## METHODOLOGY FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION
## FOESSA REPORT
### A multidimensional approach to social exclusion

### 1. The operationalisation of the concept of social exclusion

There is a prolific theoretical reflection in relation to the conceptualisation of the phenomenon that concerns us. FOESSA carries out the operationalisation of the concept of "social exclusion" focusing on three key aspects for approaching the situations of difficulty suffered by the Spanish population: namely its structural origin, its multidimensional character and its procedural nature.

Firstly, highlighting its structural nature, we have wanted to move away from conceptions linked to the attribution of individual responsibilities related to some studies of poverty, especially from those approximations that have focused more on the people in poverty. This does not prevent us from recognising the importance of better knowledge from the individual's perspective, but above all it avoids any approach that could be understood as blaming the victims.

Secondly, this reflection on social exclusion adds a multidimensional perspective to the classic economic dimension that characterised poverty analyses. Thus, the focus is placed on other structural elements derived from access to welfare systems or inequalities in the labour market, or on the very dynamics of interpersonal relations in order to understand their evolution. The phenomenon becomes multidimensional because it cannot be limited to an exclusive social sphere, but it affects many.

Thirdly, exclusion implies the accumulation of problems in different spheres. Four major factors identify the nature of the model of social integration that has been constructed: political rights (effective participation in the decision making process), economic and social rights (protection of the status of work by placing limits on its commercialisation and the development of social citizenship, but also recognition of everyone's participation in society), all functioning on the ground of social ties (mainly through the family), but also through community ties based on neighbourhood, ethnicity, religion and other elements.

Based on this evidence, we have identified three main risk spheres concerning conceptualisation of social exclusion. These are transformations produced at the economic level (employment, lack of income, deprivation of certain basic goods and services), social participation (isolation, family and social conflict), as well as political participation and effective access to public welfare (no access or very limited access to decent housing, health or education).

### 2. Measuring social exclusion through 35 indicators

Caritas analyses the reality of poverty from the FOESSA Report, among other sources, a comprehensive report of information on exclusion and social development in our country. For over 12 years, the FOESSA report has measured living conditions through a multidimensional view of reality, which aims to reflect the elements that make up the basic pillars of life. This is impossible to measure with a simple poverty rate, or with the At Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion (AROPE) rate which looks at three indicators (poverty, material deprivation, and low employment). To measure social exclusion, we use 35 indicators that measure participation in employment, income capacity, access to basic rights such as housing, health, education, political participation, and which measure the absence of social ties (solitude) and conflictive social relations.

An analysis of social exclusion is carried out using a synthetic social exclusion index (ISES) built on a set of 35 indicators. An index based on the identification of empirically verifiable factual situations was used, each of which was serious enough to call into question the full social participation of the people affected. It was understood that the accumulation of various situations of difficulty was what placed certain groups of society in positions of exclusion from the social sphere.

In this way, we get an indicator that better encompasses social reality, one that better measures the living conditions of families and individuals, and one that is more sensitive, which is crucial for identifying the most extreme forms of poverty.

**Table 1. The 35 indicators used to measure social exclusion by the FOESSA Report**

| Aspect | Dimension | No. | Indicator |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Economic aspect** | **Employment** | 1 | Households whose main breadwinner has been unemployed for one year or more. |
| | | 2 | Households whose main breadwinner has a marginal employment. |
| | | 3 | Households whose main breadwinner has a job without social security coverage (off-the-books work). |
| | | 4 | Households without employed persons, contributory pensioners, with no sick-leave, or with contributory unemployment benefits from the Spanish Employment Office (INEM). |
| | | 5 | Households with at least one person that is unemployed and has not received occupational training in the last year. |
| | | 6 | Households where all economically active residents are unemployed. |
| | **Consumption** | 7 | Households in extreme poverty: income of less than 30 % of the median equivalised net income. |
| | | 8 | Households deprived of at least one basic commodity (running water, hot water, electricity, sewage disposal, a complete bathroom, kitchen, refrigerator and washing machine). |
| **Social and political rights aspect** | **Politics** | 9 | The right to elect your political representatives and to be elected: households with a person aged 18 or older, of non-EU nationality with no mutual agreement. |
| | | 10 | Effective capacity to be considered and to influence the collective decision-making process: households that do not participate in elections for lack of interest and are not members of any citizen organisations. |
| | **Education** | 11 | Households with 3 to 15-year olds not attending school in the 2017–18 academic year. |
| | | 12 | Households in which none of its members between 16 and 64 years of age are educated. |
| | | 13 | Households with someone 65 years of age or older who cannot read or write or has not attended school. |
| | **Housing** | 14 | Households in substandard housing (such as a shack, floor, barracks, pre-manufactured housing or similar). |
| | | 15 | Households in dwellings with serious construction deficiencies or in ruin. |
| | | 16 | Households in unhealthy dwellings (with humidity, dirt, odours, etc). |
| | | 17 | Households with severe overcrowding ($<15m^2$ per person). |
| | | 18 | Households with a dwelling in precarious tenancy (provided free of charge by other people or institutions, sublet, or illegally occupied). |
| | | 19 | Households with dwellings located in very impoverished environments. |
| | | 20 | Households in dwellings with architectural barriers and people with physical disabilities. |
| | | 21 | Households with excessive housing expenditure (income – expenditure < extreme poverty line). |
| | **Health** | 22 | Households with someone without health insurance. |
| | | 23 | Households that have often gone hungry in the last 10 years or are now going hungry. |
| | | 24 | Households in which all adults have limitations for daily activities. |
| | | 25 | Households with disabled people (those who need help or care from others to carry out daily tasks) who do not receive the care they need. |
| | | 26 | Households with a person with a serious or chronic illness who has not received medical assistance. |
| | | 27 | Households that have stopped buying medicines and following treatments or diets due to financial constraints. |
| **Social relational aspect** | **Social conflict** | 28 | Households in which a person has been physically or psychologically abused in the last 10 years. |
| | | 29 | Households with bad, very bad or rather bad relationships amongst its members. |
| | | 30 | Households with people who have or have had problems with alcohol or other drugs, or gambling in the last 10 years. |
| | | 31 | Households in which someone has been or is about to become a single teenage mother in the last 10 years. |
| | | 32 | Households in which someone has or has had a criminal record in the last 10 years. |
| | **Social isolation** | 33 | Households without relationships and without any support for situations of illness or difficulty. |
| | | 34 | Households with bad or very bad relationships with neighbours. |
| | | 35 | Households with people currently in institutions. |

**3. The calculation of the Synthetic Index of Social Exclusion (ISES), of the levels of social exclusion and of the excluded society.**

The objective being pursued with the generation of a social exclusion index is to synthesize different situations of household exclusion in different dimensions.

The aggregation of the 35 indicators is calculated by taking the inverse of the percentage of each indicator and then dividing the resulting quantity by the number of indicators for each aspect or dimension.

There are eight dimensions:

• Employment from 1 to 6.
• Consumption from 7 to 8.
• Political Participation from 9 to 10.
• Education from 11 to 13.
• Housing from 14 to 21.
• Health from 22 to 27.
• Social Conflict from 28 to 32.
• Social Isolation from 33 to 35.

The weighted sum of these indicators is what ISES gives us. Thereafter, the classification into four groups is carried out considering that the average for the society as a whole is equal to 1 for the first year considered, and also the distances of the household scores with respect to the original average.

• **Integration** (integración plena): ISES = 0 (no problems detected).
• **Poor integration** (integración precaria): 0 < ISES < 2 (with some problems, but around the average in society in the range of 1 ± 1).
• **Moderate exclusion** (exclusión moderada): 2 < ISES < 4 (more than twice the societal average).
• **Severe exclusion** (exclusión severa): ISES > 4 (more than twice the threshold of moderate exclusion).

**Graph 1: Evolution of the percentage distribution of the Spanish population in intervals of the Social Exclusion Synthetic Index (ISES).**
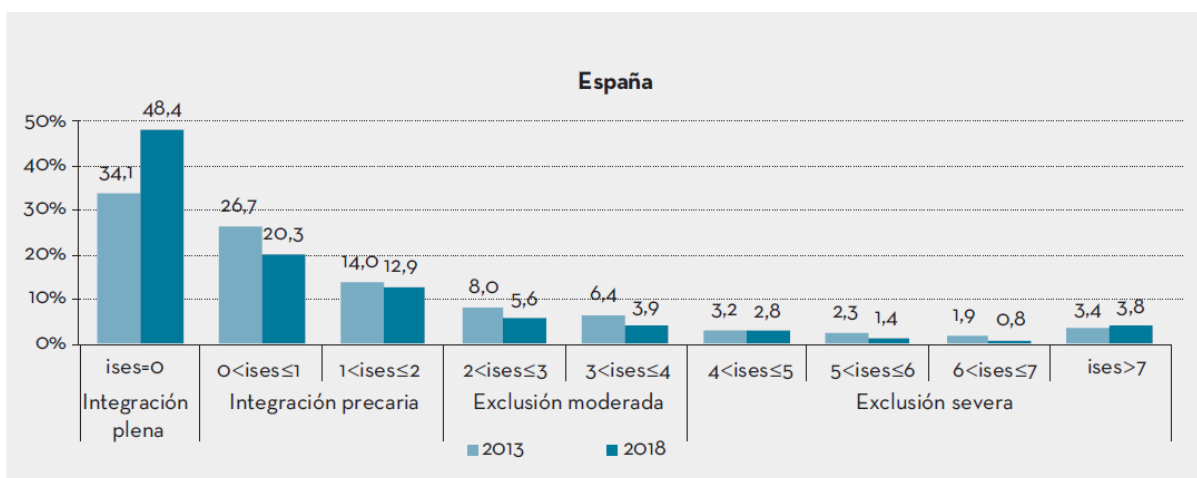


At the extreme of severe social exclusion, the reality of the population reaching ISES > 7 is especially worrying. This reflects the accumulation of many difficulties that construct a vital experience disconnected from a normalised social participation which provokes the expulsion of the social sphere. This population group is what we call the 'expelled society'.