

Debt crises affect people

Germany ♂

You are the manager of a large corporation. You are married with two children. Money does not play a role in private decisions.

Your country is one of the richest countries in the world and grants loans to poorer countries. Despite the fact that there are many rich people, many others are dependent on state support.

Ukraine ♀

You are a teacher and a single parent with two children. Your salary is enough to live on if you live very sparingly. But there are months when no salary is paid. Then it gets very tight. Luckily, you have a garden that provides most of the food you need.

Your country used to belong to the Soviet Union, is rich in raw materials and industrialised. Since 2014, it has been in a military conflict with Russia over Eastern Ukraine. The country is currently not able to obtain loans on the capital market. It is in a debt crisis.

Ghana ♂

You are a computer scientist with a Master's degree earned from a distance learning course in the USA. You earn good money, but you do not have a permanent job. Employers think that people like you are too expensive. You are thinking about accepting your friend's offer to go to England.

Your country is experiencing good economic growth, is politically stable and has many natural resources. More than a third of the population here lives below the poverty line. Despite debt relief a good ten years ago, the country is once more heavily in debt.

USA ♀

You are African-American. Since your local supermarket closed, you have been unemployed. You had bought a house and got into debt. In the financial crisis, you couldn't pay back the loans. The bank repossessed the house but you still have to pay off your debts. At the moment you are moving around, living with a variety of friends.

Your country is the largest economy in the world. Public debt has been growing steadily, particularly strongly since 2000. The causes are the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the financial crisis that began in 2007.

Pakistan ♀

You sew footballs together. The work is long and hard. You and your family can barely live on what you earn. Your children have to work to make up the difference. Your husband is unemployed.

Your country is poor. Economic growth is low. Your country is also heavily in debt. The financial crisis and a devastating flood forced the government to get further into debt. Many people are fleeing from terror and religious persecution.

Egypt ♀

You are a farmer in Upper Egypt and have seven children. You grow tomatoes and sell them at the market. Your husband has a second wife. The two boys are permitted to complete their school education. The girls must help in the household and on the field or earn money. Four years of school has to suffice for them.

Your country is relatively rich. Nevertheless, there is a high level of debt. Tourism has declined because of the unrest. Food has to be imported; social security contributions are rising.

Japan ♀

You are a sought-after pianist and have engagements all over the world. You have two children who are looked after by your husband or your parents when you are travelling.

Your country is the third largest economy in the world after the USA and China. It is poor in raw materials, but technologically highly developed and export-oriented.

Mongolia ♀

You were a nomad and moved to the outskirts of the capital with your yurt. You are looking for work, but it is hard to find anything. You are hoping to get a job in the catering trade. At the moment you are being supported by relatives.

The economy in your country is based on livestock farming and agriculture. The country is very rich in raw materials, but the financial crisis has plunged it into a serious debt crisis. Further loans are needed to be able to exploit the raw materials. The government relies upon the copper price remaining high and on the economy growing.

Syria ♂

You are an old man. Your sons have fled. You have given them all the money you had. If you didn't have the mosque, you could not survive.

Civil war is raging in your country. Many towns have been destroyed. The economy has collapsed. Many people are dependent on international aid or have escaped.

China ♂

You are studying engineering at one of the big universities. You are able to finance your studies with a scholarship. You work very hard because you want to be one of the best. Sometimes you can only keep up by taking drugs.

Your country is the second largest economy in the world and an important trading partner for Germany. There are enormous regional and social disparities in the country.

Georgia ♂

You work with your wife on a large fruit farm in the Black Sea region. You have two children. Your family barely makes ends meet. You also get money from your siblings, who live abroad. You think you are doing all right.

Your country's economy is based on agriculture, tourism and mining, but it is industrially underdeveloped. There are conflicts with Russia and unrest in the country due to a high degree of social inequality. The debts are high.

Venezuela ♂

You are an administrator in a small company. You were doing well, but since the crisis things have been going downhill. You have to economise a lot in order to make ends meet. You need a lot of time to get the essential items that have become scarce on the market.

Your country's economy depends on oil. The low price of oil has plunged the country into a severe crisis. Many everyday necessities are in short supply. Spare parts are unobtainable. The inflation rate is very high.

Greece ♀

You are retired and live in the capital city, Athens. You cannot live on your pension. Luckily, your children are able to help you out a little.

Your country is a member of the European Union. It is heavily in debt. Loans are linked to the sale of state-owned property, pension cuts, redundancies and savings in the public sector. The economy is in a downward spiral.

India ♀

You have five children and you belong to the caste of the untouchables. Your husband works as a road cleaner and you are a seamstress in a big factory. It is hard to make ends meet. The children have to contribute towards the family's income.

Your country's economy is growing rapidly. The population is growing as well. 30 percent live below the poverty line. There are huge disparities in development in the country.

Argentina ♂

You live on the outskirts of the city in a slum area. Drugs help you to put up with the misery. You live by petty theft. Sometimes you can find work for a few days. You will take any sort of work. You are afraid of the violence that reigns all around you.

Your country's economy is based on raw materials, agriculture and livestock farming. It was severely affected by the financial crisis that started in 2007.