

These working materials are part of the toolkit

## Climate beyond Classism

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transformative educational resources  
on classism in the context of the  
environmental and climate crisis

### Who wins? Who pays?

A poster quiz on social class and climate (in)justice

**What:** Solutions and Background Information for the Poster Quiz

**Date:** 04/2026

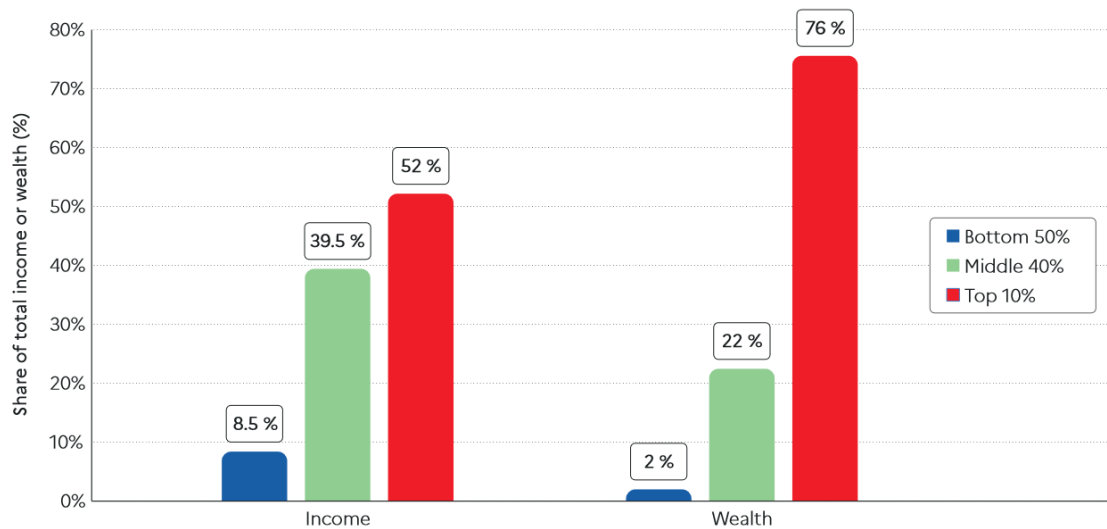


Co-funded by  
the European Union

# What share of the pie does the richest 10 percent own?

→ 76% (2021)

**Figure 1** Global income and wealth inequality, 2021



**Interpretation:** The global bottom 50% captures 8.5% of total income measured at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). The global bottom 50% owns 2% of wealth (at Purchasing Power Parity). The global top 10% owns 76% of total Household wealth and captures 52% of total income in 2021. Note that top wealth holders are not necessarily top income holders. Incomes are measured after the operation of pension and unemployment systems and before taxes and transfers. **Sources and series:** [wir2022.wid.world/methodology](https://wir2022.wid.world/methodology).

- The richest 1 percent of the world's population owns 44.5 percent of total global wealth.

Source:

- <https://ungleichheit.info/de/visuals>
- World Inequality Report 2022, S.10
- Oxfam: inequality kills (2022), S. 10

If the richest 10 billionaires sat on top of their combined wealth piled up in US dollar bills, how high would they be?

→ **Nearly halfway to the moon**

- The wealth of the richest 10 men as more than doubled, while the income of 99% of humanity are worse of, because of covid 19
- The 10 richest men own more wealth than the bottom 50% of humanity
- The richest 252 men have more wealth than all 1 billion women and girls in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean combined

Source:

- Oxfam: inequality kills (2022)

# How long does it take the 50 richest people in the world to emit more CO<sub>2</sub> than the global average person emits in a lifetime?

\* including emissions from investments, private jets and superyachts

→ **an hour and a half**

- emissions from the investments, private jets and superyachts of 50 of the world's richest people is more than the consumption emissions of the poorest 2% (155 million) of people combined
- in just over an hour and a half, through their investments, superyachts and private jets, a billionaire will emit more than the average person will emit in their lifetime

Source:

Oxfam (2024): Carbon Inequality Kills

# Who emits how much?

Emissionen	Darstellung	von	Quelle
0,7t	Table	Emissions of the poorer half of the world's population per capita (in tons/year)	Climate Equality Report (Excel 1)
2,8t	Person with a child on shoulder	CO2 budget per person and year to stay within the 1.5 degree limit	Carbon Equality report
3,9t	Traffic light pole	Emissions for a flight Munich - New York (there and back)	<a href="https://utopia.de/ratgeber/co2-ausstoss-beim-flugzeug-so-viel-emissionen-verursachen-flugreisen_152421/">https://utopia.de/ratgeber/co2-ausstoss-beim-flugzeug-so-viel-emissionen-verursachen-flugreisen_152421/</a>
5,4 t	Truck	emissions of the poorer half of the population in Germany per capita (in tons/year)	Klima der Ungleichheit
24 t	Typical spruce	Emissions of the richest 10% globally per capita (in tons/year)	Climate Equality Report (Excel 1)
5497 t	Mont Blanc	emissions of Elon Musk's two private jets in one year (zweitreichste Person, hat vlt mehr Flugzeuge)	Carbon Inequality kills

# How much hotter is it in the left (poorer) part of town?

→ 6°C

- aerial view of Mumbai (India) of two very different neighborhoods side by side
- The area around the Bandra Kurla complex in Mumbai is a mixture of extreme wealth and extreme poverty. In the neighboring informal settlement of Dharavi, it can get up to six degrees hotter

Source:

- Oxfam (2023): Klima der Ungleichheit

<https://www.millefoto.com/unequalscenes>

# What scenario has a higher impact on global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

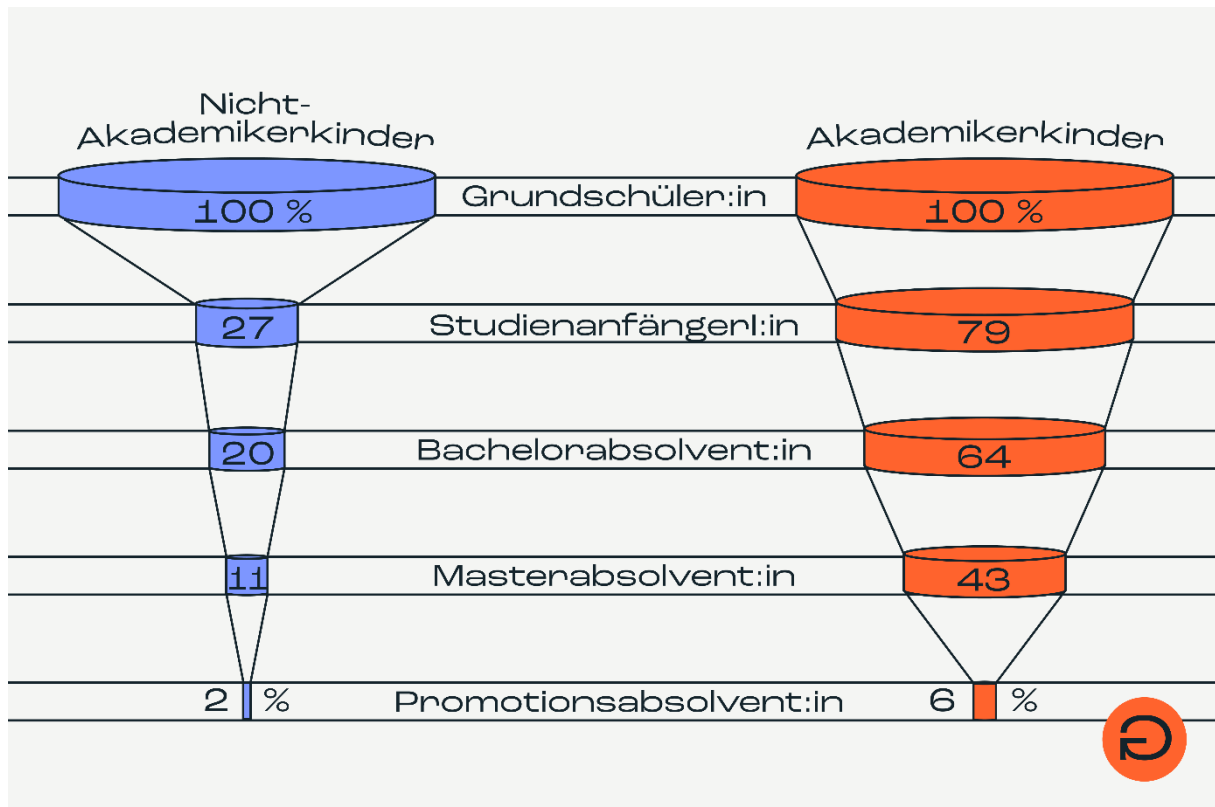
their results suggest that lifting the whole world's population above the poverty line of US\$3.20 a day would increase global carbon emissions by less than 5%. These estimates are based on the assumption that the observed expenditure patterns would remain the same within expenditure groups under the counterfactual poverty alleviation scenarios. (Climate Inequality Report 2022 S.42, aus Bruckner et al 2022)

vgl carbon emissions top 1%

Quelle

(Climate Inequality Report 2022 S.42, aus Bruckner et al 2022)

From 100 children going to elementary school (in Germany), how many get a master's degree?



Source:

- <https://ungleichheit.info/de/visuals>
- Meyer-Guckel et al. 2021, Der Hürdenlauf auf dem Bildungsweg der Erststudierenden, S. 3.

# How much money leaves low and middle income countries for interest payments?

development aid (2023): 223 billion

Interest payments from low and middle income countries : → **402 billion**

Additional info:

- Developing Countries Paid Record \$1.4 Trillion on Foreign Debt in 2023
- Additional appropriation of resources from global south through unequal exchange (cheap labour and resources) (=10 trillion dollar per year in northern prices)
- + poor countries have to hold foreign exchange reserves -> costs them additional money
- Countries in the global south lose approximately 70 billion dollar because of tax abuse by multinational corporations

Sources:

- Weed (2024): Vol Dollar Schulden und Macht
- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/12/03/developing-countries-paid-record-1-4-trillion-on-foreign-debt-in-2023>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S095937802200005X>

# How many deaths can be contributed to inequality?

→ **least 21,300 people** each day—or one person **every four seconds**.

**Table 1: Inequality-related deaths per day (see Breakdown of Numbers section for sources)**

	Lower bound	Upper bound	Inequality concept	Data coverage
<i>Healthcare</i>	15,342	15,342	International inequality in access to services	2016 data for 132 countries
<i>Hunger</i>	5,773	14,916	All hunger deaths reflect economic inequality	2020 data for 55 countries
<i>Gender-based violence</i>	203	4,685	All gender-based violence deaths reflect social inequality	2017 data for 93 countries
<i>Climate change</i>	0	633*	International inequality in access to services	2030 projection
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,318</b>	<b>35,577</b>		

21,318 per day is 0.25 per second or one person every four seconds.

Source:

- Oxfam: inequality kills (2022) + methodology note