



End all kinds of poverty in the world (First goal of the United Nations 2030 Agenda)

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NOTEBOOKS OF ARMADILLA SCS ONLUS

Syria: a new Constituent Assembly for the restoration of
the rule of law and for peace

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Introduction

Armadilla is a non-profit organization of social utility committed to international development cooperation (www.armadilla.coop). It also carries out training and information activities on the 2030 agenda issue proposed by the United Nations, for the defence of human rights and for the achievement of the 17 objectives for sustainable human development: <https://www.unric.org/it/agenda-2030>

In this context these Notebooks want to contribute to disseminate among the students and the public opinion to which Armadilla addresses, information, critical analysis, possible answers to the priority problems that are faced. The collection of all the Notebooks from 2015 to today can be found at:

<http://armadilla.coop/quaderni/>

In this paper we propose the theme of fighting poverty considering the first objective proposed by the 2030 Agenda: to put an end to all kinds of poverty in the world.

We propose a reasoning on what today means the concept of poverty and what can be the appropriate strategies and projects to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty in the world over the next 20 years.

What are the countries and areas where absolute poverty is most widespread?

How is it possible that ISTAT estimated that in Italy, in 2017, 1,778,000 families (6.9% of resident families) were in absolute poverty, for a total of 5 million and 58 thousand individuals (8.4% of the entire population)?

Why are the impoverishment of millions of people denounced, even in countries considered to be rich?

What is absolute poverty and relative poverty? What are the main causes that cause poverty? How can these levels of poverty be measured?

What are supposed to be the most appropriate policies to put an end to all kinds of poverty in the entire planet? And in Italy? What must be the contribution of international cooperation? How to combine the widespread need for humanitarian aid and assistance with the need to consolidate sustainable human development processes?

Many questions that we will try to give an account of sharing a vision proposed globally by the United Nations, taking back Amartya Sen and, locally, what is proposed by the Italian

Coalition against poverty (www.gcapitalia.it) and finally making specific reference to experts who have addressed this subject.

1. Poverty and wealth in the world

When we try to imagine what we mean by poverty, the first images that come to mind are those of undernourished children from some remote African village or Southeast Asia. But if we want to give a more elaborate definition of poverty, the problem becomes more complex and does not concern only distant countries of Africa, Asia or Latin America.

The faces of poverty can also be seen in Italy. They have the look of the stranger who has no work or home and attends the cafeterias of Caritas. They are young unemployed chronic or pensioners who fail with their income to pay rent and domestic utilities. There are many stories of loneliness of separated parents and children involved in situations of fragility, forced by material deprivation to live in the uncertainty of a positive future.

Multidimensional poverty index - MPI (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-MPI>) is the statistical instrument used by the United Nations to measure poverty, considering it in its multiple dimensions. It is an 'alternative' measure compared to the purely economic one, based exclusively on per capita income, and examines three determining factors for the well-being of the person: health, education, standards of life.

The following data on the world situation are summarized in the 2018 Report:

- 1.3 billion people on the planet live in a state of poverty.
- 83% of all multidimensional poor in the world live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
- Two-thirds of all poor MPI live in middle-income countries.
- Half of the multi-dimensional poor are children between the ages of 0 and 17.
- 85% of MPI poor live in rural areas.
- In 2015-2016, more than 364 million people are still poor (MPI) in India although in this country 271 million people have emerged from poverty in ten years.
- 560 million poor people live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- In South Sudan and Niger, over 90% of the populations are poor.
- In almost 70% of sub-Saharan sub-Saharan regions, over half of the population is poor. The greatest contribution to poverty in sub-Saharan Africa is nutrition.
- 546 million people in South Asia are in a state of poverty. In both Afghanistan and Pakistan, one person in four lives in severe poverty. 17 of the 19 poorest sub-national regions of South Asia are located in Afghanistan.
- 66 million people live in poverty in the Arab states. 70% of the poor MPI in the Arab states live in Sudan, Yemen and Somalia. In Somalia, 82% of people were multidimensional poor.
- 40 million people live in poverty in the Latin American region and in the Caribbean. Over 20% of people are identified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty in Haiti, Guatemala and

Honduras. In Haiti, over 5% of the total population is poor and lives in a family that has experienced the death of a child in the last five years.

- 118 million poor live in East Asia and the Pacific. The percentage of the poor in each country within the region varies from 46% in East Timor to less than 1% in Thailand. The major contributing factor to increasing poverty in East Asia and the Pacific is nutrition, accounting for 26% of the total multi-dimensional (MPI).

From the Oxfam Report 2018 "Rewarding work, not wealth" (www.oxfamitalia.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Rapporto-Davos-2018.-Recompensare-il-Lavoro-Non-la-Ricchezza.pdf) we report the following data:

- *Over the past year, the number of billionaires has increased as never before: one more every two days. There are currently 2,043 billionaires in the world (value in dollars), and nine out of ten are men. Their wealth has increased enormously, which, comparatively, represents 7 times the amount of resources needed to bring 789 million people out of extreme poverty.*
- *Of all the global wealth created in the last year, 82% went to 1% of the population while the 50% less wealthy has not benefited from any increase. While billionaires' assets have risen by \$ 762 billion a year, women contribute to the global economy by providing unpaid care work amounting to an annual value of \$ 10 trillion.*
- *According to new data provided by Credit Suisse, currently 42 people have the same wealth as the 3.7 billion less wealthy people; the number of people with the same wealth of the poorest 50% has been updated for last year from 8 last year to 6124.*
- *The richest 1% continue to possess more wealth than the rest of humanity. In many countries there is a similar situation. During 2017, research conducted by Oxfam and other subjects found that:*
 - a) *In Nigeria, the wealth interests earned in one year by the richest man would be enough to free two million people from extreme poverty. Despite nearly a decade of sustained economic growth, poverty over the same period has increased.*
 - b) *In Indonesia²⁷ the four wealthiest men have more than the poorest 100 million.*
 - c) *In the United States the three wealthiest people have the same patrimony as the poorest half of the population (about 160 million people). In Brazil, a citizen who receives the minimum wage should work 19 years to earn the same amount that a richer 0.1% of the population receives in a month. "*

2. What is poverty?

The dictionary defines poverty as "a state of indigence consisting of a level of income that is too low to allow the satisfaction of basic needs in terms of the market, as well as in an inadequate supply of goods and services of a social, political and cultural nature".

The traditional definition of poverty rests essentially on the concept of the unavailability of income and material goods, ie a situation in which one is not able to guarantee the pure physical efficiency of people. Starting from this concept, all focused on income, the strategies to fight poverty until the 60s were based on the best way to grow the Gross Domestic Product in the poor countries of the world.

Here the depositaries of knowledge were all Western-trained economists, often officials of international agencies, who spoke exclusively at the institutional level of politics. The debate focused above all on the concept, indicators, actions, but much less on the causes of poverty, especially in relation to rich countries. In the following years the concepts of absolute poverty and relative poverty are deepened.

The approach defended by the "Basic Needs" theorists, innovates the approach and focuses on the person and his basic needs: guaranteeing a basket of goods and services whose availability, for an individual, is a prerequisite to the quality of life.

In many contexts, poverty depends on the purchasing power guaranteed by income. An income of 10 Euro per day, absolutely insufficient to survive in Italy, inserts in the class of the wealthy in a Sub-Saharan African country.

But poverty also depends on the yardstick used: in a rich and democratic country, where there are fewer deprivations and there is a system of effective social, health and educational services, it will tend to have a different measurement criterion for evaluate how poor a person is and whether he has the freedom to live as he wishes.

The well-being of a person depends on the type of life that it is able to lead, that is, from what it is able to do and to be. Poverty becomes the failure to fulfill the essential functions of human life, hence the inability to fulfill one's functions.

The realization of these goals or operations certainly depends on the amount of economic resources available, but also on other factors: who we are, what characteristics we have, in what context we live on the family, economic, social and cultural level.

The EU, following the approval in 1975 of the first five-year Community Action Program against poverty, indicated a relative poverty line, equal to 50% of the average disposable income per adult equivalent in the member country of origin.

The World Bank used the concept of absolute poverty in poverty surveys initiated in 1990 and continued successively by indicating a lower limit of \$ 1 (more precisely \$ 1.25) per day, and an upper limit of twice the former.

When we speak of **absolute poverty** we refer to the idea of simple survival or that of a standard of life considered below a certain vital minimum. It is measured on the basis of a pre-established amount that is considered as the minimum income necessary to lead a socially integrated life in the country in question.

The needs that are most often identified as essential are nutrition, accommodation, clothing, health, education and hygiene (sometimes social life is added).

This list of needs is flanked by a list of consumption that allows the minimum satisfaction, then turning consumption, through market prices, in the amount of money needed. In this way a minimum income threshold is established that establishes the "poverty border".

This concept of poverty - qualified as "absolute" and therefore linked to basic physiological needs - is linked to concepts such as primary needs, the minimum vital, the minimum nutritional needs, the availability of essential goods and services for survival. In essence it is "absolute" because it is independent of the prevailing life standards within the reference community.

The limits of this concept are many. In fact, it is not easy to establish, in the first place, the minimum amount of consumption that guarantees survival (the man could be content with a piece of bread a day, but it is not said that then it is sufficient from the nutritional point of view); secondly, the definition of a minimum acceptable level of life involves the reference to a given historical, environmental and social situation: what is considered "minimum acceptable", for example today in Italy, is much higher than the minimum acceptable level of a century ago but also to the minimum of some poor country of Africa or Latin America.

Referring to a conception of poverty as a relative phenomenon makes it possible to overcome these drawbacks and to have a definition that is closer to reality. How can one say, for example, if one has a good education? At the beginning of the last century, knowing how hard to read and write was already considered sufficient, whereas after the Second World War, the elementary school diploma was at least required. The aqueduct has brought water into the houses only for some decades; and as before it was normal to take the water from the well, today it is run from the tap. Likewise, it could be said for every aspect of living condition that today are incredibly improved compared to periods not too far.

How could it be possible, in this continuous change of general conditions, to keep the **poverty line** unchanged? The changes that are evident in relation to the passage of time are not less important if compared to space instead. What is acceptable in a society with a low standard of living is unacceptable in another where living conditions are on average higher.

It is therefore preferable to put at the basis of every consideration on poverty a definition of **relative poverty**, correlated with the prevailing life standards within a given community and including needs that go beyond mere survival, dependent on the social, economic and cultural and therefore varies in time and space.

The first apparent inconsistency is explained by recalling the link between poverty and inequality. The measure of the spread of poverty is actually a measure of the extent of inequality. A generally poor country, but characterized by a very low inequality, will have a very low rate of poverty because a large part of the population lives in living conditions that are included within a small interval. The opposite of a medium rich country that is driven by a

strong inequality will find itself having a high number of poor people because many people live in conditions far from the average, beyond the poverty line.

The second objection is solved by recalling the definition of relative poverty and the reasons why it was preferred to that of absolute poverty.

It is clear that a social pensioner in Italy has a higher income than an Indian pariah, but it is even clearer that our social retiree must live in the Italy of two thousand, surrounded by people who have the average standard of living of Italians. today while the Indian pariah lives in his environment, immersed in age-old poverty. And just as they are separated from reality, it also makes no sense to mix them conceptually, making comparisons in truth devoid of meaning.

What we must never forget when we reason in terms of relative poverty is that the first essential operation is to define the territorial (or social) area of reference, because it is within it that the relationships of inequality and therefore of poverty; "everyone is poor or not poor in relation to the others among whom he lives".

Considering poverty as the extreme consequence of social inequality is very useful in operative terms because it involves the replacement of direct assistance to poor people, with social policy actions aimed at modifying the social mechanisms that produce inequality first, then poverty.

This link must be highlighted in order to counteract the "individualistic" conception of poverty with the aim of underlining that we are facing a social phenomenon, produced by the general social dynamic.

Inequality, however, for its being a constant feature of social life, can reasonably be contained within certain limits, but cannot be completely eliminated.

It is in relation to this that it is important to keep the distinction between poverty and inequality clear so as not to extend to the former all the attributes of the second. In particular, poverty would also be considered to be ineluctable. On the contrary, considering it as a form of inequality taken to the extreme, a precise objective is immediately identified to be put to an intervention aimed at reducing inequality: reducing it just enough to make poverty disappear.

3. 2030 Agenda: bring end to poverty

To put an end to all kinds of poverty, the 2030 Agenda focuses on four key words:

"People - We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can realize their potential with dignity and equality in a healthy environment.

Planet - We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, through conscious consumption and production, managing its natural resources in a sustainable manner and taking urgent measures regarding climate change, so that it can meet the needs of present and future generations. future.

Prosperity - We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and satisfying lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Peace - We are determined to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are free of fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace, nor peace without sustainable development "...

The goals proposed in Agenda 2030 are the following:

1.1. **By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people around the world, currently measured on the basis of those living on less than \$ 1.25 a day.**

1.2. **By 2030, reduce at least half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its forms, according to national definitions.**

1.3. **Implement at national level adequate social protection systems and security measures for all, including the lowest levels, and by 2030 reach a significant coverage of poor and vulnerable people.**

1.4. **By 2030, ensure that all men and women, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, together with access to basic services, private ownership, control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, new appropriate technologies and financial services, including microfinance.**

1.5. **By 2030, reinforce the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to extreme weather events, disasters and economic, social and environmental shocks.**

1.to **Ensure adequate mobilization of resources from different sources, including through development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and reliable means for developing**

countries, in particular the least developed countries, by implementing programs and policies to end to poverty in all its forms.

1.b Create robust policy systems at national, regional and international levels, based on development strategies for the poor and sensitive to gender differences, to support accelerated investments in actions to combat poverty.

Come porre fine alle povertà?

Starting from the concept that "to poverty" underlie more dimensions and contributing factors, intervention strategies to limit, combat or eliminate poverty can only be multidimensional, integral, articulated and complex.

First of all, a distinction must be made between cases of emergencies and / or interventions on absolute poverty (refugee camps, victims of war, exceptional events) and situations in which sustainable human development can be envisaged.

In this last case we need to be able to count on some minimum conditions such as:

- Absence of catastrophic natural events such as earthquakes, floods, prolonged and unexpected droughts.
- Internal climate of peaceful cohabitation therefore absence of conflicts both between states and internal (ethnic, religious, etc.).

For the eradication of poverty, we must redistribute wealth first of all on an international level: rich countries must renounce something or even eliminate waste; in this dimension there is also the individual effort of northern consumers who can make ethical choices.

For each country, an increase in per capita GDP must be accompanied by a policy aimed at reducing inequality in the distribution of income, which allows everyone to participate in the development process.

Consistent with the modern definitions of poverty, we find the following strategies that must be equipped with sufficient "flexibility" and relevance:

1. Greater investment by governments towards sectors that in recent decades have undergone privatization and reduced state intervention; then re-allocation of public spending to key sectors such as:

- Education: intended as an investment in training and retraining of teachers, combating school dropouts and failure; programs for including girls and adolescents in the education system; intercultural and bilingual programs aimed at specific ethnic minorities; attention to quality education also in peripheral areas.

- Health: training of qualified local personnel, both medical and paramedical; guarantee of supply of medicines and basic equipment also in peripheral areas; vaccination campaigns; attention to programs aimed at sexual and reproductive health; programs spread on the territory of attention to maternal and child health.
- Basic services: improving the livability of the environment, facilitating access to essential goods and services (water, energy, transport, communications) by people who have difficulty accessing it.

2. Promotion of actions in the economic field aimed at:

- Ensure the safety and food sovereignty of rural households with actions to support sustainable agriculture, the use of selected local seeds, low-cost technologies and low environmental impact. Micro-credit proposal to allow the survival of family micro-enterprises.
- Support the birth and / or consolidation of small craft businesses and businesses through micro credit, support for training to improve product quality.
- Support for the identification of marketing channels both on the national and international market for agricultural, artisanal, industrial and fair prices.
- The theme of female and youth micro-entrepreneurship introducing here an element of gender and intergenerational equity.

3. Keep in mind that out of poverty also means being able to count on certain conditions such as:

- Existence of international agreements such as the suppression of subsidies and duties that would allow products from poorer countries to compete freely with Western ones; abolition of subsidies to agricultural producers in rich countries that make local products uncompetitive.
- Elimination or mitigation of pressure on the governments of the European and American powers for forced trade liberalization without taking into account the times and processes under way in the various countries.
- Policies that allow access to fundamental resources such as land, labor, capital, to the majority groups of people excluded today.
- Control on illegal arms trade and regulation of arms exports by rich countries.
- Construction of efficient and fair tax systems.
- Fight against corruption in institutions.

Without these and other minimum conditions, even the most interesting and successful interventions risk to remain episodic and isolated, without really contributing to the eradication of poverty.

The multiplicity and diversity of actors on the international cooperation scene, as well as the need to concentrate efforts not to disregard the proposed objectives, requires a review of the coordination strategies in the aid interventions:

- Building equal and reciprocal relationships, which means thinking of partnerships between territories, considering all the subjects as equal actors, called to define the contents and the implementation modalities of the development processes. Aiming on reciprocity is essential to get out of the aid logic and maximize the added value that cooperation relationships can also represent for the North.
- Develop coordinated country plans capable of favoring process and system logic, ie preparing a planning with criteria of integrality, sustainability, continuity and participation, in coordination with local policies.

4. Poverty in Italy

ISTAT statistics on poverty in Italy concern the situation in 2017 and there are 1,778,000 resident families in total poverty in which 5,058,000 individuals live; compared to 2016, absolute poverty is increasing. The incidence of absolute poverty is 6.9% for families (6.3% in 2016) and 8.4% for individuals (7.9%).

The incidence of absolute poverty among minors remains high at 12.1% (1,208,000, 12.5% in 2016); it therefore stands at 10.5% among the families where there is at least one minor child, remaining very widespread among those with three or more minor children (20.9%).

The incidence of absolute poverty increased mainly in the Mezzogiorno for both families (from 8.5% in 2016 to 10.3%) and for individuals (from 9.8% to 11.4%), above all due to the deterioration recorded in the municipalities Center of metropolitan area (from 5.8% to 10.1%) and in smaller municipalities up to 50 thousand inhabitants (from 7.8% in 2016 to 9.8%).

Poverty also increases in the centers and suburbs of the metropolitan areas of the North. The incidence of absolute poverty decreases as the age of the reference person increases. The minimum value, equal to 4.6%, is in fact registered among the households with an over sixty-four-year-old reference person, the highest among households with a reference person under 35 (9.6%). As evidence of the central role of work and professional position, absolute poverty decreases among the employed (both dependent and independent) and increases among the unoccupied; in households with a worker reference person, the incidence of absolute poverty (11.8%) is more than double that of households with a reference person withdrawn from work (4.2%).

Compared to 2016, the incidence of absolute poverty for households with a reference person who has attained the most basic elementary license: from 8.2% in 2016, it reaches 10.7%. Families with an at least a qualified target, show values of incidence much lower, equal to 3.6%. Relative poverty also increases compared to 2016.

In 2017 it involved 3 million 171 thousand resident families (12.3%, against 10.6% in 2016), and 9 million 368 thousand individuals (15.6% against 14.0% the previous year). Like absolute poverty, relative poverty is more common among families with 4 members (19.8%) or 5 members and more (30.2%), especially among young people: it reaches 16.3% if the person reference is a under35, while it falls to 10.0% in the case of an ultra-sixty-four.

The incidence of relative poverty remains high for the families of workers and similar (19.5%) and for those with a reference person looking for employment (37.0%), the latter worsening compared to 31.0% in 2016. ☒ The difficulties for foreign-only families are confirmed: the incidence reaches 34.5%, with strong differences in the territory (29.3% in the Center, 59.6% in the South).

The incidence of absolute poverty is calculated on the basis of a threshold corresponding to the minimum monthly expenditure necessary to acquire a basket of goods and services that, in the Italian context and for a family with certain characteristics, is considered essential to a minimally acceptable standard of living. Families with a monthly expenditure equal to or less than the threshold value (which differs in terms of size and composition by age of the family, by geographical area and by type of municipality of residence) are classified as absolutely poor.

The indicators are also provided at the level of families and characteristics of the reference person within the family, and at the level of individuals, classified as poor if they belong to poor families.

In 2017 it is estimated that 1 million 778 thousand families (6.9% of resident families) are in absolute poverty in Italy, for a total of 5 million and 58 thousand individuals (8.4% of the entire population).

In both cases this is the highest value since 2005.

With reference to households, the increase compared to 2016 (from 6.3% to 6.9%) is due for two tenths of a percentage point to the growth in consumer prices which in 2017 was equal to + 1.2%. The Mezzogiorno registered a significant increase compared to the previous year (from 8.5% to 10.3%), confirming itself as the most disadvantaged area in the country.

The incidence of absolute poverty also increases for individuals (from 7.9% in the previous year to 8.4%), reaching the highest value in the South 2 (11.4%) among the allocations.

The intensity of poverty, which represents, in percentage terms, how much the monthly expenditure of poor families is on average below the poverty line, that is "how poor are the poor", is basically stable at 20.9% in 2017 (20, 7% the previous year) with the exception of Noon, where growth is observed (from 20.5% to 22.7%).

Among individuals in absolute poverty it is estimated that women are 2 million 472 thousand (incidence equal to 8.0%), minors 1 million 208 thousand (12.1%), young people 18-34 years 1 million and 112 thousand (10.4%, highest value since 2005) and the elderly 611 thousand (4.6%). The conditions of minors therefore remain critical: the value of the incidence, in fact, has not fallen below 10% since 2014; the values of the incidence among adults between the ages of 35 and 64 also grow over time (from 2.7% in 2005 to 8.1% in 2017).

The conditions of families with a younger child and those with elderly people are worsening.

Absolute poverty levels remain high for families with five or more members (17.8%), especially if couples with three or more children (15.4%).

In the long run, the growth of absolute poverty is more marked among households with four or five components and more: for those with 4 components the incidence goes from 2.2% in 2005 to 10.2% in 2017; for those of 5 components and more than 6.3% (of 2005) to 17.8%.

In 2017, the conditions of households with a younger child worsened compared to 2016: the incidence of absolute poverty rose to 9.5% from 7.2% (Table 3), continuing the substantial increase recorded since 2013. In fact, the incidence is high when at least one minor child is present in the family (10.5%) and reaches the maximum if there are three or more minor children (20.9%).

The incidence of poverty in families where there are elderly (4.8%) is more contained, but on the rise compared to the previous year, while it is 5.1% in families with an elderly person.

The incidence of poverty also increases for the group of families grouped generically in the "other" type (for example, there are families in which several households live together) where the value from 10.9% in 2016 reaches 15.7%.

The incidence of absolute poverty decreases as the age of the reference person increases. This inverse relationship is consolidated, albeit to a lesser extent, in 2017: in fact, it rose from 9.6% among households with a reference person aged 18-34 to 4.6% among those with an over sixty-four-year-old reference person. The age group of the referenced person 55-64 years shows an increase in the incidence (from 5.2% in 2016 to 6.7% in 2017).

Education continues to be among the factors that most affect the state of absolute poverty. The conditions of households are aggravated in which the reference person has attained the primary school license (from 8.2% in 2016 to 10.7%); this value is the highest observed in the

entire historical series since 2005. The families with an at least a qualified reference person show values of incidence much lower, equal to 3.6%.

Among the families with an employed and employed reference person, the highest incidence of absolute poverty is confirmed if the professional status is that of 'worker and assimilated' (11.8%); the incidence of poverty generally grows among the unoccupied (from 6.1% in 2016 to 7.7%) and reaches the maximum value among households with a reference person looking for employment (26.7%); while it remains below the average among the families withdrawn from work (4.2%).

The territory shows different profiles of discomfort. Compared to 2016, households residing in the suburbs of metropolitan areas and in the large municipalities of the North see their condition worsen, with an incidence of absolute poverty that reaches 5.7% from 4.2% in 2016. In the South, instead, the incidence of absolute poverty in the centers of metropolitan areas increases (from 5.8% in 2016 to 10.1%) and in smaller municipalities up to 50 thousand inhabitants (from 7.8% to 9.8%).

In 2017 the absolute poverty rate remained more contained, and below the average value, among households of only Italians (5.1%), although increasing (it was 4.4% in 2016), especially in Southern Italy (from 7.5% in 2016 to 9.1% in 2017). On the other hand, it stood at very high values among households with foreign components: 29.2% in those of foreigners alone, which show values above 20% in all the divisions, Noon exceeds 40%. For mixed households the value of the incidence is equal to 16.4, down compared to 2016.

The absolute poverty thresholds represent the values with respect to which the consumption expenditure of a family is compared in order to classify it absolutely poor or not poor. For example, for an adult (aged 18-59) who lives alone, the poverty threshold is equal to € 826.73 per month if he lives in a metropolitan area of the North, at € 742.18 if he lives in a small municipality in northern Italy, at € 560.82 if it resides in a small municipality in Southern Italy.

Relative poverty is also growing, especially in the South at Noon.

The estimate of the incidence of relative poverty (percentage of families and poor people) is calculated on the basis of a conventional threshold (poverty line), which identifies the value of consumption expenditure below which a family is defined as poor in terms concerning. The poverty threshold for a two-component family is equal to the average per capita monthly expenditure in the country, and in 2017 it was 1,085.22 euros (+ 2.2% compared to the threshold value in 2016, when it was equal to 1,061.35 euros). Families consisting of two people who have a monthly charge of less than or less than this value are classified as poor. For families of different sizes, the value of the line is obtained by applying an appropriate

scale of equivalence, which takes into account the economies of scale achievable as the number of components increases.

In 2017, it is estimated that there are 3 million 171 million families in conditions of relative poverty (with an incidence of 12.3% among all resident families), for a total of 9 million 368 thousand individuals (15.6% of the total population). Of these, 4 million 669 thousand are women (15.1%), 2 million and 156 thousand are minor (21.5%) and almost 1 million and 400 thousand elderly (10.5%).

The incidence of relative poverty increased compared to 2016 both in terms of households (from 10.6% in 2016 to 12.3%) and in terms of people (from 14.0% to 15.6%); this worsening is largely driven by the South (from 19.7% to 24.7% in terms of households, from 23.5% to 28.2% in terms of individuals).

The intensity of poverty⁴ in 2017 is equal to 24.1% and corresponds to an average equivalent expenditure of poor households of € 824.02 per month; in 2016 it was € 803.79 (24.3%).

For individuals, the incidence grows significantly among adults; for children, however, high values were confirmed, equal to 21.5%.

This indicator, in percentage terms, indicates how much the monthly expenditure of poor households is on average below the poverty line, that is "how poor the poor are".

At Noon, families with elderly people also showed signs of worsening conditions (from 16.3% in 2016 to 22.3%): those with 1 elderly show the highest growth (from 14.9% in 2016 to 21.2%).

Values lower than the national average are recorded among singles (6.1% for people under 65 and 7.6% for those over sixty-four), among couples without children (7.8% for couples with a person) benchmark under 65 and 8.3% for couples with an over sixty-four-year-old reference person).

With respect to age, the most affected families are those with a reference person under the age of 34 (16.3%); on the other hand, values below the national average were found among households with a reference person aged 55 or over (11.0% between 55-64-year-olds and 10.0% among the over-64s).

Considering the level of education of the reference person, signs of deterioration are found at the lower-middle levels: with no educational qualification or elementary license, from 15.0% to 19.6%, with a secondary school leaving certificate from 15, 0% to 16.6%. If the reference person has at least a diploma, the incidence is 6.5%.

Compared to 2016, a significant increase in the incidence is in the South for both families with a reference person with a very low educational qualification (primary school license or no educational qualification, from 24.6% to 35.7%) both for those with a reference person with high educational qualifications (diploma and above, from 11.6% to 14.1%).

The spread of relative poverty among the families with a reference person in a position of worker and assimilated (19.5%) is confirmed as the most marked among the employed; among the families of independent workers, the incidence is equal to 8.4%, stable compared to 2016. The highest growth is recorded among households with a reference person looking for employment (from 31% to 37.0%), follow those retired from work (from 8.0% to 9.0%).

At Noon, the growth concerns both the families of employed employees (from 18.3% to 22.0%), above all with a reference person framed among the workers and similar (from 27.6% to 32.7%), and those not employed (from 21.0% to 27.8%), looking for employment (from 40.1% to 48.8%) and retired from work, albeit to a lesser extent (from 18.0% at 21.5%).

For families living in the smaller municipalities (up to 50 thousand inhabitants but not belonging to the Suburbs of metropolitan areas) the incidence of relative poverty, equal to 13.3%, is higher than both the national average and that of the municipalities of metropolitan area (10.0%); the values relating to these municipal typologies are growing, especially in the South, where the municipalities of Centro metropolitan area reach 23.3%, more than double the percentage compared to 2016.

However, a different combination of factors emerges on the territory: at the Center and in the South, what has been observed for Italy as a whole, ie higher values (respectively 9.2% and 25.6%) in municipalities up to 50 thousand against 5.1% and 23.3% of the municipalities of the metropolitan area); in the North, instead, the incidence in the municipalities of the metropolitan area (6.9%) is higher than that of the smaller municipalities (up to 50 thousand inhabitants), and that of the municipalities Periphery metropolitan area and municipalities with 50.001 inhabitants and more (both types with an incidence of 5.7%).

Finally, the incidence of relative poverty is decidedly higher in families where foreigners are present: in those of foreigners alone it is equal to 34.5%, in mixed households it is equal to 23.9% (an improvement compared to 2016); the values of Italian households are decidedly more contained (10.5%), although increasing both in the North (to 3.5% from 2.9%) and in the South (to 23.5% from 18.3%).

As it is defined, the relative poverty line (for a family of two components is equal to the average expenditure per person in the country) shifts from year to year due to changes in both consumer prices and household consumption expenditure. In analysing the variation in the estimate, we must therefore take into account the combined effect of both aspects.

In 2017, the relative poverty line amounted to 1,085.22 euros, about 24 euros more than in 2016. The 2016 poverty line revalued in 2017, based on the consumer price index for the entire community (+ 1.2%), is equal to € 1,074.09 and the incidence of poverty is thus equal to 11.9% (3 million and 72 thousand poor families); the difference in the incidences between the revalued 2016 and the 2017 standard lines does not show significant variations.

The political discussion remains open about how much to invest in emergency assistance policies (due when they are the only choice possible - a patient needs treatment, a hungry person before giving food to survive, then he is asked to earn it) and how much for overcome emergencies in sustainable development policies, promoting employment and improving training systems, research and technological innovation.