

FAST FACTS



3+
People



2 hrs.



\$0



Med Risk

The End of Poverty?

Purpose of Activity: To educate participants about the connections between the environment, social justice, and economics.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

By actively participating in this activity, participants will:

- Understand the impact history has on economic inequality.
- Understand the impact of using disproportionate amounts of natural resources on people, the environment, and the economy.

Materials Needed:

- There is a DVD copy stored with the Director for Sustainability Education available for check-out.

Summary:

The End of Poverty? is a daring, thought-provoking and very timely documentary by award-winning filmmaker, Philippe Diaz, revealing that poverty is not an accident. It began with military conquest, slavery and colonization that resulted in the seizure of land and other natural resources as well as in forced labor. Today, global poverty has reached new levels because of unfair debt, trade and tax policies -- in other words, wealthy countries exploiting the weaknesses of poor, developing countries. The End of Poverty asks why today 20% of the planet's population uses 80% of its resources and consumes 30% more than the planet can regenerate? Can we really end poverty under our current economic system? Think again. Filmed in the slums of Africa and the barrios of Latin America, The End of Poverty? features expert insights from: Nobel prize winners in Economics, Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz; acclaimed authors Susan George, Eric Toussaint, John Perkins, Chalmers Johnson; university professors William Easterly and Michael Watts; government ministers such as Bolivia's Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera and the leaders of social movements in Brazil, Venezuela, Kenya and Tanzania.

Facilitation Guide:

Watch the movie and prepare a space for discussion afterward.

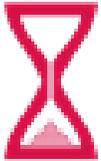
Discussion Questions:

- What did we just see? What did you observe about your reactions and the reactions of those around you?
- What does this movie have to do with sustainability? How do you define sustainability? (Perpetual and cooperative environmental, social, and economic systems).

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- Can we realistically end poverty under our current economic system?
- What impact does excessive resource consumption have on the planet and its' people?
- What can you do with this new information? What changes will you make, if any? What messages will you try to convey to others?