

Children's Day in Mexico, few things to celebrate, but many things to work on

In a context of celebration due to Children's Day, UNICEF reminds us that there are about 20 million children and teenagers living in extreme poverty, which means that they find shortcomings regarding social safety and healthy food in their environments

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria in its Welfare Ecosystem Model and through its 11 networks, creates integral solutions with the objective of helping children to have an adequate development. It identifies the problems that violate the rights of children, and it collaborates with the authorities in the three levels in the government and civil societies to combat them.

On April 30 we celebrate Children's Day, however, in Mexico there are not so many things to celebrate because half of the child population live in poverty; as mentioned in the 2019 Annual Report developed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Mexico, published by the middle of the year 2020.

Even when Mexico has made important efforts to guarantee and guarantee optimal conditions for the development and welfare of every girl, boy, and teenager; it still faces several challenges, for example; eradicating violence against children and teenagers, guaranteeing a humane and decent treatment for migrant children and teenagers, and reducing the rates on overweight and obesity that currently affect the life of children, alleges UNICEF.



This problem affects more to indigenous children and it becomes worse in rural areas and areas of extreme poverty.

Violence

Violence in all its facets, is one of the main challenges that Mexico faces. Its consequences multiply and get worse when the affected ones are children and teenagers, because it leaves physical and emotional prints that remain forever.

"Unfortunately, violence takes place at early ages: when they are little kids, they suffer from violence committed by their parents or caretakers; and also, as they grow, violence also takes place in other contexts, for example; at school, in the public areas they often visit, and in social media," says UNICEF.

The manifestations of that may be simple careless acts, negligent actions, and they may turn into intimidation, fights, physical and psychological aggressions, sexual violence, or even disappearances and deaths.



Poverty

Poverty is one of the main barriers that does not allow the growth and full potential of children and teenagers. In Mexico, more than half of children and teenagers live in conditions of poverty.

The previous data means that about 20 million children and teenagers currently live in poverty and they face shortcomings like the lack of social safety and healthy food, among others. "All children and teenagers must have a fair opportunity to enjoy life in its full potential", warned UNICEF.

Poverty is not only connected to the lack of incomes at home, but it also involves other shortcomings on health, education, and healthcare; among others. Giving solutions means having specific knowledge on those factors to be able to develop integral actions to solve them.



Education

School drop-out is another issue that UNICEF is worried about because the drop-put rates are 0.6 percent in elementary school, and 4.4 percent in secondary school. Violence is one of the factors that causes early school drop-out in teenagers because they suffer from bullying at school.

The COVID-19 pandemic worsened this situation, and it caused school drop-outs in more than a million students, according to data from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). In these moments of economic crises, teenagers consider working as an option to increase their family incomes so, they decide to drop out of school.

UNICEF is worried because in elementary school, the evaluations on learning called PLANEA 2018, show that almost 80 percent of children do not reach the expected outcomes on Reading Comprehension and Mathematics.

It doesn't matter where they come from

Violence is a problem that does not have limits and it becomes one of the factors that forces people in Central America to leave their communities and hometowns.

This also causes migratory flows in the borders located in the South and North of Mexico. Only in 2019, the immigration authorities in Mexico stopped 51 thousand 999 children and teenagers, and 23 percent of them were travelling on their own.

It does not matter where they come from or the place they go to, the rights of migrant children and teenagers travel everywhere with them, and they must be respected. Besides, 12 thousand 740 Mexican children and teenagers were deported from the United States and repatriated in 2019.

CMT, a big amount of actions in favor of children

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C. (CMT) identified 24 years ago the severe social problem that social shortcomings mean. The Doctor Honoris causa, Catalina Mendoza Arredondo, willing to take healthcare to the people who needed it the most, understood that welfare is the first thing people must have.

That was the way she created the Welfare Ecosystem Model, which through its 11 networks, offers integral solutions to problems that affect societies, but especially children.

In its Network of Food, CMT aims to contribute to make healthy food available for the diet of the most vulnerable people, in order to have positive impacts to decrease shortcomings caused by the lack of food.

For instance, a Milk Bank was opened three weeks ago in a municipality located in Durango. CMT collaborates with authorities in the area and through subsidies, it assists children, who currently are the least favored segment in the population.

In the Network called Education, and as a resource for stopping school drop-outs in a moment when schools are closing due to the sanitary contingency, CMT promotes programs like "Conéctate", to provide subsidies to parents in order to have access to computers and connectivity plans.

In the Network called Housing, actions are promoted with the objective of allowing families to have a decent house to live in, where children may develop in a healthy and comfortable environment.

This way, in each one of its networks: Health, Environment, Energy, Human Security, Art and Culture, Water, Innovation and Financial Inclusion; actions and proposals are developed with the firm objective of contributing to social welfare, especially for children.