Poverty in Africa … why?

Economic

- 'Unfair' trade
- High transport costs
- Reliance on primary commodities like coffee, cocoa
- Late entry into the manufacturing sector
- Debt to overseas banks and governments
- Investors in Africa face higher risks

For every dollar received in sub-Saharan Africa in aid and debt relief between 1970-2000, the region lost $14 from trade barriers, paying back debt and poor investment decisions.

Nearly half the people in sub-Saharan Africa live on less than $1 a day. A third of Kenyans live without a supply of safe water, and 85% have no electricity in their homes.

Political

- Civil conflict
- Poor governance

Environmental

- Low productivity in farming
- Impact of climate change

Social

- Poor health and education – 15% of Kenyans between 15-49 years old live with HIV/AIDS, and there are about a million AIDS orphans in Kenya.
- Pressures of population growth and urbanisation
- 'The brain drain'- skilled people take up jobs abroad

Commission for Africa

For more detail, visit www.commissionforafrica.org or the schools version at www.learningafrica.org.uk