

Freedom from



The developing world faces a sovereign debt crisis

that limits investment in education, healthcare, and basic needs. Driven by colonial-era financial rules and private creditors—many in wealthy nations—countries are forced to borrow at exorbitant rates.

Under such unfair terms, sovereign debt becomes a tool of oppression. Without addressing debt injustice, prosperity, progress, and peace will remain out of reach.

Why This Matters

The global debt system is rigged against low-and middle-income countries:

3.4 billion people

live in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on health or education.

Developing nations pay

2x-10x

higher interest rates than wealthy nations.

Poorer countries send about

\$3 trillion a year

to richer ones through debt payments, high interest, and tax loopholes from natural resource extraction.

When unfair debt repayments are prioritized over people, life-saving programs like climate resilience, education, and healthcare suffer—leaving

billions

without the resources to live with dignity.

Bottom Line

Debt injustice is a human rights issue.

Nations should not have to choose between keeping their citizens alive and upholding an inequitable global debt system.

What We Ask Global Leaders

We need urgent systemic reform to dismantle the vicious cycle of unsustainable sovereign debt and safeguard human dignity and national sovereignty.

1 End Systemic Injustice

Implement the Borrowers' Forum, as proposed by the Seville (Financing for Development) and G20 in 2025, to unify the Global South's voice and increase its negotiating power.

2 Put People Before Interests

Ensure automatic, interest-free debt service pauses in all lending agreements when countries face public health or climate crises.

3 AI to Support Debt Relief

Call for a 1% global AI Solidarity Levy on the capital investments and revenues of leading AI firms to fund debt relief and provide essential public goods for the Global South.



AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

