



# These Photos Show How Hard It Is To Live On Less Than \$1 A Day

SEE THE PEOPLE AND HEAR THE STORIES BEHIND THE STATISTICS OF GLOBAL POVERTY—AND THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

Fifteen years after the world made the goal to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty by 2015—one of the U.N.'s eight Millennium Development Goals—one in six people still survives on a dollar a day. Or less.

A book called *Living on a Dollar a Day: The Lives and Faces of the World's Poor*, timed to come out just before the U.N. figures out what to do next, shares photos of this daily life on four continents.

"This book was published in hopes of bringing awareness to brutal statistics," says Renee C. Byer, a Pulitzer Prize-winner and senior photojournalist for the *Sacramento Bee*, who spent months traveling the world to make the book, in collaboration with a poverty nonprofit called The Forgotten International.



Renée C. Byer

In India, the first country she visited, Byer met a two-year-old girl who was being starved by her mother so that they could beg on the streets, raising money to feed the rest of the family.

"Her name was Sangeeta, and she weighed nine pounds at age two," Byer says. "The depravity was so severe that this mother couldn't think of anything to do to feed her other children. So she was sacrificing one for the others."

It's a hard photo to look at. "My concern, of course, is that people might turn away since it's such a harrowing image," she says. "But my hope is that they don't, and that they can imagine their own children in this child's shoes."

She tried to avoid stereotypical images of poverty, and included happier moments—children playing and laughing—along with the rest of the reality of their lives.

Byer met people living in sewers in Romania, a six-year-old cow herder in Ghana who will likely never have the chance to go to school, and an 80-year old Bolivian woman who explained that her crops are failing because of climate change.



Renée C. Byer

"I realized that without help, this cycle of poverty will continue," Byer says. "Imagine yourself living in a place where there's still polio, still malaria, there's lack of health care, lack of education. Some of these things we may have in the United States, but in the United States we have a safety net to help. In these places there is no safety net."

After each chapter, the book includes suggestions for how people can help—beyond the obvious of giving donations to nonprofits. "It's not just about money," she says. "It's about volunteering, writing your congressman. ... You can start tweeting to bring awareness to the issue. Without awareness, the problem isn't going to get solved."

"I guess I'd ask that we all try harder to have more of a shared humanity," she adds. "In the forward to the book, the Dalai Lama wrote, 'Unfairness in the human condition can only be remedied when people everywhere care.'"

## **ADELE PETERS**

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Erika Gonzales, 36, forms a train like procession as she walks with three of her children as well as her grandchild fastened to her back through the streets of Lima, Peru, collecting recyclables. In Lima, 20 percent of all its waste is gathered up in this manner. Erika is a victim of domestic violence along with her daughter (not pictured) who recently lost her job. Now she is living in one room in Villa El Salvador and she owes two months of rent and she can't pay it because selling the recycled stuff, only earns her enough to buy food. She loves her children and she would like to give them a better life. She doesn't like to make them work, but she needs help,

so Nicoll and Anderson accompany her during the recycling from sunrise to sunset every day.

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Kailesh Chand, 26, who sits with his son Om Prakash 2, is a machine operator in New Delhi, India. It is a job his brother had before he lost his leg in a work-related accident. They are squatters in Kale Khan along the Yamuna River in East Delhi living on government property but could be kicked out and have no place to live. He works six days a week and his shift changes daily to make \$2 a day. He says his salary is okay now but worries about how he will afford to send his children to school later. His wife Sunita Devi stays home to watch their infant son Hemant.

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In the Charan slum settlement of northern India, Kalpana, 20, starves one of her children Sangeeta, 2, while her sister Sarita, 5-months-old, right, sleeps in comfort, above right, in her mother's arms. Sangeeta only weighs 9 pounds. Children are more likely to appeal to the sympathy of those inclined to give to beggars, so those who beg use children for this purpose. Worse, sometimes as in this case a child is starved and carried about by the child's parent while she begs on the streets or rented out to another beggar to be used as an object of sympathy in the hope of generating more income over the course of a given day. Sometimes these extra funds are used to feed other children, thus, in practice, one child is sacrificed for the sake of others. Sangeeta has since been helped by the Tong-Len Charitable Trust's mobile medical clinic at the Charan slum settlement, Dharamsala, India. But according to the World Bank 19,000 children die a day from preventable causes.

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Blinded for the past ten years Hunupa Begum, 13, and her brother Hajimudin Sheikh, 6, resort to singing and clapping their hands to play and in the process make each other laugh in Delhi, India.

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Brothel worker Pinky prepares for another day's work using makeup to cover a black eye she received from a client in Jessore, Bangladesh. For many of these women it's an occupational hazard they endure.

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Outside Phnom Penh Cambodia, Panha Sak, 2, runs alongside the polluted waterways of his home. This area also doubles as he playground. More than 1 billion people lack adequate access to clean drinking water and an estimated 400 million of these are children. Because unclean water yields illness, roughly 443 million school days are missed every year.

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Barbara Alfred, 15, lives in an orphanage in Monrovia, Liberia. She was raped by two of her uncles and left with a fistula that makes her unable to control her urine. She has been isolated from others at the orphanage and has been forced to sleep on only metal springs.

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Four-year-old Ana-Maria Tudor, above, stands in the light of her doorway in Bucharest, Romania, hoping for a miracle as her family faces eviction from the only home they have ever had. Her father recently had a gall bladder surgery that resulted in an infection and left him unable to work. The one room they live in has no bathroom or running water.

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