



In this Bulletin # 10, the Spanish Red Cross continues the series of analysis of the people in social vulnerability assisted by the institution. In this case, the research focuses on women. We have consulted on issues that affect them, such as unemployment, poverty and economic hardship, housing, fertility, household composition and family problems, domestic violence, the division of reproductive tasks, reconciliation between work and personal life, training, use of technology, health, self-care, social capital and psychological conditions. The Bulletin provides comparative data with the general population assisted by the Red Cross (Bulletin 9), and with the general female population (gathered at official statistics), analyzing the risks posed by various factors investigated, in the context of social insecurity and rising gender inequalities.

## THE SAMPLE

Computer Assisted Telephonic Interviews, carried out on July 2014.

Respondents: a sample of 1,051 women, aged 18-65, distributed among the participants of the Spanish Red Cross' Social Intervention Programmes.

The universe: 919,956 women aged 18-65.

This universe is the 36,5% of the overall population assisted by the Social Intervention Programmes: 2.521.810 persons in 2014.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WOMEN ASSISTED BY THE SPANISH RED CROSS

- 57.8% of the women interviewed are of foreign origin and 42.2% are Spanish.
- 73.9% are between 25 and 49 years.
- 11% of women had completed college and, among them, they are mostly of foreign origin. A 62% of the Spanish women have primary education, or have not completed this cycle. Most of the foreigners have reached secondary education (43.3%).
- 44% of women dropped out from school in order to go to work or to seek a job. The percentage is higher among Spanish women (53%).
- 13% of women left school to marry, or to move in with their partner. 10% said they did not complete their studies because they had to devote to caring for their children. Another 10% said the reason was taking care for their parents. 3.1% of women continue to study.

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

- 65.8% of the women live with children under 16 years under their responsibility, and the percentage of women who are responsible elderly, sick or disabled persons in the home stands at 34.2%.

## OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

- 60.9% of women attending are unemployed and in 75% of cases, is long-term unemployment (the rate of female unemployment in the general population is 25.38%). Only 8.6% receive unemployment benefits and another 26.4% have some type of non-contributory pension. The rest has no stable income.
- Among women who have lost their jobs, 9.2% attributed their dismissal to pregnancy or having small children, and 6% to health problems.

- Only 28.9% of women are occupied. One out of two is employed in the domestic and care service (of which 63.7% are foreigners). Among working women who have a college degree, more than half work in this sector.
- 19.3% of women work in the informal economy, with an average income of euro 187 per month. Analyzing the total population assisted by the Spanish Red Cross, more women than men are working in the informal economy, working longer hours and earning less income.
- 31.9% of the employed women cannot reconcile work and family life.
- 17.4% of the employed women earn less than men, for the same type of job, because of differences in wages and supplements.
- 41% do not know if there are any wage differences. The gender wage gap in Spain is 23%.
- 17.4% of the employed women have been victims of bullying, and 8.6% have suffered sexual harassment in the workplace.

### **FAMILY SITUATION**

- The three most prominent problems addressed by women are economic and financial.
- 69.5% have difficulty in making ends meet, 27.4% have significant debts and 25.3% suffer conflicts or fights due to economic problems. These percentages are higher than those recorded for the overall population assisted by the Red Cross.
- The single-mother households represent 37.3% of the total.
- The average revenues stand at euro 360.6 per month, less than half of what the National Institute of Statistics estimates as average income for the general population (euro 758 per month).
- 30.2% of women live without income.
- 37.2% of women have had major hardships related to housing. The most prominent problems are not being able to pay the rent, the utilities (electricity, gas, telephone, etc.) and their mortgages.
- 5.51% of women have suffered violence.
- 73.5% of women are responsible for domestic work and child rearing alone, without sharing with their male partners.

### **HOMES AT RISK OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION (AROPE)**

- 92.37% of households where women assisted by the Spanish Red Cross live are at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion (AROPE).

### **SEVERE MATERIAL DEPRIVATION**

- 52.8% of households face severe material deprivation (the rate for the overall population assisted is 38%).
- 86.9% of households cannot cope with an unexpected expense of 600 euros. 51.3% can not turn on the heating in winter and 35% cannot eat meals with protein, three-time a week.

### **RELATIVE POVERTY**

- 89.9% of households are under the poverty line, ie, earn incomes below euro 676 per month. This percentage is 4.4 times higher for the Spanish population.
- Women suffer widespread and intense economic exclusion: 84.7% of households are experiencing high poverty (income is less than euro 563.5 monthly) and 74.3% are at extreme poverty (income is less than euro 450.8 monthly).
- The working poor rate is 79.9%.
- The child poverty rate is 96%, 3 times more than the child poverty rate of Spain.

## HOMES IN UNEMPLOYMENT

- The rate of households with all unemployed adults is 30.4%. These households have an average composition of 3.4 members each.
- The lone mothers are among the most affected by unemployment and low employment intensity.

## PERSONAL SITUATION

- 53% of the women said that, in the last 12 months, their health status has not been good. The percentage rises to 76% in the group ranging from 50-64 years. Perceptions are more negative in the case of the Spanish women.
- 29% have a chronic or long-term illness.
- 9.7% of women attending have a disability; most of them (58.8%) are between 25 and 49 years.
- 57% of women are taking medication. Among women aged 25-49 years, 54% use analgesics, antidepressants and anxiolytics. This consumption is related to situations of intense stress (difficulties for reconciliation, having dependent, sick, elderly and children under their responsibility, not making ends meet, etc ...).
- 10.7% suffered accidents in the last year. The highest rate of accidents (66.1%) are women aged 25-49 years.
- More than 54% of women between 25 and 49 years have never made a gynecological examination. Of the women who do not get mammograms, the 83.88% is in that age group, as women who do not take care of their oral health, which is 70.9%.

## Social capital and welfare

- The women's participation in leisure activities, religious worship and socializing outside the home is very low, although 13.7% engages in social volunteering.
- The women's frame of mind is low. 79.6% say they have "their heads full of worries" and 76.7% feel always "tense or nervous." 46.3% have lost "interest in their personal appearance".
- 58.7% of women have someone to express their affection. However, 78.8% have no one to hand economic aid, 76.1% have no friends or relatives to visit.



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