



GOAL 10: REDUCE INEQUALITIES

'Lower your head modestly while passing, and you will harvest bananas.'
[(proverb from the Democratic Republic of the Congo)]

One day spent with Cäsarina from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Salut! Je suis Caesarina. I am 8 years old and I come from the eastern Congo. For one year now, I have been living in a refugee camp in Malawi with my parents and my four brothers. We had to flee from home because we were persecuted, we couldn't even go to school.

I don't really know the reason to why this has happened. All I know is that different groups put blame on each other for different crimes that have been committed. They fight over raw materials, such as ores that are very valuable. These raw materials are used for the production of mobile phones and hence are very popular among large businesses. One day armed men turned up at our house and threatened my mother and my father. My parents then decided that it was time to leave our country and flee to a safer place.

We traveled for three months. We walked most of the time, but sometimes we got on a boat. Finally, we reached the refugee camp in Malawi. But we weren't the only ones there. 30.000 refugees also live here. Some of them have been here for ten years. They had to leave their homes for many different reasons. Some of them, because they were persecuted for their origin,

religion or language or because their lives were in serious danger. Others had to flee because there is a war or not enough food in their area. But here in the refugee camp we are all safe.

Look over here, this is the loam house, we have built for ourselves. The whole refugee camp is made out of house like this. We even have a school here that I can go to every day. My teacher also had to flee her home. She comes from Sudan. There is also a hospital here. One of my brothers broke his leg on the way here, but was treated by a doctor from Eritrea, when we arrived. Now he is able to walk without crutches.

It is lunchtime now, and my mother is going to cook for us. Today we are having corn porridge with vegetables and salted dried fish. I am not a fan of the vegetables, but I like the corn porridge. We also always used to eat that at home in the Congo. In our loam house we sleep on the floor. But that is not too bad because it's not cold at all. We have one blanket, that we have to share between us. I am scared to go back to the Congo. I am scared of the rebels there. Sometimes I have nightmares. Then, I wake up, look around, and know that I am safe. I hope that one day, we can return to our home and live there in peace. For the world I wish that no one is treated unfairly and that everybody gets the same opportunities in life, so that nobody has to flee their home.



Source: 'Cäsarina reports from a refugee camp in Malawi' by the Berghof Foundation, 2014. Documentary Film



Reduce **inequalities** within and among countries

The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming bigger and bigger: that means that there are more and more poor people on this planet and at the same time fewer people become rich. According to a study the richest eight people in this world have as much money as the entire poorer half of the world population. The growing social and economic inequalities within states, but also between different states is one of the great challenges of our time.

If somebody has to experience poor living conditions, such as living in a civil war, or having to starve or being persecuted, then that is often a reason for having to leave their country. In 2016, 65 million people had to flee their homes, that is about 8 times the population of Austria.

Goal 10 should ensure to help and support those people, who have to flee their homes and who seek refuge in other countries. Fleeing across nations can be very dangerous. Often they have to go across thousands of kilometers of countryside and across the ocean. There is a short supply of food and water. Therefore, refugees should have the possibility to reach a secure country without any dangers. There should be a fair and decent asylum procedure for all refugees that will decide upon whether they can stay or not. Every country should make a contribution to help refugees. We often forget that we only enjoy the standard of living that we do today because people in other countries are exploited. Big companies have the possibility to cheaply manufacture their products or clothing in Asian or African countries. The workforce over there only receive a very low wage, often just a few cents for their daily hard work. The companies make a lot of money that way, and we are able to cheaply buy those products.

Goal 10 states that the inequality between states should be reduced. That means that the rich nations and the poorer countries should try to work together, to share the wealth among them. We call this development cooperation and some countries are already trying to do this.

Through money, loans and projects for the population or businesses we want to achieve, that poorer countries achieve more prosperity. In the future we should also ensure that fair trade agreements between the richer

and poorer countries are made. However, we should not only ensure to reduce the inequalities between states we should also look to reduce inequalities within states. The goal is that people, regardless of their age, gender, physical or mental impairment, origin, religion or prosperity have the same opportunities and are no longer disadvantaged in any way.

What can we do to reach this goal?

- Share your things with those, who don't have as much as you. For example, if you are at school, and one of your classmates doesn't have a rubber, you can lend them yours. If your neighbour goes on holiday and needs someone to water their plants, do it for them while they are away. Solidarity and generosity are important values within the classroom community, in the family and generally in our society.

Sascha (7)

from Radenthein, Carinthia:

'When my grandmother gives sweets to me, I share them with my little sister. Although she never shares her sweets with me.'

Max (12)

from Wels, Upper Austria:

'We have a new classmate from Syria. He is a really cool guy and the best football player I know. In order for him to get better marks in German, I am now tutoring him.'

- Refugees, that come to Austria can be supported. Here is a website, where you can give tutoring lessons: wirhelfen.talentify.me You can also become a mentor at organizations such as **Caritas**, **Connecting People** or the **Diakonie** helping refugees to get a good start in the new country they are seeking refuge in.
- Organizations such as **Caritas**, **Doctors without Borders** or **UNHCR** do important work in refugee camps in other countries. They involve themselves in the food supply, education, water and sanitary facilities and health. You can support those organizations in a number of ways. You can find more information on their websites.