



Executive summary
Anual report on
**Social
Vulnerability**

[2007]



Cada vez más cerca de las personas



Cruz Roja Española

Executive summary

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Prologue

The Spanish Red Cross is a Humanitarian Organization that works “for and with” people and social groups who experience different kinds of discrimination, poverty or social exclusion. The Institution’s commitment is based on a strategy that seeks to strengthen the most vulnerable people and social groups’ capacities in their daily lives, encouraging their individual and group autonomy, as well as their full integration.

We, at the Red Cross, are not only concerned about taking action with regard to the challenge of exclusion, but also about familiarizing ourselves with the situations in which we intervene. Currently, in our social programs, we interact with hundreds of thousands of people and we receive the collaboration of more than a hundred and sixty thousand volunteers.

We believe that the experience we get from the work itself, the territorial scope of our network, the diversity of the activities and projects that we manage and the knowledge of the people who make up our human resources, from professionals to volunteers, forces us to look further into this analysis. Therefore, in 2005, we began to develop a systematic study that seeks to be a sociological “picture” of the people in or at risk of being in situations of social exclusion with whom we intervene.

By means of the Annual Report on Social Vulnerability 2007, the publication that we are pleased to present, we would like to continue along this line of social research to which we are committed. We are interested in generating knowledge that will make it possible for us to improve our work, while also providing trustworthy information to those who – in terms of policy-making – act as the guarantors of citizens’ rights. We also aim to contribute to fomenting social awareness regarding the circumstances that affect the most disadvantaged people who live in our country.

Based on a periodic format and a standardized structure that will be maintained over time in order to facilitate possible comparisons, this second Annual Report on Social Vulnerability 2007 provides first-hand statistical information, which comes from updated and individualized records of people who are participating in many of the Spanish Red Cross’ social intervention projects and programs throughout the country. This broad nominal database, which, at the time of publication, has a few hundred thousand records, is called the “Social Intervention Application” and, thanks to it, it is possible to obtain information about the following aspects: personal, gender, health, economic, social, family, relationships, etc. responding to a multidimensional approach of social exclusion.

Moreover, each annual report includes a monograph that – **on this occasion – focuses on people of foreign origins who live in situations of vulnerability in rural areas.**

The evolution of the Comprehensive Risk Indicator is one of the most outstanding contributions of this Report. This comes from the average risk of the different groups and profiles of

the people in situations of vulnerability and, therefore, makes it possible to have an objective and simple measurement of this very complex social process. Among the aspects that stand out in the 2007 Report is the **1.5% increase in the comprehensive risk between the summer of 2006 and the summer of 2007, which took place due to the worsening of the situation of those groups and profiles, who already suffered from a high degree of social risk.**

Even though the data included in this Report refers to the year 2007, at the time of its presentation we are forced to briefly mention the way in which the current international financial crisis situation affects people who participate in the Red Cross' projects.

At this time, we are developing a situation analysis that addresses the entire territorial network and all of the social intervention and employment programs carried out by the Institution.

In a global context in which unemployment has risen by three points, the unemployment rate of the non-EC immigrant population has increased by at least five points in a year and a half. We understand that this figure will worsen an already difficult situation. During the period analyzed in the 2007 Report, unemployment among the people who received assistance from the Spanish Red Cross' projects was at 55%, in the case of foreigners 70% of them were affected, *and in the case of people of sub-Saharan origin, 87% of them were affected.*

We are detecting a significant increase in the number of petitions of support for voluntary return, which has sharpened since the second trimester of 2008 and we have also observed an increase in the petitions for economic aid (rent, school supplies, clothing and food) by those people who come for the first time to the Red Cross to ask for support.

This is a situation that openly requires a strong investment in social protection and a joint effort by all social actors in the struggle against the risks of exclusion that we will see reflected, undoubtedly, in the next report.

Through projects like the Annual Report on Social Vulnerability we place importance on reflection, debate, applied research and participation of all social actors, experts, professionals and, particularly, the very people who live in situations of vulnerability in order to combat the risks of exclusion, a process of social, economic and relational marginalization that severely undermines people's rights and dignity.



Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero
President, Spanish Red Cross

Introduction

We live in Europe and we are linked to the fate of this great transnational society. Therefore, in this presentation of the Annual Report on Social Vulnerability 2007 by the Spanish Red Cross, we have considered it important to compare Spain's social situation with that of the European context, with the aim of being able to observe the data that comes from the original analysis that is presented in this book, within these more general trends.

In the European Union, one of the richest regions on the planet, one out of every five Europeans – almost 80 million people – live below the poverty line. Among these people are the rural populations of central and eastern Europe, as well as ethnic minorities like the gypsies or Roma, who are among the poorest population segments of Europe. Despite the strengthening of coordinated social policies since 2000, the percentage of the population at risk of poverty remains practically unchanged with regard to 1999: 16% of citizens of the EU 25 (20% in Spain)¹.

Confirming trends highlighted in both reports prepared by the Red Cross for the case of Spain, throughout Europe the children and youths who are at risk of poverty live in family units that have an above-average level of vulnerability. Half of these minors live in the two types of homes that are at greater risk: 23% live in single-parent homes and 27% live in large families. The ways and extent to which these types of homes experience poverty and social vulnerability depend on their characteristics (age, level of education of the parents, housing, etc.), and the employment status or income of the parents (employees with low income and instability, unemployed, pensioners, no income, etc.), added (or detracted) to which is the availability of adequate support through access to services like childcare, measures to conciliate work with family responsibilities, and economic aid to improve income².

In Spain, the scope of poverty in families and in the population is higher than the average in Europe. This fact has a lot to do with the unequal distribution of wealth and with its characteristics of economic development. The social context – the weakening of the Welfare State and its policies of universal social protection – favors these inequalities with regard to basic needs. And, currently, it is such that coverage of basic needs is more available to those who are already inserted in the labor market, while some depreciated aid and assistance is reserved for those who do not meet all of the formal requirements. This process has been referred to as an “inclusivity deficit of the Welfare State”³.

The so-called “Lisbon Strategy”, established by the European Union in all of its Member states with the aim of reducing poverty and achieving greater social cohesion before 2010, by means of increasing the coordination and synergy of Europe's social policies, continues to be an important path and guide for social progress. This process is not without problems. The current economic crisis sheds new light on those sectors that are fans of economic investment, as opposed to investment in human development, while the entities of social action emphasize the need to continue to advocate social cohesion as a strategy for comprehensive development.

1 EUROSTAT, Statistics in focus - Population and social conditions - 13/2005, “Income Poverty and Social Exclusion in the EU25”

2 Community Action Programme on Social Exclusion, “Poverty and social exclusion among lone-parent households”, Policy Studies Findings – 9, 2007, http://ec.europa.eu/comm/employment_social/social_inclusion/studies_en.htm

3 Subirats i Humet, Joan (Dir.), Análisis de los factores de exclusión social. Madrid, Fundación BBVA-Generalitat de Catalunya, Documentos de trabajo 4, 2005, p. 17.


Contents of the Report

The Annual Report on Social Vulnerability 2006 sought to be a sociological “picture” of people in situations of vulnerability in Spain. Following this same objective, we present the current 2007 report, aiming to refresh, update and impede that this “picture” does not change or lose its original colors. Therefore, the overall aim continues to consist of constructing a descriptive analysis of social vulnerability, establishing different social patterns and profiles of vulnerability, and identifying which factors are the determining aspects of each profile.

In the qualitative section, the analysis focuses on the situation of people of foreign origins in situations of vulnerability, especially those who live in rural areas.

Rural environs represent 90% of the territory, 80% of the municipalities and a third of its citizens, 14 million people, besides encompassing almost all of the country’s natural resources and a significant part of Spain’s cultural heritage. Studies on poverty and social exclusion, in general, have focused on urban areas and, particularly, on big cities. However, rural areas have received less attention, due to the methodological difficulties that come with such a study, and due to their diversity; these factors have led to the proliferation of micro-studies on very specific realities or of studies based on geographic factors. With regard to studies on migrations in Spanish rural areas, because such studies have been scarce and of a local or regional nature, we have decided to analyze this aspect in the 2007 monograph.


Characteristics of the Statistical Sample from 2007



The sample from which this Report is based comes from a database of 189,186 people participating in projects carried out by the Red Cross, as of July 2007, from which a stratified, random sample was taken of 19,400 records, according to the social intervention areas (data from the Yearbook of the Institution of 2006). The representation and sampling error, therefore, refer to all of the people who received assistance from the Spanish Red Cross. In the specific case of minors, a specific sample of 7,433 records was used, which corresponded to the total number of minors included in the database.

To what extent are the 189,186 people of the entire group representative of the 8,900,000 people who live in poverty or who are at risk of falling into poverty, according to official data? If we take into account that with 19,400 individuals in a random sample we would ensure representation, the 189,186 Spanish Red Cross participants would be a trustworthy sample to a great extent.

Who are the people who live in situations of social vulnerability?



The concept of social vulnerability has two explanatory components. On the one hand, the insecurity and helplessness that the communities, groups, families and individuals experience in their daily lives as a result of the impact caused by some kind of traumatic natural, economic or social event; and on the other hand, the management of resources and the strategies employed to confront their effects by the communities, groups, families and people.

As a result of complex realities, a lot of people can find themselves walking along a narrow path, the path of social vulnerability. Social vulnerability constitutes the boundary between what can be considered the integration zone, characterized by stable and sound pillars in the economic and family contexts, and the exclusion zone, which implies a lack of employment and/or family isolation. This refers to a zone of great instability; one in which once a person has had contact with it, it is much easier to lean towards the exclusion zone than it is to go back to the social inclusion zone. In today's society, the concept of social vulnerability is increasingly more important, since any member of society can find or can come to find him or herself in this zone, affecting not only the lower classes, but the middle and upper classes too. Moreover, socially vulnerable people can be senior citizens, children, battered women, immigrants, etc.

In order to respond to this question, some variables have been taken into consideration that highlight diverse socio-demographic characteristics like sex, age, country of birth, marital status, number of children, employment status and level of education, as well as the main reasons why they are connected to the Red Cross.

If we consider the distribution of these vulnerable Spanish Red Cross participants – taking into consideration both age (categorized by groups) and sex – we can see how there is a significant association between the two categories of the variables under consideration, such that the higher age groups are associated with females and the lower ages are associated with males. In summary, we find that 31% of the people are females over the age of 65, and 33% are males under 65 years of age.

Another interesting socio-demographic characteristic to analyze is marital status. The largest groups of Spanish Red Cross participants with respect to their marital status are singles, registering at 42%, and married people, at 35%. These groups are followed distantly by widows/widowers, a situation in which 10.4% of the people in the sample are found.

It can be said that widows/widowers usually are over the age of 65 and they are predominantly female; while the group of divorced, separated and married people are mostly in the middle-aged bracket. Moreover, a third group consisting of those who live with their partners or are single is represented by more males than females, and they are relatively close to the 16 - 24 age group.

Having children is a factor that increases the risk. The records indicate that the majority of the participants have 1 or 2 children, placing the average number at 1.87 children, a significantly higher value than that of the Spanish average, which is 1.37 children, according to figures from the INE in

June 2007. It should be noted that almost 13% of the people in situations of vulnerability have 4 or more children.

Fifty-three percent of people in situations of vulnerability were born in Spain, while 47% are foreigners. In terms of the classification based on geographic regions, we observe that – setting aside Spanish nationals – the majority of the participants come from Latin America (18.6%) and from countries of the Maghreb (11.1%), followed by those who are from eastern Europe (9%). People from sub-Saharan Africa represent 5.5% of the individuals. The foreigners with the greatest presence are Moroccan nationals, followed, in order, by people from Romania, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia.

It is worth noting how the factors of sex and nationality are interrelated. There are no significant differences between the percentage of males and females in situations of vulnerability, who are Spanish or from eastern Europe. In the rest of the nationalities there are significant differences between males and females, for example: Africans are mostly males, especially the sub-Saharanans who register a figure greater than 80%, while those from the Maghreb register a proportion of 73/27; that is, there are three times more males than females, a proportion that practically repeats itself in the case of people whose nationality is from the rest of Europe. The situation is inverted in the case of people who come from Latin America, where females are in the majority in a proportion of 63/37.

People over the age of 65 are almost all Spaniards, and nearly three out of four foreigners are registered in the age group made up of people between the ages of 25 and 49.

Nationality and number of children are factors that also present a significant association, identifying oneself as Spanish and having a high number of children, and similarly but to a lesser extent, between being from Latin American and having a high number of children. In the case of those who have 5 or more children, more than 60% are Spanish and more than 15% are from Latin America. On the other hand, among the people who do not have children, one out of every two is Spanish.

The majority of the people are unemployed, almost 55% as opposed to 18.4% of people who are working actively. Retirees and pensioners make up 21% of the total. With regard to 2006, there has been an increase of nearly 7% in the number of unemployed people.

If we consider the employment status of the participants in regards to their sex, we observe that there is a significant association between both variables. Almost all of the homemakers are female and there are more than double the amount of females who are registered as “retirees”. This situation is reverse in the case of early-retirees, in which case 65% are males and 35% are females. In the case of people working actively, almost 60% are males and the remaining 40% are females. There is also a majority of males among those who are unemployed. Nevertheless, among pensioners, there is a balanced division between the sexes.

With regard to nationality, the great majority of retired people and pensioners, and all of the early retirees, are Spanish; on the other hand, the proportion of unemployed people in the sample among foreigners is much higher than that of Spaniards in the same situation. More specifically, **among those who are foreigners, more than 70% are unemployed** (ranging between 69% in the case of nationals from countries of Latin America and 87% in the case of those who are from sub-Saharan Africa) while the proportion of people of Spanish nationality is 37%.

With respect to the level of education, we observe that the majority has a primary education (52%), followed by people without any education (16.1%) and people with a secondary education (12%). That is, the great majority has a primary education or no education (68%), since only 8.4% have a university-level education. **This marks a clear difference with regard to what was detected in 2006, when 37% of the people had a primary education and 32% had a secondary education.** There has been, therefore, a clear drop in the level of education of the participating people with regard to the previous year.

The distribution of the level of education, according to origin, is the following.

- Participants from Spain present a below average level of education, since almost three out of every four people have a primary level of education or do not have any studies.
- Participants from eastern Europe have a primary level of education (almost 41%), a secondary education (25%) and a higher level of education (more than 20%).
- Participants from Africa predominantly do not have any studies (more 30%) and those who have a primary (more than 43%) or secondary education, with both categories representing more than 70%.
- With regard to the people from Latin America, the level of secondary education represents the highest level out of all of the geographic areas (half of those who come from this region have completed these studies) and the smallest proportion of people without any studies (less than 5%).

In sum, if we look for a predominant profile among the people in situations of social vulnerability of the Spanish Red Cross...

- Females are predominant (54.9%)
- Males, between the ages of 25 and 49 years old (33%), females over the ages of 65 (31%)
- Marital status of the people: single or married
- Origin of the people: Spanish, Latin Americans (Ecuadorians, Colombians or Bolivians) and Moroccans (from Maghreb). With a larger presence of males from Africa and the rest of Europe, and of females from Latin America.
- With one or two children. An average number of children that is significantly higher than the national average (1.87 compared to 1.37).
- Principally in a situation of unemployment (55%), retired or receiving a pension. Only 18% of the vulnerable people are working actively, and the **highest percentage of unemployed** is that of people of foreign origins.
- With a primary education or no studies, with strong nuances based on nationality.
- Members of a single program and/or project of **social and employment intervention of the Red Cross**, mainly for “senior citizens” and “immigration”.

What is the situation of people who present a more severe or greater risk?

The Social Questionnaire is a tool that exists within the Red Cross's database, the AIS. It provides information on factors related to risk and social exclusion, which are grouped into five different fields: economic, social, family, housing/environment and personal. It offers us some insight with regard to the overall group of people who – thanks to its administration by Red Cross professionals – find themselves with some degree or at a greater risk of social vulnerability. The largest sized sample for the social questionnaire is established as of 24 July 2007, with a total of 7,991 records.

Let's look at some of its distinct characteristics. The overall group of people who completed the questionnaire is much younger than the typical Spanish Red Cross participant. In fact, the average age registers at 38.7 years with a standard deviation of 17 and a mode that is set at 28 years old. The widows/widowers total only 6%. The participation of Spanish people also has dropped, 24%. The rest are 12.6% Moroccans, 9.6% Colombians and almost 9% Romanians. If we look at the region or geographic zone of birth, we observe that the region of Latin America is the most numerous with 29.6%, followed by Spain and the Maghreb with almost 16%. 76.5% of the people have a secondary level of education or lower, which represents a distribution that is very similar to the general case.

If we look at the segment of the population at greater risk, we detect the most frequent profile of people in situations of vulnerability, based on the Social Questionnaire:

- Female (51%) and male (49%).
- Aged between 25 and 49 years old.
- Marital status of the people: single or married.
- Predominant Origin: from outside of Spain, preferably Latin American or Moroccan (from Maghreb)
- With a primary education, no education or secondary education.

All of the risk levels, in each of the five fields (economic, social, family, environmental/housing and personal) have significant co-relationships. This indicates that, in general, the people with higher levels of risk in one field also show them in the others, and vice versa. Therefore, it can be stated that there is a certain tendency that the risk component of a person with serious problems in one field is of a multidimensional nature; that is, the person shows an important risk in several fields at the same time. The exceptions to this general characteristic are shown between the family risk level and the personal risk level, which have a negative co-relationship and the family-environmental pair also has a significant and negative co-relationship.

The variable *comprehensive risk* has been created as an arithmetic mean of the variables that measure the levels of risk in each one of the five fields. Therefore, this new variable provides a value for the level of risk for each individual; that is, it quantifies the level of risk of vulnerability and social exclusion.

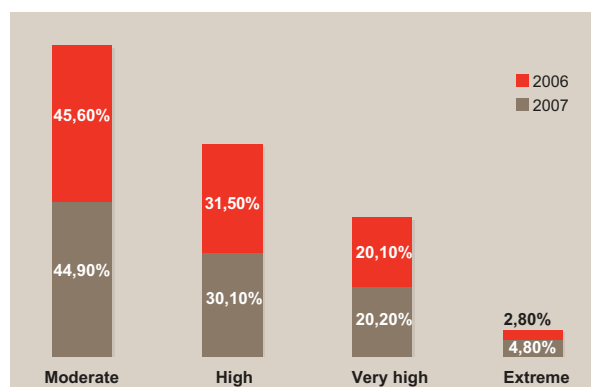
At the same time, the *comprehensive risk* variable has been re-codified into a categorical variable that takes into consideration the following categories: “moderate”, “high”, “very high” and “extreme”, according to the criteria already used in the *Annual Report on Social Vulnerability 2006*.

Comprehensive risk	Category
0-19%	Moderate
20-34%	High
35-54%	Very high
>55%	Extreme

The profile of comprehensive risk for the year 2007 is very similar to that of 2006, **but the situation has worsened for those who are in the worst situations.**

Comprehensive risk	Year 2007	Year 2006
Moderate	44.9%	45.6%
High	30.1%	31.5%
Very high	20.2%	20.1%
Extreme	4.8%	2.8%
Total	100%	100%

Distribution of percentages of participating people in relation to the level of comprehensive risk

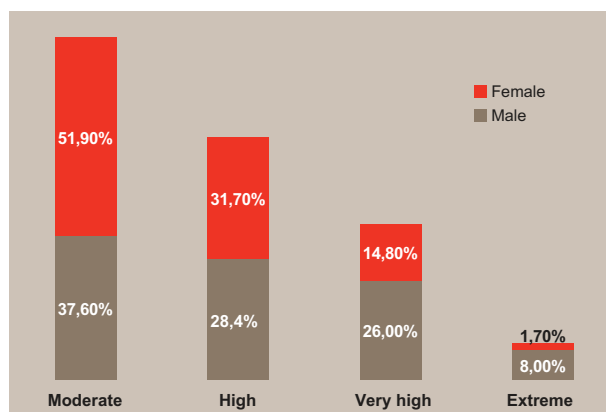


Even though almost half of the people with the social questionnaire present a moderate level of comprehensive risk (as was then the case), an increase has occurred with regard to 2006, when the percentage was 46.5%. Thus, in 2007, the level of high risk drops from 31.5% in 2006 to the current 30.1%, the level of high risk maintains the same percentages as it had in 2006, but the level of extreme risk has worsened.

The analysis as per sex shows us how this polarization affects males more than it affects females.

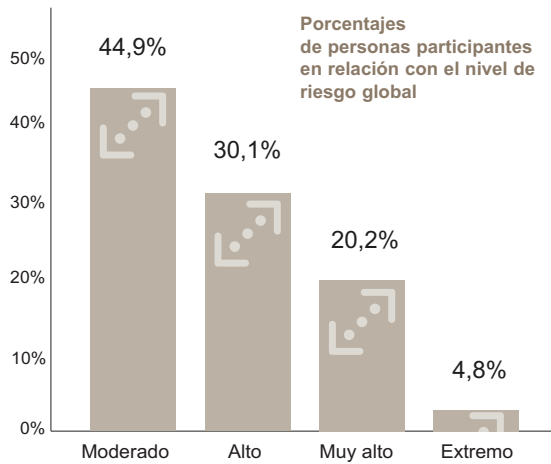
Comprehensive risk	Male	Female
Moderate	37.6%	51.9%
High	28.4%	31.7%
Very high	26.0%	14.8%
Extreme	8.0%	1.7%
Total	100%	100%

Distribution of levels of comprehensive risk based on sex



What are the changes between 2006 and 2007 with respect to the comprehensive measurement of social vulnerability?

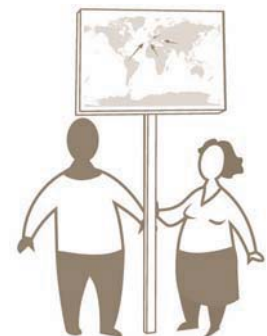
The so-called *comprehensive risk* Indicator is a numeric value that provides a **comprehensive measurement of social vulnerability** for the overall group of all of the people who completed the Social Questionnaire. The final value obtained for the comprehensive measurement of vulnerability has been **23.7**. This figure, although it continues to fall between moderate and high, represents a worse situation than that which was recorded for 2006, when the value was 22.



NACIONALITY	Comprehensive Measurement of Vulnerability
SPAIN	20.7
EASTERN EUROPE	28.1
REST OF EUROPE	31.9
MAGHREB	23.2
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	34.6
LATIN AMERICA	19.6
REST OF WORLD	19.4
Total	23.7

Comprehensive Measurement of Vulnerability based on nationality

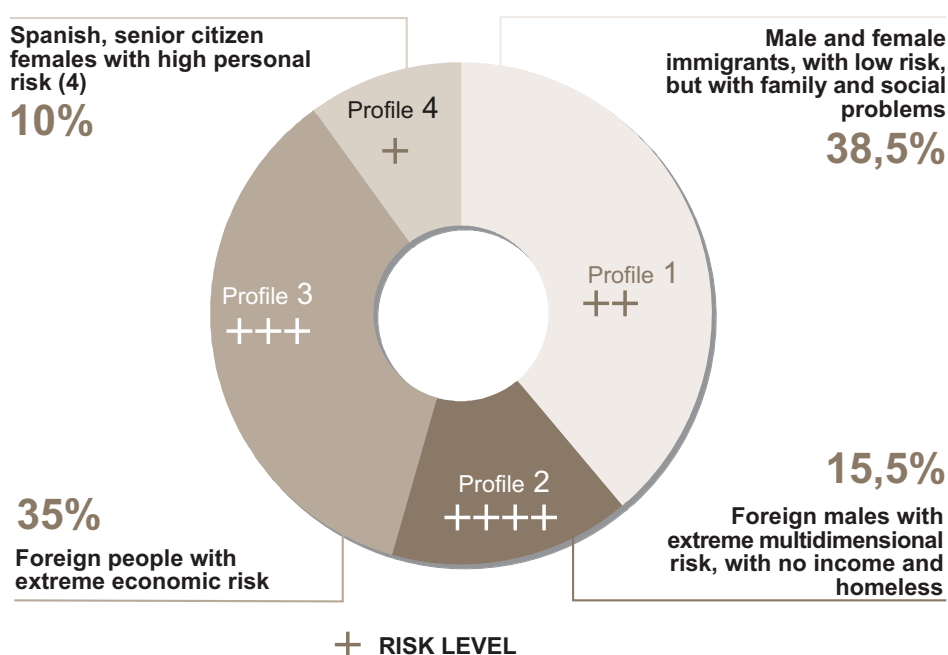
The vulnerability average based on geographic origin clearly indicates the worse situation of African immigrants, who register a comprehensive risk of 34.6%.



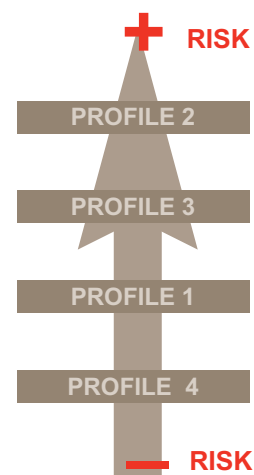
The final value achieved for the overall measure of vulnerability has been **23.7**

Analysis of the predominant social profiles, among the people with a greater social risk

The 2007 analysis shows the existence of four profiles or clusters with very defined characteristics.



After a series of steps of adjustment in order to be able to make a comparison with 2006, the year in which 5 profiles were detected, it becomes clear that a migration has occurred by people who in 2006 belonged to Profile 2 [people who, for the most part, are foreigners, with an average young age around 32 years old, a slight majority of females and with an extreme economic risk (no income)] who, in 2007, have gone to form part of Profile 3 [foreigners with an extreme level of risk in the environmental or housing fields, as well as the economic field (homeless and unemployed)] of a higher level of risk, and increasing the percentage of participation in 2007.



4 In this summary, we use the term Profile because it seems less technical than the term Cluster, which is used in the complete report.

What are the individual risk factors that usually appear interrelated?

Profile 2 is associated with extreme and very high levels of risk and linked to factors of illegality and prostitution, exogenous diseases, drugs and prison, homelessness, school failure-dropouts, no resources, etc., such that once again the characteristics of this profile indicate a very worrying situation.

As for Profile 3, it is associated with high and very high levels of risk and with the presence of factors like no resources, an unfavorable environment, immigration problems, an unstable employment status, precarious housing, low qualifications, etc. And there are also factors that appear that are related to the family makeup, (small family or large family), which implies that high risk levels can be found in both kinds of families, although as we observed in the description of the family field that the problems of these families could be different. Regardless, and as we already noted, these factors are not discriminating enough because they are close to moderation.

Profile 1 falls between high and moderate levels of risk and appears with the presence of the low income factor and it is a little further away from the factors related to family makeup.

Finally, Profile 4 appears linked to moderate levels of risk and to the presence of factors of minimum subsidiary incomes and endogenous diseases, which once again signifies the presence of senior citizens in this profile.




People in situations of dependency: Key data


In the study, information is analyzed that has been provided by 8,441 people, who, to a greater or lesser degree, have expressed that they are in a situation of dependency, although the size will be decreased, sometimes, upon carrying out crosses between the different variables. Of these, 69% are female. Sixty percent are people over the age of 65, highlighting 36% of people who are over 80 years of age, while the second most numerous age group is that of people between the ages of 25 and 49. Seventy-two percent are Spanish nationals. With regard to the rest, 11% come from Africa, and within this continent the majority of the people come from the Maghreb (6.9%) and the rest come from sub-Saharan Africa (4.1%), and 9% are nationals of countries in Latin American, especially Ecuador (2.6%).

Forty-nine percent of the people in situations of dependency are retired or receive pensions. Twenty-eight percent of the people are unemployed, and only 8% are active workers. Seventy-one percent of the people have a primary education or have no education, while those that have some type of higher level of education surpass 4%.

The great majority, almost 88%, does not have any dependents. Eight percent have one dependent and less than 5% indicate being responsible for a higher number of dependents. Fifty percent



 Being female and over the age of 65 is associated with receiving tele-assistance and being male between the ages of 16 and 49 is associated with not receiving this service. Thirty-eight percent of people maintain an adequate social network; 27% only maintain relationships with their neighbors or acquaintances; 18% do not leave their homes but receive visits; 10% participate in activities sponsored by the Red Cross and 6% do not leave their homes or receive visits.

 Of the 623 dependent people who have been addressed in the social questionnaire, we highlight that 62% present a moderate risk, 24% present a high risk, 13% present a very high risk and only 0.5% present extreme risk. We can conclude that, in general, the level of comprehensive risk is a bit lower among dependent people than it is among the overall group who completed the social questionnaire.

own a residence, while 25% rent their residences. It is very important to point out that 83% of the participants attest that they do not suffer from architectural barriers, and 95% do not have communication barriers either.

With respect to the degree of dependency, only 9% of the people present a slight degree of dependency, 40% state that they are in moderate conditions of dependency and have enough support, while the most complex and serious situations affect more than 50% of the cases. Upon carrying out the analysis based on sex, we observe that being male is associated with a more severe degree of dependency.

Of the 3,076 participating people of whom we have information with regard to the type of disability, 60.3% have some kind of mobility problem, and 14.4% have mental disabilities. In the most severe degrees of dependency, we find disabilities of a mental nature and those involving multiple deficiencies. With respect to the handicap certificate, the great majority of them do not possess it.

In summary, the typical profile of a person – a Red Cross participant – in a situation of dependency is the following:

- Female, retiree or unemployed over the age of 65.
- Marital status: widow/widower, single or married, with approximately two children.
- With a primary education or no education.
- Spanish nationality (72%)
- With a moderate risk of social exclusion and, in general, with no dependents.
- With housing either owned or rented, with low levels of occupancy, adequate, three rooms without any notable architectural barriers and with a surface area of more than 50m².
- With problems that are principally related to mobility and an average degree of dependency of 68%.



What is the situation of children and youths with social hardships?

To answer this question, we have used the 7,433 records on children and youths that are in the database, of which only 456 completed the social questionnaire that is specifically aimed at minors. In this questionnaire, the questions formulated are of different natures, but they are all directly related to the social and personal fields. Six different fields can be distinguished: Economic, Social, Family, Housing/Environmental, Personal and Health and within each of them there is a series of different factors of risk.

With respect to the country of birth, the most notable is that 84.5% of the participating youths are Spanish, followed by participants from countries of the Maghreb (7.1%) and Latin America (4.5%). This distribution is the same as that of 2006, but we can observe how the percentages have grown ever so slightly towards those of the Spanish. With respect to age, the youths with a higher percentage of participation in the Spanish Red Cross are the youngest group (≤ 7 years old), although this figure might be a little biased because the age group range is the largest out of all of the age groups. Thus, more than 40% of the people are in this age group, followed by 26.3% of children aged between 8 and 12 years old, and the rest of the age groups appear with a similar percentage, around 16%.

This distribution has indeed varied noticeably with respect to what took place last year, given that in 2006: now the difference increases, towards the youngest children. In terms of sex, it is noteworthy that males are more numerous than females in all of the age groups and in almost all of the areas of origin. Only in some of the age groups, among the minors from Latin America, do girls appear in higher numbers than the boys.

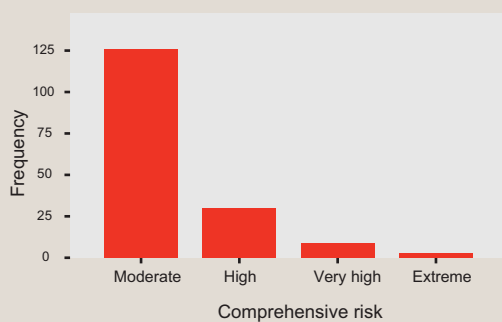
The risk factors that are seen with greater frequency among the minors are principally those that are related to school drop-outs and a lack of integration in school, economic problems (scarcity of resources), family conflicts and also occasional drug use.

 As was done in the social questionnaire for adults, a comprehensive measurement of vulnerability for youths was also sought to be determined. This measurement has given a positive result, with respect to 2006, which drops from 15.05% in 2006 to 6.22% in 2007, mainly because of the increase in those who have a moderate level of risk (from 75% in 2006 to 93% in 2007).



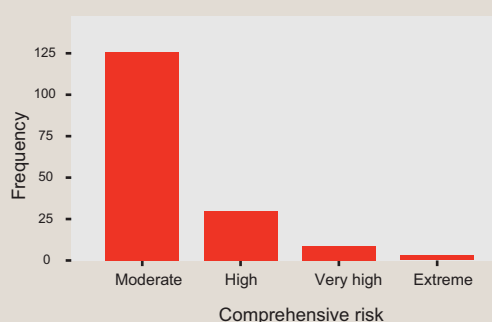
Name of grup	Description	Percentage of the sample
In institutions	This group of youths presents as a primary characteristic that all of them are institutionalized and without resources. They are all males, Spaniards or from the Maghreb and all of them are 17 - 18 years old.	1,3%
No apparent problems	The youths who make up this group are characterized by presenting low percentage levels of positive responses to the items considered, which means that they do not have serious problems, at least not in appearance. It is interesting to point out that 40% of them are from single-parent families. They are boys and girls (almost equally) below 12 years of age and they are Spanish.	72,3%
School failure	The most notable aspect is that the youths who make up this group all suffer from school failure. Besides this, a third of them are unemployed or have no family structure. They are mostly males, over 16 years old and the majority of them are Spanish.	12,3%
Bad family relationships	The components of this group are characterized mainly because all of them have a conflictive family relationship and almost all of them have no family structure, sometimes because they are from single-parent families. Moreover, half of the youths in this category state they have no resources. They are, above all, males and to a lesser extent, females, they are Spanish, the majority of whom are from 8 - 12 years old and 17 - 18 years old.	7,9%
Rebels	All of the members of this group use drugs on an occasional basis and school failure and absenteeism is prevalent and so are conflictive family relationships. One out of every three belong to anti-social groups and 40% attest to having economic problems. They are males, all are over the age of 13, they are mostly Spanish and also from the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa.	6,1%

Comprehensive risk	year 2007	
	Frecuencia	Porcentaje
Moderate	400	93.0
High	16	3.7
Very high	14	3.3
Total	430	100.0



Comprehensive indicator of vulnerability = 6,22

Comprehensive risk	year 2006	
	Frecuencia	Porcentaje
Moderate	126	75.0
High	30	17.9
Very high	9	5.4
Extrem	3	1.8
Total	168	100.0



Comprehensive indicator of vulnerability = 15,05

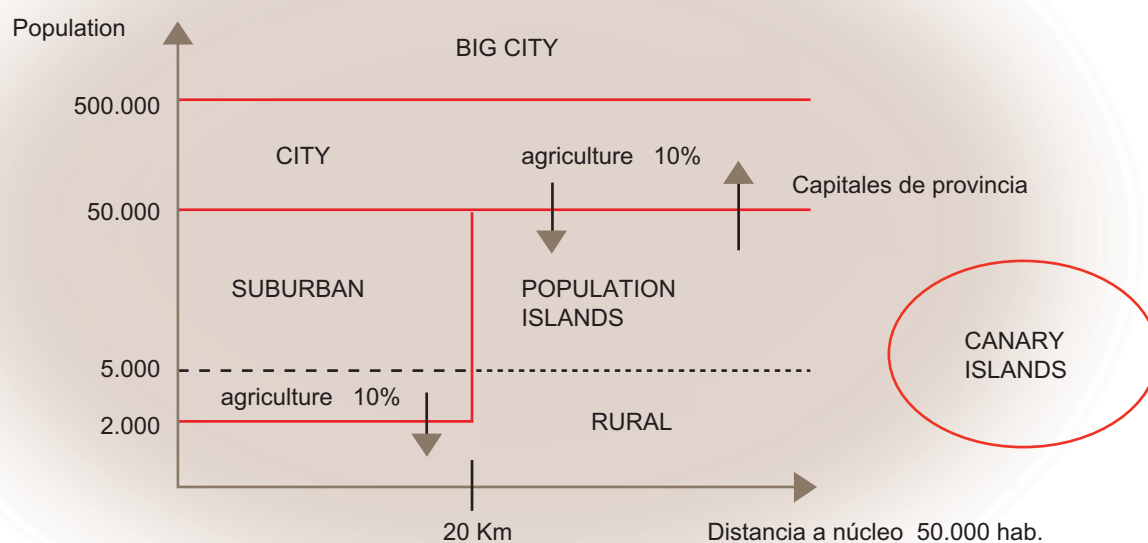
Immigrants: a comparison of habitats

In accordance with the monographic topic chosen for 2007, focusing on the situation of immigrants, incorporated as a novelty of social analysis into this study has been the relationship of the different habitats or kinds of municipalities in which this segment of the population lives.

Why is this analysis important? Because we live in conditions that are conditioned by the space in which we move. Living in a big city allows for a greater degree of anonymity, which could lead to a greater degree of isolation, but it could also lead to greater possibilities of having contact with other people and greater opportunities for employment, as well as access to a larger number of products and services. On the other hand, living in a small center has different advantages and inconveniences.

However, that said, it must be stated that the existing differences among the different areas are fewer now than they were just a few decades ago. Then, the living conditions, access to numerous products and services and social customs were a lot different between the big cities and the rural areas. Today, there is greater homogeneity, although there are still some differences, among others, related to the level of social and welfare assistance, both public and private, among the different territories.

The division due to the dimensions of the municipalities has been made according to what is shown in the following figure:



BIG CITY: comprised by all of the municipalities with more than 500,000 inhabitants.[6]

CITY: municipalities are considered in this group, which have populations between 50,000 and 500,000 inhabitants. However, the municipalities that have more than 10% of the population working in the primary sector are excluded from this category and the municipalities that are capitals of provinces are included in this category even if they do not meet the minimum population requirements of this group, but it is considered that – due to their status as capitals – they share more characteristics with this group than with the so-called “population islands”. [118]

SUBURBAN HABITAT: encompasses those municipalities whose population are between 5,000 and 50,000 inhabitants, which are located less than 20 Km away from another municipality that has more than 5,000 inhabitants, including those small municipalities between 2,000 and 5,000 inhabitants that are not included in the group called “rural”. Subsequently, there are municipalities that surround big cities and cities and serve to a large extent as “sleeping towns”, that is, there is an important part of their populations that works, purchases and spends their free-time in the near-by city, in which there are elevated flows of commuters every day between both centers. [760]

POPULATION ISLANDS: is comprised by municipalities between 5,000 and 50,000 inhabitants, which are located farther away than 20 Km from the centers with populations higher than 50,000 inhabitants. Some municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants are also included in this group (for instance, the municipality of El Ejido in Almeria), if the percentage of the population working in the primary sector is higher than 10% and it seems reasonable to consider that they fit better with this group than in “cities”. Likewise, some capitals of provinces with less than 50,000 inhabitants have been placed in the group of “cities” for opposite reasons, by considering that their condition as a capital adds to its functions and services that are more in line with the rest of the “cities”. [543]

RURAL: encompasses the municipalities that have less than 5,000 inhabitants, as long as – if their distance to a center with more than 50,000 inhabitants is less than 20 Km – they have a percentage of workers in the primary sector that is higher than 10%. [6.594]

CANARY ISLANDS: it has been decided useful to categorize all of the municipalities of the archipelago in a single group, without taking into consideration the classifying criteria of the rest due to its particular geographic situation and to the fact that they are all islands.[87]

There is a high degree of concentration of the Spanish population overall, as well as a strong urban character: 90% of the population is concentrated in 20% of the municipalities, whose surface area is only 30% of the territory, and half of the population lives in cities of more than 50,000 inhabitants, while only 10% lives in environments classified as “rural”, according to what has been established in the current report.

Preparing the official statistical data of the Register, the population of immigrants is distributed as follows:

Percentage of the immigrant population compared to the overall population and percentage of females according to habitats

Type of habitat	% of inmigrants	% males s/ total inmigrante
Rural	4.3	43.7
Population Islands	7.7	42.9
Suburban	6.5	46.7
City	8.1	47.5
Big City	10.9	49.8
Canary Islands	6.3	48.5
Spain	7.7	47.0

The conclusion is that immigrants have a higher presence in areas that have the most urban characteristics, which usually correspond to municipalities that are larger than those found in rural habitats. Men are more predominant than women, especially in the smaller municipalities, registering a lower presence of women in the population islands and rural areas, with respect to their weight within the overall immigrant population. It is important to point out other traits regarding the structure of immigration according to regions of origin and their distribution among the different Spanish municipalities:

- Throughout all of Spain, almost half of the immigrant population comes from Latin America while a fourth of the population comes from European countries that are not from the EU-25. In the rural municipalities the largest group of immigrants is from non EU-25 European countries, while the rest of the groups are predominantly immigrants of Latin American origins.
- The people from the Maghreb are the third most important group in the majority of the zones, as they have more weight with respect to the rest of the immigrants in the municipalities that are less urban in nature.
- Immigrants of sub-Saharan origins are relatively more numerous in mid-sized cities and in the Canary Islands.
- Those who are from Asia hardly have any presence outside of non-urban zones.

An analysis according to countries of origin shows that more than 70% of the immigrant population residing in Spain comes from just nine different countries. Morocco, Romania and Ecuador are the countries from which at least half of the immigrants come; their distribution throughout the various habitat zones is heterogeneous.



What are the profiles of immigrants in situation of greater social vulnerability?

In order to answer this question, we have analyzed a sub-sample of 37,000 immigrants who participate in various projects and activities carried out by the Red Cross and we have compared this sub-sample with the rest of the participating population. The first important conclusion is that the proportion of immigrants is almost nine times higher than that of the participating Spanish population. This clearly indicates a higher level of vulnerability and loneliness in which this group finds itself, due to the possible lack of other alternatives, which could be created through their own family and social networks.

If we look at the different groups of municipalities, we observe that the “participation intensity in the Spanish Red Cross” is a lot higher than the average in the rural habitat, while in the big cities it is clearly lower. The data indicates that, in the rural environment, the Spanish population has less vulnerability than the foreign population does, while in the big cities the risk is more balanced among every type of person, whether they are immigrants or not.

However, this presence within the social intervention is heterogeneous, if we consider the people’s geographic origin. At the global level, we observe that the large groups with a higher participation intensity in the Spanish Red Cross – and therefore, are those likely to have a higher level of risk – are, in the following order, the people who come from sub-Saharan Africa and those who come from the Maghreb. As for groups of municipalities, the circumstances remain the same and even intensify in the case of sub-Saharan people in big cities. On the other hand, we observe that the people from Latin America present a higher intensity of participation in the rural and suburban areas. With respect to those people who are from Europe, it can be said that their intensity of participation in the Spanish Red Cross, in all cases, is quite low in relative terms. In sum, the profiles of the immigrants who participate in the Red Cross would be the following:

- Sub-Saharan male, who lives in the big cities.
- Latin American female, who lives in cities or in a suburban area.
- Eastern European (non EU-25), male or female (indifferently) who lives in rural areas.
- Individual from Maghreb, predominantly male, settled in the “population islands”.

Analyzing the situation of those immigrants who have completed their Social Questionnaires (5,232 records), a typology of the profiles has been able to be prepared. A first look shows that there is a very clear inverse relationship between the size of each profile and their level of comprehensive risk; thus, the group with lowest risk is the most numerous and the group with the highest risk, is the smallest group.

It must also be pointed out that, in general, the groups with the most risk are made up of young people and those that are predominantly male; on the other hand, the lower the group’s level of risk, the higher the average age of its members and its composition is more balanced between males and females.

Profile	Description	Percentage of the sample ²
1 Young, homeless men, with no income and with personal risk	This is the profile that presents a heightened level of comprehensive risk, as this level is very high (58). Its members present maximum levels of economic and environmental risks (no income and homeless), as well as a very high personal risk (irregular situation), while their social risk is moderate and they have hardly any family risk. They are almost all males and they are the youngest group, as their average age does not reach 27 years old. This is the least numerous group, representing 5.4% of the immigrants.	5.4%
2 Young men, with high economic, housing and social problems	Their level of comprehensive risk is at 48 , and this profile encompasses 7% of the immigrants. It is characterized by being made up of males in a proportion that is greater than 75%, with an average age of 32.3 years old, quite a bit higher than that of the previous profile. Its members present extreme economic and environmental risks as well as very high social risk, while they present a level of personal risk, which is much lower than the previous profile and a moderate level of family risk.	7%
3 Young men and women with no income and social problems	Their level of comprehensive risk is at 38 , and this profile encompasses 12.5% of the immigrants. The members of this profile are balanced in terms of sex, with males having a slight majority. Their average age is 31.9 years old. They have extreme economic risk (no income) while their social risk is very high. The rest of the fields present a much lower level of risk.	12.5%
4 Young men and women with no income	This profile's members represent a little more than 30% of the immigrants and they are characterized in average terms by an average age of 33.5 years and an extreme level of economic risk, while having a moderate level of risk in all of the other fields. In this group there is a slight majority of females. Their level of comprehensive risk is at 28.5 .	a little more than 30%
5 Young men and women with moderate family risk	This is the most numerous group, as it includes almost 45% of the total. Its composition is almost equal between males and females. This is the group with the highest average age: 34.2 years old. Its members can be characterized by a comprehensive risk level of 10.8 . The field with the highest level of risk is the family field and, despite this, the level is quite moderate.	almost 45%

What are the most frequent specific factors of risk for these profiles?

- In the **economic field**, not having an income is very frequent in all of the clusters except for number 5, which to the contrary presents other risk factors, although they are less serious. On the other hand, we must point out that not having a work permit is quite frequent in all of the clusters.
- In the **social field**, not speaking Spanish is very frequent in profile number 1, as is low employment qualifications in profile number 3. These two problems are quite frequent in the rest of the clusters.
- The **family** problems related to having one or two dependent children become quite frequent in the risk groups numbered 3, 4 and 5, while in group 1 it hardly appears as a factor.
- All of the people in groups 1 and 2 find themselves in situations of “**homelessness**”, while having temporary housing is the most frequent environmental problem in the rest of the profiles.
- With regard to the **personal field**, we observe that the lack of a residency permit occurs in practically all of the members of group 1, while it is a problem of less intensity in the rest of the groups. It is interesting to note that in group 1, the lack of a residency permit is linked to a lack of papers and to the expulsion order in an extremely high percentage of the members of this group.



The people who belong to profiles with the highest comprehensive risk, those numbered 1 to 3, are principally located in the big cities. On the other hand, it is noteworthy to mention that there is a presence, both in rural areas and in the population islands, of a relatively higher intensity of people who belong to profile 5, which is the one that presents lower levels of risk in all of the fields.

Does the large presence of a national or ethnic group have an effect on the level of risk in a specific habitat?

What the data shows is that, with regard to people who are from European countries, the average comprehensive risk is the same since – while the social and family fields are significantly lower in the municipalities where they are in the majority – the economic and personal fields are significantly higher.

The comprehensive risk of people from sub-Saharan Africa decreases dramatically, both in comprehensive terms as well as in all of the fields, especially in the economic field in the municipalities in which this group is in the majority.

People who are from the Maghreb see their average economic risk decrease significantly and they see their average comprehensive risk lower very slightly.

Latin Americans present a comprehensive and economic risk that is significantly higher in the municipalities in which they constitute the majority of the immigrant population.



The perspective provided by the life stories: the social vulnerability in the rural environment, experienced “first-hand”

The life stories of men and women from Romania, Morocco, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guinea, Pakistan and Senegal express how these problems are experienced directly. To ease the process, create trust and improve communication, we interviewed them in their surroundings and in their languages, translating the texts afterwards.

The same methodology was used by all of the interviewers in all of the cases, with the aim of detecting not only the circumstances of vulnerability, but also the experience of their symbolic and emotional worlds, their networks and mechanisms of relationships, and their survival, adaptation and resistance strategies. That is, their perception and experience of vulnerability, but also their vision of the past and what they believe in for their future.

The stories that we have presented correspond to people who are fighters and entrepreneurs. Many of them carry with them traumatic backgrounds that weigh on their young lives, but almost all of them share the dream of progress, perhaps not in terms of they themselves being able to reap the rewards of this improvement, but to ensure that their children will be able to in the future.

Almost all of the people interviewed show a degree of deception of what they have experienced in the rural Spanish countryside: some of the stories are especially difficult in this regard. The majority of them denounce situations of abuse, injustice, exploitation, lack of opportunities, lack of information and a lack of resources. All of this, associated to the lack of integration due to language barriers and social rejection, due to cultural differences, which lowers their ability to cope or to interact with other social sectors, outside of their own community, in rural societies that are quite small or isolated. This relative isolation is also personally reinforced, by fears or rejection, danger and the feeling of “strangeness” that comes from an immigrant’s situation, especially if one does not have his/her papers in order. This is why some people apply the principle of not leaving their circle, seeking refuge among their compatriots, as a way of getting by in their daily lives, fomenting their social relationships and supporting the process of uprooting associated with migrations.

The generally low level of studies of these people, and the very poor environments from which they come make them even more vulnerable and they are more exposed to abuse and exploitation, as well as placing them in situations in which they must accept the most unstable jobs in order to survive. They are people who, upon leaving their countries, had set some goals that are not always attainable, some of which are related to plans to return to their countries of origin (establish a company, buying or building a home). Except in the case of the people from Romania, who now have the freedom to travel within Europe (although they do not have the resources to be able to do so), almost all of them deal poorly with having to stand this forced distance, due to the impossibility of making visits. Religious faith plays a significant supportive role for these people to overcome these circumstances, regardless of the different beliefs.

However, despite the uncertain and vulnerable situation in which they are found and the highly adverse circumstances that they endure, the people interviewed maintain a surprisingly high level of hope for a better future, and in fact, the people who have been here a little longer state that their situations have improved with respect to how they were in the beginning.

What were the main recommendations proposed by the Expert Panel?

As a result of an exhaustive analysis of the aforementioned highlighted trends, the experts participating in the Panel presented a series of recommendations and proposals, aimed at guiding social policies and intervention strategies, to reduce the vulnerability of immigrants who live in rural areas, with regard to their employment and economic, housing and participation and social integration situations.

Employment Situation

- Strengthening of companies of protected employment and social insertion.
- Improving the information on the local and regional labor markets through the creation of Internet websites and informative windows in the Employment Services specialized in providing information on the procedures for immigrants to access the job market.
- Preparation of informative fliers in various languages in collaboration with local business unions and associations on the process of job insertion (rights and duties) and the distribution of these items among NGOs and immigrant associations.
- Improving proper hiring practices and working conditions through a policy of inspections.
- Acknowledgement of the immigrants' right to unionize.
- Informative campaigns with regard to how the hiring regime of foreigners works.
- Increasing the inspection and detection of fraud with regard to the hiring of foreigners.
- Making agreements with unions with regard to the training of union delegates in the area of intercultural mediation, so that the delegates can fill the role of a natural mediator between immigrant and local workers.

Economic Situation

- Improving access to financial autonomy, which means having access to minimum resources to be able to defend themselves and being autonomous at least in terms of satisfying basic needs. This means making flexible and extending immigrant workers' access to programs of Minimum Wages regardless of their administrative situations.
- Promoting access to loans and fomenting productive initiatives for entrepreneurial immigrants in rural areas.
- Facilitating agreements between rural savings banks and banks and savings banks in their countries of origin to help to lower the cost of remittances, as well as promoting the development of financial and investment products aimed at generating profitable and sustainable economic activities in the societies of origin.
- Multiplying the agreements of instruments aimed at encouraging economic cooperation and for the development among local rural communities in Spain and in the countries of origin.
- Gathering examples of good practices for the incorporation of immigrant families into rural areas that are in severe conditions of depopulation.
- Generating a manual of attracting interest and support to foster the repopulation of aging rural areas with immigrant families.

Housing

- Improving information on the resources of available housing, and about the procedures to access them.
- Creation of local and regional registries for applicants of public housing that are combined in a single Autonomous Registry.
- Increasing the offerings of housing rentals and developing social banks of housing that are dependent on the public administration, which serve as an intermediate bridge between the street and a home of one's own. (At prices that are accessible to people who have very low incomes and who experience periods of no pay of these very incomes).
- In place of the traditional shelter model, efforts should be made to provide sheltered or semi-sheltered housing with stays over six months.
- Developing programs of real estate intermediation between homeowners and possible tenants with the guarantee of the legitimate interests of each of the parties.
- There should especially be an increase in the number of supportive or sheltering residences aimed at housing unaccompanied foreign minors, women who have been victims of domestic violence and single women with family dependents.
- Guaranteeing the conditions of habitability of the residence, alleviating the problems of overcrowding, and the incorporation of immigration into the existing sub-standard housing offerings
- Strengthening and improving the resources of emergency assistance for immigrants, unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups with temporary housing needs, increasing the available spots to take in people in severe situations of housing exclusion.
- Increasing the public offering of temporary emergency housing.
- Developing and/or applying quality norms that should be applied in the housing resources for seasonal workers. Increasing the number of spots available in hostels and hotels, etc., which exist to alleviate situations of severe housing crises.
- Strengthening the development of social networks of support through the creation of long-stay programs in reception centers with employment searches.
- Strengthening social skills in the use of housing and in coexistence with the local population through training, awareness and neighborhood meditation programs.

Social Integration

- Promoting the development of intercultural programs at the local or regional level where coexistence spaces can be created that are based on mutual respect.
- Supporting and funding the existence of programs and spaces in the media (newsletters, magazines, radio, etc.) specialized in informing and providing guidance on the topic of multiculturalism both in terms of the local and the immigrant population, carrying them out in close connection with the group and cultural initiatives of these very populations.
- Signing of agreements between the main associative networks of immigrants and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces for the promotion and development of intercultural activities aimed at encouraging contact and coexistence among immigrants and locals.
- Including modules on migrations and interculturalism in the Plans for ongoing learning of the civil servants of the Local Administration and, in particular, of the local Police.
- Promoting the realization of cultural events and transnational music festivals, in which the various musical and artistic expressions of the existing foreign origins of the province can be showcased.
- Adapting activity schedules, contents and programs of the local libraries and cultural and sports centers to the possibilities of the foreign population.
- Creation of intercultural programs in the framework of the AMPAS of institutions and rural schools.
- Encouraging mutual knowledge and inter-religious dialogue through activities, seminars and the allocation of shared cultural spaces.
- Encouraging political and electoral participation of the immigrants that come from the European Union in the municipal sphere.
- Although this 10% margin might seem very small, we must keep in mind that it doubles the percentage for all of Spain. According to data from the first trimester of the Active Population Survey (EPA), only 4.3% of the working population is in the agricultural sector.

