). Create a space to play a football match, ensuring you have two goals and a defined playing space. Use the carrier bag football to play with.
- 2) Play as per normal football rules. However, occasionally a leader should stop the game and the person in possession of the ball should take one of the 'Poverty Football Game Cards' and read it out to the group.
- 3) Each card gives an issue that those in poverty face. The card also gives a consequence that the person reading the card must carry out (i.e. sitting out for 1 minute, only allowed to walk etc).
- 4) Continue the game, with that person completing thier consequence from the card as the game restarts.
- 5) Keep going, stopping the game from time to time for new poverty cards to be introduced.
- 6) After all the cards have been used, or after so long of playing football, stop the game and come together again as one group for discussions.

Top Tip: If your young people don't enjoy playing football, this game could be adapted to other sports such as hockey or handball.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Reflect on the activity by having a group discussion. A leader should ask each question and then allow young people to share thier thoughts.

- 1) How did you find playing this game, compared to a normal game of football?
- 2) What was the impact of the different consequences from the poverty cards? Did they make playing the game more difficult and change the flow and the result of the game?
- 3) How would you feel if these consequences were real? If your everyday life activities were constantly disrupted due to factors outside of your control?
- 4) The cards were designed to disrupt the game and stop the players from reaching thier full potential. What ways do you think some of the causes / consequences of poverty do this to the lives of people experiencing poverty?
- 5) Take a few causes of poverty mentioned earlier. What steps could be taken to reduce the issue(s) and help make lives easier for those experiencing the problems? This could be steps taken by governments, charities, individuals etc. What could you do to help these causes?

THE POVERTY FOOTBALL GAME

SADIO MANÉ'S STORY

Sadio Mané, who played for Liverpool from 2016 to 2022, is considered to be one of the best footballers in the world. Born in Senegal, Mané grew up experiencing poverty and had to work hard as a child. Aged 7 his father died from an illness, but without a hospital in his village, help was not easy to access.

Now a successful footballer, Mané has donated millions of pounds to his village in Senegal to help them improve their facilities and give the people living there a better, healthier and more secure way of life. This has included building a hospital and a school for his village.

Find out more about Sadio Mané's experiences with poverty and how he is now working hard to reduce poverty in the area he grew up in, giving those currently experiencing poverty an opportunity to escape.

Video: Sadio Mane's Story - <https://youtu.be/F-mNm7YhAVo>

<p>Your brother is poorly and has been taken to hospital. You have no money on your pay as you go phone. The hospital is a 60 minute walk away and you need to visit.</p> <p>Sit out for the next minute of the game.</p>	<p>There is no grass football pitch to play on, just uneven wasteland. Because of the unsuitable playing area, you twist your ankle and injure yourself.</p> <p>Whilst the game continues without you, hop around the edge of the pitch 3 times. Once complete you can play again.</p>
<p>Climate change has increased the chances of a drought, meaning your crops have failed and there is less food to go around. Prices have now gone up and you can't buy as much food as you need. You start to feel dizzy.</p> <p>Sit out for the next minute of the game.</p>	<p>There are no state schools close to where you live, so your parents are trying to raise money to send you to a private school. Your Dad calls you to help sell food he has made, to raise money.</p> <p>Jog on the spot for two minutes.</p>
<p>Your health hasn't been great recently and you're not sure why. There is a lack of basic healthcare in your area, so you can't get checked out by a Doctor. It's making your breathing difficult.</p> <p>For the next 2 minutes, you are only allowed to walk whilst playing.</p>	<p>Where you're playing football is right next to the city dump. They are burning the rubbish and the smoke is drifting onto the football pitch, making it difficult to breathe.</p> <p>Cone a section of the football pitch, which now can't be played in.</p>
<p>There is conflict taking place in your country and you can hear something kicking off in the distance. It means you must take cover straight away to be safe.</p> <p>Your entire team must sit out for the next 20 seconds. The other team may continue playing.</p>	<p>Corruption is everywhere in your local area including the police, markets, government and more. It turns out the referee of your game is corrupt too.</p> <p>The opposite team is awarded two additional goals to thier score.</p>
<p>The team need some water, but the closest place to find water is a 10 minute walk away. They have nominated you to collect some for the team. It's a tough job and you get back exhausted.</p> <p>Whilst the game continues, complete 100 star jumps as quick as you can, then re-join the game.</p>	<p>There is an illness going around and it's spreading easily. With poor health care and sanitation, the illness has got to you and one of your teammates.</p> <p>You and one of your teammates must sit out for the next 2 minutes of the game.</p>
<p>Boys have more access to education and other opportunities in your country. Girls are less likely to access education and more likely to have to help with jobs around the house.</p> <p>All the girls playing (or all boys who have a sister), must stop playing and complete 10 laps around the pitch, whilst the game continues.</p>	<p>You need the toilet, but the closest toilet is a 10 minute walk away and there is a queue to use it.</p> <p>Walk around the football pitch 5 times, before re-joining the game.</p>