The first Millennium Development Goal is to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who live on the equivalent of US$1 a day, or less. In 2002, an estimated 17% of the world population lived on this amount. They lived on less than or equal to what, to be precise, US$1.08 would have bought in the United States in 1993.

In over twenty territories more than a third of the population lives on less than US$1 a day. All but two of these territories are in Africa.

The largest population living on US$1 a day is in Southern Asia, most of whom live in India.

Territory size shows the proportion of all people living on less than or equal to US$1 in purchasing power parity a day.

“...the mass of the people struggle against the same poverty, flounder about making the same gestures ... It is an underdeveloped world, a world inhuman in its poverty ...”

Franz Fanon, 1961

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