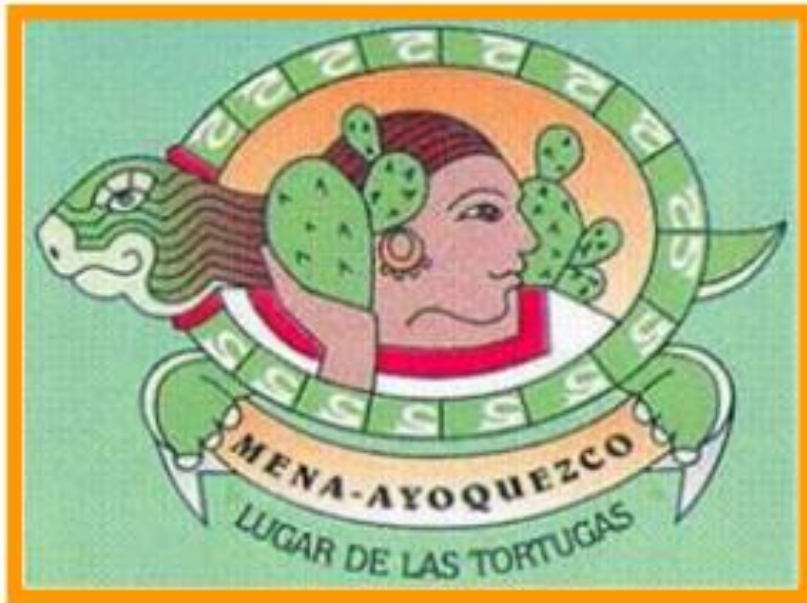


Diasporas & women entrepreneurs ***in Oaxaca, Mexico: The MENA Cooperative*** ***(Mujeres Envasadoras de Nopal de Ayoquezco)***

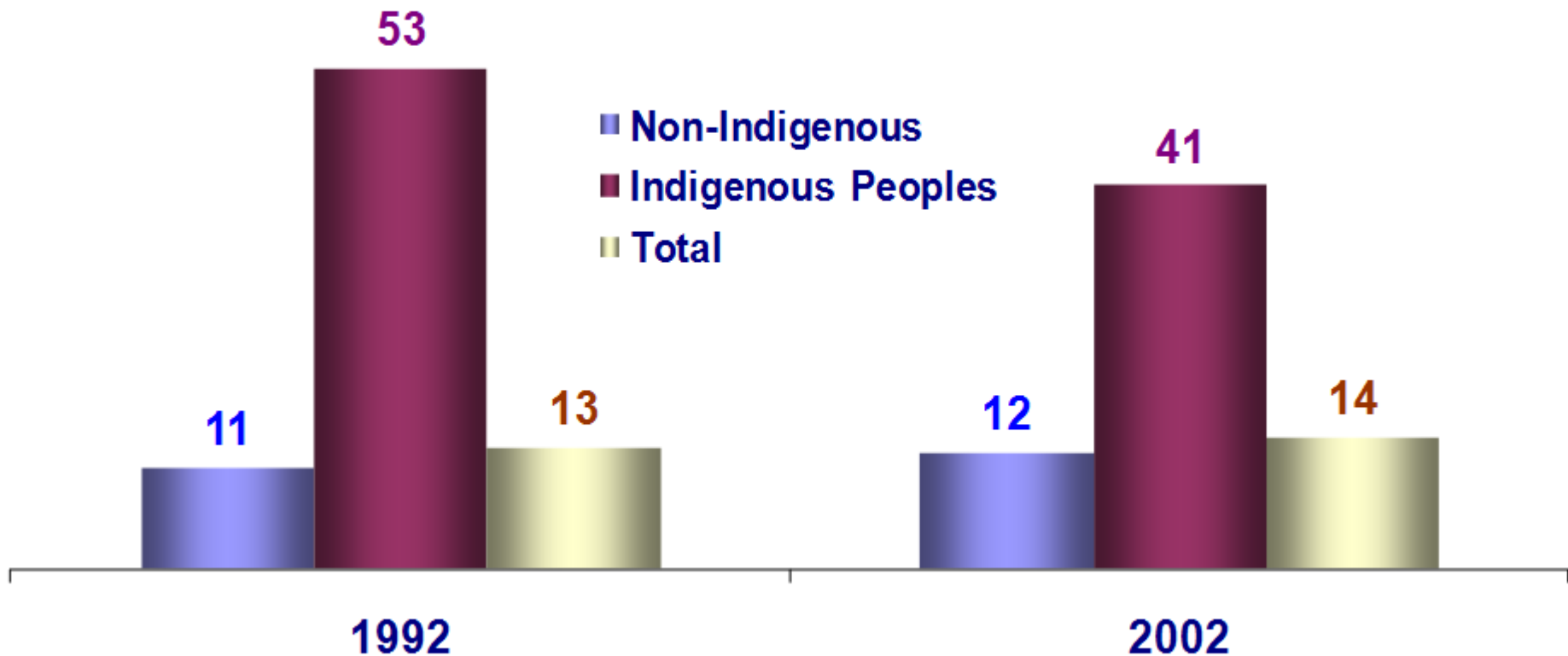


Mujeres de Ayoquezco afectadas por el fenómeno de la migración

Professors Darryl McLeod and Norma Fuentes
Migration and Microfinance:
Econ/Sociology
5808 Summer 2014

Indigenous peoples by far the poorest in Mexico

Mexico \$1/day Poverty for Indigenous Groups
% of Population



Source: UNDP (2006) Ethnicity and the Millenium Development Goals, Chapter 2

Human Development Index in Mexico

- Oaxaca is one of the least developed regions in Mexico.

HDI Ranking (out fo 32)	Entity	HDI	Health Index	Education Index	Income Index
1	DF, Capital	0.8837	0.8401	0.9031	0.9079
31	Oaxaca	0.7336	0.8108	0.7754	0.6148
	National	0.8031	0.825	0.8331	0.7513

Source: HDR. Data for 2004.

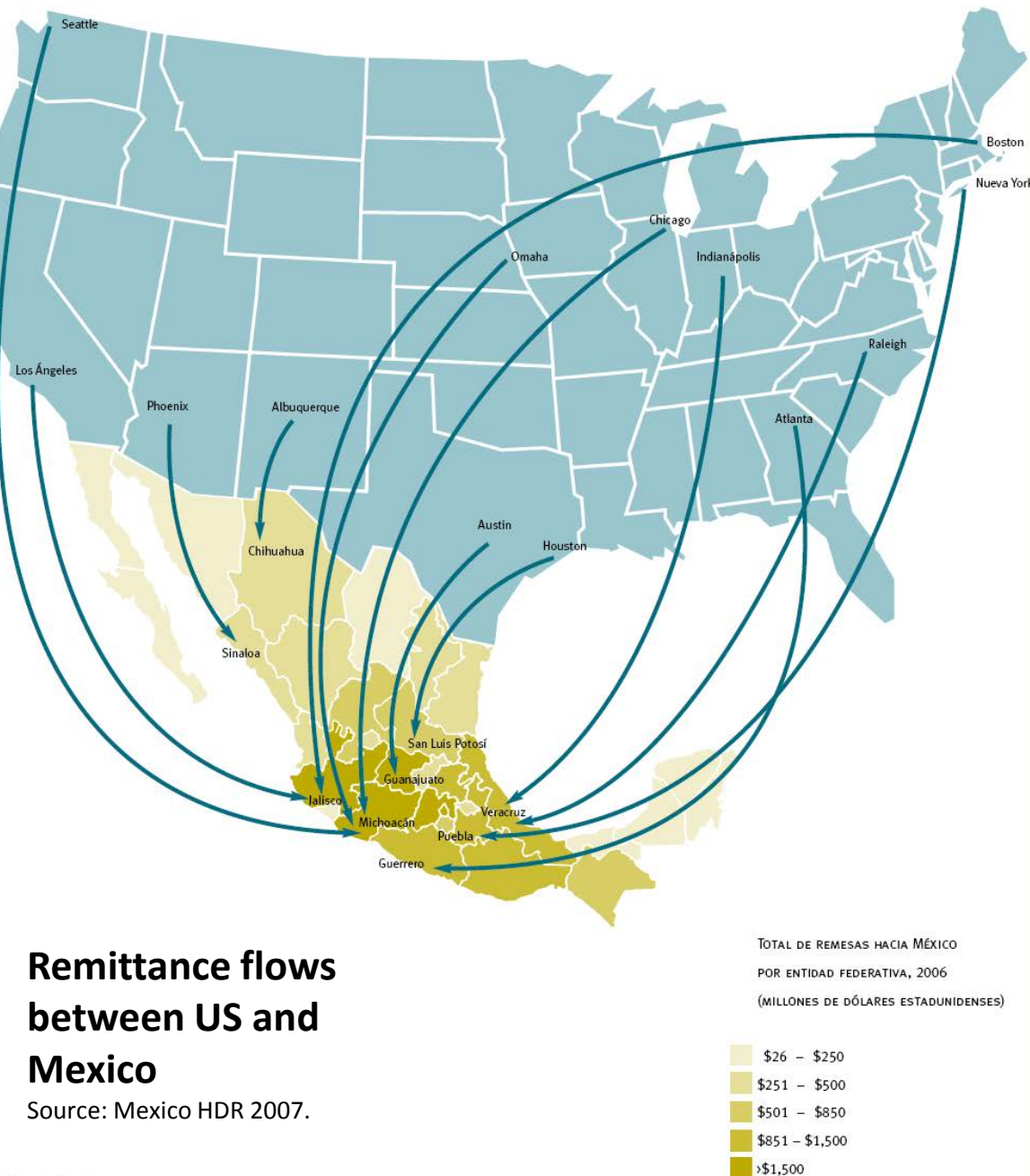
- It has the highest % of indigenous population in the country, around 32%.

Migration in Mexico

- In 2005, around 11 million people born in Mexico lived in the US.
- In 2006, around \$23.5 billion received in remittances.
- [Ayoquezo, Oaxaca:](#) Around 65% of pop. has migrated North of Mexico or to the US (around half is in California).

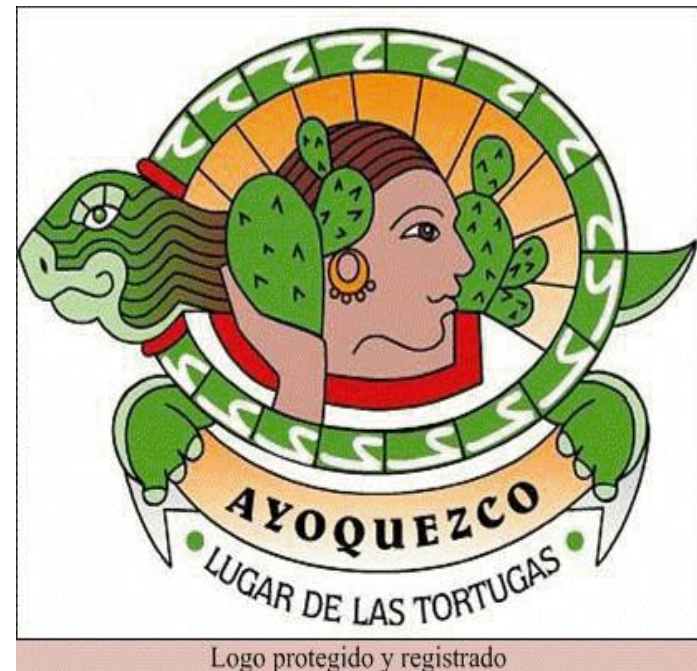
Remittance flows between US and Mexico

Source: Mexico HDR 2007.



Municipio: Ayoquezco, Oaxaca

- Total population about 5740, of which 25% is illiterate and 55% of pop. +15 has not completed primary school (FPC, 2003).
- Mainly men immigrate from Mexico and Guatemala leaving women and Family behind... remittances help But enterprises like the MENA Cooperative give Women agency and create additional benefits Related to Migration



Oaxacan Women Entrepreneurs

- Founded in 2002, MENA (*Mujeres Envasadoras de Nopal de Ayoquezco*) is an Oaxacan women's food cooperative that grows, packages and sells a native cactus (*nopal*) among other foods.
- Nopales consumed by the Oaxacan population for hundreds of years.



Migrant Women in Mexico's MENA



“The MENA cooperative consists of a group of 170 women, many of whom are single mothers, widows, or who have been abandoned by their husbands who have emigrated to the United States” (MIGPAO).

Markets for MENA: Targets immigrant communities in the US Diaspora

- MENA's women produce and commercialize nopales to be sold to Oaxacan migrant communities in California, US.
- MENA is associated with Oaxacan hometown association in San Diego, California: *Migrantes por Ayoquezco, Oaxaca (MIGPAO)*.



See also

Chiapas

Café La Selva

EQUATOR INITIATIVE



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



CAFÉ LA SELVA
Mexico



Equator Initiative Case Study Database

The Equator Initiative's online best practice database



Equator Initiative Case Studies

Local sustainable development solutions for people, nature, and resilient communities

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