

Poignant & Heart-Breaking Portraits Of People Who Live On A Dollar A Day

By Jillian Wong, 21 Apr 2014



Nine-year-old Alvaro helps to herd his family's alpacas and llamas since his father died. He was one of the few children featured in the book who attends school.

Thomas A. Nazario has a book titled *Living on a Dollar a Day: The Lives and Faces of the World's Poor* that documents the sobering poverty of people that subsist on a dollar a day.

Shot by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Renée C. Byer, the book contains poignant portraits of a fraction of the estimated one billion and more of the world's population that lives on this meagre amount.

Nazario is the founder of non-profit organization [The Forgotten International](#), and wanted to highlight the plight and dismal living conditions of people in developing countries.

Wanting to avoid the cliché of focusing on places with extreme poverty like Africa, he traveled to 10 countries to capture a range of diverse cultures and races.

In an interview with Mother Jones, he recounted heart-breaking stories of children living in an e-waste dump in Ghana and a mother in Peru who endured abuse from her two husbands, had her boys taken away from her and faces constant eviction.

Amid the tales of squalor and despair he found hope and enlightenment, citing an example of a Bangladeshi woman who despite toiling in a sewing factory for up to 12 hours a day, was happy and grateful for being employed as it meant she could put her children through school, and offered a chance at lifting her family out of poverty.

Nazario also delved into the various factors that contribute to poverty, such as gender. Women are expected to stay home, raise children, and not work. They are seen as a liability and are often sold into prostitution or trafficking.

Issues like climate change, imperialism, totalitarian systems and government structure also play a part, giving rise to a marked difference in the lifespans of people from rich and poor countries, and resulting in a huge disproportionate distribution of wealth around the world.

Nazario also addressed the sensitive 'savior complex', stating that the best way to help improve the situations of poor communities is to talk to them and understand their needs, instead of dictating what we think is best for them.

Read the full interview [here](#) and head over to Amazon to purchase the book.



Subadra Devi, a laborer in the Himalayan foothills who was forced to leave India after a drought killed her crops

Six-year-old Vishal Singh cares for a baby in a New Delhi slum while her mother is away



Eight-year-old Fati collects scrap metal in an e-waste dump in Accra, Ghana, which she carries in a bucket on her head. She is crying from pain caused by malaria.

Hora Florin, who grew up in Romanian orphanages, parks himself near underground heating vents at night to keep warm



A six-year-old herds cows for his father in Ghana; his family's economic circumstances mean he will likely never get to attend school

The Kayayo Girls of Accra collect waste or work as porters for wealthier residents. They often live in communal settings near or atop the city dump.



Women of Nkwanta, Ghana, carry an edible root called cassava which they farm

Thirteen-year-old Hunupa Begum and six-year-old Hajimudin Sheikh beg for food in New Delhi. Begum is blind and Sheikh suffers from abnormal fluid build-up in his head.



Ana-Marie Tudor stands in her home in Bucharest, Romania, where her family faces eviction

[via Mother Jones, images by Renée C. Byer]

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