

## 42 percent of the Mexican territory is being affected by drought

The regular conditions in more than 40 percent of the Mexican territory are being affected by drought, which also causes affectations on the production in the fields, and on thousands of families who cannot collect enough water due to the lack of rains

Drought in Mexico means a big loss for crops in the fields because people in those areas depend on the water they get from rains and streams. However, as they do not have efficient ways to collect it, they are unable to store it so, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) through its Welfare Ecosystem Model, and its Network of Water, benefits families by providing them with water containers to store water in order to improve their quality of life.

In this country we face drought in 42.6 percent of the territory, in some areas it is moderate, but in some others, it is extremely severe. These data were revealed in a report published on July 15 by the National Meteorological Service (SMN).

The conditions on the Mexican territory considered as exceptionally dry, is 14.58 percent. Moderate drought is found in 13.3 percent of it, and severe drought in 9.6 percent of the territory. Moreover, extreme drought in Mexico is found in 4.74 percent of the areas, and 1.35 percent of them are currently being affected by drought too.

SMN revealed that some states recovered from drought thanks to the rains we had over the last weeks. That fact reduced the areas affected by drought particularly in Sonora, Coahuila, Zacatecas, Chihuahua, Durango, San Luis Potosí, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas.

Guanajuato is being affected by extreme drought because rain in the area is not enough to fill the dams in there so, nine of them are under 40 percent of their capacity, which might cause a partial reduction of the service in some areas; as informed by Hugo Arturo García Castañeda, a former member of the group of experts in the National Water Commission (CONAGUA).

According to the authorities, wells may only be found in less than 10 percent of the agricultural territories, and barely 500 out of 5 thousand wells located there count with technology, which is an important factor to store water for the fields and families there.

In the report delivered by the Office for Civil Protection in Guanajuato, they mentioned that nowadays 4 out of the 46 municipalities in Guanajuato are being affected by extreme droughts: Pénjamo, Yuriria, Uriangato, and Moroleón. Meanwhile, 22 municipalities located in the South face severe drought like San Miguel de Allende, Apaseo el Alto, Apaseo el Grande, Atarjea, Celaya, Comonfort, Dolores Hidalgo, León; and also the capital City, Guanajuato.




Moderate drought affects some municipalities like Victoria, San Luis de la Paz, San José Iturbide, and Doctor Mora. Additionally, drought also increases the probabilities of forest fires, and a reduction on the water levels in rivers and streams.



Guanajuato gets water from three hydrologic areas: Chápala, Lerma, and the Panuco River. In a study to find out information on the hydric balance of groundwater, it was revealed that water extracted in that zone is about 4 thousand and 60 cubic meters per day, and only 3 thousand 135 million cubic meters may be recovered after collecting rainwater every year.

Affectations caused by drought may be critical. People working in the fields who are unable to get water might lose their livestock and crops; and on top of that, they might not even get water for their basic needs.

Guanajuato faces a severe hydric problem among all the states in the country, and that kind of problems may be rated from 1 to 10. Level 10 is the highest grade, and it means that problems caused by the lack of water are not found in that area. Nevertheless, Guanajuato is in level 4, which means that every day they deal with more problems regarding water supply.

Hydrological areas	Extraction of water per day	Water being recovered through rainwater collection
		
Chapala, Lerma, and Panuco River	4 thousand and 60 cubic meters	3 thousand 135 million cubic meters

### Actions that change the quality of life in people

Caja Popular Cerano and Congregación Mariana Trinitaria worked together under the guidelines on the CMT Welfare Ecosystem Model and the Network of Water in order to provide water containers in different sizes to families who are unable to get water, and whose only way to get it is through rivers and rainwater.

After those actions, families were able to store clean water for a long time, and they could have access to it more easily. This is a basic need which currently has an impact on the health of people, especially during the pandemic because frequent hands washing and hygiene while cooking became fundamental.

The Caja Popular Cerano representative, José Manuel Cruz Contreras, mentioned that water is a basic requirement for the lives of many people. For this reason, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria focused on that, as many families during rain seasons did not have containers to store water, but thanks to this program developed by both institutions, families were able to get considerable benefits.

According to José Manuel Cruz, one of the biggest problems in Guanajuato is the lack of water, however, low-income families have to face many others; particularly in municipalities unable to provide basic services like water, electricity, drainage, and internet.

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) will continue providing benefits to people who need it. Caja Popular Cerano, after the agreement with CMT, plans to develop a program to improve and supply equipment to families, and during the first stage they will provide heaters. In the meantime, food for families is an issue that will also be improved as subsidized milk will be delivered by CMT among the families who may need it.

“We want to improve the quality of life of people through the different social programs that Congregación Mariana Trinitaria offers in order to improve the health of people who join them so, I highly recommend to participate on the CMT programs”, mentioned José Manuel Cruz Contreras.

### In numbers

Municipalities suffering extreme drought		Pénjamo, Yuriria, Uriangato y Moroleón
Municipalities suffering severe drought		San Miguel de Allende, Apaseo el Alto, Apaseo el Grande, Atarjea, Celaya, Comonfort, Dolores Hidalgo, León, and Guanajuato; the capital city.
Municipalities suffering moderate drought		Victoria, San Luis de la Paz, San José Iturbide, and Doctor Mora