

# Rural poverty in Mexico: prevalence and challenges

**Expert Group Meeting on Eradicating Rural Poverty to  
implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

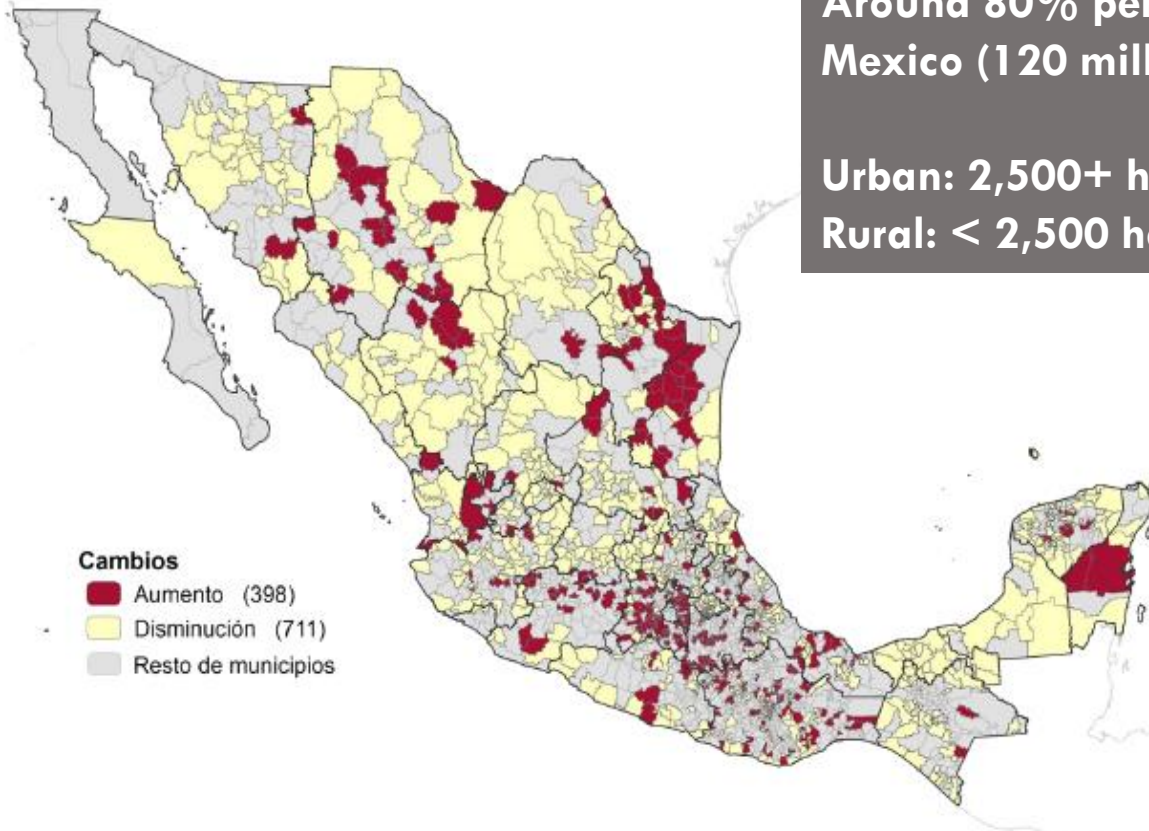
**27 February – 1 March 2019**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Around 80% percent of the population of Mexico (120 million) lives in urban areas.

Urban: 2,500+ habs.

Rural: < 2,500 habs.



- 74 metropolitan areas concentrate over 60% of the national population.
- **Slightly more than 97% of the 192,000 localities are inhabited by fewer than 2,500 people.**
- More than nine out of ten are inhabited with a population of **fewer than 500 people.**

## General Law for Social Development

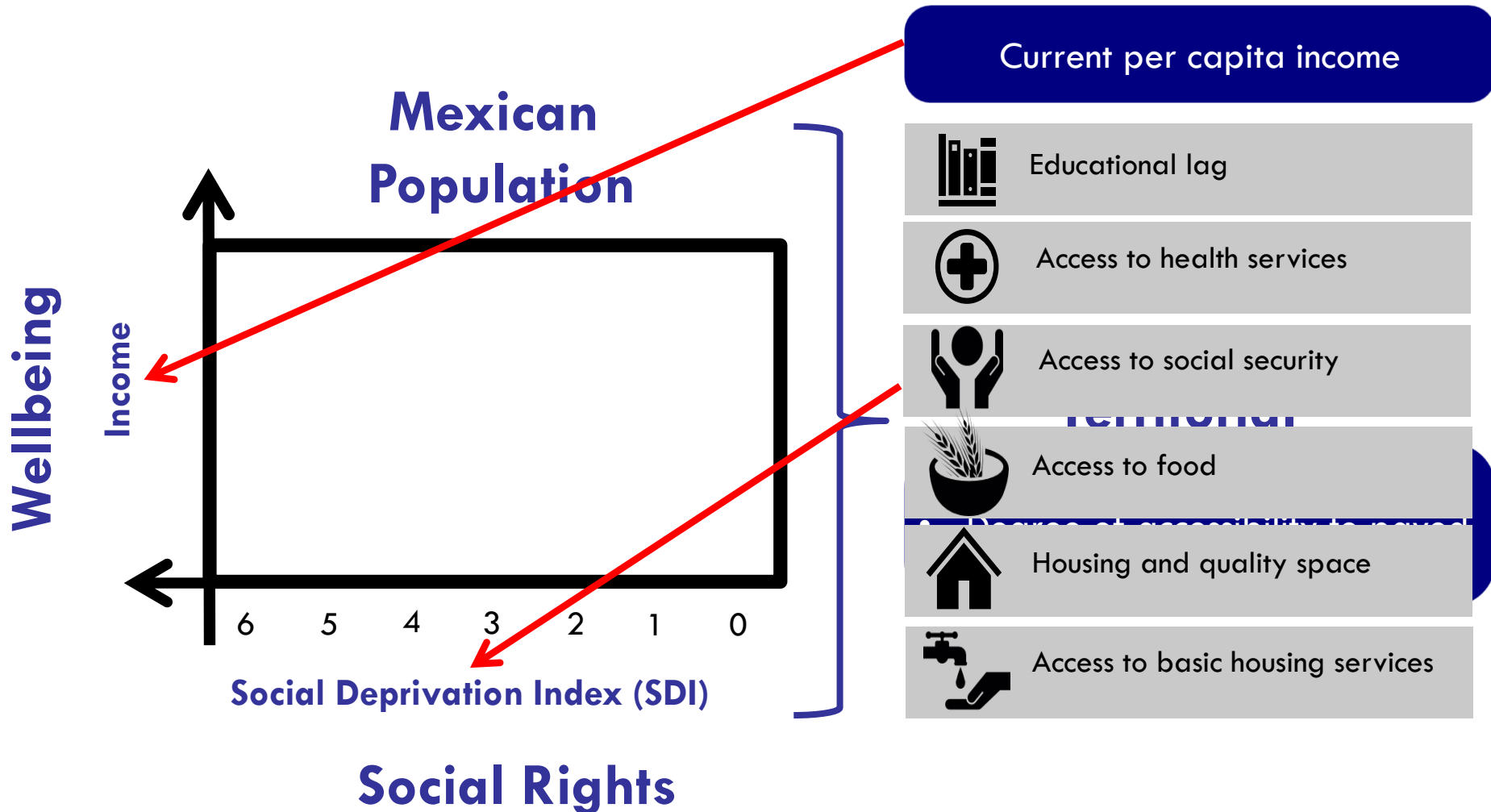
## Article 36



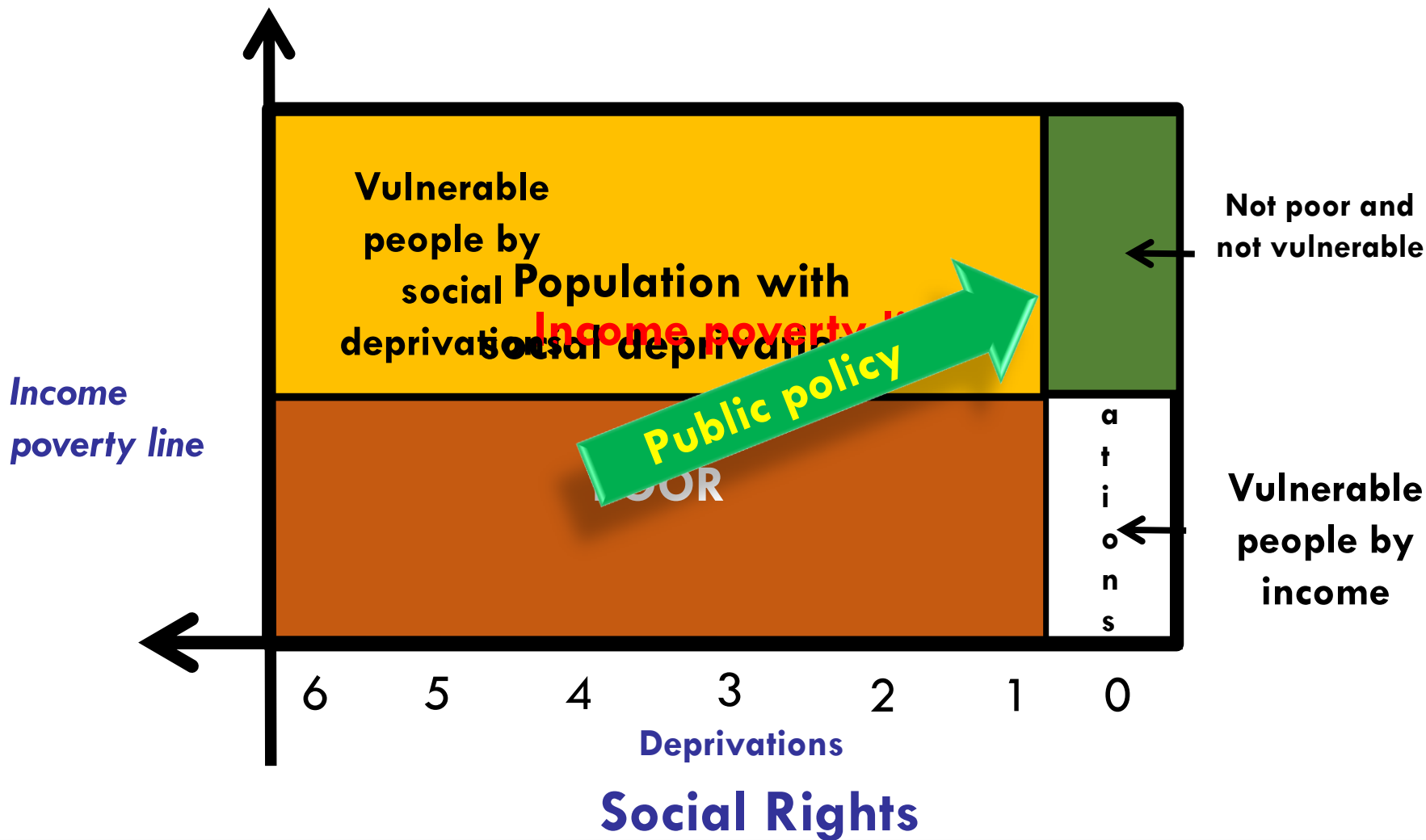
### MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY MEASUREMENT

- Mexico was the first country to introduce an official multidimensional poverty measure in 2009.
- Poverty is measured at national and state level every two years and every five years the municipal level, with information generated by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía).
- The methodology identifies people living in poverty as well as other vulnerable groups.
- Multidimensional poverty measurement and its features are relevant indicators for social policy evaluation.

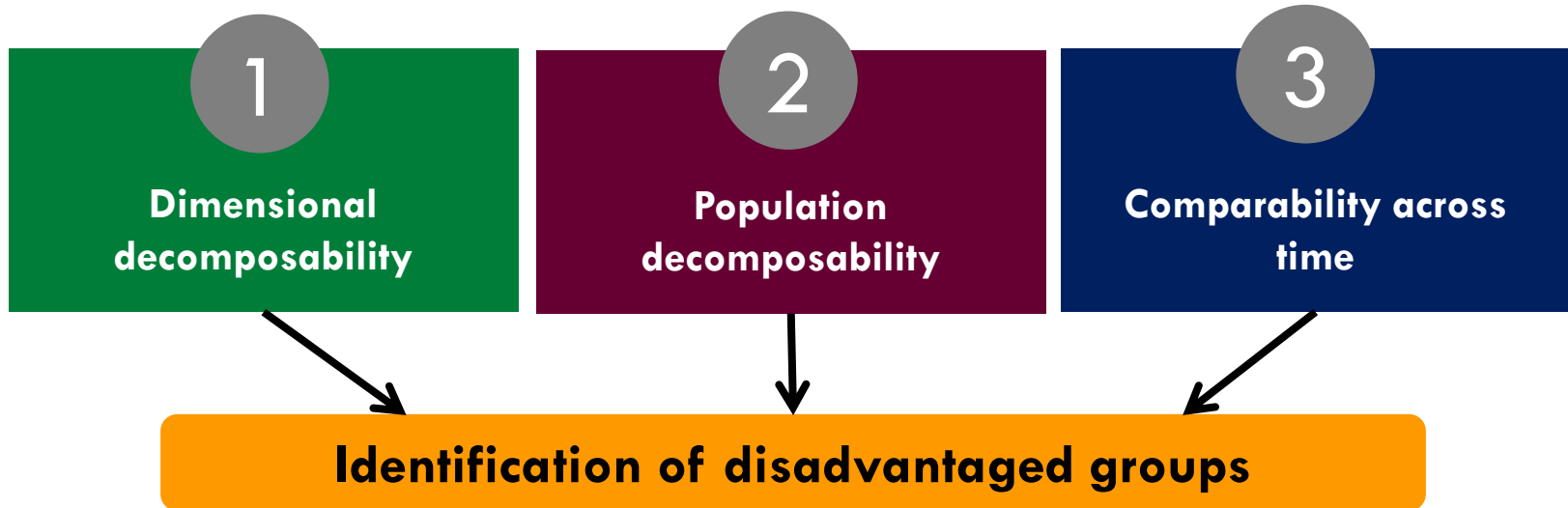
## What are the main features of the methodology?



Main features



## Properties of the multidimensional poverty measurement



**Regions**

National  
Rural / urban  
State  
Municipality



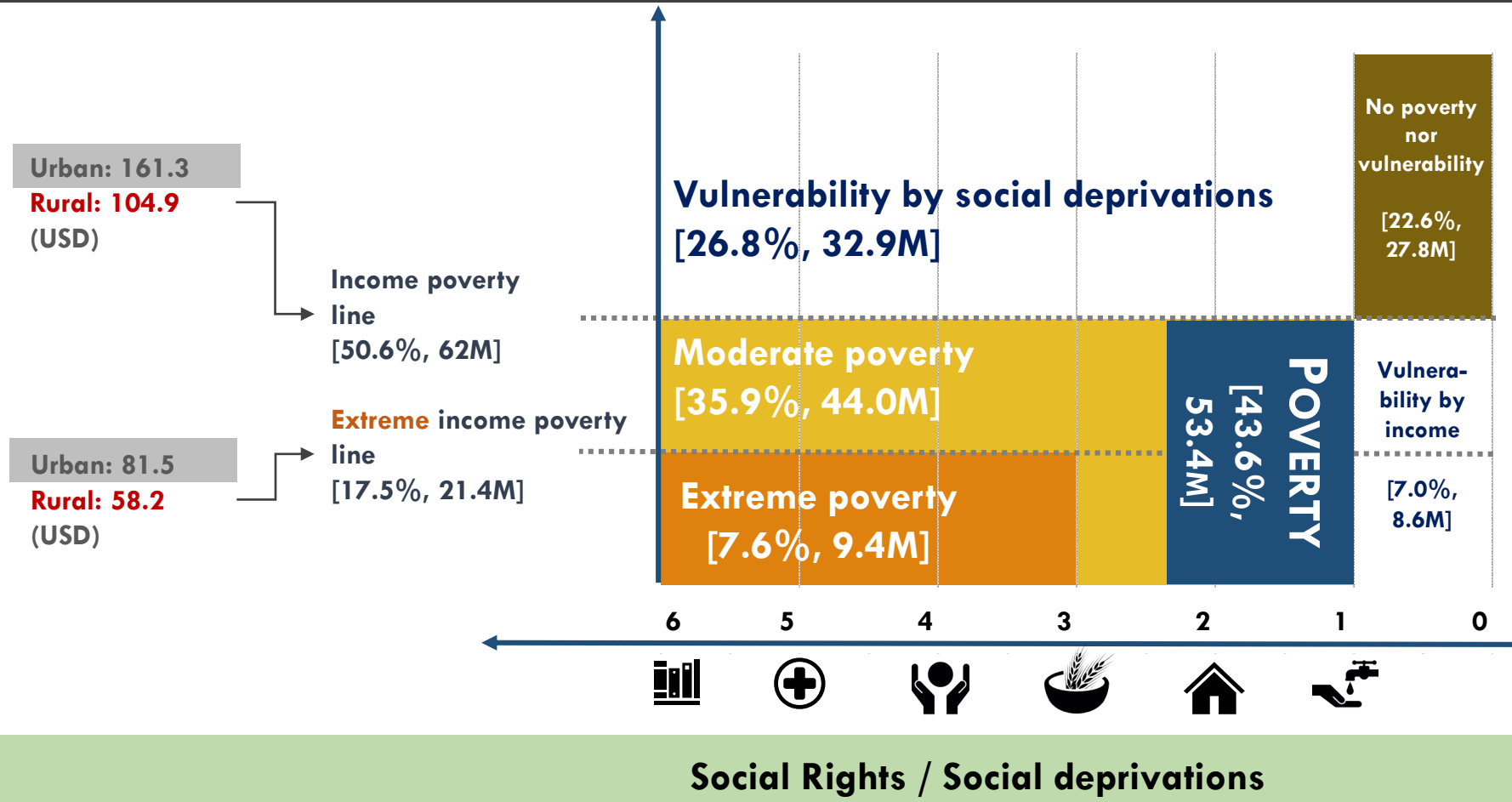
**Population**

Gender  
Children and adolescents  
Ethnic minorities  
Elderly population  
Young adults  
People with disabilities

- HALF OF THE MEXICAN POPULATION LACKS ECONOMIC RESOURCES FOR SATISFYING BASIC NEEDS.
- FOUR OUT OF TEN PEOPLE LIVE IN POVERTY AND ONE OUT OF 13 LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY.
- ONLY ONE OUT OF FIVE DOES NOT PRESENT ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL DEPRIVATIONS.

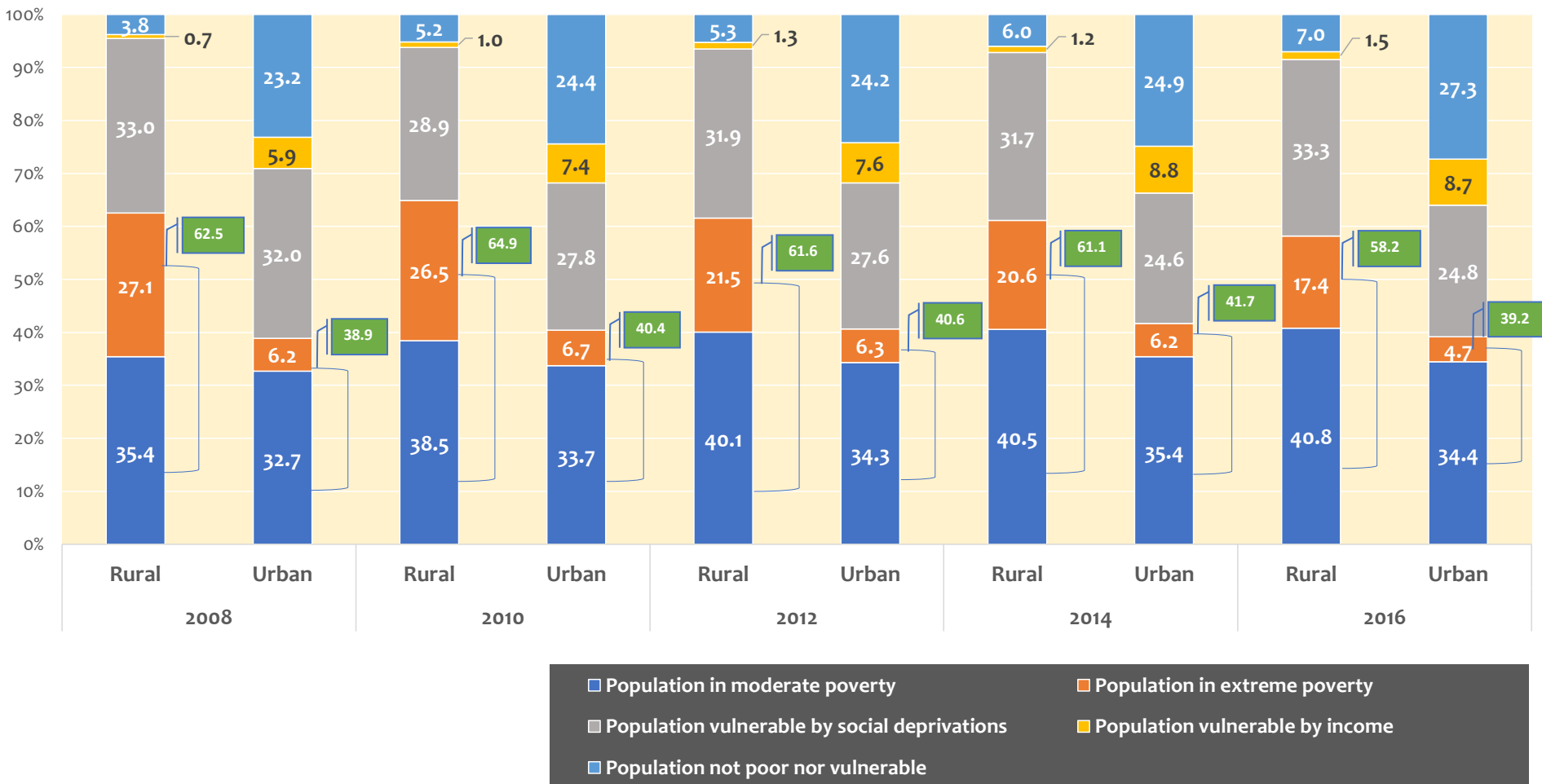
**2016**

**Economic wellbeing**



Graph 1.

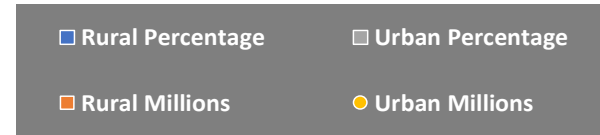
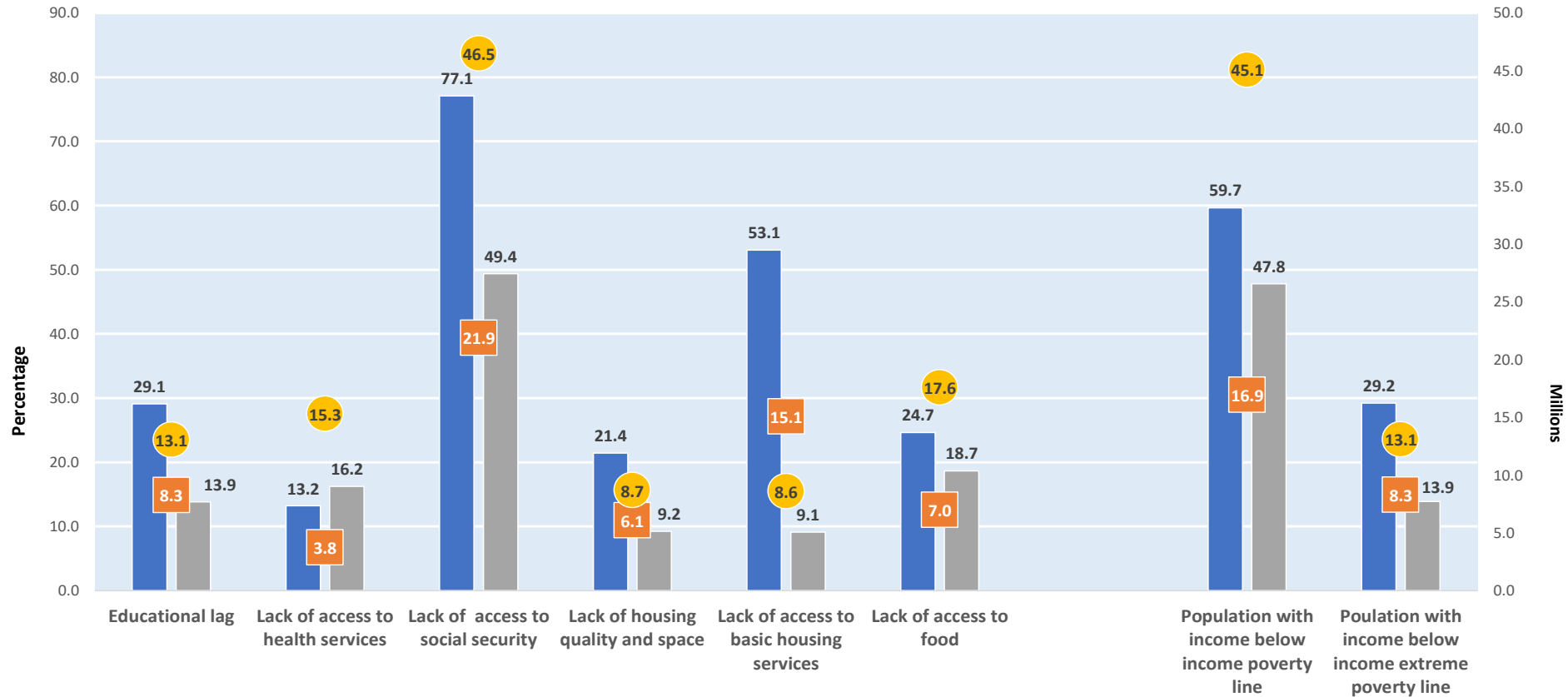
Percentage of population by condition of poverty or vulnerability, according to size of locality, 2010-2016



Source: CONEVAL based on MCS-ENIGH 2010-2014 and MEC-MCS-ENIGH, 2016.



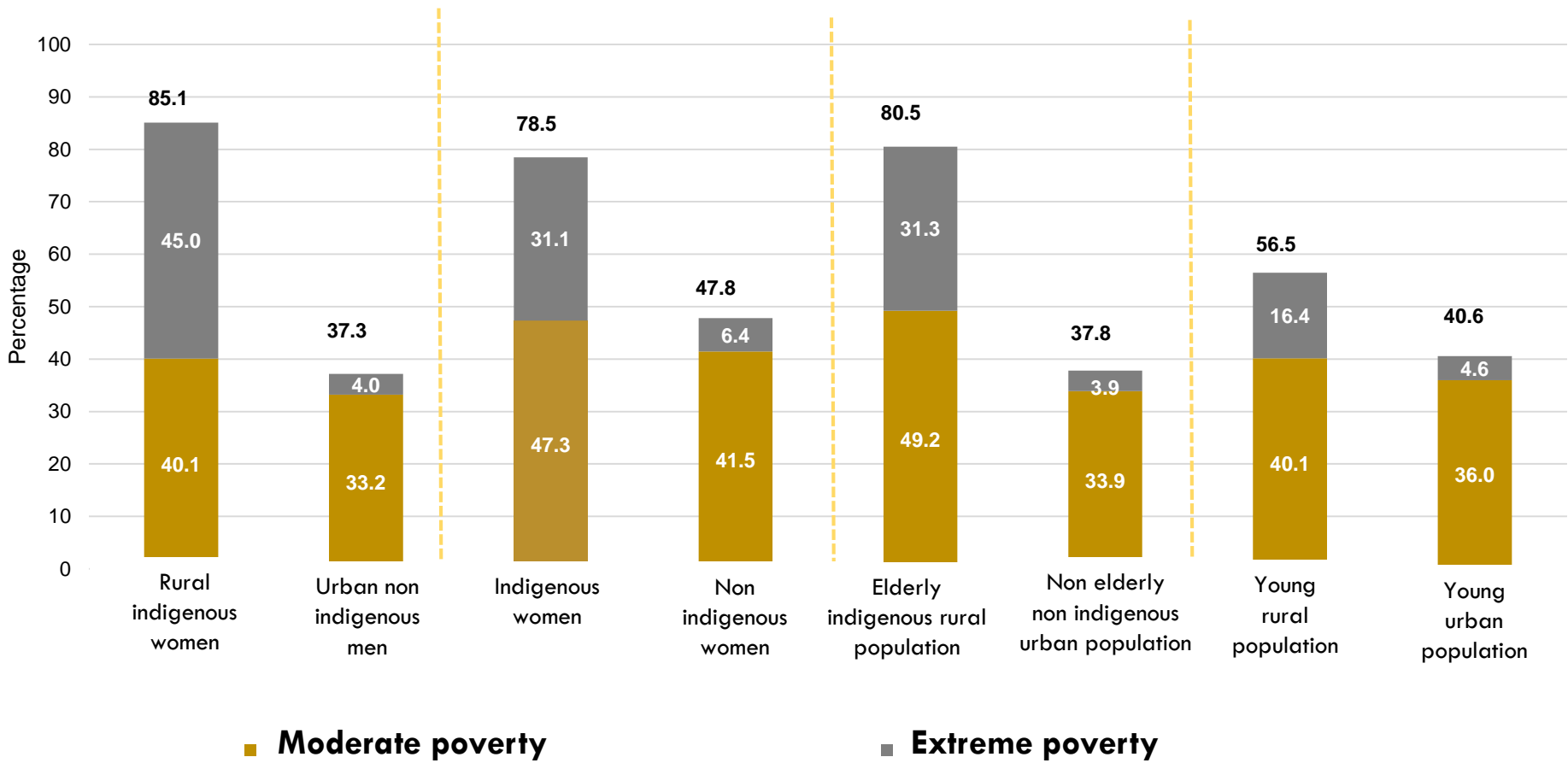
**Graph 2.**  
Population (percentage and millions) with social deprivation  
and insufficient income, according to size of locality, 2016



Source: CONEVAL based on MEC-MCS-ENIGH, 2016.

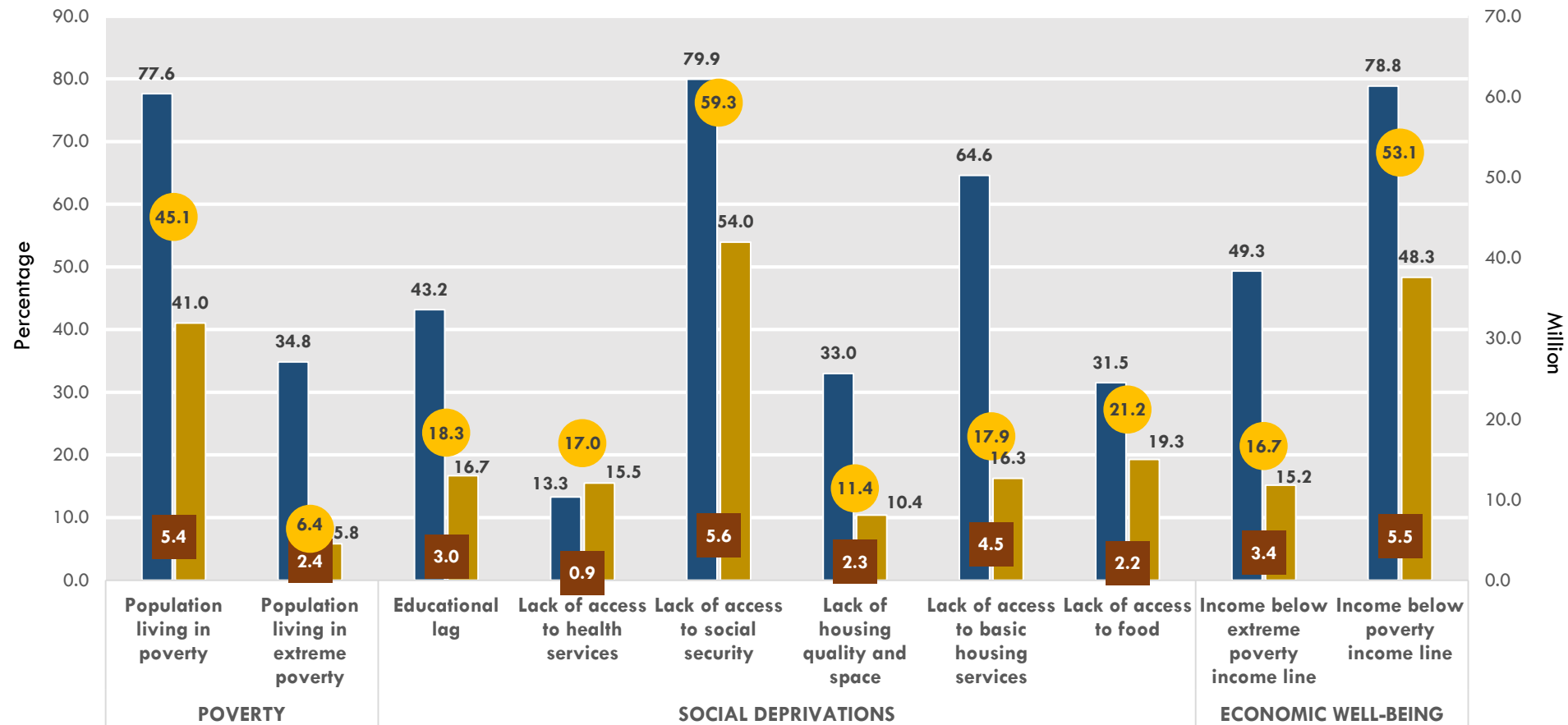
Graph 3.

Inequality of opportunities and outcomes for different population groups: Poverty gap amongst selected populations, México, 2016



Graph 4.

Indigenous population (percentage and millions) living in poverty, with social deprivations or income insufficiency, 2016



HLI %

NHI %

HLI Million

NHI Million

## The dual nature of poverty

**5 urban municipalities concentrate the same amount of people living in poverty (3.2 million) than 450 smaller, rural municipalities**

To improve conditions of growth and equality in the most developed territories

**Population concentration**

**Population dispersion**

To generate conditions for development where infrastructure and opportunities need to be distributed

## Poverty programs:

### OPORTUNIDADES (1997-2018)

- Investment in human capital: education, health, food.
- Conditional cash transfers.
- Focus on families and individuals (much less on context).

**Given the lack of economic growth, the possibility to mobilize these new resources has been limited.**

Durable  
inequalities  
in rural  
spaces

**Social and  
economical**

**Ethnic/gender/age**

**Territorial**

## Challenges for poverty measurement at local level: sources of information

### Income and Expenditure National Survey (every 2 years)

It is representative at the state and national level, but not municipal.

**Complete information** for identifying if a person is in a situation of poverty.

### Population census or inter-censal surveys (every 5 years)

Representative at the municipal level. Information to build four indicators. It is **not possible to directly estimate** income, access to food and access to social security

### Small area-estimation methods for indirectly calculating the rest of the indicators

CONEVAL is currently developing a **conceptual and methodological agenda for estimating poverty at smaller areas**, rural and urban.

### Qualitative research agenda: CONEVAL and local governments

Qualitative methodologies assess for **social processes, changes and factors** involved in poverty evolution.



Consejo Nacional de Evaluación  
de la Política de Desarrollo Social

**Thank you!**

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