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## Slum Soul

There are places of silence under the skin of the known world, spaces where the voice of god, any kind of god, has remained silent. The slums are land of dust and smoke. Living in the metropolis slums has reached striking poverty levels. In 2007, for the first time in human history, the urban population became the majority of the world. Over three and half billion people live in cities and their number is growing every day more than 100,000. The 19 mega-cities over 10 million people will become 26 in 2025. There is no doubt that population growth will be an environmental problem, and that another problem, this time social one, is consuming around two billion people living in the slums. The high housing density, the price of apartments and the lack of governmental support programs, are the main reasons that obliged these persons to live in inhuman conditions, literally inventing a space where to live. Along the railway escarpment, sometimes even on the rails, or along the town drainage channels, large dwelling areas have mushroomed, with no basic service nor a decent hygiene and cleanliness standard. Wooden and metal sheds, in the worst cases simple mattresses to sleep and a piece of nylon as a protection against monsoons, are what this people call “home”.



**In 2007, for the first time in human history the urban population became the majority of the world. Two billion people live in slums. In Jakarta, in the slum of Kramat Pulo, crumbling houses surrounding a residential neighborhood newly built: two worlds far apart socially share the same urban area.**



**In the absence of government intervention aimed at resolving the problem of waste disposal, the only way to avoid being overwhelmed by trash, is burn it. The risk of poisoning is high, but for these people there aren't alternatives.**



**In this wooden and cardboard shack in the slum of and Kramat Pulo in Jakarta, three generations are living here: the situation is claustrophobic, the unhealthy environment and hygiene conditions are very poor.**



The lack of social policies and aid actions bear upon not only on the present life of these people, but compromise the future of the next generations.



Along the gutters full of garbage in the slum of Ciliwung in Jakarta, a whole neighborhood of dilapidated buildings made by metal sheet is built to house tens of thousands citizens from the Indonesian countryside. In this' area the health problem has assumed alarming proportions, but despite the dramatic situation is not a priority agenda of the government.



When they are born and grow in a social system that don't give any alternative, it's easy abandon themselves to inevitable and scored destiny. The children of the slums perhaps can not even dream of a life away from these places.



**Kramat Pulo. A young girl on the threshold home along the railway in the capital Indonesia.**



**The 80% of the poor world where the labor is cheaper than a glass of water, allow the 20% of the humanity to live in wealth and well-being.**



**In the one small room of their home, this couple welcomes their baby. The cradle is fixing on the ceiling due to small dimension of the room.**



**The population density in the Maggarai slum reached impressive levels: an whole city has grown and developed in the heart of Jakarta.**



**A plastic sheet resting on support posts is the only shelter for these children. The wall of the main line train of the Indonesian capital, is a stage of endless misery and degradation.**



**Like lost in a world of dust and darkness, this young girl appears from the darkness of the tent in which she lives. Between soil and waste the pots and dishes for lunch.**




In a small restaurant in the slum of Kramat Pulo, a woman fries meat balls.



**The lack of resources leads to the sharing of many daily activities. Here, two women prepare lunch for their families and other neighbors.**



Living in the slums don't mean only reside in these areas, but deeper meaning belong to that segment of the population excluded and rejected by society.



**Come out from the shadows is an act of hope and redemption for the new generations born in the dark suburbs of the large cities.**



**Bangkok. Under the motorway close to the railway stands the slum of Klong Toey.  
The population density is very high: about 100,000 people live here.**



The high cost of housing and the lack of government programs support, induce the proliferation of degraded areas where it is absent any king of basic service.



**A group of young men in a "bar" in the slum of Bobe in Bangkok. One obvious consequence of this situation of life is the high degree of social distress: drugs, alcoholism, prostitution are often the only solutions adopted by these people trying to survive the daily life.**



The refined elegance of the statues of Thai dancers invokes a sense of beauty and order almost surreal in this environment.



Almost as helpless in the face of reality, this man cradling his nephew in the heat of the Bobe slum.



Between the railroad tracks a woman sells chicken skewers in the Bobs area almost in the center of the Thai capital. In total it is estimated that 10% of the Bangkok population living in the slums, although it is not easy to know exactly the number of the people.



The lack of alternative forces these people to live in those spaces left "empty" from affluent society. The areas where it is not possible to build are occupied by millions of decrepit buildings and a huge mass of people who have only this way of life.




The slum of Bobe is almost in the center of Bangkok, along the main railway line that leading to the main train station. Not far away there is the famous Siam Square: area of shopping centers, restaurants, banks and offices. On the table in your restaurant this woman puts in place the accounts of the day.



**Blue is a girl who lives in the slum of Klong Toey. This area has originated about 50 years ago when the population living in rural areas moved to cities in search of employment and social opportunities.**



**Who are in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Bangkok or Rio, the squatters who live in the large mass of makeshift shelters, shacks, tents are in the same conditions of life. Here, the slum of Shashamane in central Ethiopia.**



*"There are more things in heaven and earth,  
Horatio, than are dreamt of in  
your philosophy. "W. Shakespeare  
Shashamane - Ethiopia.*



**Many NGOs working in this area: the main activities of these groups of volunteers are in range of health: provision of medicines, medical consultation and home qualified care in the case of people with AIDS.**



**The AIDS is a social evil which has long been devastating social and economic structure of Ethiopia.  
Here a woman in his house of straw and mud in Shashamane, Ethiopia.**



There are places of big degradation and deprivation, where the penalty is always equal to itself.



**In some cases, slums work predominantly as supply of labor for the “high” city. Here two girls in the slum of Shashamane - Ethiopia**



**Between the sky and earth of slums unfold in many cases lives and activities that should be only detected and supported. This Ethiopian child pushes his wheel towards a future that hopefully will not be denied.**



**The gaze of this Ethiopian child cuts the air like a razor. A future of struggle and emancipation of these people waiting over the border of destitution and poverty.**