

The International Society for Ecological Economics 2016 Conference

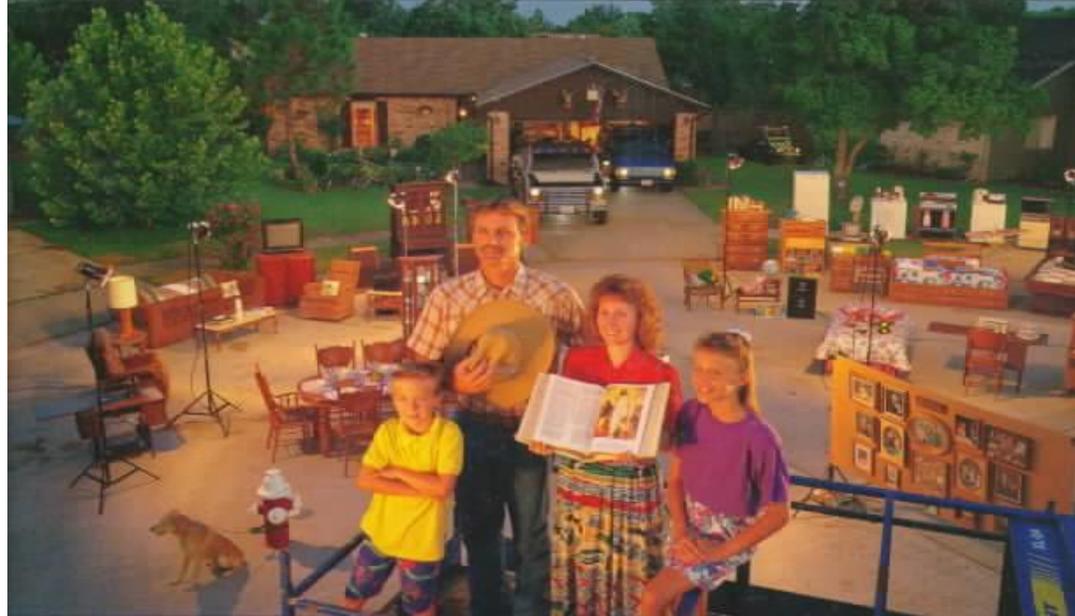
# Global income inequality and carbon footprints

Kuishuang Feng

Klaus Hubacek, Giovanni Baiocchi & Anand Patwardhan

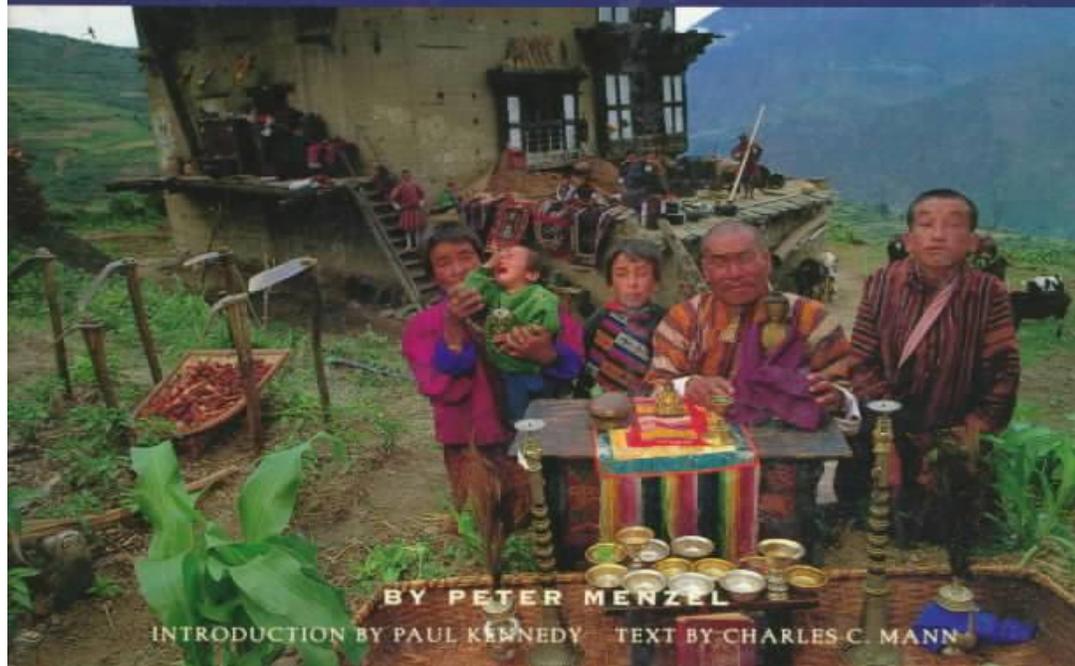


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# MATERIAL WORLD

A GLOBAL FAMILY PORTRAIT



BY PETER MENZEL

INTRODUCTION BY PAUL KENNEDY    TEXT BY CHARLES C. MANN

# China: The Wu Family



<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/worldbalance/material.html>

# India: The Yadev Family



# Mali: The Natomo Family



# Japan: The Ukita Family



# Kuwait



# United States: The Skeen Family



# 'The queen of Versailles'



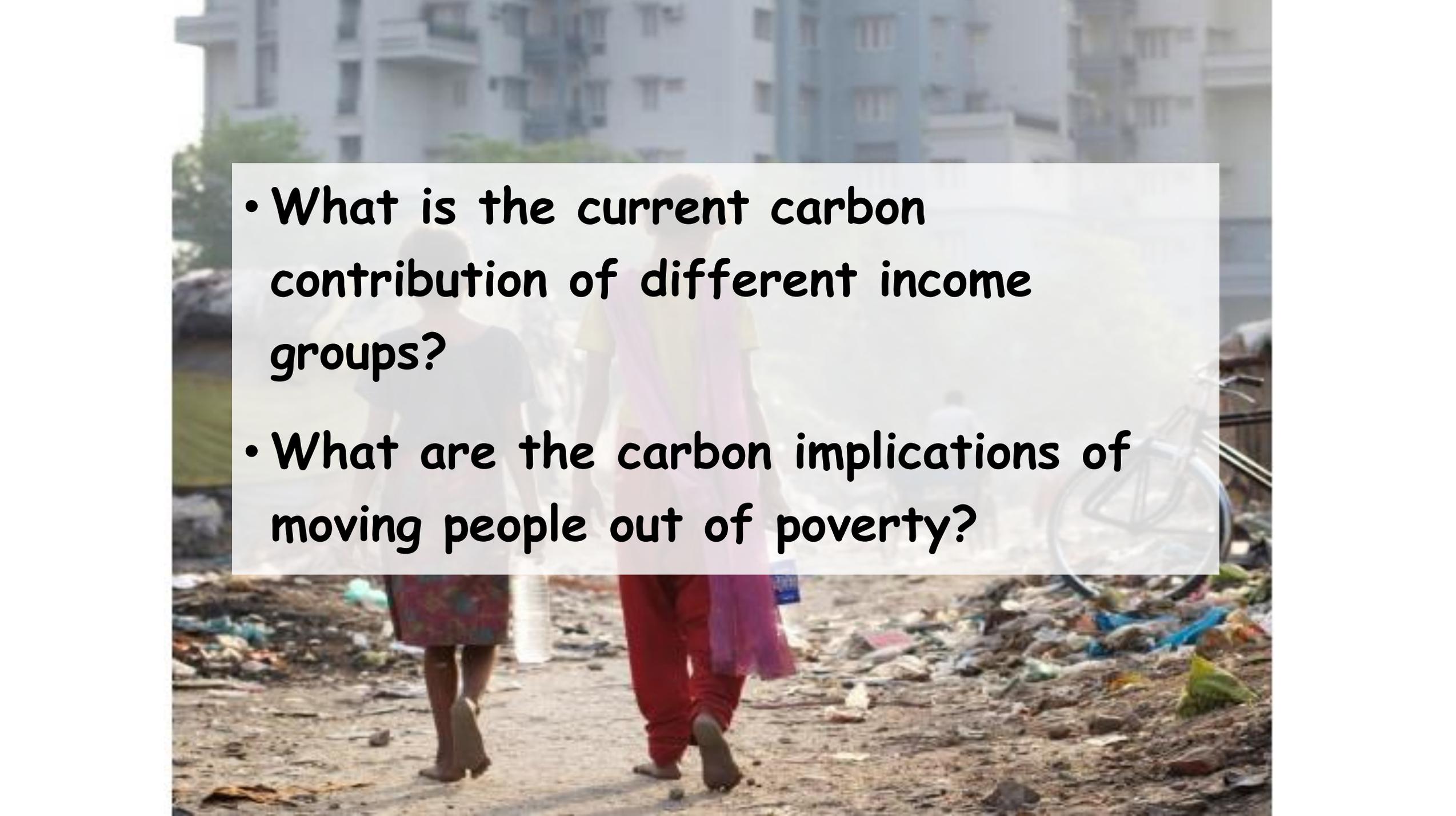
<http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi4044465945/>

- The wealth of the world is divided in two: almost half is going to the richest one percent; the other half to the remaining 99 percent. (Oxfam)
- About half of the world population earns less than three dollars PPP per day. (World Bank)
- Close to a billion people in the world live on less than 1.25 dollars PPP a day. (World Bank)

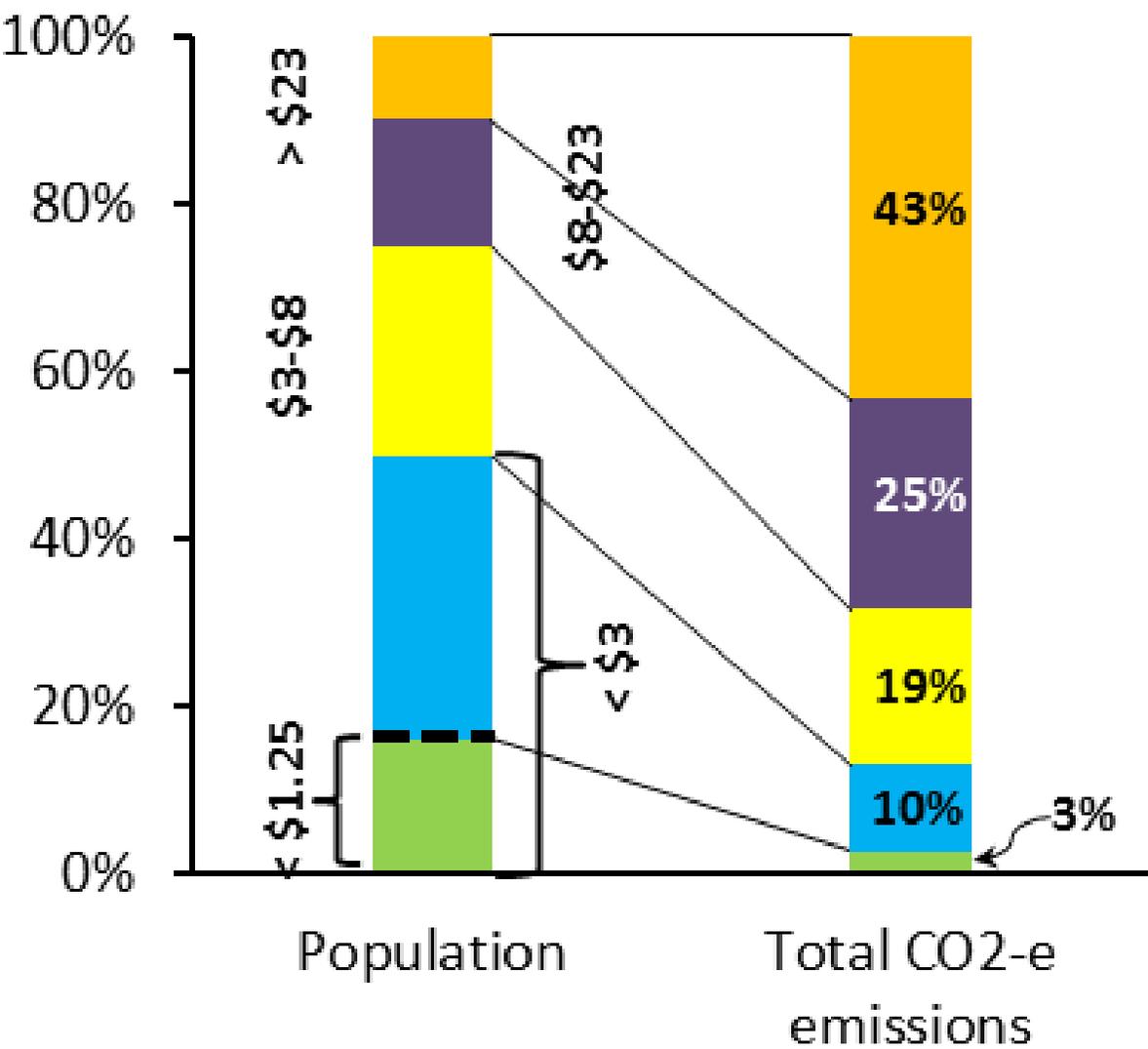
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EVEN  
IT UP



- 
- **What is the current carbon contribution of different income groups?**
  - **What are the carbon implications of moving people out of poverty?**

■ < \$1.25 ■ \$1.25 - \$3 ■ \$3-\$8 ■ \$8-\$23 ■ > \$23

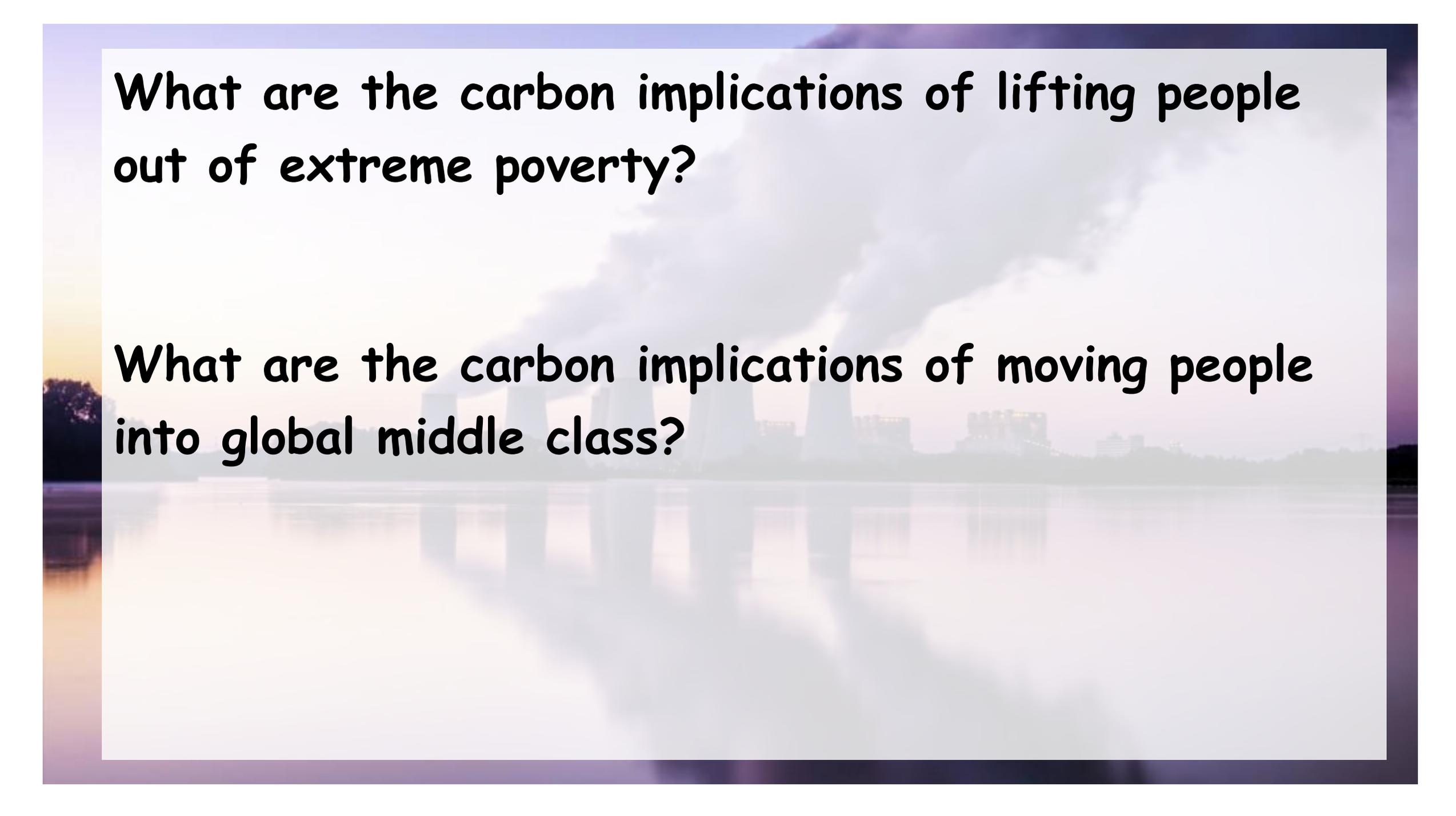


# Poverty eradication and climate change

- The first of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"
  - Eradicating extreme poverty by 2030
- New Paris Agreement under UNFCCC
  - Keeping warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels in the long term
  - Recognizing developing countries right to eradicate extreme poverty and develop sustainably

These agreements provide the basis for putting the world economies on a sustainable pathway.

However, both agreements do not prescribe how these ambitious goals may be achieved in a compatible manner, nor how the burden or responsibility of achieving them may be shared.

The background of the slide features a photograph of an industrial facility, likely a power plant or factory, with several tall smokestacks. Thick white smoke or steam is rising from the stacks and drifting across the sky. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the scene, showing the silhouettes of the buildings and the smokestacks. The overall lighting is soft, suggesting either dawn or dusk, with a pale sky and a hint of orange light on the left side.

**What are the carbon implications of lifting people out of extreme poverty?**

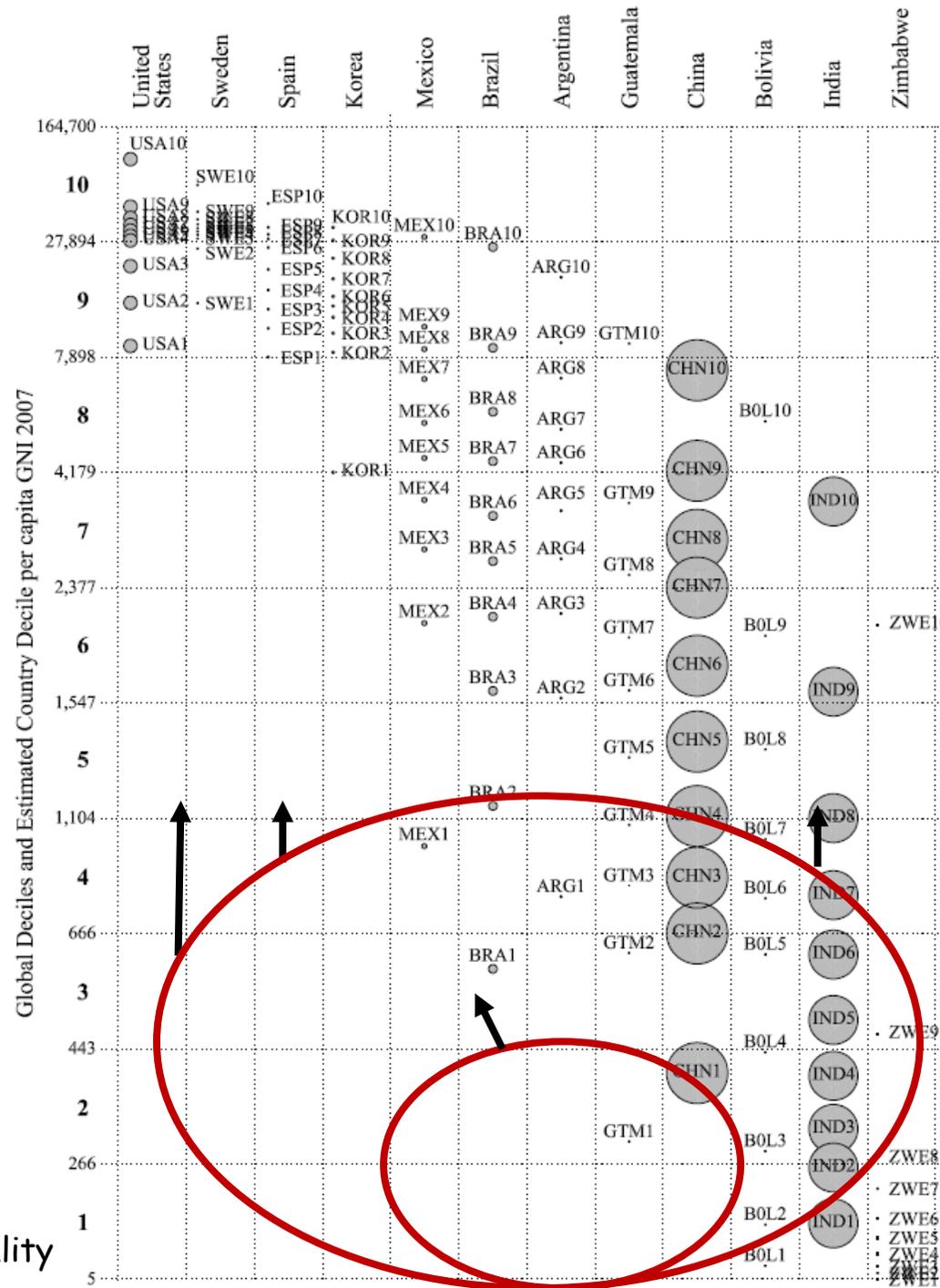
**What are the carbon implications of moving people into global middle class?**

Let's do  
some simple  
scenarios



1) Remove extreme poverty

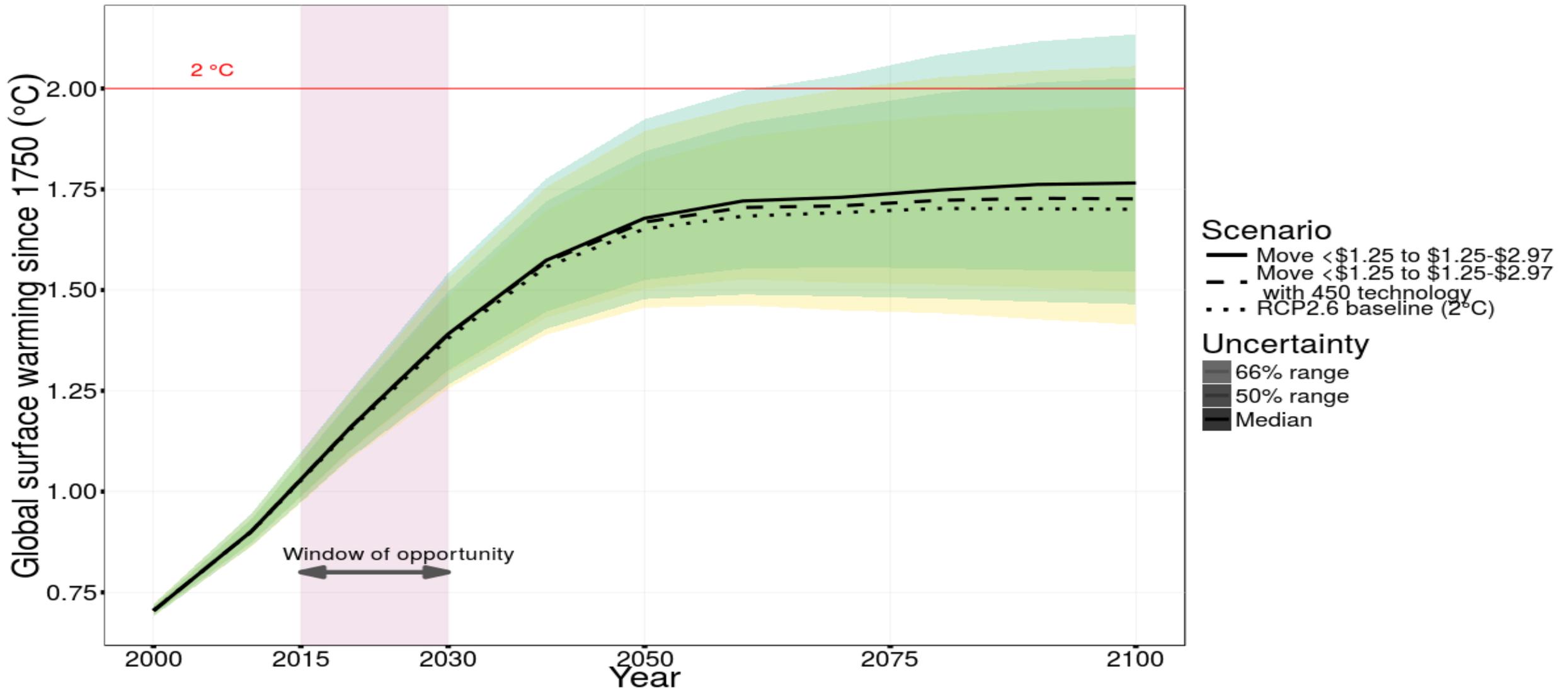
2) Move everybody to a decent level of income



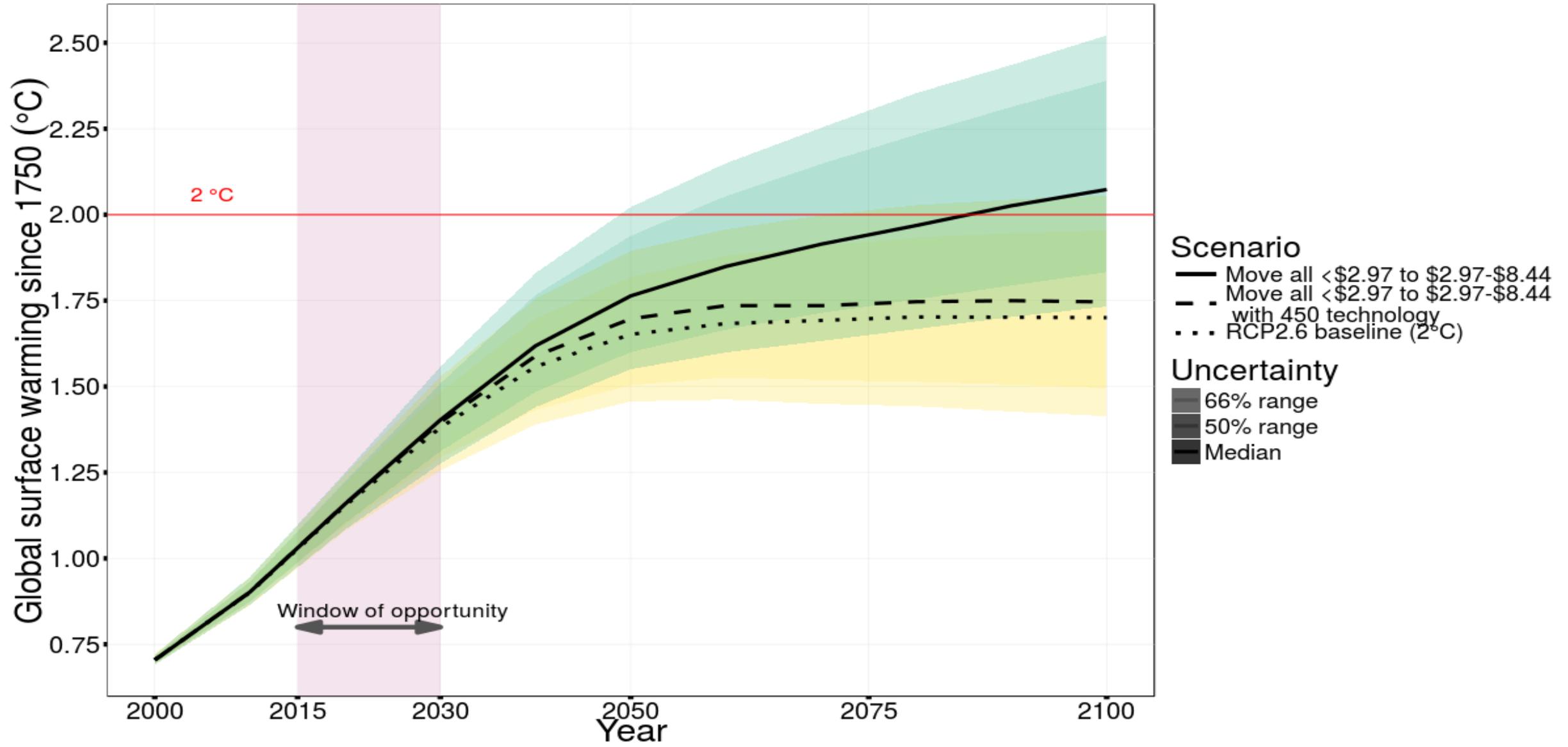
> 3\$ (50%)

> 1.25\$ (15%)

# Moving the extreme poor to a higher income level has relatively small carbon implications



# But moving 50% of the global population to at least \$3 per day has considerable impacts



## ... to summarize

- There are huge differences in carbon footprints between as well as within countries
- The higher the income the higher the carbon footprint
- Carbon commitment of moving people out of extreme poverty is not so bad
- The problem is clearly more at higher incomes and their lifestyles



Thank you

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