

# el Periòdic News

DATA FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

## 79 % of the households served by Càritas Catalunya are in a situation of severe poverty

The organization highlights the growing job insecurity and the urgent need to guarantee decent housing

LAURA GÓMEZ RODRÍGUEZ  
LA SEU D'URGELL

In a context of a notable decrease in purchasing power and the incorporation of the concept of working poverty, Càritas Catalunya presented its annual report for 2023 last Tuesday, highlighting that an alarming 79% of households served are in a situation of severe poverty. Francesc Roig Queralt, president of Càritas Catalunya, emphasized that this data is a reflection of the serious crisis affecting Catalan society.

According to the report, during 2023 Càritas Catalunya served 99,535 households, where a total of 245,665 people live, of which more than half have children and teenagers in their care. The main hallmarks of care homes include a high rate of job insecurity, serious problems accessing decent housing and a generati-

### THE FIGURES

**99,535  
HOMES**

Càritas Catalunya has served 99,535 households during 2023.

**245,665  
PEOPLE**

In the total number of households, the organization has found that 245,665 people live there.

**54%**

of households have children and teenagers in charge.

**61%**

of households cannot guarantee adequate food.



Francesc Roig Queralt, Josep Mauri, Josep Casanova and Marta Fortuny, at the presentation.

onal transmission of poverty. The data also reveal that 54% of households in extreme poverty have children or teenagers, and 61% of these households cannot guarantee adequate food. In addition, 44% cannot pay school fees and 59% do not have internet or mobile, aspects that aggravate their situation of vulnerability. Regarding the type of families requesting help, 54% are families with children or teenagers, and 22% are single-parent households, which present a higher risk of child poverty. In terms of gender, poverty is feminized, with 59% women among the people served. By age group, more than half are adults, although the number

of young people and minors is also significant. 27% of the people served live alone. In relation to the employment situation, 46% are active, but unemployed, while 33% correspond to pensioners or people who are not looking for work.

Of the total number of people served, 41% are in an irregular administrative situation, mainly of Latin American and Central American origin. Càritas Catalunya, which has a budget of 50 million euros, has allocated 51% of the expenditure to the social sector. The organization also highlighted the importance of job placement as a tool to combat poverty and underlined the need to continue working to dilute social



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## Anna Maria Villas, at the head of Càritas Andorrana

Parish changes and new appointments mark a new stage in the diocese

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Anna Maria Villas will replace Amadeu Rocamora at the head of Càritas Andorrana. This was made public last Tuesday by the Bishopric of Urgell in a circular in which he communicates different appointments for the diocese, both parochial and non-parochial, which were made last Sunday, coinciding with the Feast of Sant Ot. It will not be the only change at Càritas,

as it has also transpired that Reverend Josep Chisvert will be the councilor of Càritas Andorrana, replacing Reverend Ramon Sàrries.

In addition, different parish changes were also communicated. Thus, Monsignor Antoni Elvira will from now on be rector of the parish of Sant Pere Màrtir of Escaldes-Engordany, replacing Monsignor Jaume Soy, who is retiring. The change to Encamp also meant that a replacement for Elvira as rector had to be appointed in Santa Eulàlia, which from now on will pass to Àlex Vargas, who will also be diocesan youth delegate, diocesan judge of the ecclesiastical court and deputy general secretary of the Diocese of Urgell ●

**MARTA FORTUNY**  
COORDINATOR OF THE SOCIAL AREA OF CÀRITAS CATALUNYA  
AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CÀRITAS DIOCESANA D'URGELL

«In terms of gender, poverty is feminized, with 59% women among the people served»

polarization. Josep Casanova, vice president of Càritas Catalunya and director of Càritas Urgell, highlighted the effort to professionalize the organization, which has 530 contracted people and 12,000 volunteers. The event was attended by the vicar general of the Dioce-

se of Urgell, Josep Mauri, representing the episcopal co-prince Joan-Enric Vives, and Marta Fortuny, coordinator of the Social Area of Càritas Catalunya and deputy director of Càritas Diocesana d' Urgell, who highlighted the work carried out by the 10 Catalan dioceses and fu-

ture challenges. Fortuny emphasized the need to guarantee decent housing and address job insecurity to reduce the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

The main future challenges of Càritas Catalunya include the fight for decent access to

housing, the improvement of working conditions and the reduction of persistent inequality. The report concludes that people with low incomes allocate 43.1% of their income to paying rent, a much higher proportion than the richest 10%, which allocates only 10.8%. ●

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