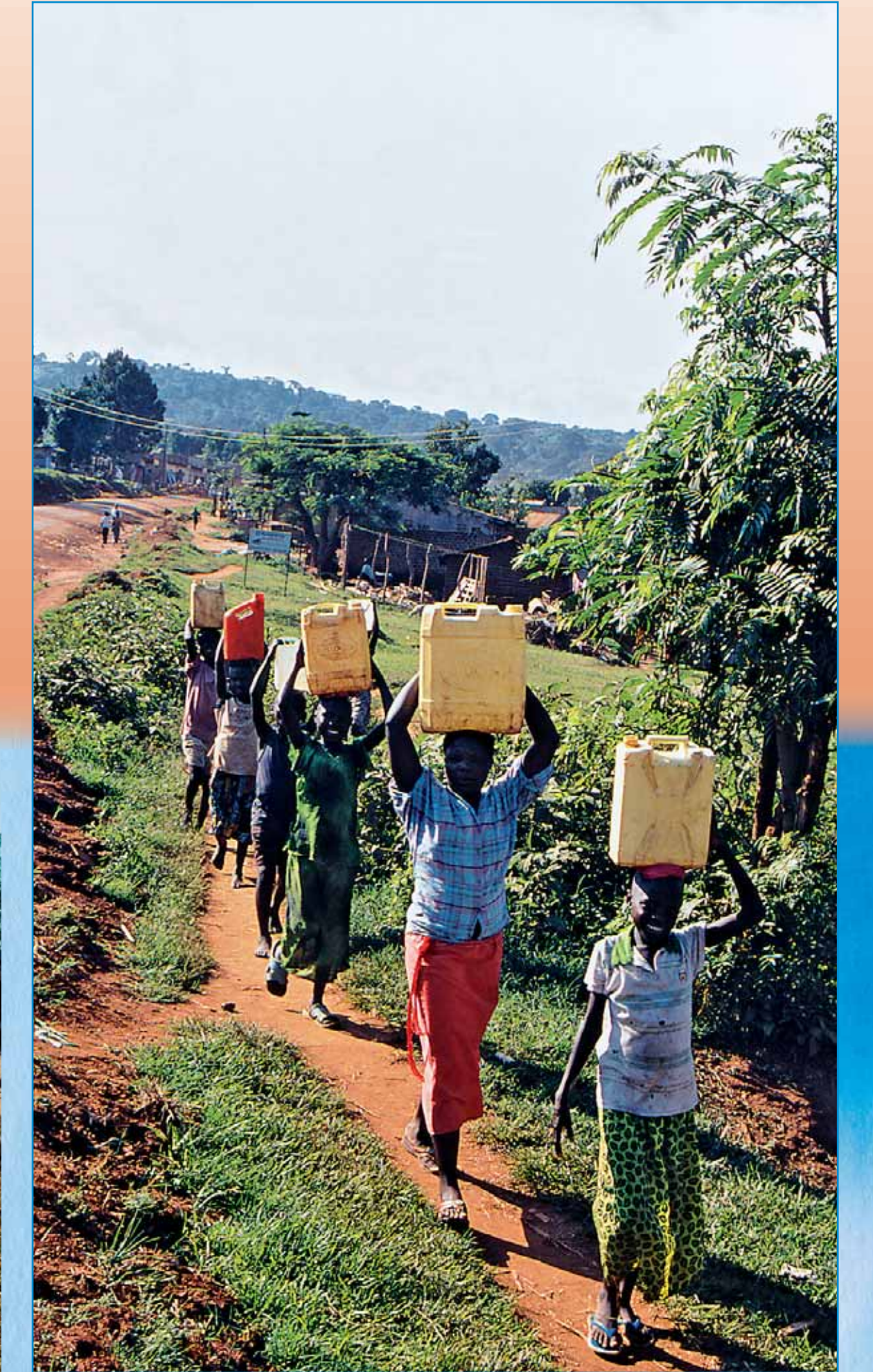


THE POOR AND THE RICH

The uneven and unjust distribution of wealth is one of the great paradoxes of modern times. Although the world as a whole grew immensely rich during the second half of the 20th century, millions of people in developing as well as developed countries live in poverty.

The world is divided into the rich and poor nations, into the world developed and underdeveloped and into the “First World” and the “Third World” (the “Second World” was formerly considered to be the socialist countries).



In developing countries the task of collecting water falls mainly to women. They carry water in 10–20 litre containers from a distance of several kilometres. (Uganda)



Fetching firewood. (India, Varanasi)

Did you know that...

About one billion people live below the absolute poverty line (i.e. living on less than USD 1.25 per person per day).

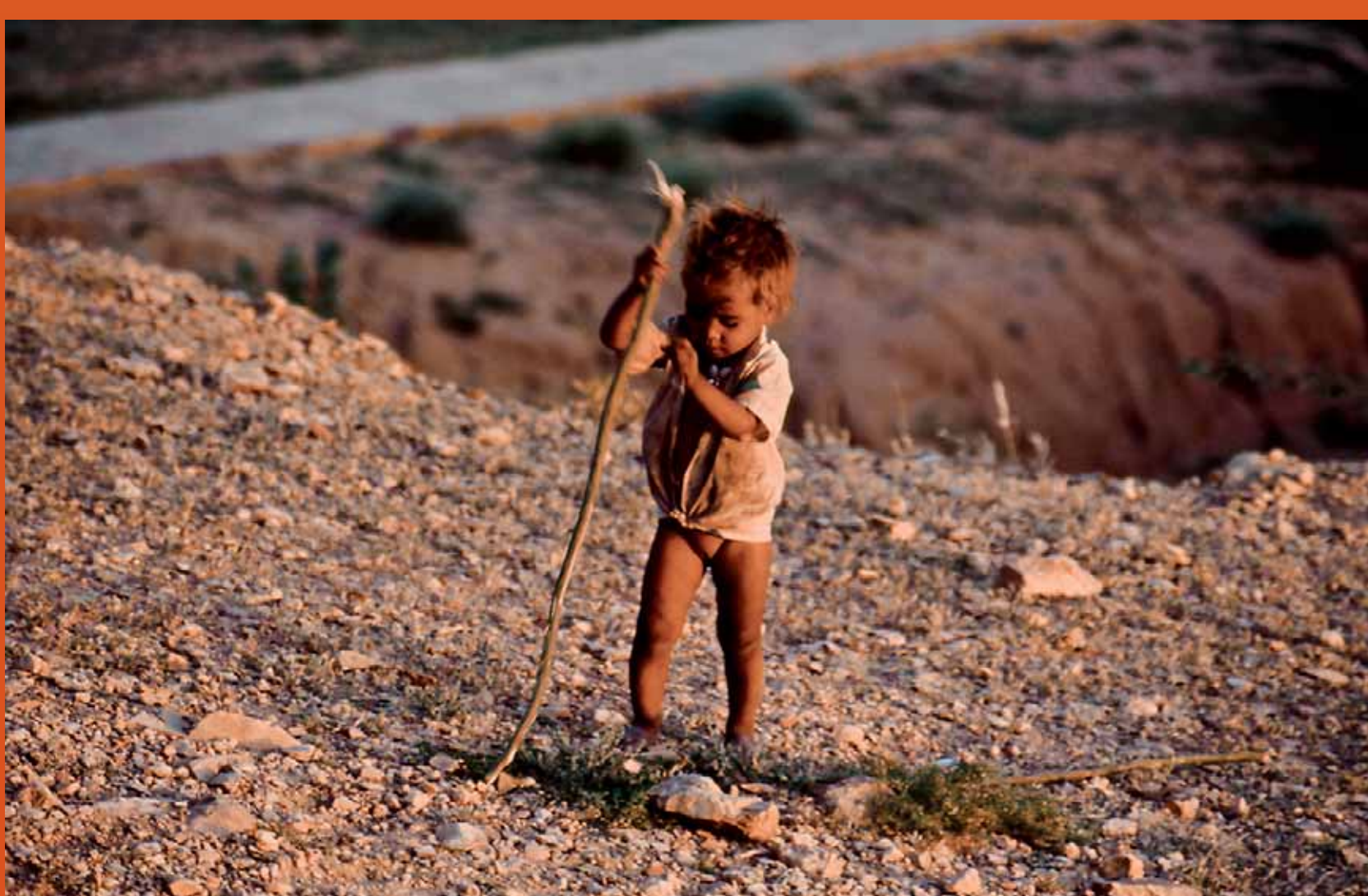
Two percent of the richest people in the world own more than half of the global wealth.

Three billion people (nearly half of the global population) live in a condition that could be described as acute hardship.

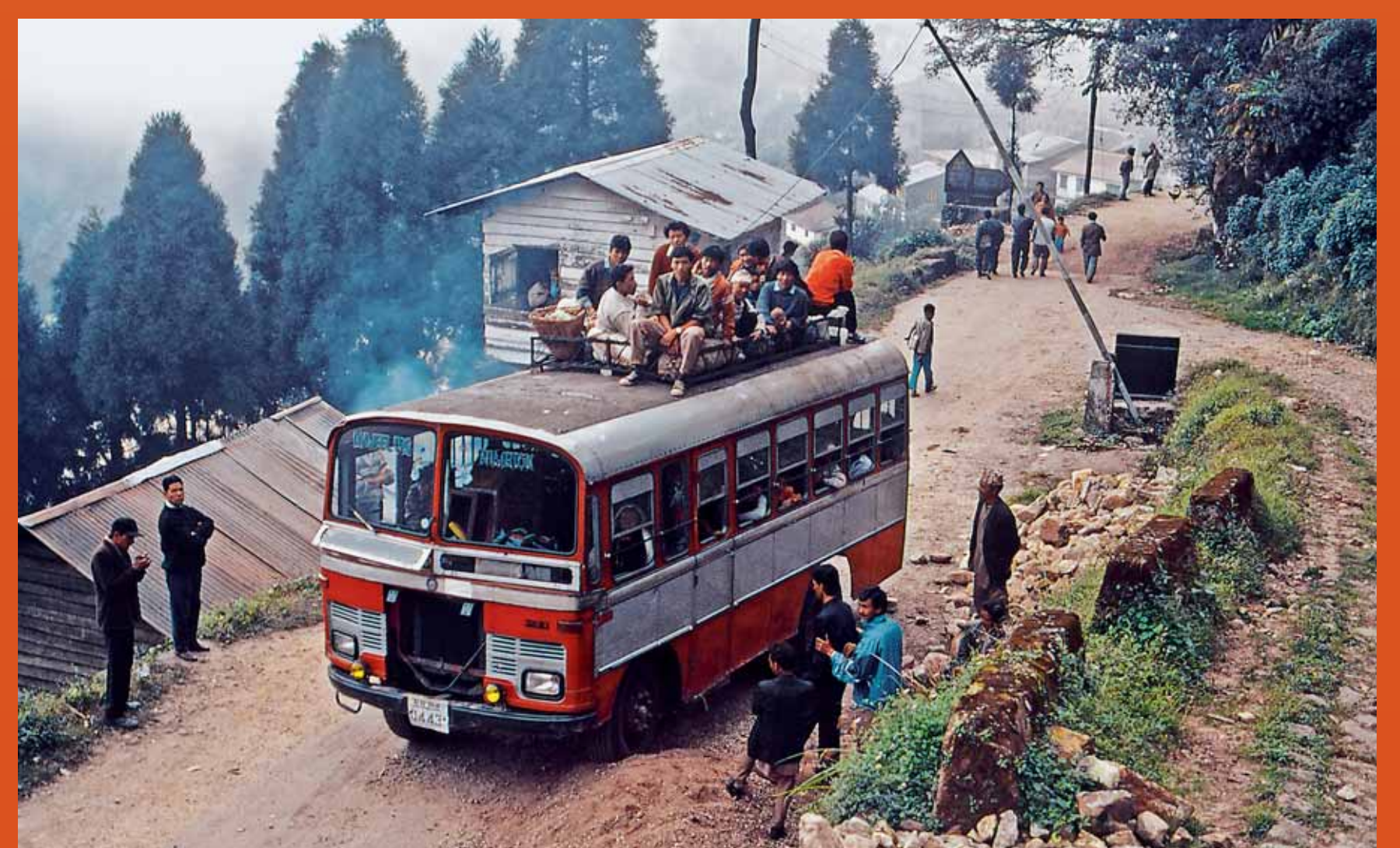
When contemplating poverty and its possible solutions we should not omit a very important thing – to always see behind the statistics and general statements an actual person in need. Even worse than living in poverty is to be left in this situation alone, unwanted, unvalued by others.



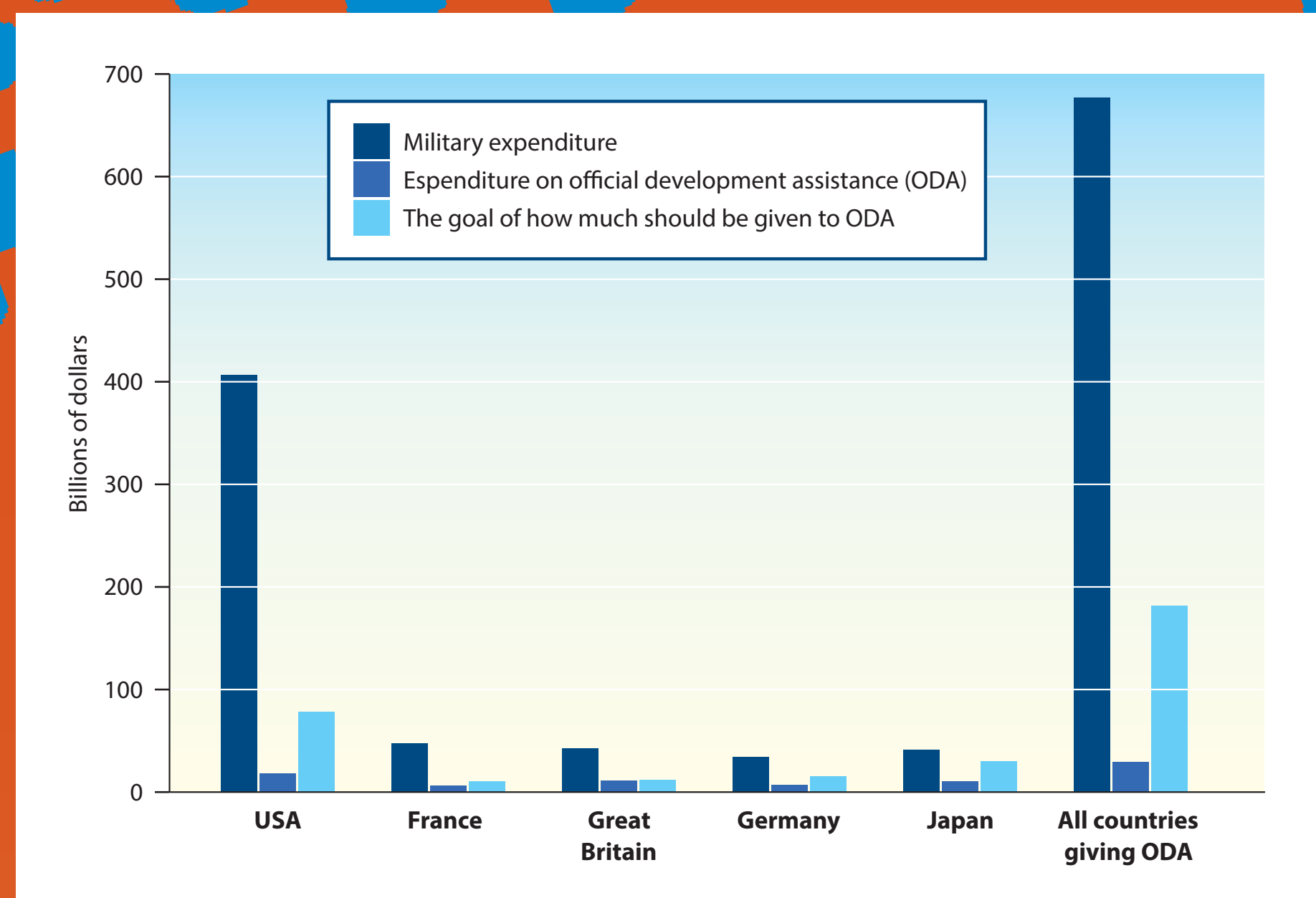
A man carrying logging residues from the forest. Even these collected branches will be useful in his yurt. (Mongolia, Ulan Bator)



This child will not probably go to school. Malnutrition is likely to limit his physical and mental development. The baby will not therefore be able to develop his creative potential and his life will not be fulfilled, as it could and should be. (India)



A majority of local people and tourists prefer the bus service. (India)



Military expenditure in comparison to expenditure on official development assistance in selected countries. (Adapted from State of the World, 2005)



Uganda is one of a few countries that – at least according to the official sources – effectively fight HIV/AIDS. Official statistics speak of 5% of the population infected with HIV. Nevertheless, foreign doctors operating in the country are convinced that the real number is much higher. (Uganda)

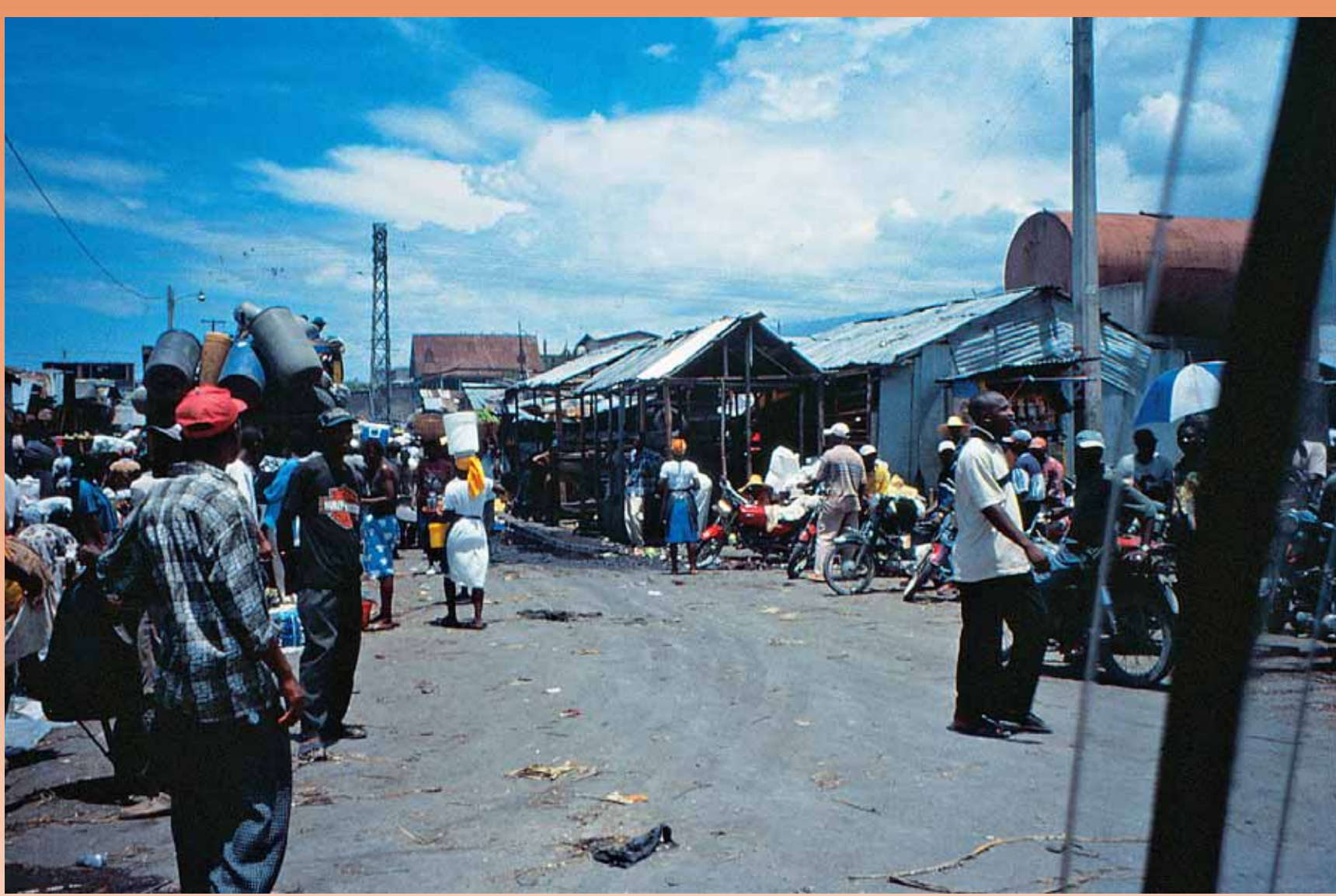
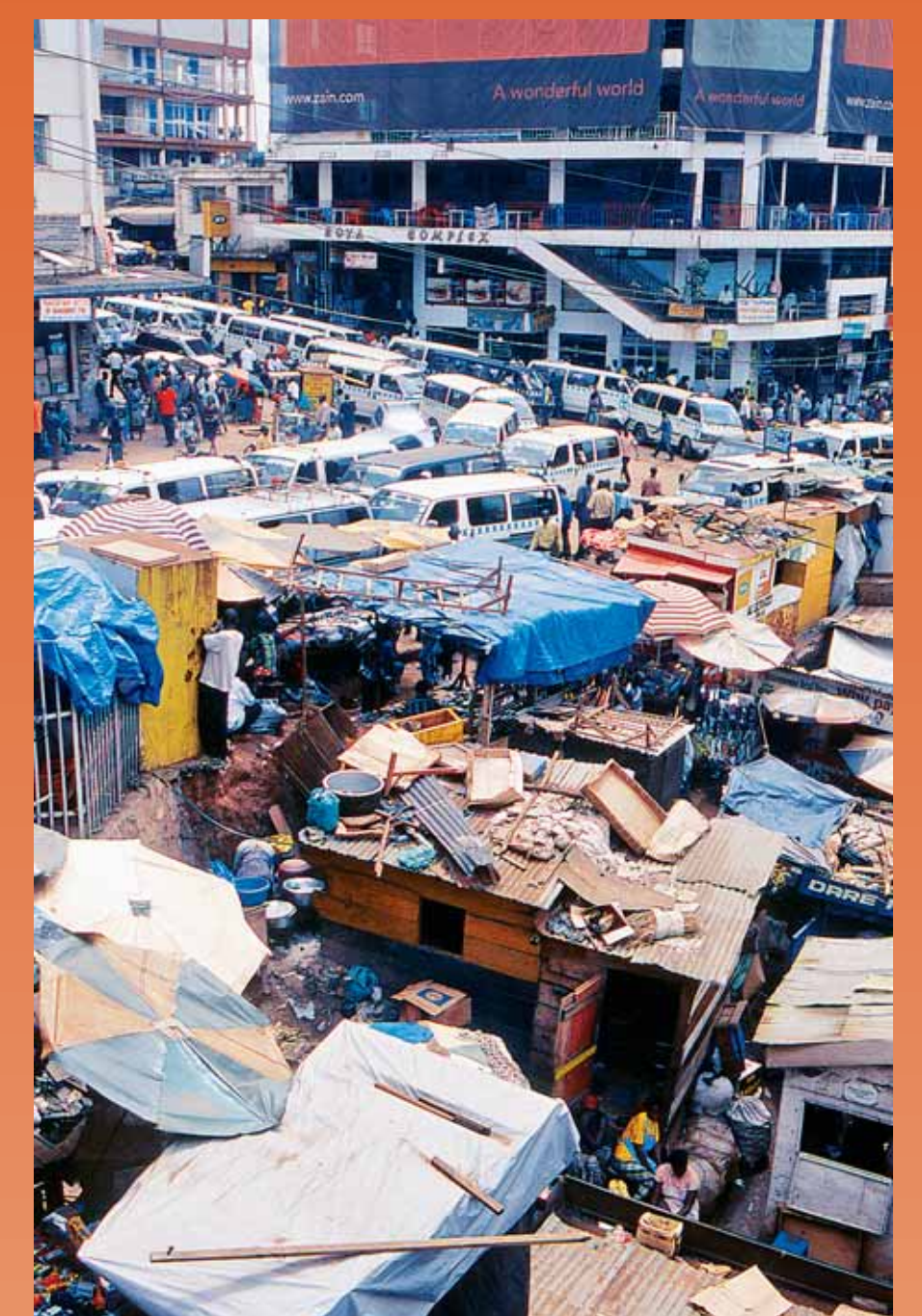
People do not live by bread alone, but so far our civilization has not been able to provide it to all. ~ Bergier, Pouwels



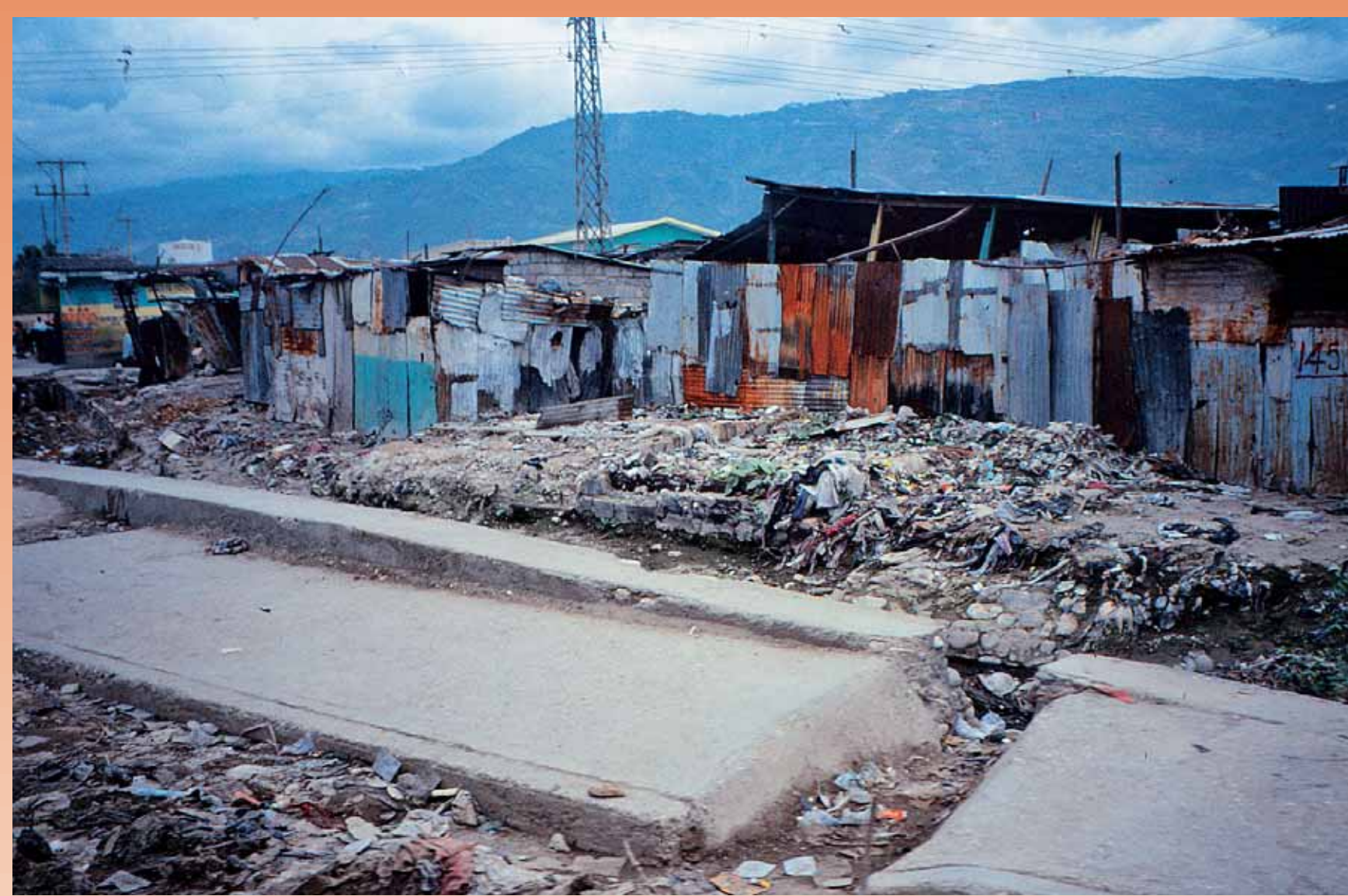
Development assistance

One way to help developing countries is development assistance. Development assistance involves both the long-term financial and material support (such as building of schools, hospitals) and the transfer of know-how (e.g. teacher training, midwives training, training of public service).

The United Nations recommends to all countries to give 0.7% of their GDP for development assistance – only Norway, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands and Luxembourg achieve this goal. The Czech Republic gives around 0.4 % of GDP.



The capital city Port au Prince – up to 80% of the population live in absolute poverty (living on less than USD 1.25 per person per day). (Haiti)



Slums are shanty towns of improvised and usually illegally built shanties which are located mainly in the suburbs of large cities in poor countries. (Haiti)



Surroundings of the capital city of Uganda, Kampala – a typical image of the “Third World”.

