Nearly half the world lives on less than $5.50 a day: World Bank
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In a twice-yearly report the World Bank found the number of poor worldwide was still "unacceptably high" 2013 and 2015—"a number roughly equivalent to the population of Thailand or the United Kingdom."

Despite the improvement, the report said current trends indicated the World Bank's goal of reducing extreme poverty to less than three percent of the world's population by 2030 may be unattainable.

"Particularly distressing findings are that extreme poverty is becoming entrenched in a handful of countries and that the pace of poverty reduction will soon decelerate significantly," the report said.

At the $5.50-a-day threshold, global poverty fell to 46 percent from 67 percent between 1990 and 2015. The bank reported last month that extreme poverty had fallen to 10 percent in 2015.

With China's rise, East Asia and the Pacific saw a 60 point drop in the poverty rate to 35 percent, but the region is unlikely to continue to achieve that pace going forward as growth has moderated.

And poverty is becoming entrenched in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 84.5 percent of the population still live on less than $5.50 a day, the report said.

And while two decades ago, 60 percent of the global population lived in low-income countries, by 2015, that had fallen to nine percent.

The World Bank also cautioned that in many of those countries, the poor were not sharing equally in economic growth.

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