



ASOCIACIÓN CIVIL LA PODEROSA INTEGRATION THROUGH POPULAR EDUCATION

The “**Villero**” **Observatory of La Poderosa** (*Slum Observatory*) is a statistical device with territorial roots that aims to contribute to breaking the invisibility of the realities of popular neighborhoods and settlements. This invisibility is generated by the lack of data on their specific living conditions. In turn, the product of this Observatory is a fundamental tool for generating and discussing transformative public policies for our territories.

To this end, neighbors from the popular neighborhoods that make up various assemblies of La Poderosa propose and carry out different data surveys on topics such as habitat, basic services, gender, education, income, and health, among others. This is a differentiating element from other observatories, as the Observatorio Villero—instead of situating popular neighborhoods only as objects of study—positions neighbors as key political subjects to change their neighborhood's reality. They design, survey, systematize, analyze, and communicate the neighborhood's statistics for subsequent action and approach.

This device does not seek to replace official statistics but rather complements them, enriching the quality and precision of how a certain phenomenon is measured and the concrete public policies and actions that can be carried out based on the analysis of such statistics. We understand that what is not recorded in official statistics remains invisible and unidentified, and therefore not subject to public policies.

Main Advantages and Strengths:

- Conceived and developed with and from the communities themselves.
- Greater economic efficiency is achieved.
- Greater effectiveness in terms of direct impact is achieved.
- Territories are empowered through access to information, allowing them to be critical of statistics generated by other institutions.
- The neighborhood community becomes responsible for identifying what needs to be measured, how, and when.
- Economics is transformed into the social science it is, at the service of the community.



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Projects (Since 2019)

1. The Cost of Menstruating in First Person. <https://ecofeminita.com/el-costo-de-menstruar-en-primera-persona/?v=5b61a1b298a0>
2. Mental Health Report in Popular Neighborhoods. <https://enfantterrible.com.ar/ciencia-y-salud/salud-mental-en-barrios-populares-informe-villero-de-la-garganta-poderosa/>
3. Electrical Risk Report. <https://www.facebook.com/gargantapodero/videos/994845884441298/>
4. Joint Project (La Poderosa, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Habitar NGO, Jóvenes por el Clima, and El Gato y la Caja): Survey of 1,222 homes in 23 Argentinian slums regarding material conditions, overcrowding, and access to services. <https://lapoderosa.elgatoylajaja.com/>
5. Publication in IDELCOOP Economic Journal: On the Observatory and community statistics.
6. Qualitative Report on Poverty with UNICEF: Accompanying the annual quantitative report. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANzUYN3a5dE>
<https://www.unicef.org/argentina/informes/estudio-cualitativo-la-situacion-de-la-pobreza-en-barrios-populares>
7. Systematization UNDP - La Poderosa Gender: Experience of accompanying people in situations of gender-based violence in Buenos Aires.
8. International Expansion (OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION). Project in progress (until December 2024) to develop the Observatory in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.

Locations and Focus:

- Quito, Ecuador: Santa Clara de San Millán (Family income).
- Suacha, Colombia: El Mirador II (Access to formal public services).
- Mexico City, Mexico: Iztapalapa (Food insecurity and public services).



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- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Itaoca (Environmental racism and care economy).
- Argentina: Various neighborhoods in Formosa, Santa Fe, Córdoba, Tucumán, Mendoza, La Plata, and Buenos Aires (Family income).

Current and Future Work

Currently, food surveys are being developed to make visible the historicity and persistence of community soup kitchens, which proliferated during the 90s and survived various crises. This research is fundamental to acting upon a community that often does not appear in official statistics, leading to inefficient public policies based on incorrect diagnoses.

Gradually, alongside the Latin American territorial development of La Poderosa, socio-economic research is beginning in different countries to investigate structural dynamics in settlements, slums, and favelas. We expect to start operations in Colombia, Mexico, and Ecuador soon.

Media Presence

The coordinator of the "Villero" Observatory, Diego Mora will have a biweekly column on the program "La Ley de la Selva" (C5N) hosted by Alejandro Bercovich. The goal is to communicate socioeconomic analyses and how macroeconomic policies affect popular neighborhoods.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9ezk5KWKaU>

We are currently working on a Villero Observatory web portal and seeking to strengthen our technical team with economists, sociologists, designers, and communicators.