



## GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

'Greed is the root of all evil.'  
[proverb from the United States of America]

### One day spent with Angela from the USA

Hi guys! It's me Angela. I have just finished watching my favourite TV-series and before I have to leave for school, I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I am 12 years old and I live in this little apartment with my two older brothers. Another 1000 people also live in my apartment block. That means, I am never really alone. Shhh ... if you listen closely you can hear the neighbour coughing on the 15th floor. In the apartment below you can hear a baby cry night and day and next door a couple often fight really loudly. As you can see, there is always something going on! That is why it is sometimes difficult to concentrate on my maths homework.

When you look out my window, you can see the centre of the city – New York. It is the biggest city in the USA. Surrounding our apartment are impressive skyscrapers, where the rich people live and work. In New York you can buy anything you could possibly wish for; however you need money for that and my family doesn't have much money at all, even though my mum works really hard for her money as a waitress, we still do not have enough. Ever since my dad has left us, we have been really struggling because my mum only earns minimum wage as a waitress. But she always hopes, that people will pay her additional tips so that we can pay our bills.

In the USA we call people like us „the working poor“ – these are the people that have a job and are working but still have too little money to live a good and healthy lifestyle. But now, I really have to hurry – I need to catch the bus to school. Come on, you can come with me to the bus station. If I get to school early, I have time to get a free breakfast and hang out with my friends at the youth centre next to the school. The other day my best friend Zoe invited me to her birthday party on the other side of the city. I would love to go, but my mum doesn't have enough money to give me to buy a bus ticket.

I told Zoe that I could not come, because I had a doctor's appointment. I was too embarrassed to tell her the truth. My family is poor, but we are still lucky to have a roof over our heads – there are far poorer people living in New York. When you walk through the streets you often see homeless people lying on the cold floor. I am lucky to have a bed.

I share my room with my two older brothers – Tom and Justin. They are 25 and 28 years old, but still live at home. It is hard to find a job and an affordable flat in New York. But I hope, they will soon find work, so they can move out so I can have the bedroom to myself.

Oh, here is the bus, now I really have to go! Just let me say this one last thing: If I had one wish for our future I would want to end poverty in this world. Every little girl in this world should be able to have their own bedroom!





## End poverty in all its forms everywhere

If you struggle to afford everyday things, then you are considered as poor. Here we have to distinguish between two types of poverty: 'absolute poverty' and 'relative poverty'. People suffering from 'absolute poverty' don't even have the money for the bare essentials to be able to survive. They do not have access to food or clean drinking water and can not afford to buy shoes or clothing. Many of these people do not have a home and live on the streets. Statistically speaking, everyone who has less than 2 Euros to spend a day is considered very poor. In Austria, that would mean you would only be able to afford a sandwich with two slices of cheese.

In Austria almost no one needs to live in absolute poverty. Our social state ensures primary care for everyone. However, there are some people, who live in relative 'poverty'. These people can not afford to turn on their heating in the winter, they can't go on holiday with their families and they also can't buy school materials for their children. Often these people also have to live with prejudices and exclusion from society. The embarrassment they have to face is sometimes harder than having to live on too little money.

At the moment, one in ten people have to live in extreme poverty. Goal 1 seeks to change that. In 2030 every person should earn more than 2 Euros per day. The number of people living in relative poverty should be halved. Reaching this goal isn't going to be very easy.

In some countries in Africa almost 80% of the people live in absolute poverty. Rich and poor countries need to work together so we are able to reach our first goal. Together we have to think of a good strategy.

## What can we do to help achieve this goal?

- We sometimes see poor or homeless people on the streets begging for money. It is up to you whether you buy them food or give them a few pennies. But always make sure you meet these people with respect without prejudice. Sometimes it is nice for them if they get a friendly hello or just to have someone to talk to.
- Poverty can affect us all! Find out more on the topic of 'world poverty' and discuss it with your friends. Make sure you let other people know about the problems we have to face in this world. This is where your social media accounts come in handy.

**Tom (17) from  
Vöcklabruck, Upper Austria:**

'I did a presentation in geography on the causes of poverty. Afterwards we had a big discussion in class about it and how each and every one of us can help poorer people in our community.'

**Anna (14) from Reutte, Tyrol**

'I have been a carol singer for five years. I don't just have fun doing this, I can also make a change for people living in poorer regions of the world.'

- Every year around 85.000 children and 30.000 adults set an example to show how you can help people in need. For example, they collect money as carol singers which goes to support charity projects in places such as Africa, Asia and Latin-America. Most carol singers are between 8 and 12 years old, but there is no age restriction. You can find more information on the homepage of the 'Dreikönigsaktion': [www.dka.at](http://www.dka.at)