



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND PROGRESS AGAINST POVERTY IN MEXICO, 2022

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-----ABSTRACT-----

The fight against poverty at a global level was established as the first of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the UN in 2015 within the 2030 Agenda. The achievement of this, like the majority, has been hindered, interrupted or has had setbacks due to the atypical event represented by the coronavirus pandemic worldwide. However, in Mexico there have been better results in this combat, as shown by the statistics of this organization as well as those of INEGI and CONEVAL.

KEYWORDS— Poverty, Agenda 2030, Mexico-----

INTRODUCTION

On September 25, 2015, the UN General Assembly approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, in which the fight against poverty in all its forms represents objective number 1 which, in turn, consists of 5 goals (the last with two subgoals). However, the coronavirus event worldwide has represented an obstacle to achieving this and the rest. In this work, a statistical comparison is made between the figures on poverty at a global level and the figures for Mexico to know to what extent our country is in line with what is established in the so-called agenda. It should be noted that our study includes only the indicator of minimum monetary income per person, without addressing the other poverty indicators, for the moment.

METHODOLOGY

Procedure

- The comparative method was used based on statistical data from different official organizations, both national and international, to know the main indicators of poverty and monetary income in Mexico.
- To measure poverty, we take as a basis the income of the world population that lives on less than 2.15 USD per day and of workers in Mexico and their families who live on less than 1.90 USD per day. All this supported by statistics from the UN, INEGI and (CONEVAL, s. f.-a), from which we carry out the measurement and statistical comparison.
- The objective was to determine poverty in Mexico and know if there was progress or regression with respect to what was proposed in the UN 2030 agenda (2015).
- Compare their results and how the COVID-19 pandemic affected them.



ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

In, “Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development” the UN General Assembly (2015) resolved to publish this document that sets out the objectives and goals at the global and regional level to achieve progress, having as a date, which Its name indicates it, 2030 in order to achieve the 17 objectives proposed therein, which are: ending poverty and hunger, achieving health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, drinking water, clean energy and renewables, employment and economic growth, sustainable industrial development, reduction of inequality, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, protection and sustainability of life on land and in water, peace, justice and strong institutions and, by lastly an alliance for global development (United Nations, s. f.).

For its part, CONEVAL (s. f.-b) has several parameters to measure poverty in our country, which are: 1.- the lack of family income, 2.- not having access to basic education, 3. .- not having access to health services, 4.- not having access to social security, 5.- not having access to quality housing, 6.- not having access to basic services in the home (water, electricity, drainage), 7.- not having access to food and 8.- a low degree of social cohesion in which people live (this indicator is the most diffuse of all and seems more difficult to measure). The National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics also contributes to this measurement since a large number of the figures used by the former are based on those generated first-hand by the latter, such as the National Survey of Household Income and Expenses (INEGI), s. f.-b)

We have observed that the poverty measurement proposed above includes, to a greater or lesser extent, different objectives contained in the 2030 agenda, such as; education, health, basic services in housing and food. Therefore, the poverty indicator is essential to calculate the achievement or setback that the UN declaration has had in our country.

The international organization considers that the greatest challenge to achieving the objectives set is the fight against poverty in all its forms, since without a solution to the problem of poverty it is difficult to achieve the fundamental purposes of prosperity, peace and freedom. An international collaborative alliance was proposed as the central mechanism to “...free humanity from the tyranny of poverty and deprivation and heal and protect our planet” (United Nations, 2015, p. 1). This aims to achieve, in addition to the 17 objectives indicated, 169 goals that result in three fundamental areas: economic, social and environmental progress and benefit, permeated by the core characteristic of sustainability.

Such an agreement was established in 2015 to progressively be completed in its entirety by 2030, that is, over a period of 15 years. Emphasizes the following elements:

- People; eradicating poverty and hunger in all their forms to promote dignity, equality and healthy environments
- Caring for the planet; by promoting responsible consumption, sustainability and stopping climate change.
- Prosperity and harmony for all people through economic, technological and social progress.
- Peace with justice and inclusion.
- The global alliance between nations, organizations and people that promotes solidarity to help the poorest and most vulnerable.

It results in the aspect of sustainability based on three axes that the organization considers substantial: the economic, the social and the environmental. The objective is well-being, human dignity and respect for human rights contained in the different documents in this regard accepted by this organization.

Apart from setting out the goals and objectives, it was also established that the governments of each country are responsible for examining and monitoring progress at the national, global and regional level, based on quality, accessible and reliable indicators (United Nations, 2015).

Each of the 17 objectives is made up of its respective goals, which give the total of 169 indicated above. Since what interests us in this study is objective number 1, poverty, we will briefly indicate each of its goals:

- Eradication of extreme poverty throughout the world's population.
- Eradication of multidimensional poverty in half of the global population.
- Implementation of social protection for the entire population at national levels.



- Guarantee the entire population, especially the most vulnerable, access to all types of resources: economic, natural, technological, financial, basic services, property and tenure of land and inheritances.
- Promote the resilience of the poor and vulnerable and reduce their vulnerability to climatic, economic and social phenomena. Mobilize resources from developed to underdeveloped countries to create public policies and national and supranational regulatory frameworks that combat poverty in general (op. cit).

These are the programmatic principles that were established in 2015 and that, by 2023, we are halfway there, as indicated by ECLAC (2023) to carry out an analysis and know to what extent they are fulfilled or are in the process of being fulfilled, or not. The UN itself has taken stock and published the document called: “*Sustainable Development Goals Report. Special edition*” (2023). The balance does not seem to be very flattering and, to begin with, we reproduce a fragment of the prologue issued by the Secretary General of the UN, António Guterres:

Halfway to the deadline for the 2030 Agenda, the SDG Progress Report, Special Edition, shows that more than half the world is being left behind. Progress on more than 50% of SDG targets is weak and insufficient, and 30% are stagnant or have regressed. These include essential goals on poverty, hunger and climate. If we do not act now, Agenda 2030 could become an epitaph for the world that could have been (op. cit., p. 2).

In other words, in general, things are not going as originally proposed. We believe that perhaps the most valuable part of this document is contained in the prologue written by Guterres, in which he makes a frontal synthesis of the reasons for the problems faced and the measures he proposes for their possible solutions. We find it unique that this type of statement comes from the highest authority of the UN, since such figures tend to speak with circumlocutions and euphemisms when it comes to recognizing unresolved problems, hence their statement is doubly valuable. The secretary divides his prologue between listing the problems that the Agenda has faced and the proposals he proposes to solve these problems.

The problems are: that there is severe and profound damage to the environment because of climate change, the loss of biodiversity, pollution, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was aggravated by the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which has generated high inflation due to the increase in food, fuel and financing prices. The latter has a capital weight since underdeveloped countries maintain large deficits and pay up to eight times more in interest on their debts than developed countries, rich countries have not contributed the one hundred billion dollars annually promised in 2020 and the G20 has not fulfilled the agreement to relieve and finance the debt of the former. In this way, the lack of financing and solidarity to carry out the SDGs will continue to produce economic, geopolitical divisions and international inequality.

Their proposals are: an urgent and immediate call for international solidarity and cooperation to rescue the objectives established in the Agenda, where the core point is a new global financial architecture with a profound social vocation: financing not only the SDGs but also underdeveloped countries; that banks put emphasis on promoting development, renegotiation and softening of debts and their terms, investment in basic services, digital transition and clean energy.

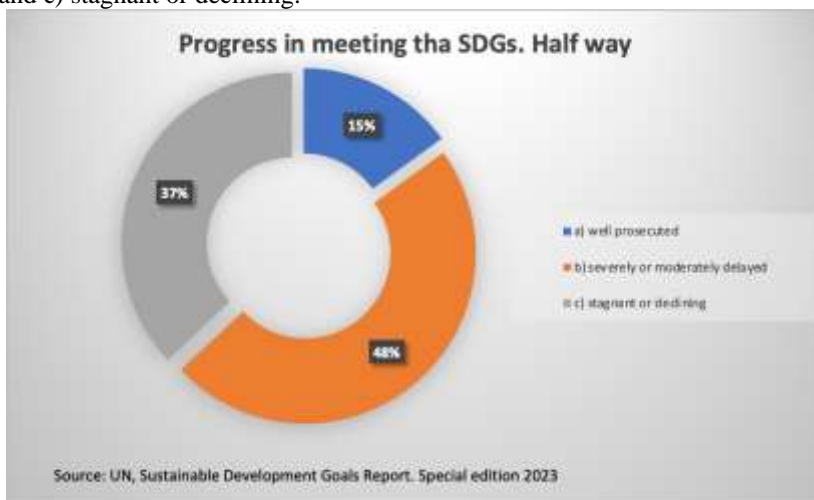
Create another paradigm like that of Bretton Woods in which poor countries have a voice and vote in global decision-making, that economic and financial matters are at the service of people and the planet, and that governments and private initiatives are oriented towards the economy, sustainable and low carbon emission. Eradicate poverty and inequality through decent jobs, social protection, education, equality, equity, digital inclusion, all supported by national institutions with clear and transparent legal frameworks (United Nations, 2023).

It is natural and normal that the United Nations, having, nominally and officially, as its fundamental mission to ensure peace, development and well-being of the peoples and nations of the world, proclaims this type of programs, agendas and initiatives. They are within its nature, its duty and its function, but one thing is the plan and another is the result, one thing is what is optional and another is obligatory. States have autonomous laws and it is difficult, in extreme cases, there is a legal heteronomy that forces them to comply with agreements that they break. Guterres, rightly, emphasizes why the SDGs have not been met, are not being met, or will be difficult to meet within the established period. The pandemic has been a major factor but, and without trying to repeat what has already been said, the other factors are; the lack of international cooperation, especially from the rich countries towards the poor, who are the ones



who have the necessary resources and the global financial structure, whose nature, the latter is not to support social development but is governed by the law of profit, interest and economic-monetary benefits. The secretary desperately cries out for this “Alliance”, for this solidarity between nations, for the global financial system to inject resources with soft loans and at preferential rates into the underdeveloped world, to fulfill a function of social impulse that, by its nature, does not has nor is he inclined to have.

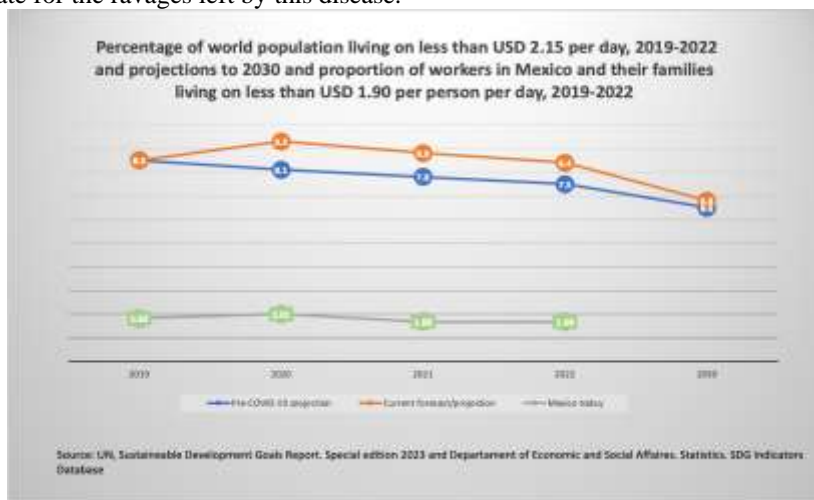
Graph 1 shows progress in meeting the SDGs and divides it into three categories: a) well on track, b) seriously or moderately delayed, and c) stagnant or declining.



Graph 1

Let's start with the obvious: only 15% of the proposed SDGs are well targeted and their achievement has been or is in the process of being possible but, on the other hand, the opposite happens with 75%. Of this last figure, almost half are stagnant or in decline and the rest are at serious risk for compliance.

Turning to the specific area of combating and eliminating poverty in the world, the figures are not very promising either. In 2019 the percentage of poor people worldwide was 8.5% but it increased in 2020 to 9.3%. Graph 2 indicates, in the top line, the historical data for 2019-2021 and a projection/forecast for 2022-2030 before the pandemic (blue middle line). It is evident how the pre-COVID figures indicated numbers well below those shown in the top line. What is striking is that, for 2030, the projection is quite optimistic since there is only a small difference of 0.3% between what was projected before COVID and the forecast/projection. If this were so, it would have been possible to greatly correct and compensate for the ravages left by this disease.



Graph 1



The bottom line corresponds to the figures presented for Mexico which, despite the pandemic, from 2019 to 2020 did not increase in the same proportion as at the global level. In our country it only rose 0.18%, but fell by 0.33% in the following two years, while for the second the increase was 0.8%, although it presented decreases of 0.5 and 0.9 % respectively.

This is how the fight against poverty has behaved both globally and nationally in a panorama that changed the course of statistical trends with the unforeseen event of the coronavirus, but little by little it seems that such a negative trend is tending to diminish and to be left behind in its adverse results.

We have focused our analysis on the case of extreme poverty, although for Mexico, CONEVAL (2022) registers multidimensional poverty, as has been shown above. However, the objective of the analysis that we present here was to make an initial comparison of the first indicator of poverty, which is monetary or income.

CONCLUSIONS

Most of the Sustainable Development Goals, among which is the fight against poverty, are in danger of not being met due to the atypical COVID event that occurred in 2019, due to the havoc it had on the world economy, because the International cooperation has been deficient, the rich countries have not been supportive of the underdeveloped countries and because the international financial system has not had a social vocation that contributes to the development of the most backward countries.

Poverty has increased since 2019 and the analysis made by the United Nations halfway through is that, without international help and cooperation from governments, organizations and institutions at all levels, it will not be possible to achieve the goals projected before the pandemic.

Mexico, however, was well below the average poverty levels experienced worldwide and, although the effects of the coronavirus were evident, its fall was less pronounced and its recovery faster. It is observed that the country suffers lower levels of poverty than the average population worldwide.

LIMITATIONS

Although it lays the foundation for a broader study, this analysis, in essence, only exposes the level of poverty expressed in monetary income: at the global level the UN establishes the threshold of 2.15 USD and at the country level it was determined at 1.90 USD. This being the case, the level of poverty in Mexico is even lower than what appears in the graph, but the international organization itself handles it that way in its statistics. The study of multidimensional poverty can be delved a little deeper, but as a start, what appears here reflects in some way certain significant trends for both universes.

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