

Annual report on SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

[2006]



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



 **Fundación Cruz Roja Española**


Cruz Roja Española

CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA

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Este proyecto ha sido financiado por la Fundación Cruz Roja Española. La Fundación nació en 1993 con la participación de 23 de las principales empresas españolas, con un objetivo principal: ayudar a Cruz Roja Española a realizar su labor asistencial y de apoyo a los más vulnerables. Su fin principal es el de apoyar a Cruz Roja Española, colaborar con ella y contribuir a la consecución de sus fines benéficos, promoviendo y fomentando la cooperación entre empresas y particulares con las actividades desarrolladas por la misma, así como fomentar la aportación de recursos destinados a financiar sus actividades, de acuerdo con sus programas de actuación.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Cruz Roja Española

The **Spanish Red Cross** is a humanitarian organization that works “for and with” people and social groups that experience various kinds of discrimination, poverty and social exclusion.

The institution’s commitment is backed by a strategy that aims to maximize the capacities of the most vulnerable people and social groups in their daily lives, encouraging their individual and collective autonomies and full integration into society.

We, at the Red Cross, are interested in learning about the social reality in which we live and with which we work. Through our different social programs and projects, we interact yearly with hundreds of thousands of people. In addition to this work, we have been developing socially-minded research projects related to situations of social exclusion.

We believe that the practical experience that we gain from our work, territorial scope of our network, diversity of the activities and projects that we manage and knowledge and expertise of our human resources –which include both our technical professionals and our volunteers– gives us an obligation to deepen our analysis by developing a systematic study that aims to be a sociological “picture” of the people with whom we intervene who are in situations or at risk of social exclusion.


Through the Annual Report on Social Vulnerability, presented here in its first edition, we hope to collect information that will allow us to improve our work and provide reliable information to those who, in terms of policy design, serve as the guarantors of the rights of citizens. We also seek to make a contribution towards raising social awareness about the circumstances that affect the most disadvantaged people living in our country.

On a periodic basis and following a standardized format –which will be maintained over time in order to facilitate the comparison of findings– the Annual Report on Social Vulnerability offers first-hand statistical information, derived from up-to-date and individualized records of people who participate in many of the Spanish Red Cross’s Social Intervention projects and programs throughout the country. This broad database of nominal information, which –at the time of publication– includes more than 150,000 records, is called the “Social Intervention Application” or AIS (*Aplicación de Intervención Social*).

The AIS was designed with two main objectives: to obtain statistical data and improve the quality of the intervention. Thanks to this instrument, information can be obtained on: personal, gender, health, economic, social, familial and relational factors, among others, based on a multidimensional approach towards social exclusion. The theoretical basis for the Application comes from research on Patterns of Social Exclusion in Europe, carried out by the Red Cross between 2001 and 2002, with support from the European Commission. The precedent for its methodology is the Red Cross’s Implementation of the Employment Plan for Vulnerable Groups.

Through this report we hope to fill any possible gaps that there may be in this area of research and provide a solid base of information for intervention with vulnerable people by the actors that carry out duties in this area, ranging from socially-oriented entities to public social services and training center, as well as the adoption of political lines of action for social welfare by public organisms. Moreover, each report will focus on a particular subject, which in this case is Dependency.

Through projects like the Annual Report on Social Vulnerability we pledge our commitment to reflection, debate, applied research and the participation of all social actors, experts, professionals and, particularly, the very people who live in situations of vulnerability, in order to continuously be able to improve our work on behalf of social inclusion and, above all, to fight against the risks of exclusion, i.e. a process of social, economic and relational separation that seriously undermines people's rights and dignity.







Juan Manuel Suárez del Toro Rivero
President, Spanish Red Cross

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Aims

-  Improving knowledge of the current situation and about the evolution of the main groups of people in situations of vulnerability in Spain.
-  Spreading the findings of the research, with the aim of reaching the highest degree of circulation and territorial scope.
-  Fomenting internal and public debate on the conclusions. Raising awareness among the public, political decision-makers, administrations, social organizations, volunteer groups, social assistance professionals, users of public services, participants in the projects and businesses.
-  Consequently, broadening the professional network and encouraging an appropriate framework of social co-responsibility.

The **Annual Report on Social Vulnerability 2006** seeks to present a sociological “**picture**” of people in situations of vulnerability or social exclusion in Spain, constituting a major step forward in the social research conducted in Spain. The statistical analysis that has been done is detailed, rigorous and complex, as well as representative of the people who live in different situations of social vulnerability: men and women, minors and adults, with details on their social, economic, environmental, housing and family statuses, among other details; tens of thousands of people who participate in Red Cross programs throughout the Spanish state.¹ The social analysis focuses on revealing the main variables of vulnerability and social exclusion of the groups or profiles of people who are at risk. For the first time, a *Comprehensive Indicator of Vulnerability* has also been prepared. The **2006 Report** includes a monographic study of people in situations of dependency, with 18 life stories of people in such situations, as well as recommendations by an expert panel.²


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- 1** Given the broad territorial scope of our work, diversity of our ongoing activities and projects, huge number of people who participate in them, vast work of our personnel and volunteers and involvement of territorial authorities, we, at the Spanish Red Cross, are in a privileged position today to conduct a systematic and in-depth study of these characteristics, which has the potential for great impact.
 - 2** The results that are presented have been obtained from the data contained in the Spanish Red Cross’ database Application, as of 24 July 2006. This collection of data was done by the different centers through an on-line computer program on the Internet, which is continuously up-dated and accessible by all of the territorial offices. The concept of “vulnerability,” in this study, is synonymous with “social risk.”

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

This Report reveals the risk factors for social cohesion in a society where 20% of the population lives under the poverty threshold, and which continues to undergo a dual demographic process: on the one hand, the progressive aging of the population, with large numbers of women living long-lives, who are over 80 years of age; and on the other hand, the phenomenon of migration, which has brought about a rejuvenation of and increase in the population, which is having an enormous socio-economic and cultural significance.³

The most frequent profile of a person in a situation of vulnerability

is that of a person, preferably a woman (53%), adult or aged; and two at-risk age groups were detected: one of which ranges from 25 to 49 years old (42%), and the other group includes people over the age of 65 (38%). In regards to marital status, the person may either be single or married. In regards to origin, the person is predominantly Spanish (62%). However, the immigration factor has made its mark with significant percentages, as people who are of Latin American (15%) or Moroccan (10%) origins register the largest percentages among the existing foreign population. Foreigners come predominantly from Morocco, Romania, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia.⁴ A key piece of data, perhaps because in its majority it involves women, is the average number of dependent children, which is between one and two (1.94). From an employment standpoint, these people find themselves primarily in situations of unemployment (48%) or retirement (19%); that is, they are marked by a level of low or very low income. The level of education is an interesting piece of data, as they have a primary (37%) or a secondary education (32%).

 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.

³ The arrival of immigrants has signified a relatively strong investment into the Spanish demographic trend, which has gone from descending to ascending, and has registered a 3% annual increase since 1998. The foreign population grew 500% from 1998 to 2005.

⁴ Spain Report.



In this study, an initial comprehensive profile – of people who find themselves in situations of a greater level of vulnerability or who are directly in a process of social exclusion – has been determined. In regards to this profile, it is clear that we must think about a female immigrant, an adult aged between 25 and 49 years old, who is either single or married and has a primary or a secondary level of education.

It is interesting to observe how the quantitative data reinforce the results of the qualitative studies on the feminization of immigration in Spain and regarding the special difficulties that foreign women face as a result of their backgrounds and gender-related issues.⁵

In sum, the differences in regards to the overall group of people in situations of vulnerability are mainly evident when it comes to the group of people in the worst-case situations; i.e. there is a higher proportion of women, of younger ages and with more education, as well as a lower proportion of Spaniards.

⁵ For instance, in PARELLA RUBIO, "Sonia, Mujer, inmigrante y trabajadora: la triple discriminación," *Anthropos*, 2003 Colección: Autores, Textos y Temas Ciencias Sociales, no. 36.

What are the factors that increase social risk in the economic, social, housing, family and personal fields?

This study has shown that there are a series of predominant factors that put people at greater social risk.

Almost half of the people (47.7%) do not or state that they do not have incomes, which to some extent could be circumstantial; however, it could signify a chronic situation that is associated with a continuous socio-labor insertion problem. This piece of data is very important, since the level of income is what makes it possible for one to satisfy one's basic needs; or on the other hand, it places a person under the poverty threshold, as in the case of people who lack social networks or who do not access the mechanisms of protection and find themselves unemployed, inactive or excluded from the labor market, as well as those people who hold jobs that do not provide sufficient incomes.

An absolute lack of income, lack of a work permit or partaking in illegal activities appear frequently among men.

Among women, incomes under 500 euros a month, working in prostitution or collecting a widow's pension, are the most frequent factors. It is important to note that, among the women of active ages, primarily foreigners, the situation could be serious; however, it by no means has to be permanent. Changes can take place in their employment statuses that could have an effect on them moving upwards socially. However, in the case of women with a widow's pension who are at social risk, only an intervention by means of public policies can improve their situation, as they lack other alternatives due to their age.⁶

⁶ Spanish women have the longest lifespan in the entire EU, although they have more disabilities than men; they live about three years longer on average with a disability than men. Informe de Sostenibilidad en España 2006.



In the social field, the most frequent factors are those that come from **training deficiencies, albeit school or professional training and/or problems related to language competency**. The harshest elements and least controllable elements for a person, like persecution, violence and racism, are less frequent (or factors that are more difficult to reveal or detect). The analysis according to sex reveals that there are significant differences: language problems, school failure, discrimination and racism are the factors most cited by men; while low professional qualifications, as well as being victims of abuse, are the most frequent factors reported by women. This last element is also a factor of a social and familial nature.



In the family field, once again the biggest weight of risk falls mainly on women, since the factors that appear most frequently are those that are related to **family responsibilities, and having to take on these duties without the collaboration of one's partner**. Sexual abuse and drugs in the immediate surroundings have a relatively low frequency of appearance. There are significant differences among all of the factors, based on sex.



The most frequent risk factor in regards to the area of housing is the fact of **having temporary accommodations, a situation that affects 1 out of 3 people**. In addition, the most serious factor within this group is being "homeless," a situation that is present in 8.8% of the sample. Based on sex, there are significant differences related to the factors of "homeless" and "being institutionalized," as these factors are much more present in men than they are in women, especially the former of the two.



In the personal field: the factor of **being a foreigner without a residency permit** stands out, as this problem is present in 1 out of every 4 people. Based on sex, there are significant differences in almost all of the factors.



Social vulnerability is the result of the impact provoked by the multiple factors that have been highlighted. It is also the expression of society's weakest groups, families and citizens' inability to confront, neutralize and benefit from them. Finally, it is the manifestation of the gaps in the welfare system, which fails to provide needed protection.


Can Main Factors be distinguished by grouping together according to the risk level?

This distinction of Main Factors was made, among the risk factors, with the results that are displayed in table 1.

Economic	No resources Low, subsidized incomes Unstable work status Illegality and prostitution
Social	Low professional qualifications Abuse Racism School failure
Environmental and Housing	Homeless Precarious housing Unfavorable environment
Family	Physical and sexual abuse Drugs and prison
Personal	Immigration problems "Exogenous" diseases "Endogenous" diseases

Table 1: Main Risk Factors according to Field.

A conjoint image of the main risk factors that were just mentioned along with the categories of comprehensive risk was obtained, which provided the following conclusions:

	<p>extreme</p>	<p>Associated with the category of “<i>extreme risk</i>” are the Main Factors that are related to physical and sexual abuse, drugs and prison in the family setting and school failure. As such, it could be said that individuals with extreme risk of social exclusion have lived in a violent family environment, fo whom it would appear that not even the educational system has not fulfilled its function of integration and socialization.</p>
	<p>very high</p>	<p>The category of “<i>very high risk</i>” is associated with the Main Factors that gather together the aspects related to the absence of economic resources and to racism.</p>
	<p>high</p>	<p>The category of “<i>high risk</i>” is associated most intensely with the Main Factors that have been labeled as “<i>precarious housing,</i>” “<i>illegality and prostitution</i>” and “<i>immigration problems.</i>”</p>
	<p>moderate</p>	<p>Lastly, the rest of the situations are more or less related to the level deemed “<i>moderate risk.</i>”</p>

Is it possible to define more specifically the groups of people in situations of vulnerability?

Indeed, according to the levels of risk in the five fields under consideration, along with sex, origin and age, five groups of people were obtained who respond to five different “risk profiles.”





Homeless Spaniards

Mostly Spanish men, with extreme environmental (environmental risk) and housing (homeless) problems and an average age of 42 (although there is disparity in the ages), at high social and personal risks. They make up 2% of the sample. Primary level of education.



Young, qualified foreigners, with no incomes

People who are for the most part foreign, with a young average age around 32 years old, a slight majority of women, at extreme economic risk (no income). This is the most numerous group of the sample (42%). There is a notable percentage of people with secondary educations or 3-year or 5-year university degrees (although less than in group 4).



Foreign, homeless youths without resources

Men, primarily foreigners (in group 3 they are primarily men and the ones who were born in Spain register less than 50%), with an extreme level of risk in the environmental and housing and economic fields (homeless and no income). It is the group with the highest level of overall risk. The average age of its members is young, and they make up 7% of the total. Primary level of education.



Young, qualified foreigners, with family problems

A family-type of risk is predominant. It is the second most numerous group as it encompasses 35.5% of the people. The percentage of people with secondary educations, 3-year or 5-year university degrees is notable. An unemployed status is predominant.



Spanish pensioners

Spanish women of an average age of 77 years old. The risk factors that correspond to the personal field are predominant. Its members make up 13.5% of the sample. Primary level of education. The overwhelming majority is made up of retirees or pensioners.

Children and Youths in Situations of Vulnerability

These are the most significant pieces of data on this group of children and youths in situations of social vulnerability in Spain. More than 84% of the participants are Spaniards, regardless of their age group. The rest of the notable areas of origin are the Maghreb, with 8% of children and youths, of whom 95% come from Morocco; and in third place, we find Latin America with a presence of almost 4%, of whom almost 60% are Ecuadorian. Thirty two point five percent (32.5%) of the participants are under the age of 7, of whom there is a slight majority of boys over girls. Twenty five point five percent (25.5%) are aged between 8 and 12 years old, of whom there are slightly more boys than girls. Fifteen point five percent (15.5%) correspond to adolescents aged between 12 and 16 years old, among whom there is double the amount of boys as there are girls. Fourteen point five percent (14.5%) correspond to youths aged between 17 and 18 years old and there is a surprising overwhelming majority of males, as there is one girl for every six boys. Lastly, young adults over the age of 18 make up 12%, among whom the boy to girl ratio is similar to the previous age group. All in all, we find that the participants in this program tend to be boys, with increasing proportions as they get older.

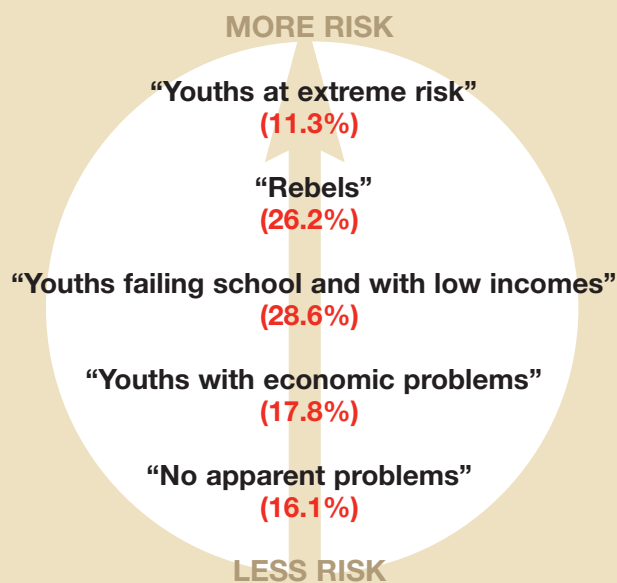
What are their greatest risk factors?

The risk factors that appear most frequently are primarily related to:

- School failure (1 out of every 2 youths is failing school and 13% suffer from school absenteeism)
- Economic problems (scarcity of resources)
- Family conflicts
- Occasional drug use

Based on these factors, a classification was made of the participants, which makes it possible to describe the different profiles or patterns of risk that can be found among these youths. Their levels of risk are represented in the following figure:





These risks do not simply come as the result of economic difficulties; rather, they have a connection with problems related to identity, values and social integration, in general.⁷ In the first group of "Youths at extreme risk", which presents the most worrisome situation of them all, the factor of not having resources is combined with the fact of having a conflictive relationship with their families. Moreover, 70% of them are failing school and 40% of them are occasional drug users. In the second group of "Rebels", all of the youths are occasional drug users; 70% have a conflictive relationship with their families; and 60% are failing school. It is noteworthy that there are no apparent economic problems in this group. The third group of "Youths failing school and with low incomes" is very homogeneous, as all of them are failing school and 70% have family incomes under 500 . All of the members of the fourth group that we have called "Youths with economic problems" state that they have no resources or that they have family incomes below 500 . Finally, the people who constitute the fifth group of "No apparent problems" do not report to have any of the aforementioned risk factors, which can be explained by the fact that the participants of this group, for the most part, are of a young age.

⁷ Among the overall groups of Spanish youths, the five prioritized topics are: 1) family, 2) health, 3) friends and acquaintances, 4) free and leisure time / work/ earning money, 5) satisfactory sex life / moral and decent life / education, training, profes

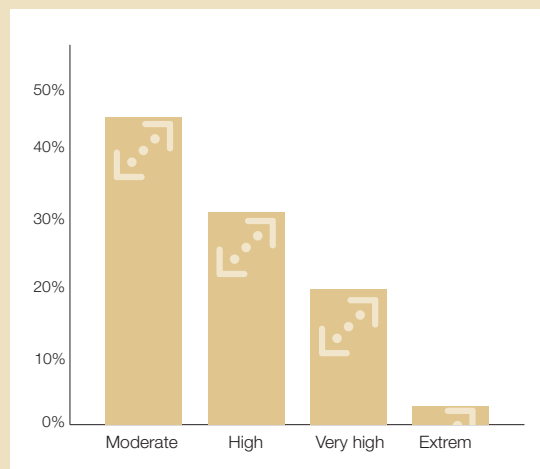
What is the level of social vulnerability in Spain?

One of this study's contributions is the preparation of a **comprehensive indicator of social vulnerability** that is presented in four categories: moderate, high, very high and extreme risks. This indicator makes it possible to draw some of the following conclusions:

The resulting comprehensive measurement of vulnerability is 22, which corresponds to a moderate-high level.

Despite the fact that women are predominant in this group of people in situations of exclusion, the risk level of exclusion is greater for men than it is for women.


Somewhat of an inverse relationship is noted among the levels of comprehensive risk, without taking into consideration the category of "extreme" risk and the degree of a person's training. A higher level of training can be a mitigating factor in terms of one's exposure to the risk of social exclusion.



Situations of Dependency in Social Vulnerability

The acceleration of the growth of the population over the age of 65 in coming years makes it foreseeable to expect a progressive increase in situations of dependency. An increase has also taken place in the group of people over 80 years of age, a phenomenon that has been called “the aging of the aging”.⁷ The study revealed that the most frequent profile of a person in a situation of dependency is the following:

- Woman
- Over 65 years old
- Widow (preferably), single or married
- With less than two children
- Born in Spain
- With a moderate risk of social exclusion
- Without any dependents under her care

 “Dependency: a permanent state of being in which people find themselves who – due to reasons derived from age, disease or disability, connected to a lack or a loss of physical, mental, intellectual or sensorial autonomy – require the attention of another or other people or aids to carry out basic, everyday activities.”



What are the housing conditions of this majority of aged women, in situations of dependency?

Frequently, in one’s own residence or in a rental, with low occupancy, adequate, with three bedrooms, no notable architectural barriers and with a surface area over 50 m².

⁷ El grupo de personas mayores de 80 años se ha duplicado en los últimos 20 años. IV Plan Nacional de Acción para la Inclusión Social del Reino de España (2006-2008), Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales. <http://www.mtas.es/SGAS/ServiciosSocDep/IncluSocial/PlanNacional/IVPlan.pdf>

What is the degree of severity of the dependency from which these people suffer?

Four percent (4%) of the people present a slight degree of dependency, 54% state that they are in moderate conditions of dependency and have enough support. However, *the most serious situations affect more than 40% of the people. Moreover, being a woman is associated with a more severe degree of dependency.*

What are the main causes of this state of dependency for these people?


Some type of dependency related to mobility is present in 63.2% of these people, and 13.2% have a mental disability. The most severe degrees of dependency are associated with disabilities of a mental nature and those that involve more than one deficiency.


Is their situation of dependency recognized? Do they receive enough support?


Of the people in situations of vulnerability, very few dependent people are in possession of handicap certificates.

The provision of tele-assistance services and of elements that are related to mobility difficulties (chairs, crutches, beds and walkers) is the technical assistance most provided by the Red Cross

The classification of a dependency is established within three degrees from a lesser to greater intensity:

 Moderate Dependency: when a person needs help to carry out several everyday activities at least once a day.

 Severe Dependency: When a person needs help to carry out several everyday activities two or three times a day, but does not require the permanent presence of a caregiver.

 Great Dependency: When a person needs help to carry out several everyday activities several times a day and – due to his/her complete loss of mental or physical autonomy, requires the indispensable and continuous presence of another person.

A qualitative approach towards the lives of people in situations of dependency

In order to orientate effectively the actions associated with social change, it is crucial to have the experiences and opinions of the true primary actors, assuming that *dependent people are experts in situations of dependency*.

The knowledge that these experts have can be accessed by breaking down the sensory, physical, spatial and, above all, invisible barriers entwined by prejudice. Unfortunately, the visibility and social participation of people in situations of dependency is infrequent; in part because getting this to take place is a tedious and difficult task that requires time, as well as a bit of empathy and the ability to handle the frustrations.

The most difficult and vital circumstances for everyday life, added to the barriers, prejudice, inefficiency and relinquishment of responsibilities in the public sector, along with an image that is frequently undervalued by, subordinated to or rejected by society, affect a person's perception of him/herself and discourage social participation.

In spite of this, it is important to point out that human capacities are present even in the worst circumstances of vulnerability because the human beings who face adversity are the ones who can best know their own strengths.

The life stories of the 18 people interviewed represent an exercise in expression, communication and, consequently, social participation. These men and women of various ages and conditions put into practice the saying "the art of winning is learned through defeats."



In a society in which setbacks are not usually addressed patiently or willingly, the people who live with special difficulties, whose bodies do not fit into the stereotypes of modernity, efficiency, beauty, youth, wealth and prestige, see their social and living space restricted terribly.



The main objective of the qualitative study is to analyze the different aspects that make up the vulnerability and strengths of the subjects, expressing their degrees of dependency and their capacity for recovery, as well as the resources that would help to provide them with an increased quality of life.

Some of the Factors Highlighted in the Life Stories

The source of the disability. A fundamental variable that determines the paths of the people is the difference between a congenital or an acquired disability or disease. In the former case, if it is serious, what could happen is that a person's entire life (and that of his/her family) revolves around the disability/disease, with which the person is going to have to live for the rest of his/her life in most cases. On the other hand, if we are dealing with an acquired disability/disease, the main question will be to what extent the person will be able to continue leading the same life as before.

The heterogeneity of the group. The concept of "person in a situation of dependency" includes people with very different problems, ranging from problems of mobility or perception to people with profound mental problems or disorders.

Architectural Barriers. For those people whose mobility is limited because of some motor or sensory deficiencies, this issue is key as these are why a large part of the spaces in which the grand majority of people travel and live are inaccessible to them.

Social Barriers. Prejudice, discrimination, paternalism and lack of empathy are frequent elements in the daily lives of many of these people, which obstruct their social inclusion and cut down their self-esteem.

The overwhelming need to rely on others. The lives of people with disabilities and debilitating illnesses become severely limited, and it becomes necessary for them to turn to other people in order to be able to carry out any kind of activity that takes place outside of the spaces that are more comfortable and accessible for them. Family ties and relationships with friends and partners become compromised in this framework.

Becoming invisible. This limitation has an added value, because the scant presence (if not total absence) of people with disabilities in numerous places (places of work, education, leisure, etc.) leads to their becoming invisible; that is, the widespread feeling that there are hardly any people with these characteristics, which makes their problems be ignored and neglected.

A deteriorated image. The isolation, lack of communication and participation, added to the conflict of one's image of oneself in the face of the prevailing stereotypes of beauty, health and youthfulness, have a bearing on a negative assessment of oneself.

Loneliness. The majority of the people interviewed reported – in different manners – periods of loneliness, accompanied frequently by the frustration of not being able to snap out of it.

Recommendations to Lower the Vulnerability of People in Situations of Dependency

The multisectoral and multidisciplinary panel of experts on issues related to people in situations of dependency produced an analytical document of proposals and recommendations.

One of the best strategies is **prevention**, which means taking into consideration not only the situations of dependency, but also the risks related to them. This would lead to an examination of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of diseases and traumas, deficiencies and functional dependency. It is especially important to have the participation of the interested-parties and of the informal actors in these preventive conducts and tasks. The following areas of prevention are highlighted: healthy habits, improved cognitive functioning, improved emotional functioning and social participation and involvement.

An important step in the welfare system for affected people is the so-called “Law of Dependency,” which establishes a framework of protection with universal coverage. The law addresses a series of issues, like the training and qualifications that are addressed in the document prepared by the experts.

The new technologies of information and communication constitute a huge opportunity in terms of supporting independent living, accessibility and integration of people with disabilities. However, as analyzed in the study, there are serious problems in regards to accessibility.

In support of independent living, advances made in domotics (services related to environmental controls, personal monitoring, home alarm management), tele-assistance (fixed, mobile, with added services, integrated into environmental intelligence), and mobile and cordless communications have been presented.



The Law for the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Assistance to People in Situations of Dependency and their Families, more known as the “Law of Dependency,” is a Spanish law that establishes the framework to build a future National System of Assistance for Dependency, which will finance the services that are needed by dependent people, albeit because they suffer from a debilitating illness or accident or because of aging. The Law was presented on 5 March 2006 by the president of the government, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. On 20 April 2006, it was approved by the Council of Ministers, and on 30 November 2006, it was approved definitively in a full session of the Chamber of Deputies, by a wide majority. The Law will initiate its gradual activity on 1 January 2007. The state will contribute more than 12.638 million euros from 2007 to 2015. The first year 400 million will be provided, with an annual increase in this figure, reaching 2.212 million in 2015.



Proposals Made by the Experts

- 1. Advisory Service** so that, in the face of certain situations, affected people can make inquiries in order to make the most appropriate decision, at the most appropriate time.
- 2. Give more importance to associations** of disabled people and those who are in situations of dependency, as well as entities that work with dependent people.
- 3. Employment-Protection dual issue** in regards to situations of dependency. The law opens a framework that would allow the affected people to enter into the normalized labor market.
- 4. Gender Equality.** We cannot continue to insist on a model to lower vulnerability that is based on the overloading/overburdening of female caregivers.
- 5. Fairer Territorial Models,** which ensure that the rights of citizens in situations of dependency who reside in rural areas are just as effective as those for the urban centers.
- 6. Increased coordination among institutions** and a harmonization of legislation at both the local and national levels.
- 7. Consensus** on the criteria related to new technologies and technical aids that are focused on the user.
- 8. Raising Social Awareness** on aspects related to this Law.
- 9. Information and Communication Technologies** to support situations of vulnerability, taking into account the opinions of the ultimate users in their choices.
- 10. Quality Control Mechanisms of the Services Provided.**

The professionals and experts, who work with and for people with disabilities and in situations of dependency, highlight the need to have the affected people involved in the fight for social inclusion.

EMPRESAS QUE FORMAN PARTE DEL PATRONATO DE LA FUNDACIÓN CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA:

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