



## COVID-19: from health to social emergency

**FEBA launches a Social Emergency Fund to secure the activity of European Food Banks**

Brussels, 21 March 2020

In these challenging times, from Tromsø to Malta, from Lisbon to Kiev, **European Food Banks across Europe are doing what they do best – recovering surplus food to assist charitable organizations and feed people in need.**

The COVID-19 pandemic is hitting Europe hard. **The current health emergency will most likely be followed by a social emergency due to an economic crisis.**

In such situation **it is necessary to respond the emergency today but also to plan a set of actions to meet future challenges:**

- Increase of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, including food insecurity;
- Increase of food demand from charitable organizations and the most deprived;
- Necessity to adapt the activity of European Food Banks to a new environment, causing operational and expenditure costs;
- Recruitment of new and additional volunteers and employees to ensure the continuity of the activity;
- Potential reductions in funding due to lost wages and sudden unexpected expenses.

For these reasons, **the European Food Banks Federation launches a European COVID-19 Social Emergency Fund, an effort to secure the activity of European Food Banks.**

The COVID-19 Social Emergency Fund is established to support the activity of the European Food Banks Federation and its members during the Covid-19 crisis and to meet costs or financial obligations that may occur to address the social emergency in the near future. This Fund is essential to ensure European Food Banks can support charitable organizations and to the most vulnerable people in our society.

**We call on corporations, foundations, organizations, and private citizens to join efforts and contribute to the funding of the European COVID-19 Social Emergency Fund.**

We need the commitment of each person for the good of all, to tackle this crisis today and tomorrow.

*“Pandemic crisis is now, post-pandemic season will stretch for many years! Especially for the most deprived members of society. The action of Food Banks throughout the world and particularly in Europe has proven invaluable in assisting charities and people to combat food insecurity. For the first time in its history, the European Food Banks Federation is calling on the largest possible public to assist Food Banks in the whole of Europe. There is a need to raise 10 million Euros to fund the expansion and the running of efficient Food Banks.*

*This is the time to show solidarity with 31,700 people who mostly dedicate their time and work as volunteers. This is the time to support the values of Europe: solidarity, generosity and care”, said Jacques Vandenschrik, President of the European Food Banks Federation.*

Jacques Vandenschrik  
President of the European Food Banks Federation



### About FEBA

The European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) is a European non-profit organization and works in collaboration with 24 Members and 5 Associate Members in European countries. For more than 30 years, FEBA mission has consisted in representing its membership at European and international level, supporting and strengthening food banks in Europe by providing training, sharing best practice and knowledge, and developing partnerships, and fostering the creation of new Food Banks.

FEBA brings together 421 Food Banks and branches which are committed to fight against food waste and to feed the most deprived. Our members provide 4.3 million meals each day to 9.3 million most deprived people through 45,700 charitable organizations thanks to the professionalism of 31,700 co-workers (85% volunteers). In addition to surplus food from the food supply chain, FEBA members also redistribute food from the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD) and the Fruits and Vegetables withdrawal scheme, as well as from individual donations.

