

If I am poor and unemployed, what shall I do?

“That’s a hard one” as was Eve’s first words to Adam in the garden of Eden myth.

The situation is extremely difficult, and if you survive, all credit to you and your efforts. Although advice in such a situation is generally patronizing, and sympathies should rather be in place, and further advice can be seen as the heartless attitude, “if you want a good life and put some effort into it you will get it”, not understanding the circumstances and the difficulties; I make advice in the survival spirit of not giving up, but fighting. This text also represents an effort to highlight the difficulties some people in this world have, that we should consider in our everyday lives.

You can survive 20-40 days without food. You need water, though.

Low paying jobs are not always available; depending on union treaties and laws. One proven successful approach is to physically visit job sites and ask for a job. Restaurants, bars, (de)construction sites, tourist sales sites, tourist guides, shops, (used) car sales, picking fruit, working on farms, cleaning, dishwasher, taxi driver, bus driver, lorry driver, security guard, in the private sector, and don’t forget jobs in the public sector (sweeping streets, picking trash, cleaning), further, the government may have a program for unemployed that you don’t know about; find out by phoning or visiting (local) government seats.

If you can read and write, and do simple math, you can file for a business, write contracts and make money from the internet (on your own computer or on a library computer).

If you can’t file for a business, you’ll need to be a companion to someone who can. A cheap way to find a companion is solicitation of random people on the street. There is always people who look for a new friend/companion; the percentage is larger than you might imagine and is totally dependent on first (clothing, hygiene) impression and respectful courteous approach. Don’t start by saying you want a companion, this is blatant, clumsy and blunt and this approach will have a big turn-off factor and thus failure rate; the conversations should be started just like at a cocktail party with the goal of getting to know emotionally a little about each other and see if the personality match or complement is there, weather, news, food, wine and beer brands, music, movies, tv, radio, books, the state of the country, compliments, technology, cars, animals, sport, interesting local places for sightseeing. Just like at a cocktail party, avoid talk of politics, religion and sex since this is emotionally loaded topics. After some time you can say you have a business idea and need a companion - do you know where I can find a companion?

A companion can also help you survive; he or she will invest in dinners for you if he or she believe in your courtesy and respect. You can be open about your criminal record, as long as you truthfully say you want to try to follow the law as good as the possible divine apparently follows the laws of physics.

You won’t probably find large amounts of capital in your situation (its a waste of time trying to get

private capital unless if from someones you know of, however the government may have a program to support small businesses), so you'll have to stick with a business with low capital requirements.

If you start your own business, you'll have keep a general ledger. A good way is to use the google drive spreadsheet for this purpose.

Business ideas with low capital requirements include,

- Tourist guide in cities, countryside, wildlife, lakes and seas, mountains, forest, savannah, desserts. Don't forget tourist may just enjoy walking, with occasional stops telling stories. Its paramount that they trust you, so if you get to the job drugged or drunk, you'll be out of business quickly. Print small leaflets with information about guides and price and hand out personally at tourist hot spots. Things that are attractive topics to talk about and visit includes, historical relevance, beautiful buildings and scenery, open markets, famous or semi famous people, special people, museums, special atmosphere choice restaurants and bars, music scenes, theatre, local dances watch, technological innovations within the country, social movements within the country, local culture information, religious sites, local art, shopping malls. Walk the streets, talk to people, go to the library and use the internet to find information.
- Open a restaurant, café or bar, and find a good naturally advertising site (people walk or drive by the place and see the signs - cheap advertising) and write a contract that pays rent as a percentage of revenue only. A cheap natural advertising trick that works by word of mouth is doing really good value for money. High quality service, food and drinks at a reasonable price.
- Open a shop and use same rent paying contract as above. Clothes, kitchen articles, art, groceries, technology things, fashionable things, hobby, stationery, newspapers and magazines are all demand for. Find suppliers, calling many really pays of to get the best quality/price ratio.
- Consultant. Know what you can and can learn; sell your expertise at a good hourly rate.
- Internet business. This is the future.
- Phone service that pays by the minute. Sit at the internet and answer the phone, finding out telephone numbers and answers various questions. Financial advice. Tourist advice, sightseeing advice. Life coach (there is a demand for a just friendly understanding sympathetic person to talk to that borders on psychologist service).
- Getting to be a distributing representative of a proven good selling product in your country. This can require references, but you could get lucky with courteous knowledgeable talk. People want a trusted partner; you can get a leverage by finding out which are serious businesses is low cost countries, and then import. The leverage is that the buyers can trust the local pay system in contrast to making international payments and that they trust that the goods will be delivered.
- Flea markets
- Grow and sell organic locally produced vegetables. Organically grown vegetables have a

relative good margin.

- Buy and set up vending machines. Coffee, tea, cocoa, snacks, candy, cigarettes, soda, sandwiches.
- Learn from a mentor, books or internet some practical (e.g. mechanic, welding, metal or wood lathing, grinding, wood carving) or academic (e.g. engineer, computer programmer, computer blueprint drawer, ghost writer, accountants need not always to be authorized with proper degrees, logo designers get payed well (a single logo design can mean USD 100,000+ into your account; even small/medium businesses pay this kind of money), juridical non-authorized advice) skill and sell the applied skill or teaching of skill to pupils.
- Find out and see a leverage of buying cheap and selling expensive. This can be cheap stone art and selling to tourists at premium sites. Remember that the selling site is everything to find high paying customers and be rid of murdering competition.
- A super rich entrepreneur featured at Dragon's Den had a criminal record and a own business was his only option. He bought a used ice-cream van at low cost and sold ice-cream in droves in parks and parking lots. He expanded. Then he went into elderly care financed by government buying services from him.
- Find bargains (antiques, affectionates, functionals) at online, paper private or business advertising sections or online or physical auctions and then sell at a better market price.
- Buy bargains at business bankruptcy sales or auctions and sell at better price.
- Childrens toys are a big market and can be made with small resources. E.g. simple wooden cubes of different safe colours and sizes can be sold.
- Start a non-profit organization for a good cause (real cause and truthful purpose). Create a website that explains the purpose and has pictures of the people involved and give credible references and explain what happens to money that gets in. You can draw a salary from the work, as long as honesty and reasonability is there. Get a bank account. Then you and your companions can solicit people, knocking on doors or street engagement, holding a small speech and giving a small note to them with the web address and the bank account number. The bank account number should be on the web site too. People in general are generous, but they have a large resentment to being fooled, and victims of this; this is a major factor to why people do not wish to contribute, an emotional issue. They do not want to see themselves as "suckers", in foremost their own eyes, and definitely not in social situations.
- Generally, look what is profitable what others do. Look and imagine where demand is. Make a simple budget.

Usually for citizens of a country there is some form of private or public welfare available; find, apply and collect.

Remember, as a last resort, you can always beg. A beggar in Stockholm, Sweden reportedly yields 150-200 crowns a day (USD 25-30/day).