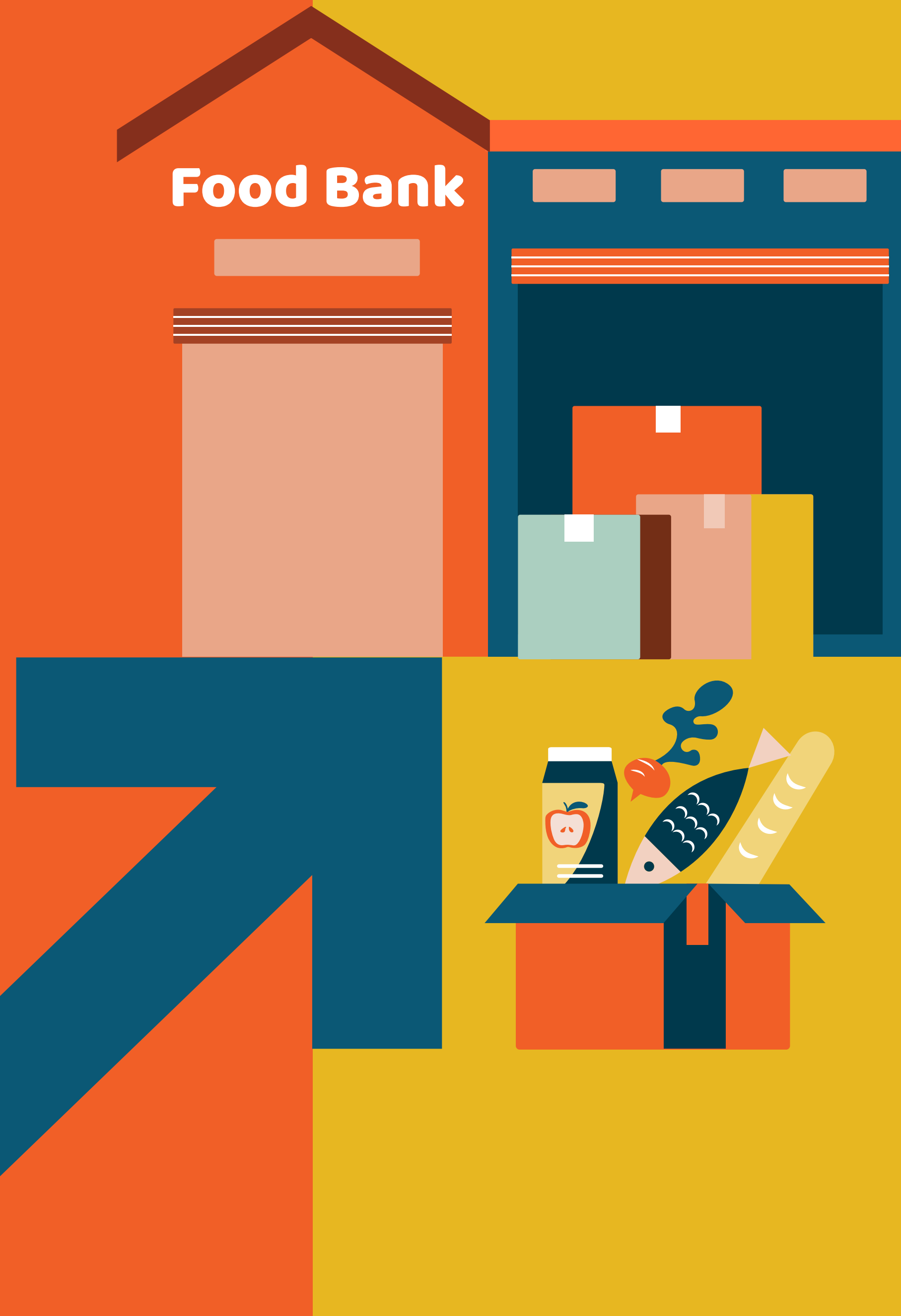
EUROPEAN FOOD BANKS FEDERATION
FEBA

European Food Banks are a critical lifeline to promote access to food

Impact of the socio-economic crisis on FEBA Members

ASSESSMENT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022

Key-findings



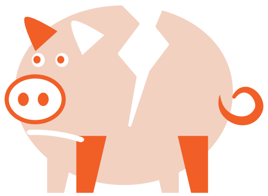
Introduction

The European Food Banks Federation (FEBA) aims to disclose the impact of the challenging socio-economic circumstances on FEBA Members by giving **evidence-based insights into the repercussions of the cost-of-living crisis**, on the one hand, on the **operations of Food Banks** and, on the other hand, on the **profile of end beneficiaries** supported through charitable organisations.

The results are based on the experience of FEBA Members working daily to recover, collect, and redistribute food[1] to a network of charitable organisations providing food assistance to people in need, including quantitative and qualitative research carried out among members in March 2023. The gathered information refers to the period **from January to December 2022** and is based on a tailored survey replied to by **27 FEBA Members**[2].

1 *In addition to surplus food from the food supply chain, FEBA Members also redistribute food from EU and/or national programmes such as the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and REACT-EU, the EU Fruits and Vegetables withdrawal scheme, as well as from individual and corporate food collections.*

2 *No replies have been received from FEBA Members in Malta, Poland, and Slovakia.*



Impact of cost-of-living crisis on daily activities: a major concern for 88.9% of European Food Banks

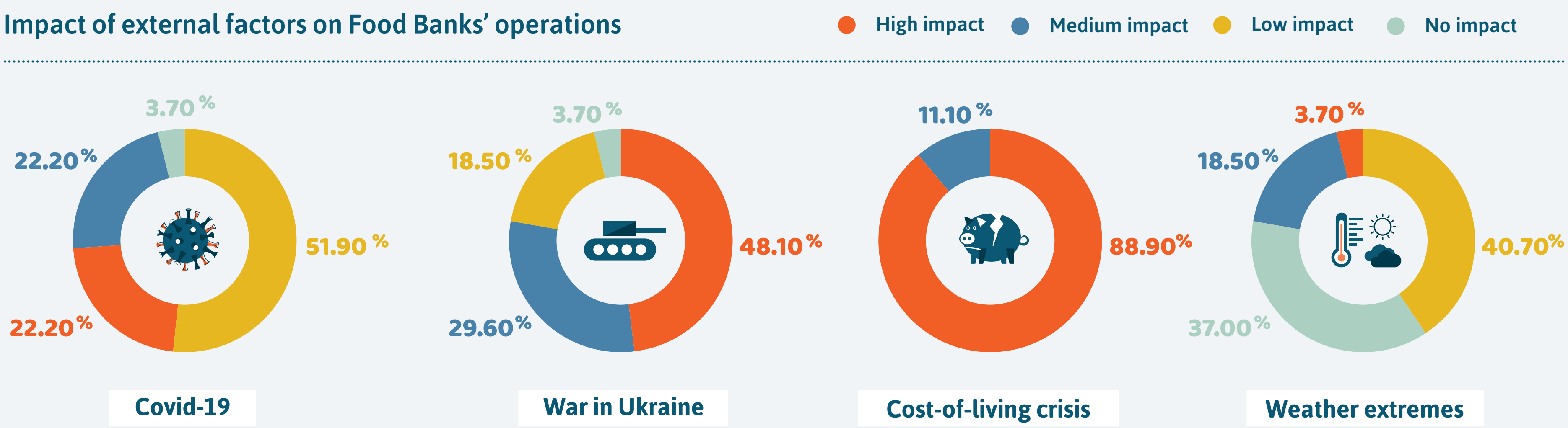
For

88.9%

of FEBA Members, the cost-of-living crisis is at the forefront of factors strongly affecting daily activities.

The **war in Ukraine** and its direct and indirect effects are considered by **48.1%** of the respondents as having a high impact on **Food Banks' operations**, while the COVID-19 pandemic seems to be a "business as usual" concern for Food Banks in 2022.

Impact of external factors on Food Banks' operations



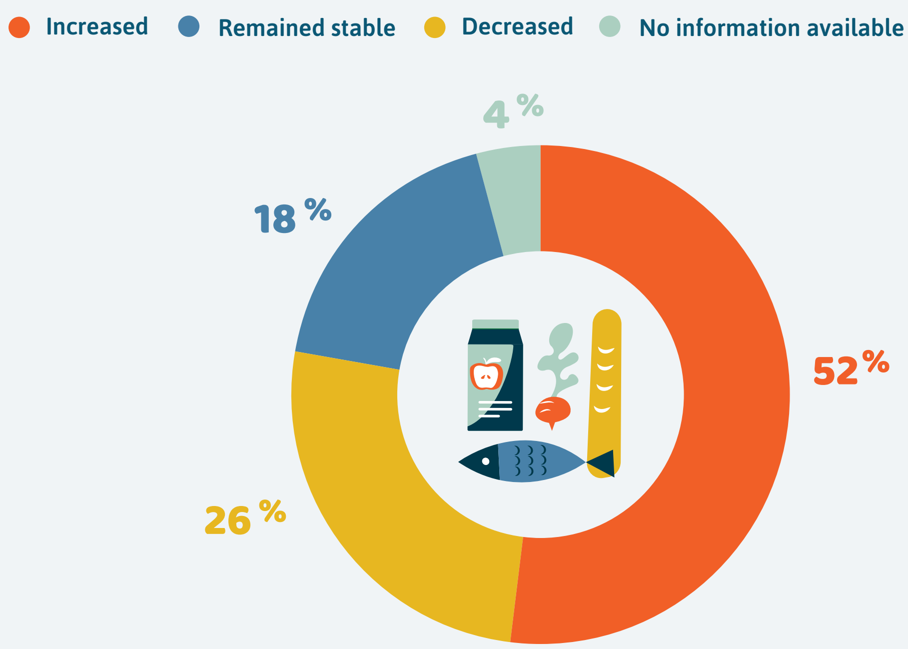
European Food Banks are doing everything they can to source more food, but it is not enough to satisfy the raising demand from charities

51.9 %

of respondents (14 out of 27 FEBA Members) declare that the total quantity of surplus food recovered from the food supply chain increased.

However, 25.9% report that the volumes remained stable in comparison to 2021. **18.5%** indicate a **decrease**.

Evolution of total surplus food recovered in 2022 (compared to 2021)



37%

indicate that the surplus food quantity donated by companies in the distribution sector, e.g. wholesalers or supermarkets, shrank.

36% (8 out of 22) of those Food Banks that organise **Food Collections** and for which the information was available, state that the volume of **collected items decreased**.

85.2%

of the respondents (23 out of 27) mentioned that the charitable organisations across Europe are asking for an increase in the food quantities.

Trend of food demand from charitable organisations from 2021 to 2022

Increased · Remained stable · Decreased · No information available

On the backdrop of this increase,

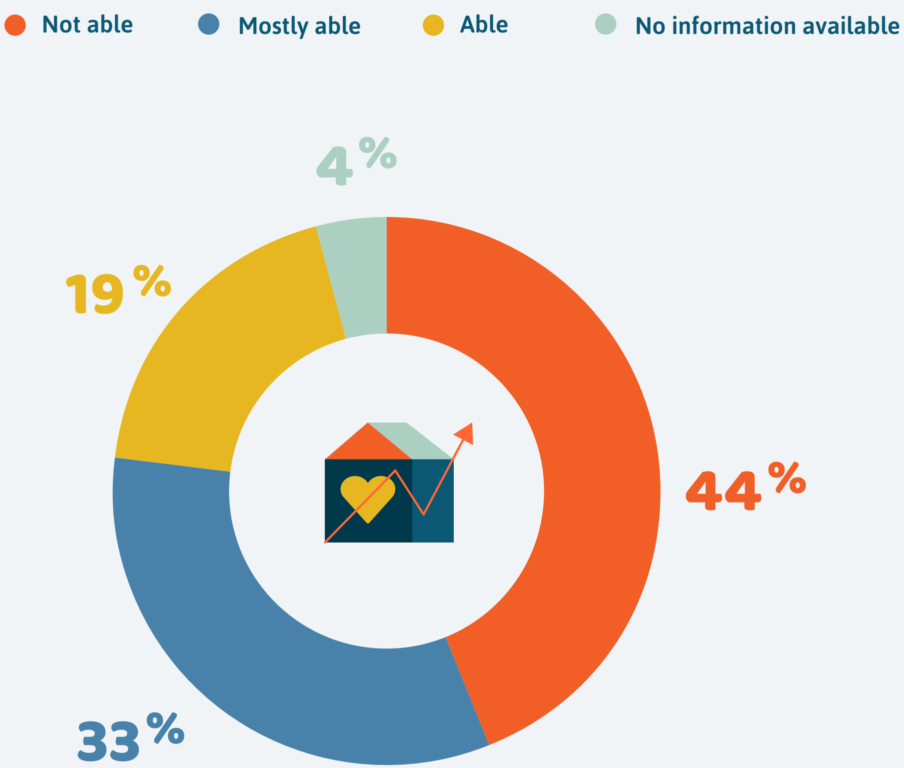
44.4%

(or 12 respondents) declare that the Food Banks in their respective countries were, looking at the year 2022 retrospectively, not able to satisfy the demand for food.

Another 33.3% (9 respondents) state that they have mostly been able to assist the charitable organisations according to their needs, but not always.

Those respondents who received support through EU funding programmes, such as FEAD and REACT-EU, in 2022 evaluate it as significant or very significant to alleviate the burden created by the cost-of-living crisis and to effectively respond to the elevated demand for food.

Ability to satisfy food demand from charities in 2022



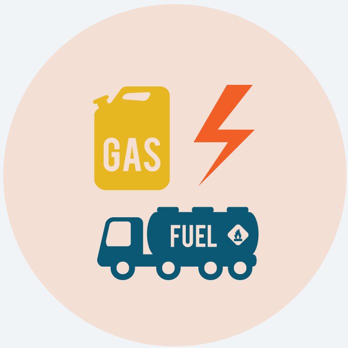
Donations to European Food Banks cannot keep up with spiralling costs of daily activities

Visible in raising financial donations, the majority of Food Banks surveyed report an **increasing level of solidarity** from the **broad public (59.3%)** as well as the **private sector (55.6%)**.

The results further indicate that the **engagement from national governments remained stable for 33.3%** of the respondents, while it **grew for 25.9%**. One quarter **(25.9%)** affirm that they did **not receive any economic assistance** from public authorities.

81.5 %

of the respondents (four in five) declared that the costs of running the Food Bank increased in comparison to 2021.



Electricity, fuel for vehicles, and gas were the three cost categories, for which the highest increase was felt.

Although European Food Banks benefit from public and private support, it might not be sufficient to cope with the spiralling prices and expenses they are confronted with.

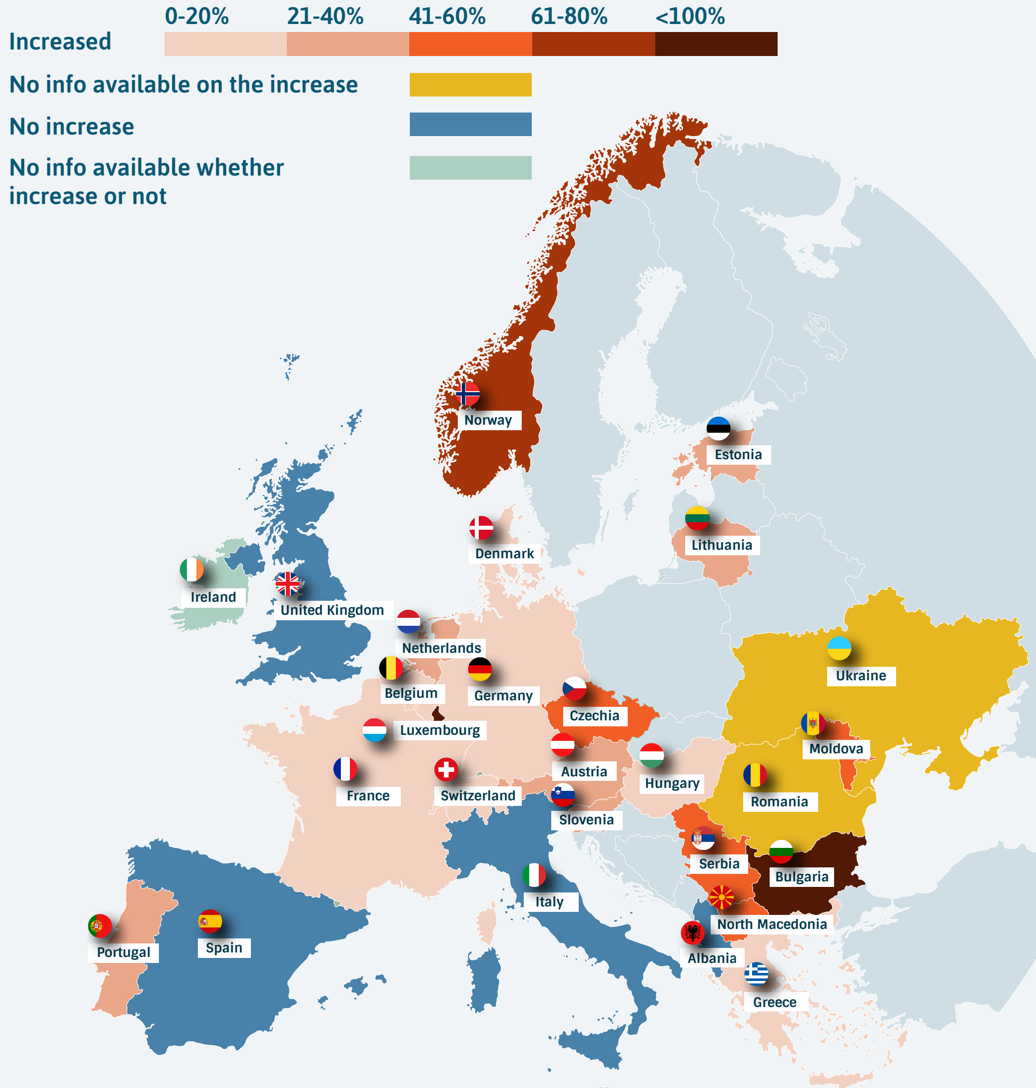
A new group at risk: gainfully employed persons who cannot make ends meet due to the ongoing pressures of the cost-of-living crisis

Compared to 2021,

81.5 %

Food Banks note that from the requests of the charitable organisations they provided with food the socio-economic crisis led to an increase in end beneficiaries, varying across Europe between a small single-digit percentage and a doubling of the number.

Evolution of number of end beneficiaries in 2022 (compared to 2021)



Being asked to specify the **categories of end beneficiaries receiving assistance more frequently**, over three-quarters **(77.8%)** of respondents select **single parents**, closely followed by **families** and **migrants/refugees** (**74.1%** respectively). Refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine were pointed out by several respondents as a new group of end beneficiaries.

Furthermore, more than half (**51.9%**) highlight **seniors** as consulting charitable organisations on a more regular basis in 2022 compared to the previous year. **Persons with disabilities** as well as **women** are named by **37% of respondents**.

51.9%

of the respondents notice a change regarding the employment status of the end beneficiaries compared to 2021

Taking a closer look at this development, the large majority (**78.6%**) of respondents mention that **people in employment** turned to charities asking for food assistance more often, followed by unemployed (**64.3%**), and retirees (**35.7%**).

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