

# Spain - Andalusia

2026





# Andalusia project

## Context : an intensive and unequal agricultural model

The provinces of Almería and Huelva constitute the **main agricultural production basin of Spain and Europe**: tomatoes, berries, watermelons, cucumbers, courgettes, and more. These areas, nicknamed “the sea of plastic,” stretch over several thousand square kilometres, forming a landscape dominated by greenhouses. This massive production supplies a significant share of European markets, but at the cost of **overexploiting local resources**; and above all, relying heavily on a **predominantly migrant workforce**, often undocumented and paid well below the legal minimum.

A bilateral Spain–Morocco agreement brings **19,000 seasonal women workers** to Spain each year under criteria that are, to say the least, revealing: (i) women from rural backgrounds (implicitly implying a low level of education, or even complete illiteracy), (ii) mothers whose families must remain in Morocco.

The intent is to minimise the likelihood that these workers settle permanently in Spain. However, there is **no official housing system or social support mechanism** in place for them. Left entirely to fend for themselves, they live in **degrading conditions** and are dependent on the goodwill of the farm operators. The hypocrisy of this situation is evident: the Andalusian economy depends on this sector while keeping the very people who sustain it in extreme vulnerability.

## The “*chabolas*” : symptoms of intensive production

The **constant demand for labour**, the tolerance of an **economic model built on precariousness, and the absence of adequate housing solutions** for migrant workers have led to the **creation and expansion of informal agricultural settlements where thousands of people live in extreme vulnerability**. These makeshift shelters, known as “*chabolas*” are built from recovered waste materials: plastic, wooden pallets, greenhouse tarp, and more.

# Andalusia project

This situation is further reinforced by the lack of involvement of public administrations, which have proven unable to provide a coherent response to the housing crisis and to the systemic exploitation of this workforce. Two profiles coexist within the settlements: on the one hand, seasonal workers, for whom these places serve as a temporary solution; on the other, permanent residents who have been living there for several years.

Although all experience similar deprivation of rights, the realities vary according to the territories and their agricultural systems. In Almería, intensive agriculture operates year-round thanks to successive cultivation cycles, generating a constant demand for labour. In Huelva, production (focused mainly on berries) remains largely seasonal, although the harvesting periods are gradually lengthening. It is currently estimated that **30 to 40% of workers there live in the settlements on a permanent basis.**

## AFFECTED POPULATION

In the agricultural settlements of Níjar, it is estimated that more than **3,500 people** live across the various camps, approximately 85% of whom are men. In the province of Huelva, nearly **40 scattered settlements** have been identified, hosting an estimated **2,500 people during the low season**, a figure that can **triple** during the berry-picking campaigns. **The proportion of women is significantly higher there (around 30%).**

Most inhabitants come from Morocco (50%) and West Africa (Mali, Ghana, Senegal, Gambia), with a smaller number originating from Equatorial Guinea and Latin America (Colombia and Venezuela, mainly women involved in prostitution). The average age of men ranges from 20 to 40, while for women it is 30 and above.

# Living conditions

## Abusive working conditions

- **The average hourly wage ranges from €3.50 to €5**, amounting to roughly €40 for workdays lasting between **8 and 12 hours, 6 to 7 days a week**.
- Lunch **breaks are extremely short** and must be compensated by additional working time at the end of the day.
- **Widespread non-compliance with safety and hygiene standards**, particularly regarding exposure to pesticides and other chemical fertilizers.

## Administrative exclusion & exploitation

- **Serious obstacles to municipal registration** (empadronamiento), which is **necessary to access certain services** (regularisation processes, housing, social assistance, etc.).
- The emergence of **fraudulent networks** organised by employers, exploiting the vulnerability of migrants and charging them:
  - **€600 to €1,500** for registration,
  - **€6,000 to €8,000** for work contracts, with no guarantees.

## Lack of drinking water, electricity, and sanitation

- **No safe access to electrical connections** (increasing fire hazards) and no public lighting
  - Makeshift electrical hookups are built by residents (Níjar).
  - Use of car batteries, campfires, etc., when no connection is possible (Huelva).
- **Extremely limited access to water**
  - **No drinking water**
  - **No running water** in certain locations (e.g., Lucena del Puerto, Huelva)
  - The nearest water points are located several **kilometres away**
- **Running water is stored** in plastic containers previously used for **chemical inputs and agricultural pesticides**
  - Significant **increase in health risks**
  - Likely contributing factor to the **rising number of cancer cases**





# Living conditions

## Geographic isolation and road accidents

- Most settlements are **geographically isolated** from urban areas, with virtually **no public transportation network**
  - **Long distances must be covered to access essential goods and services** (drinking water, food, medical care): between 1 and 3 hours on foot.
- **Total lack of safety measures** for pedestrians and cyclists, resulting in **frequent accidents during workers' daily movements**.



## Health, environmental, and fire risks

- **Increasing number of cancer cases, particularly among women** (breast, uterine, ovarian).
  - Long-term exposure to chemicals and agricultural inputs is very likely correlated.
- **No waste collection system and significant accumulation of waste within the settlements**
  - Spread of **diseases**
  - Severe **environmental degradation**
- **Very high fire risks**
  - Construction materials used
  - Lack of access to running water
  - Accumulation of waste
  - Very dry climate and strong winds

## Addictions and mental health

- **Drug-related issues** linked to unbearable living conditions
  - Use of cannabis and synthetic drugs
  - Consumption of homemade substances (glue, gasoline, chemical products)
- **Worsening of mental health**
- Increased **stigma** and **stereotyping**

# Gender-based and sexual violence

**Migrant women represent the most fragile and silenced face of the Andalusian agricultural system.** They live at the intersection of **multiple forms of violence**: economic, social, administrative, and gender-based. Isolated, undocumented, and separated from their families who remain in their countries of origin, they face conditions that heighten their vulnerability. Men, by contrast, typically arrive single and without children. Women must navigate **material precariousness, exploitation at work, and the constant fear of abuse**. On top of these hardships comes the need to find **informal forms of protection**, sometimes at the cost of dependency-based relationships with younger men, or entry into prostitution and trafficking networks. This accumulation of vulnerabilities makes them the **group most exposed to violence and social invisibility** in Andalusia.

Due to the seasonal nature of agricultural work, the number of women is much higher in the chabolas of the province of Huelva: between **800 and 1,000** in the settlements covered by the association Huelva Acoge during the low season.

There is a **growing number of cases of prostitution and trafficking**, with two distinct levels of prostitution. The countries of origin of the established networks are primarily in Latin America (Colombia and Venezuela), although the patterns are evolving for reasons that remain unclear (factors internal to the countries of origin, dismantling and relocation of networks, probable local competition, etc.).

- **“Voluntary” prostitution**

- May be seasonal and linked to a lack of work in agricultural operations
- Or permanent, serving as a way to compensate for insufficient wages from farm work

- **Forced prostitution**

- In exchange for various **advantages or favours** (protection, employment, the right to remain in a given area, etc.)
- Through an **established prostitution/trafficking network** that brings women specifically for this purpose

→ There is a **high number of abortions and significant sexual and reproductive health issues** (lack of awareness, lack of access to and continuity of medical care, insufficient protection and contraception, etc.).

# Areas of intervention

Local associations have played an essential role for many years, despite limited resources. They **distribute basic necessities, provide support with legal and administrative procedures, and offer social, psychological, and language assistance**. Some also provide **dignified housing, professional training, or guidance toward formal employment**.

Beyond emergency response, these organisations adopt a **comprehensive approach centred on dignity, rights, and personal autonomy**. Their in-depth knowledge of the field and the trust they have built with the communities make them **key actors for any future project or partnership**.

Our exploratory mission highlighted an **urgent logistical need**. Associations face a **critical shortage of logistical resources**, particularly suitable vehicles. The settlements are isolated, difficult to reach, and require frequent travel, which volunteers currently manage using their personal vehicles, often unsuitable and costly to maintain. **This logistical constraint directly limits essential activities** (distribution of goods, administrative support, psychological assistance, or transport of equipment) and **reduces the overall effectiveness of field interventions**.

Although Van For Life ultimately aims to intervene across the entire affected territory, it appears essential to first **concentrate efforts on the province of Huelva, where the situation of migrant women is particularly concerning**.

## Priority areas

### Targeted support addressing the specific vulnerabilities of women

1

- Support for prevention, awareness-raising, and protection initiatives
- Facilitation of the distribution of essential goods (hygiene items, sexual health supplies, safety equipment)
- Support for volunteer training and awareness on gender-related issues and violence
- Participation in the creation of a secure mobile space (van) dedicated to listening, support, and guidance

# Areas of intervention

## Improvement of environmental and health conditions

2

- Strengthening **waste collection and management**
- Support for local **clean-up or participatory recycling initiatives**
- Implementation of **secure water-access points** and **reduction of waste** related to water consumption
- Promotion of **awareness-raising activities on hygiene and environmental health** (particularly among women and youth)

## A van as a strategic lever



- **Facilitated access** to remote, scattered, and hard-to-reach areas
- **Transport of humanitarian supplies:** hygiene kits, condoms, drinking water, basic medical equipment, lamps, etc.
- **Creation of a safe and confidential mobile space** for individual consultations, ensuring discretion and security (especially for women who are victims of violence).
- **Strengthened field presence:** more regular and structured outreach, reduced logistical costs, etc.
- **Support for mobility and inter-association coordination:** easier transport of staff and equipment, pooling of resources



**A true mobile centre for humanitarian and social support, serving the most isolated populations!**



# Objectives

## Acquisition and outfitting of a van

During the first year of implementation, a significant share of the budget will be allocated to acquiring and outfitting the humanitarian vehicle. This **initial investment represents a substantial cost, but it will be amortised over several years, making the project increasingly efficient over time.** We anticipate that between Year 1 and Year 2, **increasing our projected budget by only 13% will allow us to triple the number of direct beneficiaries.** This gradual model ensures long-term sustainability, progressive development, and financial coherence.

## Collaboration and strengthening of field activities

At this stage, our approach aims primarily to reinforce and facilitate the work of local actors already active in the field, rather than replacing or recreating existing services. **The goal is to address operational gaps,** particularly those related to:

- mobility and accessibility,
- continuity of social, legal, and psychological support,
- lack of resources for the development of new activities

## Target population

The exact number of direct and indirect beneficiaries remains difficult to quantify due to significant seasonal variations and the fluid, unregistered nature of the settlements. For the first year, we are aiming for a realistic target of **100 direct beneficiaries for access to drinking water (with the understanding that these goods will likely benefit a larger number of people) as well as for resources related to sexual and reproductive health.** Environmental activities, such as waste collection, will benefit **all residents of the targeted settlements as well as the surrounding community.**

## Priority geographic areas

The van will help facilitate and expand the **activities already carried out** by local associations in the **10 settlements** they currently cover. Distribution efforts and support services will be prioritised in the **areas identified as the most vulnerable: Lucena del Puerto** (geographic isolation) and **Palos de la Frontera** (high prevalence of prostitution and gender-based violence).



- **100 beneficiaries:** water, sexual and reproductive health
- **400 beneficiaries:** environmental health
- **1 to 3 partner** field associations

# Budget

| SPAIN PILOT PROJECT                                      |       |     |          |                   |  |
|--|-------|-----|----------|-------------------|--|
| <b>1. HUMAN RESOURCES</b>                                |       |     |          | <b>CHF83 088</b>  |  |
| CH Coordinator (100%, salary and social charges)         | 5174  | 12  | month    | CHF62 088         |  |
| SPA Coordinator/Driver (100%, salary and social charges) | 1750  | 12  | month    | CHF21 000         |  |
| <b>2. COMMUNICATION</b>                                  |       |     |          | <b>CHF3 600</b>   |  |
| IT and software  | 100   | 12  | month    | CHF1 200          |  |
| Communication costs                                      | 200   | 12  | month    | CHF2 400          |  |
| <b>3. VEHICLE PROVISION</b>                              |       |     |          | <b>CHF58 780</b>  |  |
| <b>3.1 Purchase and outfitting</b>                       |       |     |          | <b>CHF56 800</b>  |  |
| Vehicle purchase   | 35000 | 1   | véhicule | CHF35 000         |  |
| Vehicle outfitting                                       | 5000  | 1   | package  | CHF5 000          |  |
| Off-road preparation                                     | 6000  | 1   | package  | CHF6 000          |  |
| Insurance  | 2500  | 1   | year     | CHF2 500          |  |
| Registration   | 500   | 1   | package  | CHF500            |  |
| Maintenance  | 350   | 12  | month    | CHF4 200          |  |
| Fuel costs   | 300   | 12  | month    | CHF3 600          |  |
| <b>3.2 Delivery</b>                                      |       |     |          | <b>CHF1 980</b>   |  |
| Fuel and toll costs                                      | 800   | 1   | forfait  | CHF800            |  |
| Accommodation for 2 drivers                              | 140   | 4   | night    | CHF560            |  |
| Per diem for 2 drivers                                   | 20    | 16  | meal     | CHF320            |  |
| Return flights for drivers                               | 150   | 2   | flight   | CHF300            |  |
| <b>4. PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL GOODS</b>                   |       |     |          | <b>CHF38 000</b>  |  |
| Drinking water (100 people, 8L containers)               | 1000  | 12  | month    | CHF12 000         |  |
| 5L jerry cans  | 8     | 100 | unit     | CHF800            |  |
| Feminine hygiene products (100 people)                   | 1500  | 12  | month    | CHF18 000         |  |
| Medical supplies   | 600   | 12  | month    | CHF7 200          |  |
| <b>5. WASTE COLLECTION &amp; RECYCLING</b>               |       |     |          | <b>CHF19 800</b>  |  |
| Waste collection and recycling (2× per month)            | 600   | 24  | unit     | CHF14 400         |  |
| Meals for volunteers (15 people, 2× per month)           | 15    | 360 | meal     | CHF5 400          |  |
| <b>6. MONITORING &amp; EVALUATION</b>                    |       |     |          | <b>CHF6 000</b>   |  |
| 3 monitoring missions (1 week per mission, 2 people)     | 2000  | 3   | missions | CHF6 000          |  |
| <b>TOTAL SPAIN</b>                                       |       |     |          | <b>CHF209 268</b> |  |