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زبانهای اروپایی

By Isabella Arria
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***If there are more and more super-rich, it is because
too many millions go hungry***



Sources: CLAE

There are more and more poor, but also more super-rich in the world. Despite the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, or thanks to them, the hegemonic press reported that the world number of millionaires increased by 5.2 million, reaching 56.1 million. As a result, they say, an adult now needs more than a million dollars to belong to the richest 1% in the world.

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We are witnessing, perhaps, the profound collapse of humanity. These figures on wealth border on others much more worrying: more than 900 million people live in extreme poverty today. That means that one in ten people in the world has many difficulties in meeting the most basic needs, such as food, health, education or access to water and sanitation.

They say that a year ago it took \$988,103 to be part of this select club. Thus, 2020 was the year when, for the first time, more than 1% of all adults in the world are millionaires in dollars. In Spain, reports the newspaper El País, for the first time in its history, people who have more than one million dollars amounts to 1,147,000 people. This represents 2% of the millionaires worldwide. And the projection is that in 2025 there will be 1,800,000 rich Spaniards.

The total wealth of the world's richest adults has nearly quadrupled, from \$41.5 trillion to \$191.6 trillion in 2020, and their share of global wealth has risen from 35% to 46% over the same period. In addition, the number of people with very high purchasing power grew even faster, adding 24% more members, the highest rate since 2003.

The coronavirus pandemic, growing global inequality and rising food prices caused by the war in Ukraine, may result in more than 260 million people in the world reaching a level of extreme poverty, which is equivalent to the combined population of the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Spain.

The wealth of a very few

The twelfth *Global Wealth Report 2021*, prepared by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, says that total global wealth grew by 7.4%, 28.7 trillion **dollars**, to reach 418.3 trillion by the end of 2021, and wealth per adult increased by 6%, to reach another maximum of 79,952 dollars.

In 2020, and despite the pandemic, people with a net worth of between 10,000 and 100,000 dollars are the ones who have increased the most in number, going from 507 million to 1,700 million, which would reflect the growing prosperity of emerging

economies, especially China, and the expansion of the middle class in developing countries.

China represents 38% of the total, a relevant figure if compared to 9% in India, 6% in Latin America or 3% in Africa. Regional representation is even more skewed among millionaires, where 42% of its members reside in North America, 28% in Europe and 17% in Asia-Pacific (China and India are not included here).

The hunger of the many more

Some 924 million people (almost 12 per cent of the world's population) face severe levels of food insecurity, an increase of 207 million over a two-year period. The world is moving away from its goal of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030.

Figures from the 2022 edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report paint a grim picture as 828 million people have gone hungry in 2021: 46 million more than in 2020 and 150 million more than in 2019.

Some 2.3 billion people worldwide (29.3%) were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021, 350 million more people than before the outbreak of the pandemic. Some 924 million people (11.7% of the world's population) faced severe levels of food insecurity, an increase of 207 million over a two-year period.

32% of women in the world were moderately or severely food insecure, compared to 27.6% of men. Already in 2020, 3.1 billion people could not afford to maintain a healthy diet, reflecting the effects of consumer food price inflation stemming from the economic impact of the pandemic and the measures taken to contain it.

This was exacerbated in 2022 by the war in Ukraine, involving two of the world's largest producers of staple grains, oilseeds and fertilizers, disrupting international supply chains and driving up prices for cereals, fertilizers and energy, as well as ready-to-eat therapeutic foods for the treatment of severe child malnutrition.

This comes at a time when supply chains are already being adversely affected by increasingly frequent extreme weather events, especially in low-income countries, and has consequences that can be of great concern for global food security and nutrition.

In 2021, 45 million children under the age of five suffered from wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition, which increases the risk of infant mortality by up to 12 times. In addition, 149 million children under the age of five suffered from stunted growth and development due to the chronic lack of essential nutrients in their diet, while 39 million were overweight.

Looking ahead, UN agencies predict that 670 million people (8% of the world's population) will continue to go hungry by 2030, even taking into account a supposed global economic recovery. A figure similar to that of 2015, when the goal of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition was set by the end of this decade within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Inequality? It's not just numbers, it's a model. A very few continue to hoard wealth at the expense of the many, too many, condemned to survive, in the face of the applause and media contamination of the hegemonic press, obviously owned by the powerful.

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