

Extremely poor families in Sao Paulo, Brazil have increased by 30% a year, and some residents have "no taste of meat"

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According to a recent survey by the Social Assistance and Development Agency of the Brazilian city of São Paulo, more than 619,000 families in the city currently live in extreme poverty. The survey shows that in January 2021, there were 473,814 extremely poor households in the city, while in the same period this year, the number increased to 619,869, an increase of 30.82%.

The number of extremely poor households is gradually increasing, mainly in the south of the city

Brazils G1 website reported on May 24 that the investigation was based on data collected through the municipal single registry (Cadastro Único) system. This system is a system for low-income families identified by the Brazilian government and can apply for emergency assistance by registering for the system. The system classifies families with a monthly per capita income of 105 reais or less as extremely poor, which are entitled to grants from social programs such as the Auxílio Brasil (Auxílio Brasil).

In January 2019, before the start of the coronavirus pandemic, 412,337 households in the city of São Paulo were in extreme poverty. In January 2020, the number increased to 450,351, a year-on-year increase of 9.21%. Among them, the standard for extremely poor families in 2019 is that the monthly per capita income does not exceed 85 reais, while the standard for 2020 and 2021 is not more than 89 reais.

Marcelo Neri, director of the Social Policy Center of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV Social), believes that the data from the Cadastro Único system is not the actual data of the extremely poor families in the city. He said: "We replaced the Bolsa Família (Bolsa Família) with the Bolsa Família, but before that the Auxílio Emergencial (Auxílio Emergencial) was already in effect. In the process, The amount of benefits related to the Family Grant Scheme has risen, while the number of beneficiaries of the Emergency Assistance Payment Scheme has fallen, resulting in some data fluctuations. Data from the Cadastro Único system can only be used to measure those who have been informed of the policy. Information for the extremely poor."

Eating leftovers from the market, raising hens and laying eggs, residents no longer know what meat is

Joelita Miranda Santos, an extremely poor householder, said in an interview: "Meat? I dont even know what meat is anymore. The meat I eat is sardines and bacon. Taking care of them wants them to lay eggs so I dont have to buy (eggs)."

For nearly eight years, Giolita has lived in a one-bedroom, one-bedroom house in the Pinheiral neighborhood of Jardim Ângela, in the south of São Paulo. She has lost her job and her only monthly income is a 400 reais subsidy from the Brazilian Aid Program. She said: "I cant say that the money is enough to live, because in fact it is not enough. The food I eat regularly is rice, beans, eggs and bananas, which are leftovers from the market. The subsidy is only enough. buy some items."

A social worker who works in Jolitas area said the elderly never received any government assistance until the end of last year, and she didnt even know she had the benefit.

Giolita said: "These girls [referring to the social workers] saved me, they showed up on the day I was desperate. There was nothing in my house and I was crying. Without them, I dont know what I am. What will it be like."