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Absolute poverty (also called extreme poverty) is the lack of sufficient resources to secure basic life necessities, including amongst others safe drinking water, food, or sanitation. The poverty line is often calculated on the basis of income: where the income of a person or a family falls below a certain level considered to be the minimum required for a reasonable standard of living, then this person or family is considered poor. Poverty-fighters could learn only through careful street-level observation whether they were helping rather than hurting. Unlike some of our current foundation and university aristocrats, they were not lady bountifuls distributing their largesse from the manor house. The only disappointing part of Poverty and Compassion is a section that deals directly with explicitly evangelical groups. How can we define poverty globally? Poverty affects millions of people around the world. Children are most vulnerable to the devastating effects of poverty. (If you already sponsor with Compassion, please use the email address you've already given us.) Email. Submit.