

SEDESOL



SECRETARÍA DE
DESARROLLO SOCIAL

Social Protection and Equal Opportunity Floor in Mexico



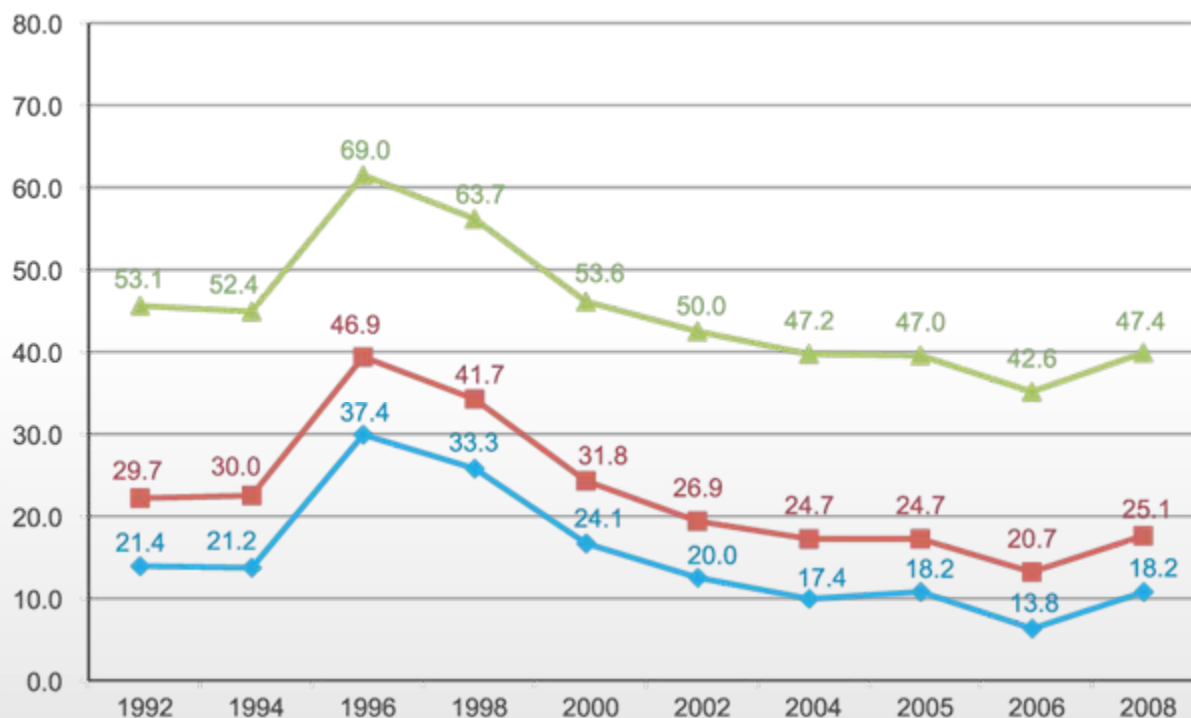
Vivir Mejor

Poverty Evolution in Mexico 1992-2008



With the rise in food prices and the global economic recession, **between 2006 and 2008, poverty only increased in Mexico by 4.8%** thanks to social and cash transfer programs.

Percentage of the Population in Poverty



CONEVAL (National Evaluation Council)

Assets



Inability to buy a food basket and cover health, education, clothing, housing and transport expenditures (4.2 dollars per capita per day)

Capacity



Inability to buy a food basket and pay for health and education expenses (2.5 dollars per capita per day)

Food



Insufficient income to purchase a basic food basket (daily consumption of 2,200 kilocalories per person). 2.06 dollars per capita per day.

- National Council for the Evaluation of Social Policy (CONEVAL): it currently uses 2 alternative measures based on:
 - A. Income and prices (comparison between income and poverty lines)
 - A. Wellbeing and deficits. Multidimensional measures which includes:
 - a. Current per capita income
 - b. Social deficits:
 1. Household average education lag
 2. Access to health services
 3. Access to social security
 4. Household quality and space
 5. Access to basic services in the household
 6. Access to food
 - c. Degree of social cohesion

Living Conditions of the Poorest



- Access to education and basic social infrastructure has significantly improved:

Living Conditions of the 20% Poorest Households

1992, 2006 & 2008 (average)

Access to Education	1992	2006	2008
Children aged 8 to 12 not attending school	8,9	3,5	3,4
Individuals aged 15 or more who are illiterate	26,8	20,8	17,9
Heads of household with basic education or more	5,4	21,6	23,3
Social Infrastructure	1992	2006	2008
Households without concrete floor	46,2	22,3	18,9
Households without electricity	19,9	3,1	3,2
Households without drinking water	43,9	23,0	25,4

Source: CONEVAL estimates based on ENIGH 1996, 2006 and 2008.

Social Protection & Employment. Legal and Institutional Framework



General Social Development Law

Objective. Guaranteeing the full effectiveness of social rights: health, education, food, housing, healthy environment, work, social security and those related to lack of discrimination, in the terms of the Constitution.

- **National Social Development System.** It is a permanent mechanism of assistance, collaboration, coordination and agreement of the federal, state and municipal governments, as well as the social and private sectors.
- **Social Authority:** SEDESOL is responsible for coordination.

Intersectoral Articulation

Between government levels and the Legislative Branch: **National Social Development Commission**

At the federal level: **Inter-Secretarial Commission**

Social and private sector participation: **Social Development Consultative Council**

- **Federal Budget**
- **Unified Roster of Beneficiaries**
- **Operating Rules of Social Programs**
- **National Council for Social Policy Evaluation (CONEVAL)**
- **Poverty Definition and Measurement**
- **Social Policy Evaluation**

Electoral Shielding, support for the effectiveness of social rights



Vivir Mejor

Specific actions are implemented to avoid the electoral use of social programs.

- Training for civil servants and beneficiaries.
- Suspensions during electoral periods:
 - Rescheduling of support delivery.
 - Safeguarding of vehicles.

“This is a public Program, aside from any political party. Its use for purposes other than social development is forbidden”

Work has been done in this field with:

- The three levels of government.
- Congress.
- Autonomous Public Agencies.
- Civil Society.
- International Organizations.

Accountability, an ally to prevent discretionality and foster transparency



Transparency and accountability are promoted through various mechanisms:

Audits

The resources used by social programs are monitored by:

- The Federation's Superior Audit Office, the oversight agency of the Legislative Branch.
- The Internal Control Agency, reporting to the Federal Government.

Reports

Quarterly reports on budget execution are compiled and disseminated.

- They document the outcomes, budget execution and actions implemented by the social programs.

Information on social programs

- Public and free, as provided in the Federal Law on Transparency and Access to Governmental Public Information.

Alignment of Planning Instruments



- **Planning Law**
- **National Development Plan 2007-2012**
- **Sectoral Social Development Program 2007-2012**
- **Social Policy Strategy VIVIR MEJOR**

Social Policy Strategy VIVIR MEJOR



- This strategy concentrates all the actions of the federal government aligning them with the same objectives –sustainable human development--, avoiding dispersion and making the most of public resources.

Its objectives are:

- Allowing individuals and families to have a full, equitable and free social participation in the development and leveraging of their basic capacities.
- Granting protection and certainty to individuals and communities to address contingencies, both linked to the lifecycle as in case of adverse environmental conditions.
- Caring for and improving the environment, fostering the cohesion of the social fabric, as well as an orderly and regionally balanced territorial development
- Increasing personal productivity to afford individuals better employment and income options in order to reduce poverty.
- Including sustainability criteria in social policy. The aim is to preserve the natural heritage of families and communities.

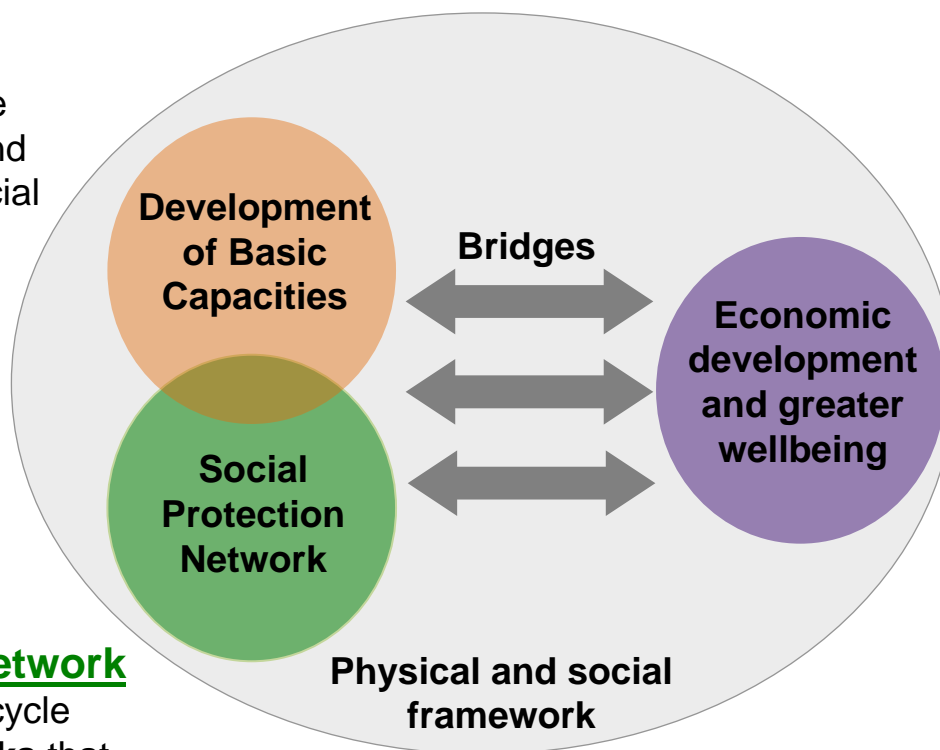
The *Vivir Mejor* Strategy



Vivir Mejor

Development of Basic Capacities

Actions that enable individuals to increase their **human capital** and attain a full and free social participation



Bridges between Economic Development and Social Wellbeing

Tools to close the gap between social and economic policies, increasing personal productivity and inclusion in the benefits of economic development

Social Protection Network

Tools to address lifecycle **contingencies and risks** that are sources of vulnerability

Development and Improvement of the Physical and Social Framework

Actions to improve the physical and social environment in which the families live so they may fully develop

Vivir Mejor: Institutional Participation



Vivir Mejor aligns all the social programs of the Federal Government. It relies on inter-institutional coordination. The following are, among others, the major Secretariats:



VIVIR MEJOR: SEDESOL PROGRAMS



Vivir Mejor

Development of Basic Capacities

Social Protection Network

Bridges between economic and social policy

Environmental Development



Fonart

Development of Priority Zones



Restoration of Public Spaces



Pasprah
Tu Casa
Vivienda Rural
Social Coinvestment

Development of Basic Capacities



An example: Oportunidades

- Cash transfer program, with a co-responsibility scheme, for families to take their children to school, attend medical appointments and preventive health and education workshops.
- **2009**
 - 5.2 million beneficiary families
 - Of the total, 90% reside in rural areas (<15,000 inhabitants)
 - Budget \$47.845 billion Mexican pesos (US\$3.6 billion)
- **2010**
 - 6.5 million beneficiary families
 - New model in urban areas, multidimensional targeting
 - Budget \$63.089 billion Mexican pesos
 - Joint operation of Oportunidades and PAL
 - 600 urban families more in Oportunidades and 400 K more of PAL

External evaluations show positive effects on:

- Increased children height
- Increased food consumption in the families
- Preventing school drop out
- Reducing sickness days
- Reducing maternal and child mortality rates
- Promoting savings, investment and microbusiness activity

Results of External Evaluations



Education

- Less beneficiaries inherit the economic conditions from their parents.
- It has contributed to closing two important education gaps: ethnicity and gender
- Has prevented school dropout.

Food

- Children aged 24 to 71 months **increased their height.**
- Improved children health levels and motor skills as well as physical development
- 22% increased their total food consumption in rural areas and 16% in urban areas, especially fruits, vegetables and high protein foods
- **Reduced anemia prevalence** in beneficiaries under age two, from 61% to 35.8% .

Health

- Reduced Maternal and Child Mortality rates
- Lower alcohol consumption among youths.
- 35% increase in health attendance in rural areas and 20% in urban areas.

In addition

It facilitates access to other social programs of the Federal and State governments, such as Seguro Popular.

Oportunidades promotes savings, investment and entrepreneurial activity.

An example:

Child care centers in support of working mothers

- Main objective: allowing the female population to enter the labor market, offering high quality child care services.
- It simultaneously supports the supply and demand of child care services:
 - Subsidy to partially cover the costs of installation of the child care centers (\$35,000 pesos = US\$2,628)
 - Monthly subsidy for each child cared for in the center (up to \$700 pesos = US\$52.6)
- 2009:
 - 261,728 children
 - 8,923 child care centers
- The Program has expanded the public child care capacity by 100% in two years



More examples...

- **Productive Options** – Granting subsidies to poor individuals and groups with solid production projects
- **National Fund for Handicrafts Development** – Improves the sources of income for artisans in asset poverty, improving their productivity





To address the 2008-2009 international economic crisis, the Government of Mexico implemented a series of measures. Among them the ***National Agreement for the Family Economy and Employment***, that began operating in January 2009. The following are some of the major actions in the program:

Employment and Workers' Support

- Specific actions were adopted to promote more recruitment of labor, as well as to stimulate the preservation of the existing sources of employment and prevent the loss of jobs.
- Measures were adopted to assist people who lost their job with temporary economic resources to cope with the situation, provide them with health care services and labor training.
- To that end, the following measures were implemented.
- Expansion of the **Temporary Employment Program**.
- Start up of the **Employment Preservation Program** ("technical stops").
- Expansion of the ability to withdraw savings in case of unemployment.
- Expansion of the Social Security coverage for unemployed workers.
- National Employment Service strengthening

Training Support for the Vulnerable Population



- The Labor and Social Security Secretariat supported various training actions targeted at the most vulnerable population from the employment point of view:
- **National Training Policy**
- **Bécate.** It is an active labor policy which provides support for the training of individuals aged 16 or more throughout the country, unemployed, underemployed or temporarily suspended workers. The objective is including them in training courses for access to work. It promotes the participation of professionals and technicians and includes people with disabilities and the elderly.
- **Training Observatory.** It disseminates the private and public supply of courses and the Roster of Trained Workers.
- **Distance Training for Workers.** The virtual classroom offers free distance training courses on computer literacy, life skills training, technical skills, management, etc.
- National Employment and Training Program for people with disabilities.