

To local development also through volunteering.

Case study: volunteering at the UGR.



María Egea Hernández
Juan Carlos Maroto Martos
Aida Pinos Navarrete



UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA

eug

EDITORIAL
UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA



Junta de Andalucía

TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ALSO THROUGH VOLUNTEERING. CASE STUDY: VOLUNTERING AT THE UGR

**TO LOCAL DEVELOPEMENT ALSO THROUGH VOLUNTEERING. CASE
STUDY: VOLUNTERING AT THE UGR.**

María Egea Hernández, Juan Carlos Maroto Martos y Aida Pinos Navarrete.



UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA

eug EDITORIAL
UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA

Book coordination.

María Egea Hernández, Juan Carlos Maroto Martos y Aida Pinos Navarrete.

Layout:

Agustín Fernández Navarro

Front and back cover photos:

Juan Carlos Maroto, Fernando López Martínez y Álvaro Romero Hidalgo

© Editorial University of Granada

© of this edition: Vicerrectorado de Igualdad, Inclusión y Sostenibilidad (VIIS)

© of the texts: The authors themselves.

ISBN: 978-84-338-7197-8

Edit:

UGR Solidaria (VIIS). Cuesta del Hospicio s/n Universidad de Granada. 18071 Granada (España)

Table of contents

PROLOGUE.....	6
INTERRELATIONS BETWEEN VOLUNTARY WORK AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GRANADA	7
<i>BEGGING IN GRANADA: GEOLOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.....</i>	<i>48</i>
We need you!!!	60

BEGGING IN GRANADA: GEOLOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

Juan Carlos Maroto Martos, Fernando López Martínez, Álvaro Romero Hidalgo, Edianny Carballo Cruz
jcmaroto@ugr.es flopezysergio@gmail.com alvaroromero2610@gmail.com ediannycc@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION.

This paper is the product of research carried out into people in Granada who are excluded from society or at risk of social exclusion. The research was conducted by UGR Solidaria, the Granada University Voluntary Work Scheme (part of the Vice-Rectorate of Equality, Inclusion and Sustainability), in 2021 and 2022. It is based on a more detailed study for 2021, which was completed with new variables by geographers who were doing their practical work for their Degrees in Geography and Territorial Management, in the said University voluntary work scheme.

During the two-year research period, we established three main objectives: firstly, to use a Geographic Information System (GIS) to locate all the people that beg or sleep rough in the streets of Granada. Secondly, to find out more about the circumstances that had led them to this situation, and to try to determine their sociodemographic profile. Thirdly, to find out more about the services available in Granada to try to mitigate or improve their situation, which we classified as of extreme vulnerability.

In our first field work session, a total of 104 people were found begging or sleeping rough in the streets of Granada. In the second session, this figure was slightly higher at 109. The data were obtained from photographs of the people concerned. When taking the photographs (with a smartphone), we took special care to ensure that they did not enable the person concerned to be identified, but did enable us to register the place, street and/or number of the building, portal, portico, square, garden etc. where they were located. The most recent information was processed with ArcMap software (UTM coordinate system, ETRS89 time zone 30N). The base map was a map of Granada at a scale of 1:15.000, obtained from the cartographic database at the Andalusia Institute of Statistics and Cartography.

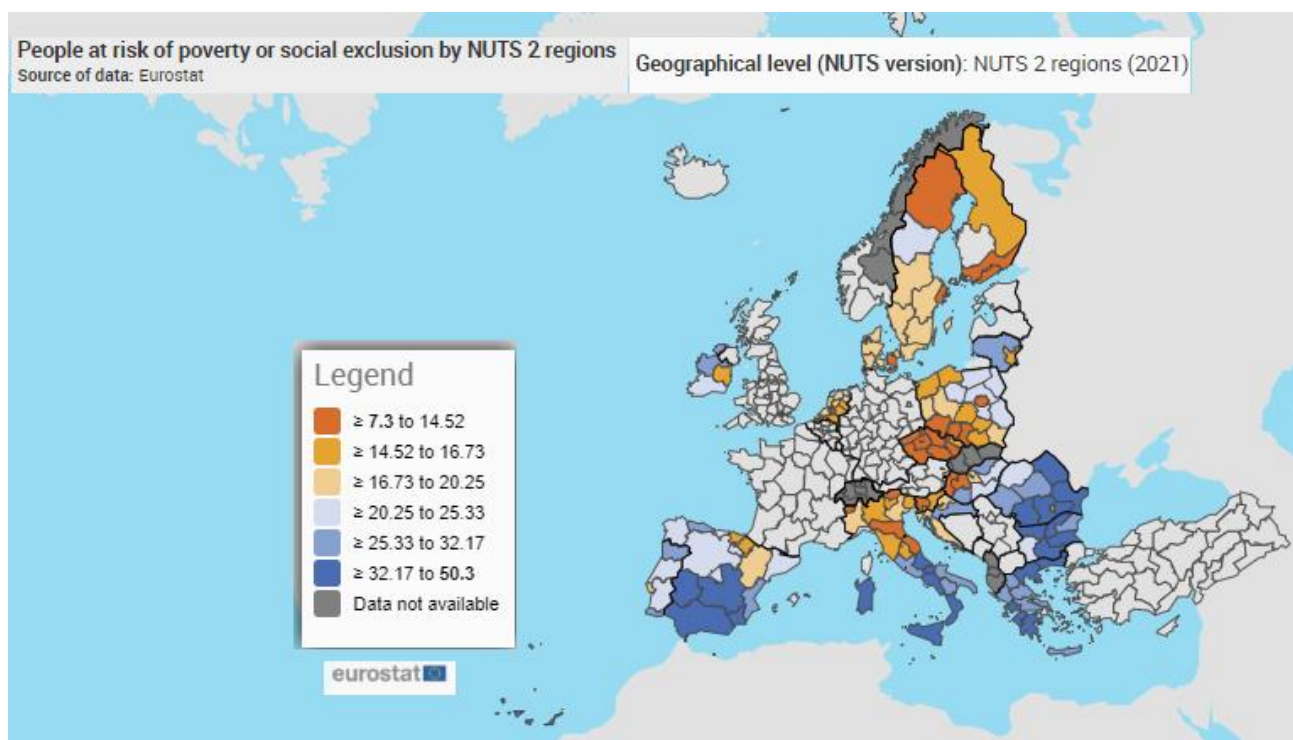
We also conducted exploratory conversations with the homeless and beggars to obtain information. These were deliberately informal so as to ensure that the interviewees did not feel that they were being interrogated. The aim was to discover demographic data, such as where they were from, how long they had been living in the streets and begging, important milestones in their life stories, employment and health questions, their knowledge of the social services in the city, whether they wanted to escape from their current situation, places they normally visited, etc .

Although the work is ongoing today, in this paper we will be presenting some of the most relevant data obtained in 2021 and 2022.

2. RESULTS.

Without intending to be exhaustive in any way and in order to provide some context, in 2021 21.7% of the population of Europe were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This is partially due to the current price rises as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, although in some countries, including Spain, which has 28% of its population in this situation, there is also a deep-rooted structural problem (Figure 1).

Figure 1. % of population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Europe NUTS 2 (2021)

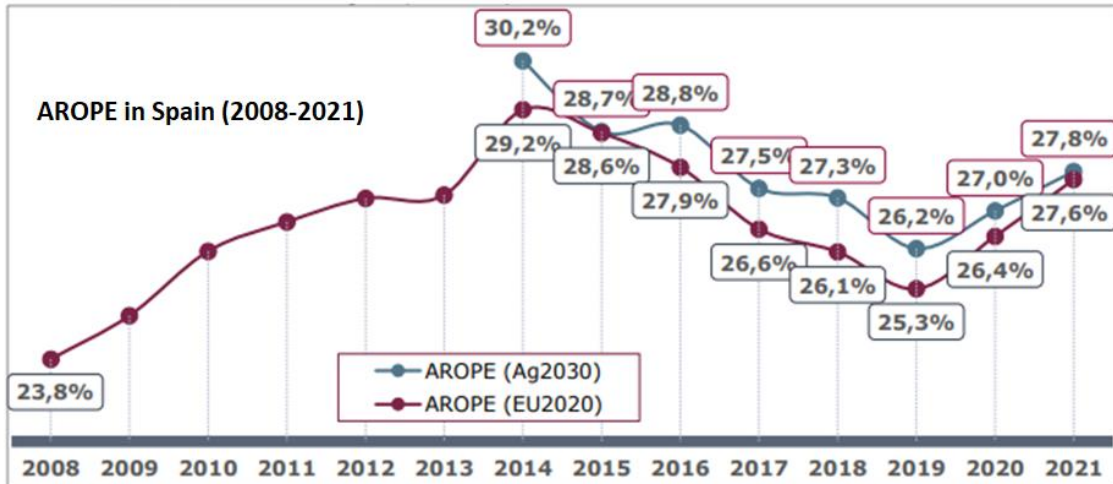


Of the data collected by Eurostat (2023) for the year 2021, we found that the countries with the highest percentages of people at risk of poverty are located in southern and eastern Europe and that in Spain there is a clear imbalance between North and South. The situation remains much the same as in previous years, as confirmed in the AROPE (at risk of poverty or social exclusion) report, which described the state of poverty in Spain (ARPE 2022), while also tracking the EU2030 Agenda indicators from 2015 to 2022 (Figure 2).

The fact that there are people who have to resort to begging is a clear example of the social exclusion that part of Spanish society is suffering. The said AROPE report indicates that 27.8% of the Spanish population, over 13 million people, are at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion, a figure that has been increasing since 2019. It affects more women (28.9%) than

men (26.7%). The data enable us to affirm that we are lagging seriously behind if we want to comply with the objective set out in the Agenda 2030, namely to reduce the poverty level in 2015 by half. Some progress has been made, but a lot more must be done if we want to achieve the poverty target in all its dimensions.

Figure 2. AROPE Indicator according to the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

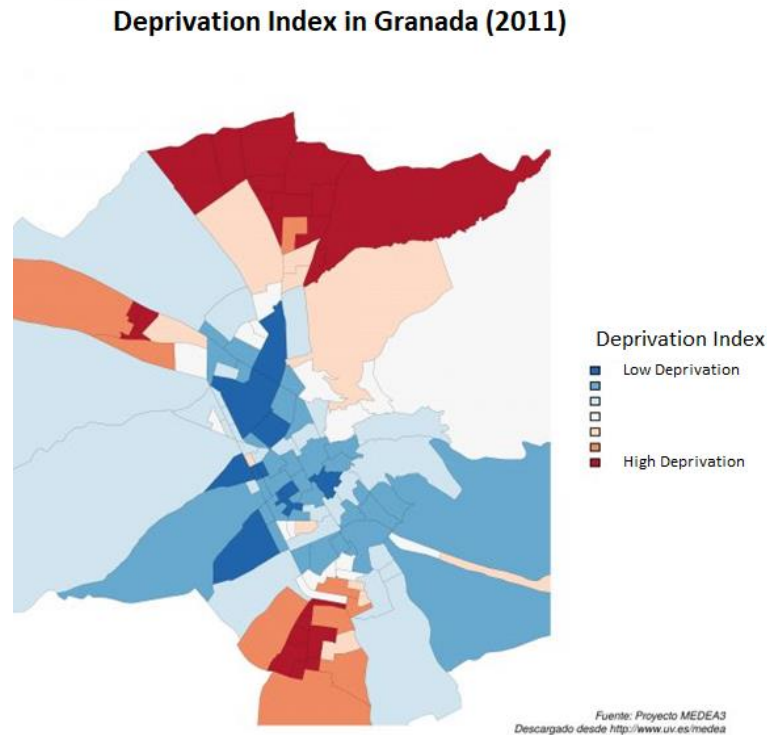


At the Province of Granada scale, a Report on the State of Poverty in Andalusia, issued by the Andalusian Network for the Struggle against Poverty and Social Exclusion (EAPN-A), affirmed that approximately 150,000 people live on less than 530 euros a month, in a situation that can be classified as severe poverty.

We do not have up-to-date figures to enable us to analyse the poverty in the city of Granada today. However, data from the Spanish National Institute of Statistics regarding average income per person reveals enormous differences, in that the average resident of the city centre earns six times as much as someone who lives in the impoverished neighbourhoods in the Distrito Norte of Granada.

Another interesting indicator, which will soon be updated, is the deprivation index produced within the framework of the MEDEA project using an inframunicipal scale of analysis.

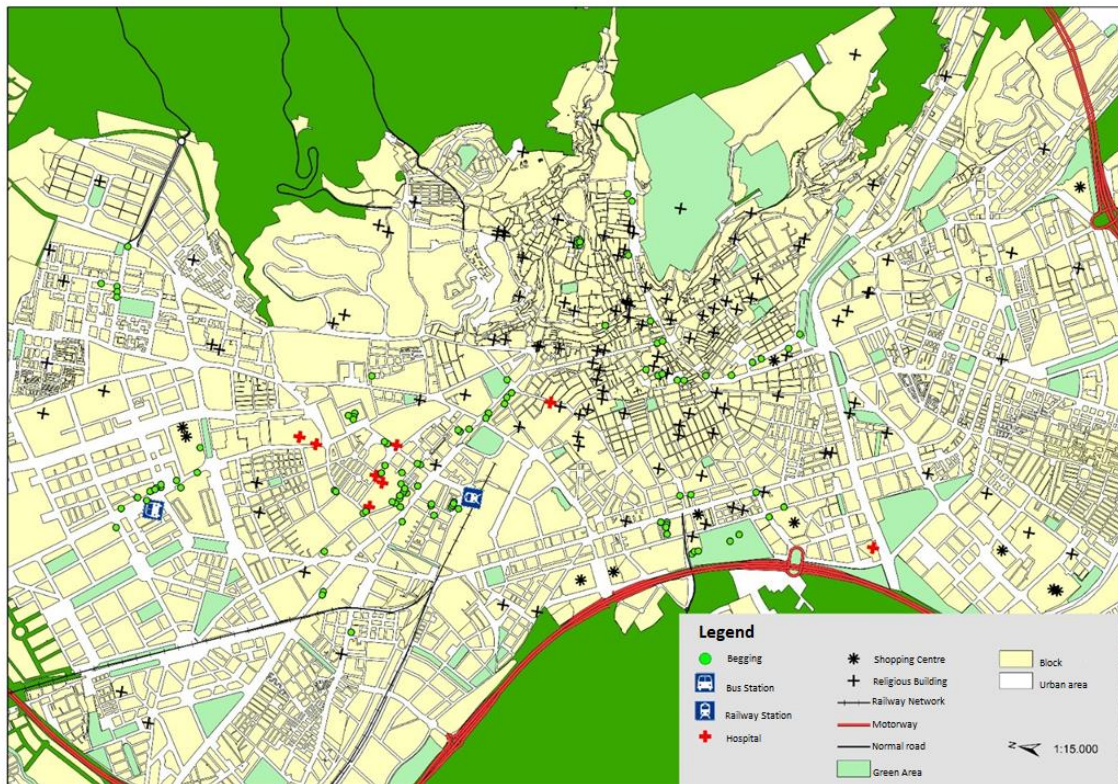
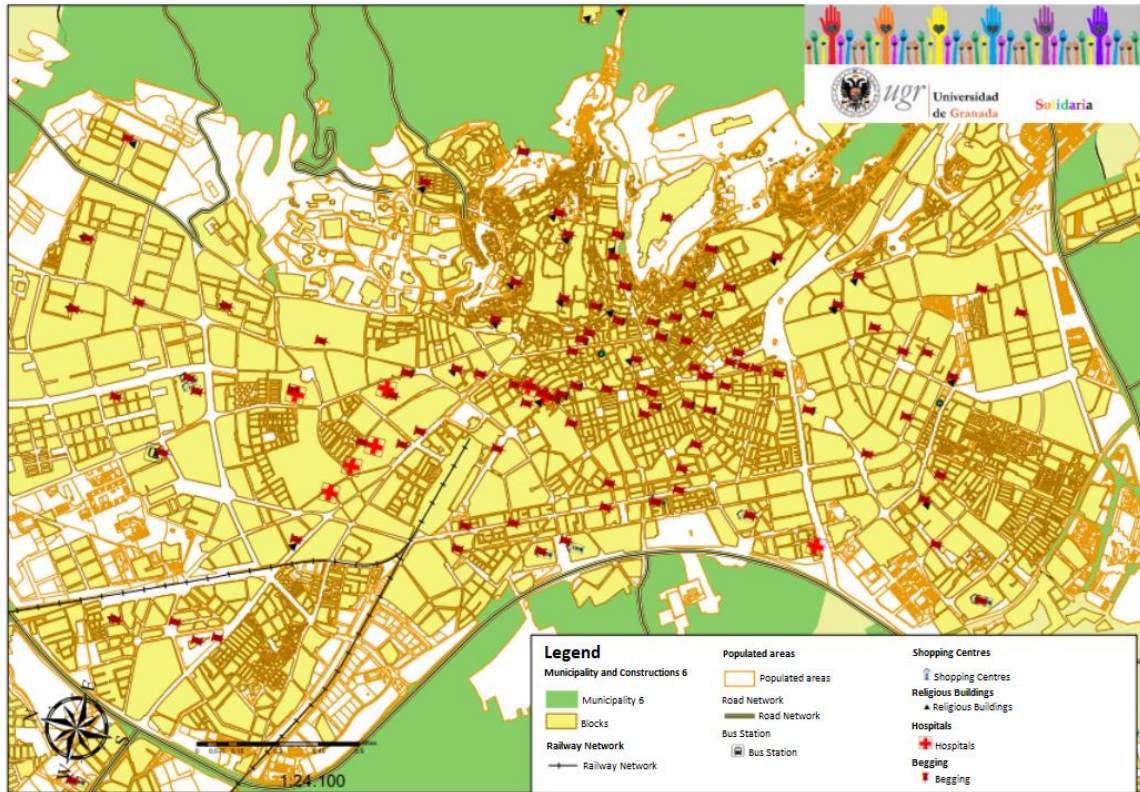
Figure 3. Deprivation Index in Granada in 2011. Medea Project



The MEDEA project, involving researchers from the Andalusian School of Public Health in Granada, revealed that poverty kills, in that socioeconomic deprivation is a determining factor in health and reduces the average life expectancy of the population. It also highlighted that although there are some parts of La Chana (around the Calle Sagrada Familia) and Zaidín (Casillas Bajas and Santa Adela) that have very negative situations, the worst indicators are in the Distrito Norte (Figure 3).

Although in the case of the city of Granada, the people with the worst socioeconomic problems tend to live in certain peripheral neighbourhoods, evidence shows, and we saw this clearly in 2020 and again in 2021, that during the daylight hours many of them travel to strategic places in the centre of the city where they have more chance of receiving alms.

Figures 4 and 5. Geolocation of people found begging in the city of Granada in 2020 and 2021.



Source: The authors.

TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ALSO THROUGH VOLUNTEERING. CASE STUDY: VOLUNTERING AT THE UGR

From the data obtained in the surveys conducted in 2020 (16 valid) and in 2021 (20 valid), the following general conclusions can be drawn.

The vast majority are men (90%). The average age is 40 years old, although this average age was significantly lower in the more recent survey. Over half said that they were separated or divorced. Most (60%) said they had children, although they admitted that they had no relationship with them.

An important difference between the two groups of interviews was observed with regard to the nationality of the interviewees. During the first round of interviews in 2020, over 90% said that they had Spanish nationality, however during the second round in 2021, this percentage was much lower at just over 50%.

We therefore detected an increase in the presence of immigrants, above all from Africa (Senegal Morocco and Tunisia), but also from Latin America (Ecuador), and even from an EU country such as Romania. This question must be studied in more detail, especially because of the additional problems that some people face due to different languages or beliefs, which can isolate them even more.

There was little variation as regards their level of education. Most said that they only had primary education. Those who declared that they were foreign nationals said that they had been homeless ever since they arrived in Spain, and had been unable to find work. All of them made clear, when asked about their previous jobs (e.g. car park attendant, builders mate, warehouse staff, cleaner) that these jobs did not require any previous studies or qualifications.

As for the Spanish nationals, some said that they had had work for a long time but had been dismissed. Some blamed COVID, saying that from then on everything had gone downhill in their lives. Various others confessed that the main reason for them being in their current situation were their "vices", such as "alcohol and drugs", which had caused them to lose everything. None of those who took part in the second round of interviews cited the breakup of a marriage or relationship as a reason for being in their current situation.

They were only asked about how long they had been living with no fixed address in the first round of interviews in 2020. The average was 5 years, although the current figure may well be lower due to the increased presence of foreign beggars with a lower average age.

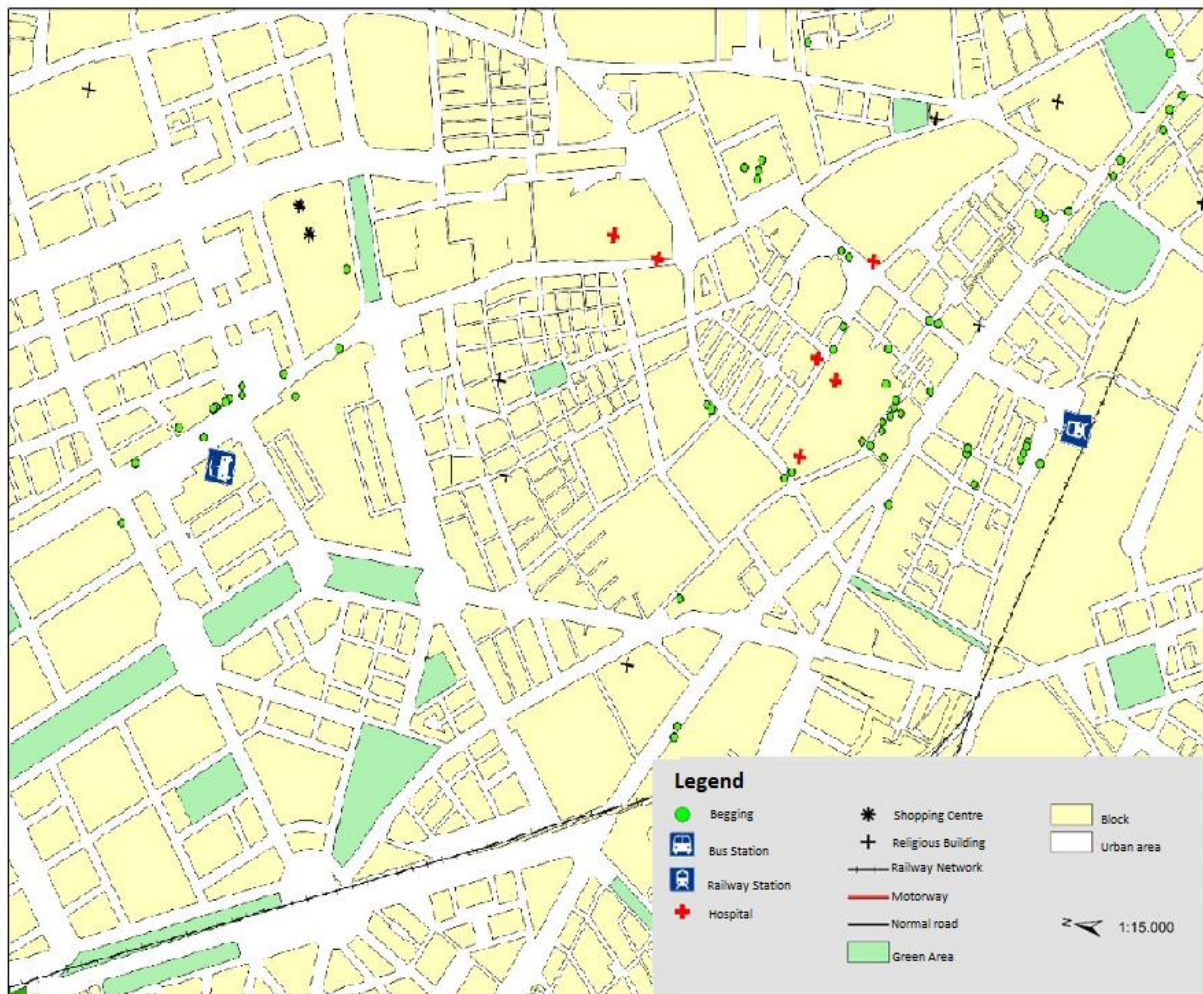
They live on the money they receive from passersby and from the Granada Social Services. They know the soup kitchens in the city very well. They also know where the temporary accommodation hostels are. They would like to go back to work, but most said that they had not been looking for work for some time, although they would like someone to hire them and give them a chance.

Their day-to-day lives revolve around looking for a place to sleep, going to the soup kitchens to have something to eat and begging in certain very specific places.

They tend to gather above all at the bus and railway stations, and also in the vicinity of hospitals, the entrances to churches, supermarkets and large shops in the centre of the city as well as the most important streets in the old part of town. In short the busiest, most crowded places.

The axis formed by the bus station, the Virgen de las Nieves hospital and the railway station is particularly busy (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Axis formed by the bus station, the Virgen de las Nieves hospital and the railway station.



A quarter of those interviewed said that they slept in hostels and that their next preferred option was the porticos outside the railway and bus stations, roofed areas where they are protected from the rain and some of the cold. We also found people in parks, and even in bank doorways where they can sleep more safely and are better protected from the cold. People who sleep rough have various ways of avoiding being bothered or attacked, such as sleeping in groups or having a dog. They said they were not afraid.

Half of them said that they did not receive any benefit payments and almost one in four said that they did not know what benefits they were entitled to apply for that might help them out of their current situation. Just over 30% said that they knew about some of the benefits or had applied for them at some stage.

Almost half (47%) said that they ate twice a day and just over 13% said three times. The rest said either "once" or "what I can" (20% each).

80% said that they drank alcohol and consumed drugs everyday. Over 70% admitted that they had thought about suicide.

Figure 7. Near the markets. In this case next to the Market of San Agustín.



Source: The authors

Figure 8. In La Caleta



Source: Antonio López

Figure 9. In the Gran Vía de Colón in Granada



Source: The authors

3. FINAL REFLECTIONS.

Begging in the streets is a subject of heated debate between those who claim we should continue giving beggars alms and those who think that instead we should be demanding social justice and personalized attention.

In the case of Granada City Council, the response from the Department of Social Rights, Education and Accessibility was clear.

Figure 10. Granada City Council awareness-raising campaign. Slogan reads “If you give alms to beggars, you are financing social exclusion”.



Since 1983 the city has applied a series of measures for attending to homeless people. However, a fundamental milestone was reached with the design and application of the Strategic Municipal Plan for the Eradication of Homelessness 2019-2022, approved unanimously by all the political parties. The Plan was based on the following general principles: first, housing, the creation of real spaces for participation, listening, help, care, advice, economic support and training for this group. The Plan also stated that the early detection of this problem amongst people in the streets was essential, and that networks should be formed with NGOs and voluntary associations.

The most striking aspect of the Plan was its general objective, based on a diagnostic analysis which we believe was correct but lacking in detail. The aim was to prevent and tackle homelessness through twelve strategic lines which were broken down into specific objectives and actions. The way of measuring their effects was also stipulated. To achieve this, the Plan included a proposed budget between 2019 and 2022 of almost 500,000 euros, most of which was to be financed by the City Council (60%), the Regional Government of Andalusia (23%), and the Ministry (17%).

Figures 11 and 12. Campaign against homelessness by Granada City Council. Slogan reads “Don’t turn your face away so that she/he can see your heart”.



Source: Granada City Council

At the time of writing, the results of this Plan were being assessed and have yet to be published. We do not know whether another specific plan has been prepared for the coming years.

It is clear that a lot of NGOs are actively collaborating to improve the living conditions of homeless people. Of these, UGR Solidaria has collaborated with AGRAFEM, APDHA, ASOCIACIÓN HERMANICOS DE SAN JOSÉ, AYUNTAMIENTO DE GRANADA, BANCO DE ALIMENTOS, CALOR Y CAFÉ, CARITAS DIOCESANA DE GRANADA, CRUZ BLANCA, CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA (Granada), DIÁLOGO Y ACCIÓN, EDICOMA, FUNDACIÓN ATENEA, OCREM, ORDEN HOSPITALARIA SAN JUAN DE DIOS, PROVIVIENDA and PROYECTO HOMBRE.

The university community can collaborate with these NGOs through UGR Solidaria, by doing voluntary work. Among other questions, it is essential to ensure that people in this situation know where they can get food, where they can sleep and where to find help and advice. Although it requires updating, the information currently available at the City Council is as follows:

Figure 13. Guide to the Services available to homeless people in the city of Granada.



https://ocrem.org/files/upload/GUIA_DE_RECURSOS_mayo_11.pdf

- Municipal Centre for Attention and Advice to Homeless People. People passing through (COAST)
- Volunteers for Development
- OCREM Sheltered Housing. Immediate Attention/Shelter for Women.
- OCREM Sheltered Housing. Women’s Rehabilitation Service.
- OCREM Sheltered Housing. Family Support/House Service.
- Madre de Dios Sheltered Housing. Low Requirement/Immediate Attention Service. Sheltered Diocese Housing Foundation-Caritas.
- Madre de Dios Sheltered Housing. Immediate Attention/Shelter Service. Sheltered Diocese Housing Foundation-Caritas .
- Madre de Dios Sheltered Housing. Rehabilitation Attention Service Sheltered Diocese Housing Foundation-Caritas.
- Residential Care Service.
- Sheltered Diocese Housing Foundation-Caritas.
- Calor y Café Sheltered Flats.
- CEA-APREX Day Centre
- Sheltered Diocese Housing Foundation-Caritas Day Centre.
- San Juan de Dios Soup Kitchen.
- Regina Mundi Soup Kitchen
- San Vicente de Paul Soup Kitchen
- Rodrigo de Triana Soup Kitchen
- Distrito Chana Soup Kitchen
- Distrito Norte Soup Kitchen
- COAST Workshop
- Luz Casanova Workshop

Figure 14. Granada City Council Centres that attend to homeless people.

Centre	District	Field	Ownership	Address	Telephone
<u>Centre for Attention and Advice to Homeless People</u>	Zaidin	Social Services	Municipal	C/Santa Rosalía nº 6, Bajo (Granada)	958180047
<u>Shelter for homeless families (OCREM)</u>	Beiro	Social Services	Private	C/ Arzobispo Pedro de Castro 7	958159487
<u>Shelter for homeless women (OCREM)</u>	Beiro	Social Services	Private	C/ Arzobispo Pedro de Castro, 7 (Granada)	958 159 487
<u>"Luz Casanova" day centre for homeless people (Sheltered Diocese Housing Foundation)</u>	Beiro	Social Welfare	Private	C/ Dr. Azpitarte nº3 (Granada)	958 202 611
<u>Shelter for homeless men. Residencia "Madre de Dios" (Sheltered Diocese Housing Foundation)</u>	Centro	Social Services	Archdiocese	C/Varela, nº 20 (Granada)	958 225 489
<u>San Vicente de Paul Charitable Association (Regina Mundi Parish)</u>	Ronda	Institutional	Private	C/Arabial nº 61 (Granada)	958261090 / 655981628

Source: The authors on the basis of information from Granada City Council

The goal of ensuring that no-one should have to beg or sleep rough is a challenge that must be faced. To this end we must continue working at a local scale, via networks that involve the entire society.

TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ALSO THROUGH VOLUNTEERING. CASE STUDY: VOLUNTERING AT THE UGR

It is worth remembering that *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”* (Art. 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

And also that *“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control”* (Art. 25.1 UDHR)

Not working to defend human rights implies accepting that they continue to be breached. To allow breaches to continue happening means accepting that human life has a different value depending on where we are born or live.

University students in general and geography students in particular have a particular responsibility in this field, as we have the necessary tools to analyse and diagnose these problems and to make proposals that can help solve them.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Asociación de Caridad de San Vicente de Paul (Parroquia Regina Mundi)
<https://www.granada.org/inet/wpim.nsf/xtod/F099FDD9C91432D9C125728A00440B14>

AROPE (2022). 12º Informe 2022 El estado de la Pobreza. Seguimiento de los indicadores de la Agenda UE 2030. 2015-2022 <https://www.eapn.es/estadodepobreza/ARCHIVO/documentos/informe-AROPE-2022-resumen-ejecutivo.pdf>

Ayuntamiento de Granada. Guía de Servicios para personas sin hogar de la ciudad de Granada.
<https://docplayer.es/13142470-Centro-municipal-de-orientacion-y-atencion-social-para-personas-sin-hogar-transeuntes-coast.html>

Casa de acogida para familias sin hogar (OCREM)
<https://www.granada.org/inet/wpim.nsf/xtod/ODA99856F5C3A7A3C12579B4002D5CD7>

Casa de Acogida para hombres sin hogar. Residencia "Madre de Dios" (Fundación Casas Diocesanas de Acogida)
<https://www.granada.org/inet/wpim.nsf/xtod/7B1C0583952045E1C1256FA20040DFCE>

Centro de día para personas sin hogar "Luz Casanova" (Fundación casas diocesanas de acogida)
<https://www.granada.org/inet/wpim.nsf/xtod/7E1399F748B0060EC12579B4002C741D>

EUROSTAT (2023). People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by NUTS 2 regions 2021
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/database>

MEDEA3 Atlas de Mortalidad del Proyecto MEDEA3 <https://www.uv.es/medea/medeapp.html>

Centro de Orientación y Atención Social a Personas sin Hogar
<https://www.granada.org/inet/wpim.nsf/xtod/14ACA9F8F2186697C1256FA20040DD30>