

In Mexico, poverty does not only affect the areas located in the South East

Generally, poverty has been related to the South and South East of Mexico only, however, some studies to measure the rates of poverty in local municipalities, performed by CONEVAL in 2020 showed that it was not completely true.



SUMARY

Despite the fact that the South of the country has been stigmatized due to the high levels of poverty in the area, it is an undeniable fact that some municipalities in metropolitan areas, important touristic destinations, or even the capital city of the country, have also some municipalities with a high amount of people in situations of poverty.

Why is it important to perform studies to measure poverty in municipalities?

This kind of analysis is important because they depict the conditions of the different locations so that we are able to know the kind of actions and programs to perform in each area.

A lot of programs, but only a few progress

Even when the official messages provided by the government mention that there are several programs to fight poverty and to decrease the social deprivation rates, the study to measure poverty rates in municipalities showed that those actions did not have the expected impact. From 2010 to 2020, 5 of the municipalities with the highest number of people in poverty remain in the same conditions, and on top of that, their current

number is above 98% of the total number of inhabitants.

Some of the municipalities unable to improve the situation they have faced since 2010 are San Simón Zahuatlán in Oaxaca; as well as Aldama, Chanal, Chalchihuitán, and San Juan Cancuc; located in the state of Chiapas.

Municipalities with the highest percentage of people in poverty

Municipality	Percentage	Municipality	Percentage
San Simón Zahuatlán, Oaxaca	99.6	Chanal, Chiapas	99.1
Cochoapa el Grande, Guerrero	99.4	San Lucas Camotlán, Oaxaca	99
Coicoyán de las Flores, Oaxaca	99.3	Aldama, Chiapas	98.9
San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas	99.3	Chalchihuitán, Chiapas	98.9
San Francisco Teopan, Oaxaca	99.3	San Miguel Tilquiápam, Oaxaca	98.8

Among the characteristics that might be considered as tendencies, CONEVAL concludes that the territorial distribution of most

people in poverty is concentrated mainly in communities located in high areas with limited access.

What are the most common areas affected by social deprivation?

Food	Health	Basic housing services
Underdevelopment	Social security	Quality levels in housing

Not all the problems are located in the South

Despite the stigmatization of the South due to the high levels of poverty in the area, it is a fact that municipalities located in metropolitan areas, important touristic destinations, or even the capital city of the country also have some municipalities with large concentrations of people in poverty.

In the list of municipalities with high poverty rates, we find that 117 of them are located in the metropolitan areas in Mexico City, Guanajuato, State of Mexico, Guerrero,

and Quintana Roo. The recurrent fact is that most people in poverty live near metropolitan areas with high population density.

CONEVAL emphasized that in 2020, people in poverty were mostly found in 173 municipalities, which represents a decrease on the official numbers, because if we compare them with the results of the study performed in 2015, we found poverty in 185; and in 2010 we found it in 199 municipalities.

How are we able to know if a person is in poverty?

According to the methodology implemented in the study, a person in poverty gets an income under the poverty line who also suffers the impacts of at least one kind of social deprivation.

It is important to mention that population density is not the same as the percentage of people in poverty. Guanajuato is considered a state in development and social growth, but the capital city is the area where we can find the highest number of people in such conditions, while the State of Mexico is the area where we are able to find most of the muni-

cipalities in the list of areas with the highest population density living in poverty.

Only in Iztapalapa (in Mexico City), Ecatepec (in the State of Mexico) and Leon (in Guanajuato) we are able to find more than two million people in poverty.

Municipalities with the highest population density facing poverty

State	Municipality	People
Guanajuato	León	816,934
State of Mexico	Ecatepec de Morelos	786,391
Mexico City	Iztapalapa	772,584
Puebla	Puebla	680,945
State of Mexico	Nezahualcóyotl	523,289

Poverty tends to increase in municipalities with specific characteristics, and it is a problem all over the country. For this reason, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) has been working for almost 24 years to combat the different shortcomings and the gaps detected in inequality issues. Currently, its

Welfare Ecosystem Model allows families in poverty to improve their quality of life, and also to decrease deprivations in their close contexts through 11 networks and the different integral solutions implemented by them.