



AMIs Social Action 2007

On the year of 2007, 7386 people demanded for AMIs social support, over 862 cases than in 2006. From those needy supported by AMI, 50% were living on the extended area of Lisbon. In Oporto's area (Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia) it has increased from 2291 to 2611 people (35%). The rest of the users of our facilities distribut themselves by our other Social Centres in Funchal (Madeira's Island) and Coimbra. These results don't include the two shelters owned by AMI (Oporto and Lisbon) neither the ones from the Angra do Heroísmo Social Centre in Azores Islands, as the last was recently inaugurated, on the 18th December 2007.

Based on the years of 2003 and 2007, in the extended area of Lisbon (Olaias, Chelas, Almada and Cascais), we've verified that the number has risen from 2712 to 3729 people.

Between 2003 and 2007, 13926 people had come, for the first time, to AMIs social support services. Although, the number of people who come to us every year doesn't change that much from one year to the other. The annual average is about 2800 for the new cases. On the other hand, the annual average for the frequency stands on 6500 poverty cases.

It's important to enhance, the growing number of women looking for our support, thus in 2007, 53% of the population were women. At the cause of this phenomena might be the increasing unemployment rate, a single parent situation and the domestic violence. On the extended area of Lisbon, this difference is even more significant in social centers like Chelas (62%), Almada (58%) and Cascais (57%). On the extended area of Oporto, in Oporto's social center (53%) and in Gaia's (59%), the number of women is also superior.

About the homeless, we've found that 24% are women, since 1999 this number has increased 11%. In Olaias social center we find the opposite case, being the homeless situation a typical male problem.

The principal reasons referred by those who came to us, are related to Financial Precariousness (87%) and Unemployment (40%). Followed by, the Health area Physical Illness (13%) and Lack of Habitation (12%).

The principal requested services are Social Support (54%), in helping create a new life's project and, subsequently, the basic needs satisfaction; Food: Food Supplies (67%) and Refectory (36%), and in third place the Clothing (55%).

On the range of the Most Deprived Persons Food Distribution Programme, since 2002, AMI has already distributed 2 568 108,07 Kg of food. During the year of 2007 AMI distributed over 488tons of food supplies (488 066,05 Kg). In spite of the quantity have diminished, the number of supported families has increased. It grown from 2434 (2006) to 5524 (2007) families. The number of persons supported rised from 5137 (2006) to 16531 (2007) meaning an increase of three times more.

Also in the Night Shelters the number of people has raised. In Graça's Shelter, in Lisbon, 44 new cases had been registered. Since 1997, this facility has already supported 474 people. Adding to this number, we have 68 other supported by the Oporto's Shelter. Thus, since 1997 the Shelters has already supported 542 homeless man in socio-professional insertion situation.



This work has been complemented by our Lisbon and Gaia Field Teams that during the last year attended a total of 119 sleeping rough homeless people.

The Director of the Social Action Department,

Ana Martins