

Debt crises affect people

Germany ♂

You came to Germany from Algeria a few years ago and married a German woman. There is a child on the way. Your German is mediocre. You work in a fast food restaurant, your wife is a cleaner.

The country you live in is one of the richest countries in the world and lends to poorer countries.

Somalia ♀

You live with your family in a very dry region. Water has to be fetched from far away. It is not always clean. You have seven children. You lost one child because of diarrhoea, another died of measles. You are happy that you receive regular food aid from the United Nations. There are no doctors or schools in the area.

Your country is one of the poorest in the world. The long civil war and frequent droughts and floods have resulted in a shortage of food and drinking water for a lot of people. Many people have fled their homes.

Ukraine ♂

You studied economics and are a government advisor. Your salary is good, even if you cannot compare yourself to an oligarch. You can afford to buy your own apartment. You often travel abroad on business.

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.

Brazil ♀

You are an architect living in São Paulo. You have no material worries. You have your own apartment and everything you need. However, everything is very expensive, so you cannot put much by for a rainy day. There have been a lot of burglaries in the area in which you live. There are also many attacks. You cannot let your children out on the street alone.

Your country, an emerging nation, is the strongest economy in Latin America. Key export goods are cocoa, coffee, soya beans, sugar and iron ore. A decline in economic growth can currently be seen.

Syria ♂

You are an older man and you deal in furniture. You live with your wife in the west of the country, where it is still relatively calm. You were able to provide financial support to your grown-up sons for their flight to Europe, because otherwise they would have been conscripted for military service. You are not doing badly at the moment.

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

Philippines ♂

You are a teacher living in the country. Your salary is low. Which is why you also have a field on which you grow staple foods. Your wife is a nurse and she too earns very little. You have seven children together.

Your country is poor, population growth is high. Many Filipinos work abroad and send part of their wages to their families. Climate change and natural disasters threaten the country. National debt is being kept in check.

Democratic Republic of Congo ♀

You are a 14-year-old girl. You live with relatives, work in the house there and look after the children. Your parents are no longer alive. Every morning you bake a batch of a kind of muffin, which you sell by the main road. You have to give the money to your relatives.

Your country is rich in natural resources. However, it is shaped by corruption, civil wars and weak public organisations. Despite debt relief in 2011, the country has an extremely high level of debt, a poor investment climate and an inadequate infrastructure. It is politically unstable.

India ♀

You come from a rich family that sets great store by education. You work as a well-paid computer scientist in a steel plant. Your husband is a manager. Your two children are looked after by maids and go to a good private school.

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.