

Inequalities

In Greenland we experience very large inequalities in the material living conditions. Most of the population live on the poverty line, and if they can afford to buy a Greenlandic newspaper, the poor people can inform themselves in announces from the partly public owned airline company, Air Greenland, about expensive holiday trips to exotic, warmer countries.

The inequalities are also visible in the townscape: Large villas of high quality including all modern facilities are located site by site with miserable living-quarters in blocks with flats. Buildings that long ago should have been demolished.

In the harbour the expensive yachts is placed alongside the hunters small, cheap and worn dinghies. Expensive cars are driving around on the roads.

The population of the capital Nuuk has far better living conditions than the population in the smaller towns on the coast. The people of the very small, remote settlements often have the worst living conditions. In these settlements the subsistence economy often dominates. The subsistence economy consists of the local hunters and fishermen, who sell their catch, or exchange the catch for other goods.

A country with large inequalities in income and living conditions is at high risk of internal conflicts between population groups. The conflicts of political and violent nature can erupt without warning and be based on coincidences.

The main tool to eliminate inequality is education. But it must be an educational effort the entire population has access to.



A fashionable neighbourhood, Qaqortoq, December 2015