



ANNUAL REPORT ON SOCIAL VULNERABILITY 2013

SUMMARY

Through several social programmes, the Spanish Red Cross assists nearly 2.5 million people in Spain. These programmes include food-relief and poverty alleviation, housing support, assistance of elderly and disabled persons, immigrant integration, job-seeking for vulnerable groups, among others. There are more than 700 offices around the country.

The beneficiaries' personal information goes to a single, on-line database, which is updated more than 5,000 per day. By mining this information, the Red Cross has produced statistical social studies since 2006. These studies have proved to be useful both for domestic uses (quality improvement), as for public awareness and political lobbying.

For the first time, this Annual Report on Social Vulnerability in Spain introduces an analysis by region, based on a statistically representative data sample.

Origin

Most of the vulnerable people assisted by the Red Cross are Spanish (65.5 %). However, there are regional differences. In some regions, the Red Cross assists more immigrant population (Basque Country, Navarra, Andalusia, Murcia and Baleares); in others, the beneficiaries are mostly of Spanish origin (Madrid, Catalonia, La Rioja, Canarias, Cantabria, Galicia, Castilla y León, Valencia, Aragon, Asturias, Castilla -La Mancha and Extremadura).

Gender

Women outnumber men (60%), showing a feminization of vulnerability. Regional differences range from 47% of women assisted in Andalucía to a maximum of 77% in Asturias.

Age

The vulnerability affects two age groups: working-age persons, and those who are over 80 (43% are aged between 25 and 49 years, followed by those over 80, with 28 %, and 13.9 % aged between 65 and 79 years). The average age ranges from 42 years-old in Murcia or Andalusia, to the age of 72 in Castilla-La Mancha.

Children

"There are no poor children in rich households": 85% of the people assisted have children in their care; 31.4% have one; 30% have two, and 24.3 % are large families (3 or more children).

Occupation and Education

Massive unemployment drives people towards poverty and vulnerability. The unemployment rate of the beneficiaries is 67.2% (in Spain, the same rate is 26%); 21% are retired and only 6.7% have a job. Education does not shield people against poverty and social risk. Most of the beneficiaries have secondary education (43.5 % of total), and 7.8 % have university degrees.

Concentration of problems

Another trend is that serious problems tend to accumulation and concentration (at least 3 risk factors per person): 78% of these people survive without income, or with an income below the poverty line. The main economic problems are to have no income, to have incomes below 500 euros a month, to receive a very low widow's pension, and to be in long-term unemployment (over 2 years).

43.3% of persons treated suffer social problems such as deficiencies in training, either of language skills or in vocational training. About 2 %, mostly women, suffer violence and abuse.

Housing problems are increasing, due to the traumatic, chained problems mentioned above: 33.5% suffer major housing difficulties; 14.5% live in temporary housing and 8.7 % are homeless (most of them are men).

Of course, this scenario is negatively influencing family life; 43.8% of the persons suffer such problems. Having children in charge becomes a difficulty for 85.5%. Single-parent households reach 8.8%, a circumstance that affects twice as many women as men.

44.9% of people has problems on a personal level. The four most mentioned factors (affecting more women than men) are dependency, other serious illness, acquired disability and depression.