

## 10% of the population in Mexico do not have access to high-quality water supply

Inequality among the members of the society is not measured through the levels of richness or poverty among the families. There are other factors which are determining factors to detect the quality of life of people, like the access to basic services to have a decent life.

About 15 million Mexicans do not have access to water supply, which represents almost 10 percent of the population. In 2018, 91.6 percent of people had access to that service, and 90.2 percent also had access to sanitation services. Nevertheless, among the ones who have access to those services, we find that 30% do not have enough water or the one they get may not be considered as high-quality, according to the official numbers provided by the National Water Commission (CONAGUA).

Water is among the most important resources for humanity. When a community does not have access to water, they are not able to have access to other rights like decent housing, healthcare, food, or education. Moreover, it also affects the industry in the area, and in consequence, the sources of employment because water is one of the fundamental supplies for any economic activity.

Therefore, social inequality is not measured with the levels of richness or poverty in the economy of the families. There are some other factors, which are also determining factors for the quality of life of many people, like having access to basic services, or to be more specific, having access to clean and safe water.

Our country is living in a critical situation regarding the use of water resources due to overexploitation, pollution, and misuse of the water sources. In addition to those factors, the bad quality of aquifers also contaminates water, and people drink contaminated water without being aware of that so, which might have severe consequences on their health.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), diarrheal diseases caused by drinking bad-quality water is the second cause of death in children under the age of 5, which also causes an annual mortality rate of 525 thousand cases around the world.



In Mexico each person drinks an average of 366 liters of water per day, according to the UN, which ranks our country in the fifth position next to Spain. The countries in the top of the list are: the United States of America, Australia, Italy, and Japan.

### Uses of water resources

The main use of that natural resource is for agricultural purposes, with a rate of 76 percent. After that, we find public water supplies with 14.4, 4.9 for industries, and 4.7 percent to produce electricity; CONAGUA mentioned.

Most of the water used for those activities comes from rivers, lakes, and dams. Unfortunately, 70 percent of those resources were contaminated by commercial and industrial activities so, human activities are deteriorating the natural resources.

CONAGUA considers that the states located in the South - South West of the country like Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Campeche, Quintana Roo, Yucatán, Veracruz, and Tabasco are the ones who get more than half of the renewable water, with a percentage of 67.2%. Despite that fact, their inhabitants have less access to the vital liquid because they do not have basic resources or infrastructure to have piped water networks at home.



#### SUMARY

States like Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Campeche have enough water resources, however only a few inhabitants have access to it as the rest of them do not have access to basic services, or infrastructure for water supply, CONAGUA mentions.



An example of the different actions CMT performs took place in a community called San Salvador, Hidalgo; where the program “Promoting the development of San Salvador” was successfully developed. In that area, dozens of families got different benefits after they were provided with systems to store and collect water.

### Fighting inequality in the access to water supply

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT), based on both; its Welfare Ecosystem Model, and its Network of Water; has made significant contributions so that millions of families in Mexico may have access to water, and they are able to store it at home through safe and clean procedures.

Through different social programs, many vulnerable families were able to get benefits in different states and rural communities

in the country. An example of the different actions CMT performs took place in a community called San Salvador, Hidalgo; where the program “Promoting the development of San Salvador” was successfully developed. In that area, dozens of families got different benefits after they were provided with systems to store and collect water in order to be able to have it in stock and to use it later in responsible ways.