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### EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

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#### 3. Poverty Can't be Stopped by Money Alone

Poverty can't be stopped by money alone. Nigeria recently surpassed India to become the country with the highest number of people living in extreme poverty: 87 million. Nigeria is oil rich and boasts Africa's fastest growing economy. Yet six of its people fall into extreme poverty every minute. This story isn't unique to Nigeria. It's echoed in other resource-rich countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola where an exploitative elite and multinational companies keep wealth from reaching the majority of citizens. By 2030, it's estimated that 82% of the world's poorest people will live in Africa.

This is the continent's paradox: vast national resources and mineral reserves alongside extreme poverty. Historically, poverty has been predominantly dealt with as a lack of national resources or an income deprivation issue. Development work has focused on pushing resources to poor communities. Many have criticized the availability of "free money", through international aid, which they say has created a "dependency syndrome", dishonest procurement and white elephant projects. Aid work has also been accused of fostering paternalism rather than partnership. The reality is that poverty is about more than just money. If money alone were the solution, poverty would have ended: more than \$50 billion was given as overseas development assistance to Africa in 2017 alone. [...]

We argue that tackling poverty requires a different focus, rather than just money. It requires partnerships and practices that promote learning, particularly in relation to cultural and self-knowledge. Having communities identify their own problems, then collaborate to find solutions, is also crucial. Money has a role to play in partnerships, but projects shouldn't default to depending solely on it.

Adapted from CNBC Africa, August 17, 2018.

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