

Poverty increases in Mexico due to the pandemic

Labor incomes in the country declined 4.8 percent during the first trimester in 2021 compared to the ones during the same period last year, besides, the number of poor people in the country increased

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of Mexican people living in poverty increased from 8.9 to 9.8 million people, especially for labor conditions. During the pandemic and 23 years before it happened, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria has developed strategies and programs focused on combating poverty; and hundreds of thousands of Mexican people have gotten benefits from those.

Approximately 8.9 to 9.8 million Mexicans earned an income below the poverty line due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19. Now, those people became part of the total number of poor people who currently live in the country, as revealed by the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL).

Last February, that public organization presented a report about the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (IDPS) 2020, whose pessimistic scenario estimates 70.9 million poor people due to low incomes, that is to say, 56.7 percent of the population.

The sector that reflects the statistics about poverty in the country consists of families living in rural areas, with no access to fulfill their basic needs like education, food, healthcare services, and support provided by authorities, as most of them work in the agriculture sector, with degraded natural resources like poor soil and water.

After the pandemic started, some marginal conditions started too, some others continued, and many others got worse. According to the National Council, if Mexico really wants to combat poverty it is necessary to consider important factors in the society and the world of work.

Firstly, it is crucial to beat inequalities between the different groups in the population, mainly among indigenous women who live in rural areas with limited opportunities. The second method consists of making people have adequate and continuous development.

In the middle of March 2020, activities were restricted for non-essential businesses like small businesses and that fact caused downsizing, which triggered unemployment, and on top of that, people were not able to get enough incomes that might fulfill the basic needs of Mexican families.



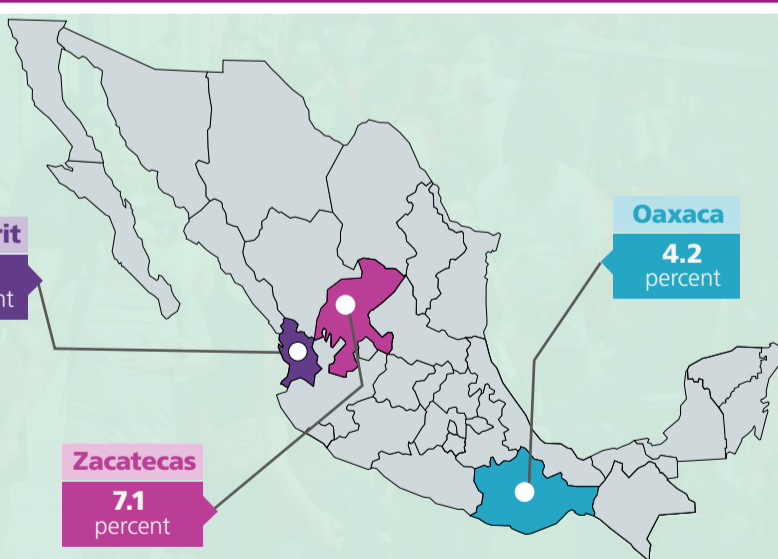
Working poverty (the percentage of population with incomes below the average value of the basic food basket) mentions CONEVAL, increased by 3.8 percentage points in the country, as it was 35.6 and now it is 39.4 percent during the first trimester in 2020 and the first trimester in 2021.

In order to calculate the incomes-based poverty caused by the pandemic, CONEVAL considered two different scenarios: "a general fall on the incomes per capita of 5 percent, and another also showing a fall of 5 percent, but with additional affectations to the population on their incomes and an incidence of urban poverty".

It is important to mention that indigenous people make less money than people with different backgrounds. After some studies, the Council revealed that during the first trimester (that means during pandemic), the real income that indigenous people earned was two thousand 173.14 pesos, less than half of the incomes that people with non-indigenous backgrounds earn.

The average labor income workers get in the country was four thousand 456.58 pesos per month. The monthly income that men earned was four thousand 787.40 pesos, while women earned three thousand 930.86 pesos.

States with the highest increase in salaries



States with the lowest increase in salaries



Mexicans make less than two thousand pesos per month

In that document, CONEVAL also mentioned that during the first trimester in 2021 the real salary that each person made in the country was one thousand 827.39 pesos, which showed a decline of 4.8 percent compared to the numbers they got during that period last year, as they were able to earn one thousand 919.84 pesos.

A total of nine states showed an increase in the real incomes per capita, compared to the ones last year. The three states that showed the highest increase were: Nayarit (19 percent), Zacatecas (7.1 percent), and Oaxaca (4.2 percent). On the other hand, the states with the highest decrease in matters of incomes were: Mexico City (20.3 percent), Quintana Roo (16.2 percent), and Baja California Sur (15 percent).

CMT and the combat to poverty

From different perspectives, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C. (CMT) has developed strategies to combat poverty, and the activities performed became more important right after the COVID-19 pandemic started.

In order to mention some examples, the support provided to producers in rural areas allowed producers located in the municipality of Guerrero, in Chihuahua; to sow due to the fact that 667 tons of seeds were subsidized, as well as 327 tons of fertilizers, which meant a benefit for 456 producers and their families.

In the municipality of Durango, connectivity programs were implemented to support students, teachers, and workers in educational areas. Recently, three thousand 640 cartons of milk were delivered as part of a strategy to benefit thousands of families.

Day after day, thousands of people get benefits from the different programs developed by CMT, and most of them live in precarious contexts because they do not have a job, or maybe they do but it is not enough to buy even the basic supplies they need to survive.