



FEAD and the European Food Banks Federation

2019 Implementation Report



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1.

The FEAD and the European Food Banks Federation: an overview

Established in 2014, the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) has been addressing the worst forms of poverty in the EU, such as food deprivation, child poverty and homelessness, with a total allocation of €3.8 billion (current prices) for the programming period 2014-2020. The EU provides up to 85% of funding, which is complemented by the Member States' own resources. This brings the total value of the fund to around €4.5 billion.

Member States can use the fund in two ways:

- for a food and/or basic material assistance operational programme (OP I); and/or
- for a social inclusion operational programme (OP II)¹.

Twenty-three Member States selected OP I, while four opted for OP II. No Member State has availed itself of the possibility to have both types.

Sole European fund to address the most severe forms of poverty, the FEAD has been instrumental to meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable citizens. Furthermore, in addition to alleviating poverty through food and/or basic material assistance, the FEAD has introduced innovation offering possibilities to Member States to trigger real processes of social inclusion.



12.7M

people supported by
FEAD per year between
2014 and 2017

1.3M

tons of food was
distributed between
2014 and 2017²

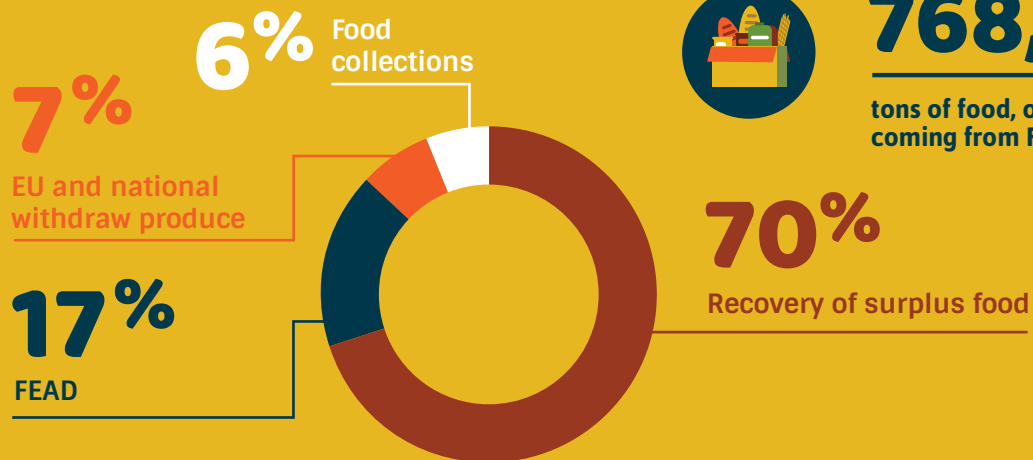
¹ According to the Commission Staff Working Document, **Mid-Term Evaluation of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived** (p.7), this is the detail regarding operational programmes: OP I Food: BE, BG, EE, ES, FI, FR, MT, PL, SL, UK, OP I Basic material: AT and OPI Food and Basic material: CY, CZ, EL, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, PT, RO, SK; OP II - Social Inclusion: DE, DK, NL, SE.

² European Commission, **Commission staff working document: Mid-term evaluation of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived**, 27 March 2019



Since its entry into force, some of the members of the European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) have been involved in the implementation of the fund and they have contributed to the delivery of food and/or basic goods to charities helping people in need. Although the core mission of FEBA members consists in preventing food waste and reducing food insecurity through the recovery and redistribution of safe and good food rescued from becoming food waste, the **FEAD represents a complementary source of supply to the surplus food recovered from the food value chain**, and also to other channels such as fruits and vegetables withdrawn from the market and the food collected from individual donations.

Sources of food recovered by Food Banks³



9.5M

most deprived people were helped by FEBA network in 2019 through

45,283

local partner organisations thanks to the professionalism of

32,280

co-workers (84% volunteers) and providing

768,000

tons of food, of which 17% coming from FEAD



A small fund with an ambitious objective

The Fund shall promote social cohesion, enhance social inclusion and therefore ultimately contribute to the objective of eradicating poverty in the Union by contributing to achieving the poverty reduction target of at least 20 million of the number of persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion in accordance with the Europe 2020 strategy, whilst complementing the Structural Funds.

The Fund shall contribute to achieving the specific objective of alleviating the worst forms of poverty, by providing non-financial assistance to the most deprived persons by food and/or basic material assistance, and social inclusion activities aiming at the social integration of the most deprived persons. The Fund shall complement sustainable national poverty eradication and social inclusion⁴.

³ FEBA, **Annual Report 2019**, June 2020

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, 11 March 2014



2.

FEAD 2019 Highlights

With the aim of collecting data and information that can prove the impact of the FEAD, at the beginning of July 2020, FEBA circulated a survey about the implementation of the FEAD in 2019 to the 12 members which have been benefiting from the fund: Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, and Spain⁵.

The survey was mainly focused on the FEAD campaign 2019 and the recent specific measures amending the FEAD Regulation to meet COVID-19 related challenges⁶. This report collects the answers provided by 10 out of 12 FEBA members which were involved in the implementation of the FEAD⁷.

⁵ As regards Greece it is specified that in 2019 the Food Bank Greece stored 53,193 kgs of FEAD food upon request of the municipality of Athens but was not allowed to redistribute it to its affiliated charities.

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 2020/559 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards the introduction of specific measures for addressing the outbreak of COVID-19, 24 April 2020

⁷ Countries that replied to the survey: Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, and Spain. No replies from Poland and Slovakia.



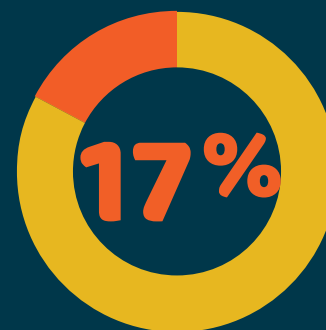
FEBA members received food coming from the FEAD and/or national funds/programmes. They are Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain.

Total amount of food coming from FEAD for the 12 FEBA members



126,269

tons of FEAD food redistributed



of the total amount of food redistributed by European Food Banks in 2019 (768,000 tons of food)

37%

to

Total amounts of distributed FEAD food varied in different countries from

4%

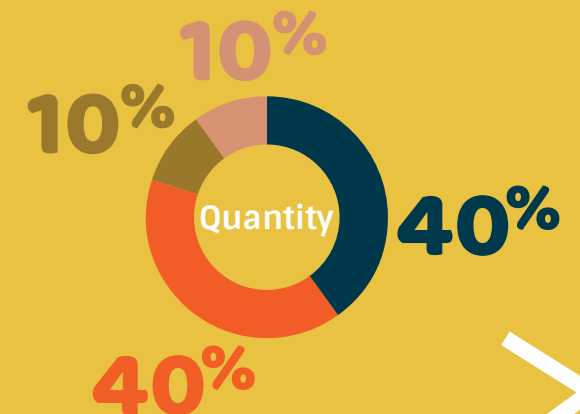
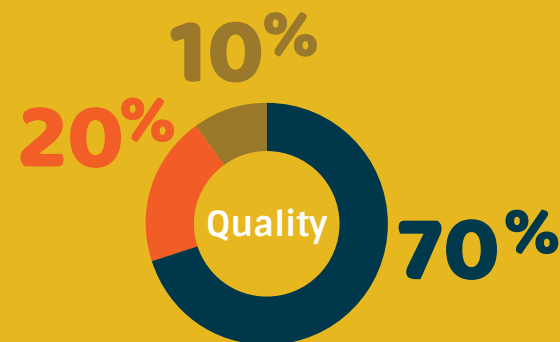
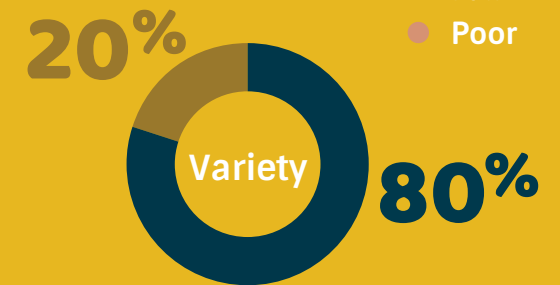
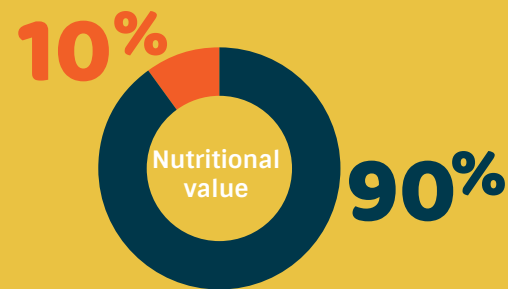




In relation to quantity, quality, variety, and nutritional value, respondents expressed a positive opinion of FEAD food. The variety of the FEAD food ranged from everyday basic goods, such as flour, pasta, rice, sugar and many more to canned and frozen products, including meat, vegetables and fruit, but also other food stuff, for instance fresh fruit and vegetables, chocolate or coffee and tea.

In relation to FEAD food, how do you evaluate ?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor



10,048

local partner organizations received food and/or basic goods from the FEAD through FEBA members⁸

almost

5M



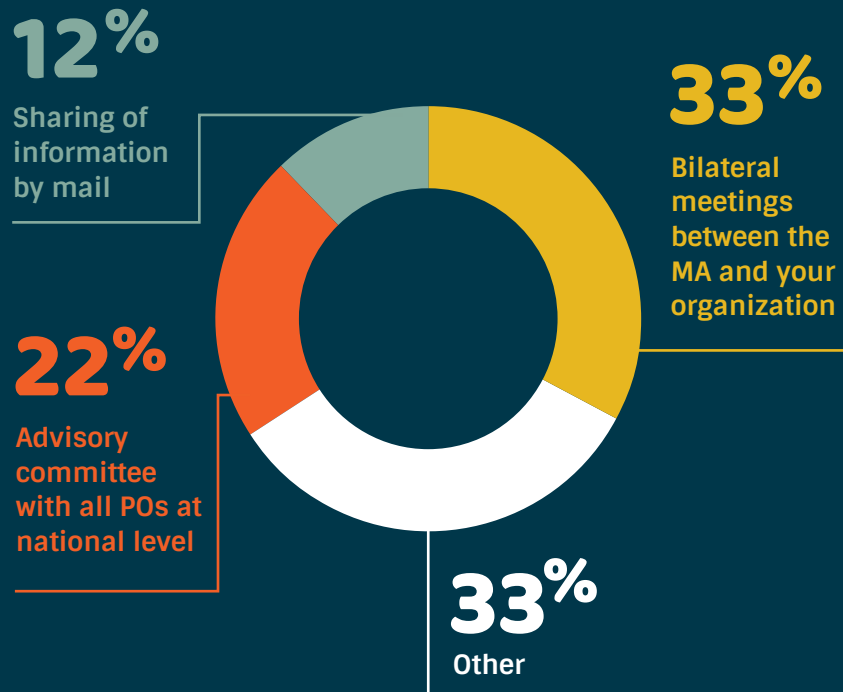
deprived people benefited of food and/or basic goods from the FEAD as well as food coming from other sources (e.g. surplus food from food supply chain, donated food from food collections, etc.)

⁸ Answers from 7 FEBA members: Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Italy, Spain

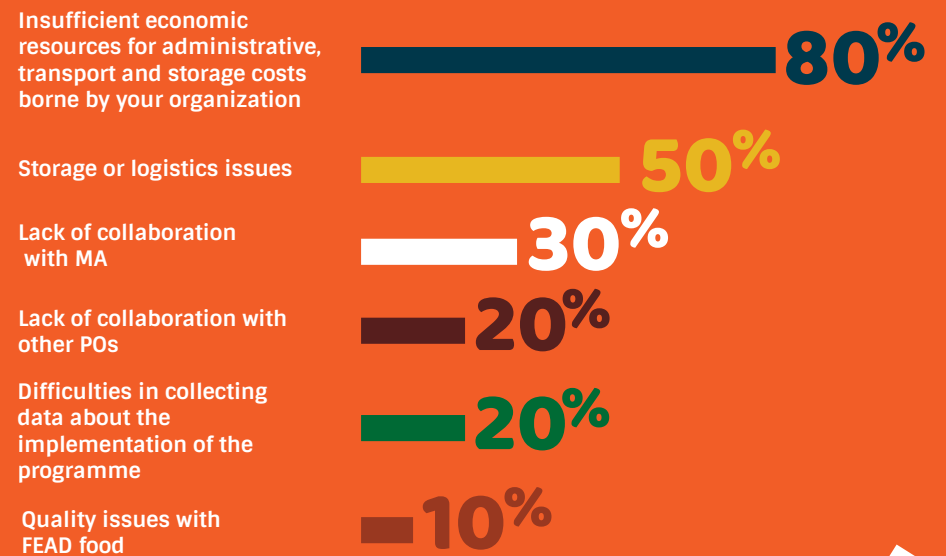


At national level the FEAD is implemented by Managing Authorities (MA) in collaboration with a variety of Partner Organizations (PO) such as FEBA members and other civil society organizations. Some questions of the survey focused on the relationship between Managing Authorities and FEBA members as well as the topic addressed during the meetings.

How was your organization involved by the MA?

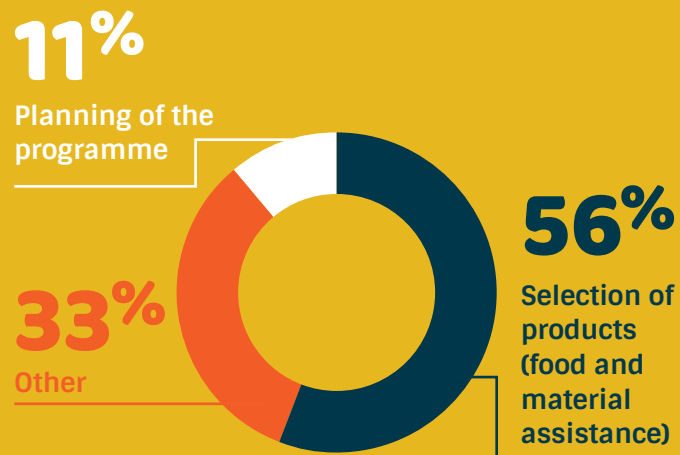


What topics were addressed at the meetings between the MA and POs?



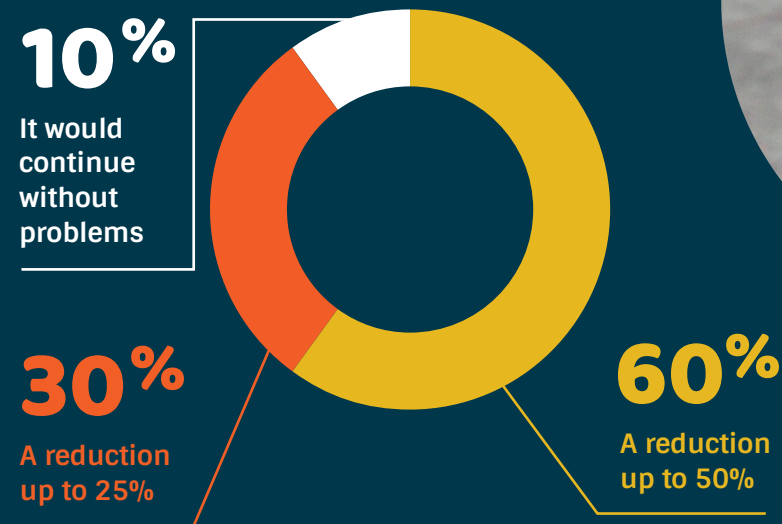
The survey highlighted some challenges like insufficient economic resources for administrative, transport and storage costs borne by FEBA network for 80% of respondents, the lack of storage or logistic issues for 50% of respondents, the lack of collaboration with Managing Authorities for 30%, the lack of collaboration with other Partner Organizations and difficulties in collecting data for 20%, and finally quality issues with FEAD food (10%).

What are the main challenges?



The findings of the survey show that the FEAD has a decisive impact on the distribution of food by Food Banks to local affiliated local partners organisations and its absence would have very important consequences. For 60% of respondents, its absence would mean a reduction of the activity between 25-50%, and for 30% it would mean a reduction of 10-25%.

In your opinion, what would be the consequence of the absence of FEAD for the activity of your organization?





The survey highlighted the following positive aspects of FEAD

80%

of respondents consider that the availability of FEAD facilitates to address the needs of local partner organisations

90%

of respondents consider FEAD to have a positive impact on the diet (quantity and variety of products) of the most deprived

70%

of respondents consider that the availability of FEAD releases economic and non-economic resources to be allocated to other activities of social inclusion for the most deprived (e.g. health, education, home, work, etc.)

70%

of respondents consider that FEAD gets the local partner organisations and the final beneficiaries being involved in paths towards social inclusion (social skills, training, job search, etc.)

80%

of respondents consider that FEAD facilitates the possibility to deliver collaboration between their organization and other local partner organisations

90%

of respondents consider that FEAD facilitates the collaboration between their organization and the territory (e.g. social services, public administrations, etc.)



70%

of respondents consider that FEAD contributes to making the local partner organizations and the final beneficiaries feel part of the local community

60%

of respondents declared that through FEAD they perceive the European institutions closer to their organisations and to the most deprived in Europe





< 3.

FEAD and the European Food Banks at the time of COVID-19

COVID-19 has shed the light on the role played by the members of the European Food Banks Federation. They are showing evidence of resilience through their daily dedication and determination and by being a reliable partner for charities helping those in need.

According to a [joint statement](#) by the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and International Fund For Agricultural Development, and the World Health Organization:

”

The economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic is devastating: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly

690M could increase by up to 132M by the end of the year.



This is happening also in Europe. Our latest report [“European Food Banks today: commitment, creativity, and openness to change”](#), released in September 2020, highlights a

30%

increase in food demand coming from new targets of poverty: jobless people, families with children and elderly people living alone



As regards FEAD support, some of the main challenges highlighted by respondents are **the difficulty to cope with the higher number of requests of support**, especially from the charities.

As an example, the Federación Española de Bancos de Alimentos (FESBAL) experienced a rise of 19% of beneficiaries, while at the same time food that was distributed through the program declined by 8% in comparison to last year.

Consequently, some of our members stressed the difficulty to handle a bigger quantity of food, especially as regards logistic and available space in the warehouses.

Moreover, less volunteers were available while the activity increased significantly, especially during the lockdowns.

Most of our members had to quickly adapt to the new situation, where it lacked food, equipment, storage capacity and volunteers and create new agile ways of delivering food safely and rapidly to local partner organizations.

Finally, 80% of the respondents declared that COVID-19 affected their daily activities in relation to the FEAD.

At the same time, 90% of the respondents highlighted that the FEAD amending Regulation (EU) No 223/2014⁹ which introduced specific measures for addressing the outbreak of COVID-19 did not impact the FEAD daily operations.



Since the beginning of the pandemic up to date, with their daily activity the members of the European Food Banks Federation continue to support the needs of charities which are helping the most deprived.

When the FEAD was established in 2014, the European Union demonstrated a strong solidarity and the desire to take care of the most vulnerable citizens while activating an extensive network of solidarity involving public authorities, social services and civil society organizations. It is extremely important today that the European Union is bold and shows its commitment to take care of the most deprived, even after 2020.

⁹ Regulation (EU) No 2020/559 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards the introduction of specific measures for addressing the outbreak of COVID-19, 24 April 2020



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