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1st Place, Environment (nature, wildlife) Picture Story Renée C. Byer/The Sacramento Bee



What used to be the pristine waters of the Korle Lagoon in the city of Accra, Ghana, West Africa, is now an electronics dumpsite that is so toxic that neither fish or worms can survive. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.

In an e-waste dump that kills nearly everything that it touches, Fati, 8, works with other children searching through hazardous waste in hopes of finding whatever she can to exchange for pennies in order to survive. While balancing a bucket on her head with the little metal she has found, tears stream down her face as the result of the pain that comes with the malaria she contracted some years ago. This is her life. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.



Mohamed Abukari, 17, has no education and basically lives with six other boys in a very tiny wood structure in the dump area. He pays one Ghana CD to live there each day. He says he sometimes can make 8 Ghana CD a day but some days he makes nothing. The boys that work on this e-waste dumpsite burn computers in order to extract any valuable metals that might fall to the ground. In the process they expose themselves to toxic fumes that

gather in their clothes, skin, and lungs. These cast-off computers from the Western world

are shipped to Ghana, West Africa. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.

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Ayisha, 10, has experienced the same fate in Accra, Ghana. They are impoverished children that few seem to care about and have been left here with few options in life. There are no environmental codes or regulations as no one is wearing a mask or protective clothing. Much of these waste materials are burned, and these children are often exposed to toxic fumes. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.

The remnants of an old keyboard are embedded on the pathway to the e-waste dump in Ghana, West Africa. The children that work on this e-waste dumpsite burn computers in order to extract any valuable metals that might fall to the ground. In the process they expose themselves to toxic fumes that gather in their clothes, skin, and lungs. These cast-off computers from the Western world are shipped to Ghana, West Africa. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.



A group of small girls including Fati, 8, right, walk along the Korle Lagoon toxic e-waste dump where they had been sifting for metals with magnets. Many of the children are homeless all living together in a 10x10 foot shack as seen behind them with no toilets or electricity. The lagoon is so polluted that neither fish or worms can live in it. It is the water supply they use to wash clothes and bathe. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.



Here children work all day to collect whatever scraps they can, then try to wash the carbon soot off their feet that has attached itself to their young bodies. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.



Older boys, such as Mohamed Abukari, 17 (framed center), usually are first to burn and pick through the residue of discarded computers for copper wiring or any other valuable metals. In the background, other boys are getting ready to ignite more items into flames. These boys make the most money at this electronic waste dump while younger children, who go through what's left, make almost nothing in Accra, Ghana. Abukari has no education and basically lives with six other boys in a very tiny wood structure in the dump area. He pays one Ghana CD to live there each day. He says he sometimes can make 8 Ghana CD a day but some days he makes nothing. He came from the northern region of Ghana in a town called Yendi in hopes of sending money home to his two brothers and a sister but can't make enough money to survive himself. He can barely afford to eat. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.





Philimon's charcoal black hands show the carbon residue and soot and his eyelashes are singed from the flames he works in an e-waste dumpsite. He is 14 years old and he uses his hands to sift through the burned-over soil to find bits of precious metals. He is homeless and was forced to leave school when he was in the third grade after his father could no longer care for him. Most nights he sleeps on the street and when it rains he sleeps under someone's awning or

in a truck. Recently he was brought to a hospital in need of medical attention after suffering heat stroke while working in the sun at the Agbogbloshie dump. Other street children tried to help pay his medical bills but few had any money. Eventually he was released only to go back to work in the dump. On some days, Philimon finds nothing of value and makes no money. On a good day he may make as much as 2 Ghana cedi or about \$1.28 U.S. This is not much of a reward considering the toxins that not only seep into his skin but surely must also find their way into his lungs. Moreover, not only does this work affect these children and workers in the dump, but because it creates immense damage to the air this affects those who happen to live in this part of Accra. As evidence of what has occurred here, the Korle lagoon is now a dead body of water, and nothing can live there, not even worms. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.

Throughout the world, the poor are often asked to take on some of our worst jobs. Here, a young man in Ghana, West Africa, burns and sifts through discarded computers in hopes of finding any valuable metals that may have been left behind, a process that, if lucky, brings him a dollar a day. Published in 'Living on a Dollar a Day' book April, 10, 2014.



1st

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The Sacramento Bee

2nd

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3rd

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