

CAN FRANCE REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE?



INTRODUCTION

Poverty line = 60% of median income (~€1,120)

15.4% of French population below

Key issue → economic, social, political challenge

Plan: Causes – Policies – Levers – Obstacles



CURRENT SITUATION AND CAUSES OF POVERTY IN FRANCE



CURRENT SITUATION

- 9,8 million people (15,4% of total population)
- unemployment factor (7,3 % of population in 2024)

CAUSES

- unemployment factor (7,3 % of population in 2024)
- social factors
- cumulated effects

CONSEQUENCES

- social exclusion
- health issues
- vicious circle

EXISTING POLICIES TO REDUCE POVERTY

Social welfare system

RSA, activity bonus, allowances

Fight unemployment

the Garantie Jeunes, job subsidies

Housing policies

APL,HLM

Health and education

healthcare, the universal health coverage, the Supplementary solidarity health





LEVERS FOR A SUSTAINABLE REDUCTION OF POVERTY

Employment → invest in growth sectors, job creation

Wages → minimum wage, prime d'activité, work incentives

Housing & Taxes → affordable housing, progressive taxation, redistribution

Goal → structural & long-term poverty reduction



MAIN CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES

Limited budget → High social spending, debt and deficit limit new aid.

Political resistance → Tax reforms and redistribution often contested.

External shocks → Inflation, health or migration crises worsen poverty.

Tough fight → Tools exist, but strong obstacles limit results.

CONCLUSION

France has many tools (benefits, housing, education)

Main levers: jobs, wages, redistribution

Obstacles: budget, politics, crises

Poverty ↓ possible, eradication unlikely

Need: long-term social + economic policies

THANK YOU

for your attention

SOURCES

- <https://aides-territoires.beta.gouv.fr/aides/36ff-lutter-contre-la-pauvrete/#:~:text=Dans%20le%20cadre%20de%20%C2%AB%20France,d'euros%20engag%C3%A9e%20d%C3%A8s%202021>
- <https://www.vie-publique.fr/en-bref/285957-strategie-de-lutte-contre-la-pauvrete-un-etat-de-sa-mise-en-oeuvre#:~:text=Selon%20le%20rapport%2C%20quatre%20mesures,de%20400%20points%20conseil%20budget.>
- <https://www.oxfamfrance.org/inegalites-et-justice-fiscale/pauvrete-inegalites-france/#:~:text=Les%20causes%20de%20la%20pauvret%C3%A9,une%20poign%C3%A9e%20d'hommes.>
- Council of Economic Analysis (2019). Minimum wage and low incomes. Paris: CAE. <https://cae-eco.fr/static/pdf/079.pdf>
- OFCE (2022). Macro and microeconomic analysis of purchasing power. Paris: Sciences Po. <https://www.ofce.sciences-po.fr/pdf/etudes/2022/EtudeOFCE-02-2022.pdf>
- Ministry of Solidarity and Health (2020). Evaluation report of the activity bonus (Prime d'activité). Paris: Government of France. https://sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/rapport_d_evaluation_prime_d_activite.pdf
- INSEE (2024). Income, living standards and purchasing power – Key figures. Paris: National Institute of Statistics. <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/7457170>
- Observatory of Inequalities (2023). Redistribution: How taxes and benefits reduce inequalities. <https://www.inegalites.fr/Redistribution-comment-les-impots-et-les-prestations-reduisent-les-inegalites>
- Banque de France — « Governance of public expenditure and public services »: <https://www.banque-france.fr/fr/interventions-gouverneur/gouvernance-des-depenses-et-services-publics-y-t-il-encore-un-espoir>
- DREES / social protection in France (2023 data): https://drees.solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/publications-en-anglais/250203_DD_socialprotection_2023#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20spending%20on%20social,protection%20than%20Eas tern%20European%20countries.