

European Food Banks: a wave of solidarity to face COVID-19





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challenge COVID-19**



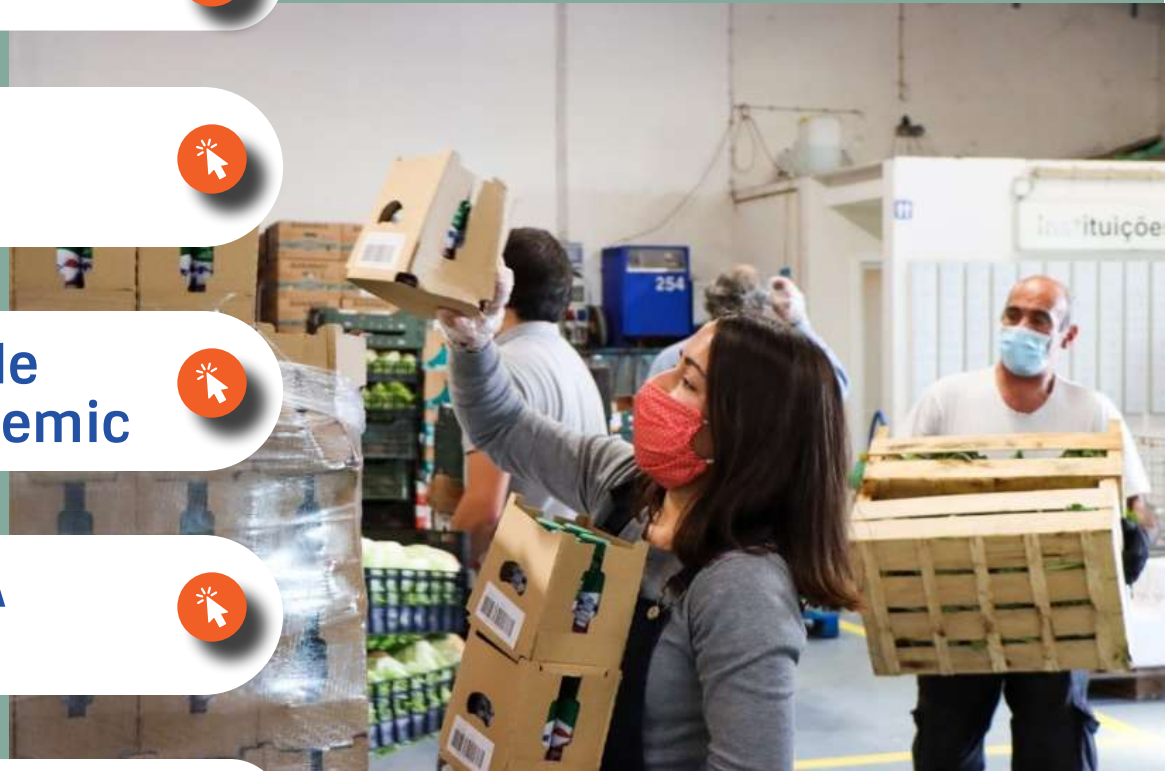
**FEBA continues to provide
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**Best practices from FEBA
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Message from the President



May solidarity be a way of coming out of this pandemic crisis better, stronger and together. An opportunity to rediscover the importance of other people, especially the most disadvantaged, and to take us back to the roots of our mission, our daily activity of Food Banks in Europe. With the support of everyone – public authorities, businesses, charities, volunteers, and citizens – we can grow together through adversity and shed a positive light on a brighter future.

*Jacques Vandenschrik, President,
European Food Banks Federation*

Working together to challenge COVID-19

Since March, the COVID-19 has presented an unprecedented challenge across Europe, disrupting the normality of our lives and with severe impacts on our society and economy.

On 13 March 2020 the World Health Organization declared Europe as the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some countries, such as Italy and Spain, were the first to be hit hard and soon after the coronavirus spread all over the continent with immediate evident socio-economic consequences.



The pandemic has thrown many people into insecurity overnight, highlighting the importance of food security in Europe.

In this context, the access to food has proved to be a priority, underlining the importance of an easily accessible, affordable, healthy and balanced diet for all. In each corner of Europe, many images are testimonials of this evidence, such as long lines at the entrance of supermarkets or volunteers working every day to bring food to elderly, disabled, and deprived people as well as families facing unexpected difficulties in this period.

After the first months of crisis and until this fall, Europe appeared to have the COVID-19 under control. However, Europe is once again the active centre of the pandemic and is recording a dramatic rise in infections which is stretching the capacity of hospitals. Some governments are reimposing tough new lockdowns. Thousands of new daily cases are reported across Europe.



The pandemic revealed our strengths and weaknesses, highlighting the importance of local communities, ready to cooperate for the good of all with a strong synergy between public authorities, civil society organisations and all the actors involved.

It is evident that the pandemic has had a huge impact on our daily lives and has affected the entire food system.



COVID-19 has been a wake-up call for the European Food Banks Federation and our members.

Since its outbreak, our members have daily worked facing the challenge not just to get food from the food supply chain but also to ensure its safe delivery to charities. Our members have relentlessly recovered surplus food to assist charitable organizations that feed people in need. The health emergency and the consequent socio-economic crisis, especially during the first wave of COVID-19, varied from country to country but it is evident everywhere that the COVID-19 crisis has brought a new food emergency with an increased demand for food.

Our **latest report released in September 2020** highlights a **30% increase in food demand, with a range from 6% up to 90% in the different countries, coming from new targets of poverty: jobless people, families with children and elderly people living alone.** Our members have faced similar challenges and have provided responses that can be key aspects when coping with the second wave and the prolonged crisis generated by the pandemic. While the contexts may differ and tailored solutions may be unique, the challenges are commonly felt, and the responses rely on motivation, innovation and adaptation.



The European Food Banks Federation conducted 3 surveys – in April, July and September 2020 – to monitor and assess the impact of COVID-19 on its members and their responses. The results were featured in three reports:

1. Present challenges and urgent need of European Food Banks / April 2020



2. European Food Banks in a post COVID-19 Europe / July 2020



3. European Food Banks today: commitment, creativity and openness to change / September 2020





Reports' highlights

Challenges



- Growing demand for food
- Increase in the number of people in need
- Unstable food donations
- Disruption in the logistics and transport processes
- Lack of PPE
- Lack of volunteers
- Unexpected costs and drop in financial resources

Responses



- Food Banks have remained open and running, with just a few exceptions
- Ensuring the mission: prevention of food waste and support to charities
- Engagement of new and young volunteers
- Successful new fundraising activities
- New collaborations with corporations and foundations
- Advocacy activities for public support
- New and innovative operating models for warehouse management and administrative tasks
- Digitalization of traditional activities (e.g. food collections)



From early March the European Food Banks Federation has tracked the responses of its membership to the crisis, collecting a wide range of stories showing solidarity.

When it seemed that we had failed to protect our people, in many ways, Europeans, whether they are volunteers and employees of the Food Banks and their affiliated charities, policy makers, businesses or private citizens, have proven that, in the face of this crisis, they stand ready to lift each other up.



In order to meet immediate needs and provide a concrete response to the emergency, on 21 March, the European Food Banks Federation launched an open call for solidarity and established a COVID-19 Social Emergency Fund to secure the activity of its members and ensure no good food is going to waste while helping charities to feed people in need.

The response to this call has gone beyond any expectations. In this period many companies have offered their support with economic donations to sustain the daily activity of Food Banks. Thanks to this concrete engagement between March and November 2020, the European Food Banks Federation has supported its members with over €4.2 million for COVID-19 related actions in 27 countries*.

The funds have been used for concrete needs: increased costs of the daily activity (rent, utilities, etc.), additional staff for handling the increased volumes of food, new vehicles to ensure food redistribution, digital tools to facilitate communication, new equipment for the warehouses, PPE to protect volunteers and employees, new warehouse IT systems, and much more.

* These figures refer to the period 1 January – 15 October 2020.



Moreover, in line with their core business, many companies also donated food or other goods such as PPE, transports, carton boxes. Finally, many companies have decided to extend their commitment to their employees proposing and involving them in fundraising campaigns to support European Food Banks.



With an agile determination, a continuous process innovation, and a widespread coverage of the territory, European Food Banks are demonstrating the strength to adapt to the new challenging context ensuring a safe food redistribution to charities.

They are also experimenting new operating models and processes. When the COVID-19 led to the closure of all non-essential businesses, such as cafés and restaurants, many of them contacted European Food Banks not to throw out their surplus stocks. For instance, food was recovered from the canteens of the European institutions in Brussels when homeworking became the new normal. In some countries, Food Banks prepared meals or made food parcels for frontline organisations, so they just had to do the last 100m deliveries into targeted at risk individuals in isolation.



Since the beginning of the pandemic up to date, the support of Food Banks continues to be more and more essential so that no good food goes to waste and can acquire a new precious value for all those charities helping the most deprived.



Food Banks are therefore playing a key role in preventing food waste for a social purpose, planning and adapting to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. In this period, European Food Banks have also become a point of reference for donated food by the agri-food chain. In addition to regular donations of surplus food, indeed, they have received and managed increased amounts of non-perishable food donated by companies to respond to the immediate needs.



As the pandemic continues, we are committed to ensuring our daily activity so that we can manage through the crisis and build resilience against future shocks. This crisis can be an accelerator of innovation to enhance efficiency and effectiveness and to produce a beneficial effect on the food system as a whole.



FEBA continues to provide support during the pandemic

Reinforced dialogue with our members to be up to date, share challenges, and build on learnings thanks to digital tools

- 1 online Presidents' Conference with the participation of 23 Food Bankers
- 1 physical and 3 online meetings of the EU Working Group with the participation of 82 Food Bankers
- 8 online Focus Point meetings for members with the participation of 110 Food Bankers
- 2 online skill-sharing sessions with the participation of 54 Food Bankers

An agile approach to target, measure and act

- 3 surveys and 3 reports on the impact of COVID-19 on FEBA network
- 1 survey and 1 report on the implementation of FEAD in 2019
- the implementation of the project "Quantifying the Impact of European Food Banks - From Farm to Fork" with 5 meetings, 7 virtual tours and the first release of the online Observatory on Food Donation

Smart and inclusive communications

- 1 social campaign on Europe Day promoted by the European Commission
- 1 virtual event on the First International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste involving 15 members and participating in 3 international conferences organised by FAO Brussels, FAO HQ and FAO NY
- Interactive and printed reports of the meetings, 2 video animations
- 7 EU Monitoring Reports

Tangible support to concrete needs

- Contacts with more than 120 corporations, foundations, and organizations
- Over 50 corporations, foundations and organisations already committed to donate over €4.3 million
- Over €4.2 million have already been redistributed to 27 FEBA Full & Associates Members
- Many companies committed to donate food or in-kind support (transports, PPE, carton boxes, etc.) for the benefit of FEBA members.



Best practices from FEBA members in Europe

This chapter features best practices from 25 FEBA members - especially regarding the impact of COVID-19 and the contribution of these organizations to food waste prevention and food insecurity reduction in this challenging period.

To explore more follow the link on the map of the country of your choice. You can also use the top arrows - to display all 25 countries in alphabetical order.

The European Food Banks Federation would like to thank all the members for their contributions. Furthermore, a grateful acknowledgement for their ongoing activity which makes a difference every day in Europe.

- FEBA Full & Associate Members
- FEBA Full & Associate Members – data not available





Albania

After the earthquake of November 2019, Albania has seen an increase in the number of people in need and the COVID-19 emergency has worsened that situation.

During COVID-19, the recovery of fresh food products has tripled per month and **Food Bank Albania** is redistributing more surplus food than ever.

Food Bank Albania managed to install a cold storage room for fresh products so that the food will be available for distribution longer. At the same time, Food Bank Albania has increased the pick-ups of fresh food from further locations, mapping the main locations of fresh food surpluses.

The increase of surplus food donations and the new cooling room will allow Food Bank Albania to support more charities and soup kitchens in almost all areas of the country.



Read more updates from Albania during COVID-19 crisis



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means to keep fighting for the mission of fresh and nutritious food for all people, rejoicing for all the donor businesses and partners since we continue working towards a near future where we will see a favourable legislation on food donations.

Wilma Verburg, Chairman of the Board



Austria

Macro Group - owner of the Turkish supermarket chain “Etsan” and long lasting partner and neighbour of **Wiener Tafel** at Vienna wholesale market - was one of the first companies to react when Wiener Tafel asked for help at the beginning of the first lock-down in March, particularly asking for durable goods for charities supported by Wiener Tafel.

Despite highly challenging times, employees of Macro Group still found some free time to put together hundreds of food parcels for Wiener Tafel. The parcels represented a broad mix of durable food like cans, oil, milk products as well as hygiene articles. They were very well perceived by the approx. 100 charities that are supported in the Vienna region.

Macro Group is a great collaborator of Wiener Tafel and a best-practice example, with fast and efficient help when there is somebody in need, particularly in times of COVID-19.

100
charities were
supported in
Vienna region



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means exploring new ways of collaboration with our long lasting and strong partners.

Alexandra Gruber, Managing Director



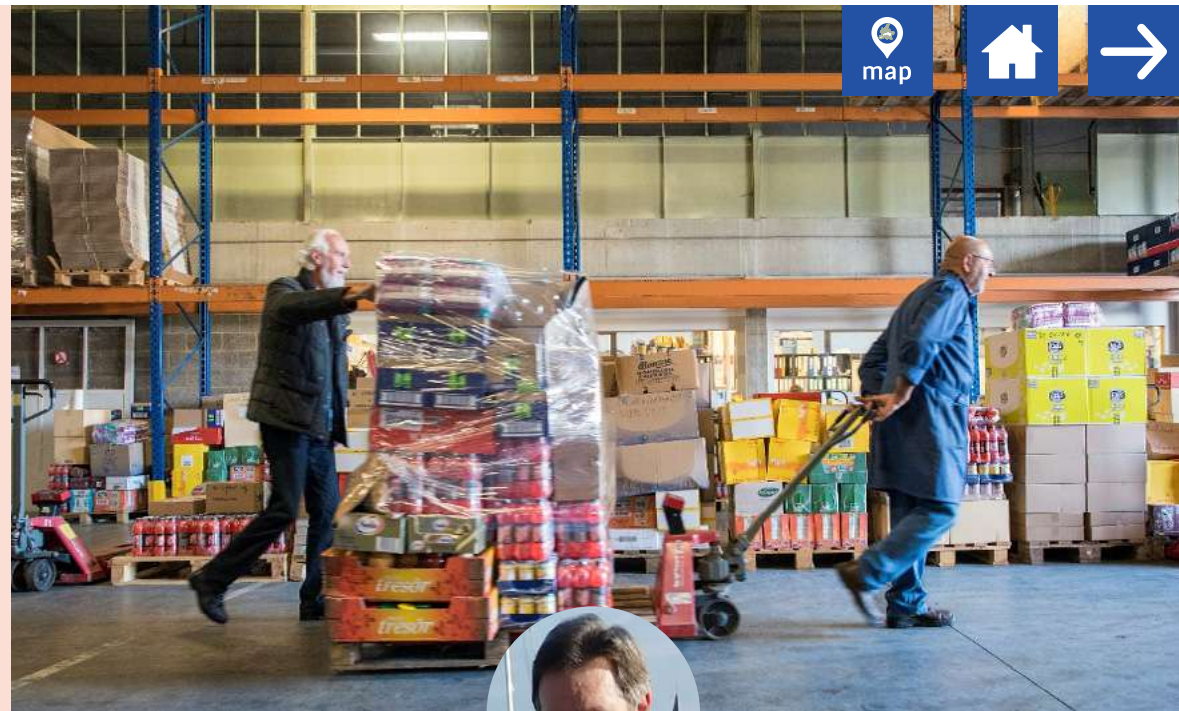
Belgium

The members of the Fédération Belge des Banques Alimentaires / Belgische Federatie van Voedselbanken (FBBA) played an important role during the first wave of the coronavirus crisis.

The number of people requesting food aid in the first few months reached unprecedented levels. The number of adults and children rose from around 170,000 in February to almost 195,000 in May, an increase of almost 15%. This influx caused a huge spike in food redistribution. From March to June 2020, 55.4% more food was redistributed compared to the same period last year.

The work of the members of the FBBA in Belgium has been severely tested but thanks to the great wave of solidarity and the spontaneous mobilization of many temporary volunteers, the distribution of food has been ensured on a large scale. Exceptional financial support from institutions, government, companies, and individuals supported FBBA to meet the increased demand during the first COVID-19 wave.

The COVID-19 crisis has also highlighted the importance of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), without which significant supply problems would have arisen.



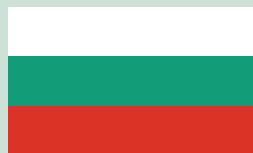
Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means continuing the efforts to improve collaboration with local authorities and organisations active in the field of poverty reduction.

Jef Mottar, CEO

55.4%

more food was redistributed from March to June 2020, compared to the same period last year





Bulgaria

Bulgarian Food Bank is a recognized partner to the food industry in transforming surplus food into valuable social programs. 2020 is a challenging year in many ways and the COVID-19 pandemic has added additional pressure, both financially and organizationally.

Until the end of November 2020, Bulgarian Food Bank saved and distributed approximately 800,000 BGN (400,000 EUR) in food, while for the same period in 2019 the food saved valued 550,000 BGN (275,000 EUR). This is due to higher response to the crisis by food industry companies and by the society as a whole.

A very inspiring example for that was a two hour media event, TV and online, during which more than 200,000 BGN (100,000 EUR) were donated to support the work of the Bulgarian Food Bank.

€100,000

was donated to support the work of the Bulgarian Food Bank



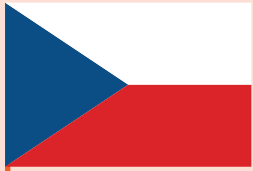
Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means to strengthen the capacity to deliver food to more distant locations and to more organisations taking care of people in need.

Tsanka Milanova,
Executive Director



Bulgarian Food Bank
collecting food, donating hope





Czech Republic

Česká Federace Potravinových Bank (CFPB)

saved tons of food from school canteens and fruit programs in the past months, which would otherwise have been wasted because of the closure of schools.

Moreover, the members of CFPB were exceptionally involved in the redistribution to people in need, mainly with the help of city councils and village authorities.

Thanks to the daily operations of the members of CFPB, products such as milk, cheese and fruit were redistributed to people in need but also to those who are old or disabled, or just mums with many kids. This was realized in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.



Find out more information

The members of CFPB in Czech Republic also prevented wasting food from HORECA sector and school canteens.

During the COVID-19 crisis, **Czech Food Banks and Tafel Sachsen e.V. supported a cross-border cooperation** against waste to help the most deprived.



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means growing and improving our recovery and redistribution processes in cooperation with stakeholders, partners, and government. Together we can help more people and fight against food waste more efficiently.

Veronika Láchová, CEO



Česká Federace potravinových bank



Estonia

During the lockdown, many restaurants decided to use their surplus food to make deepfrozen soups for **Toidupank**, the food bank in Estonia. Volunteers and social workers used to bring the soups to elderly and sick people who could not leave their homes.

Many other companies (importers, hotels, spas, ferry companies, caterers for airplanes, food producers, cinemas, supermarkets, etc.) also donated surplus food to Toidupank.

For example, the **Estonian shipping company Tallink has donated almost half a ton of food to the Food Bank organisation Toidupank**. Tallink said on its social media account that the move was made due to its ships being mostly off their regular schedules with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the government's emergency measures. The food includes sausages, cheese, and biscuits.

"Due to the emergency situation, a few things are out these days, with ships in port and huge food supplies staying in the fridge," Tallink wrote on its social media page.

450 kg

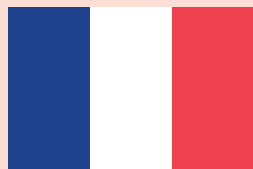
of food was donated to the Estonian Food Bank Toidupank



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means that more people will understand the importance of food aid and Food Banks. Because of this, more people, firms and local governments might be willing to support the Food Banks.

Piet Boerefijn, Founder and Manager





France

The **Fédération Française des Banques Alimentaires** remains fully operative to help people in precarious situations.

Each of the 79 Banques Alimentaires has adapted to their local context in relation to volunteers, food supply, methods of redistribution in order to ensure that barrier gestures are respected.

After the donations of fresh food products from the restaurant industry at the beginning of the crisis, the situation led the French Banques Alimentaires to draw on their stocks of dry products: there is a 22% drop in stocks between March and November 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Indeed, the demand increased by 20-25% on average: 400 new charities joined the network of the Banques Alimentaires during the first lockdown (emergency housing, aid to the homeless, etc.) and 50% signed a sustainable partnership agreement.

Moreover, the teams of the Banques Alimentaires work closely with local authorities to ensure the homogeneous redistribution of food. Following the closure of many partner charities, they have co-organized food aid in certain territories and have gone as far as distribution in certain towns (rural area).

Food Banks and the regional students' assistance office organized the distributions of food packages and hygiene products for students in precarious situations. The Food Banks also played a pivotal role in local purchasing mechanisms to support producers thanks to government grants in order to support restocking.



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means reaffirming the central and pivotal role of Food Banks, their volunteers and employees in the management of food aid system. It is also an opportunity to recall the fundamental role of food aid as a lever for social support and the fight against the isolation of vulnerable people. It is essential to rethink the structural policy to manage the fight against poverty and to encourage all forms of solidarity.

Claude Baland, President

25%

increase in food demand between March-June 2020, compared to the same period last year



Banques Alimentaires



Germany

Like in the rest of the world the year 2020 in Germany has been shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated challenges. Almost half of the 950 local organisations of **Tafel Deutschland e.V.** had to close for some time and new, innovative concepts for surplus food redistribution had to be found.

Tafel Deutschland e.V. is proud that after momentary closures in the spring their members quickly pivoted and adapted. Food redistributions took place outdoors, pre-packaged bags and boxes guaranteed the safety on site and those final beneficiaries, who could not come in person, received donations through deliveries.

Tafel Deutschland e.V. also launched a campaign on 'best before' dates in collaboration with an agency, which is supporting them with free space in public areas nationwide. This is particularly relevant because of the stockpiling and panic buying that were going on because of the pandemic.

The poster is freely available in multiple languages (German, Arabic, English, Farsi, Russian and Turkish) for Tafel members to order or print.



Have a look at the English version of the poster



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means thinking ahead and making sure that people who are particularly affected by the pandemic are not left behind. 2020 was a challenging year that leaves us to worry that many of the consequences of the pandemic will only become apparent in 2021. That is why, particularly now, we stand by those who are so often overlooked and speak up for them.

Jochen Brühl, President of the Board of Directors

TAFEL 
DEUTSCHLAND



Greece

The supply of food in Greece increased during the lockdown period, but food waste remained a significant problem.

It is indicative that since the beginning of the year the donations at the **Food Bank Greece** exceeded 1,700 tons with an increase of 68% compared to the corresponding period last year. Especially in April, a record was set in the middle of quarantine, with almost 260 tons, just in the Athens Food Bank. In May the donations exceeded 140 tons while in July the high record of 260 tons was met again.

Dimitris Nentas, General Manager of the Food Bank Greece, said that the first period of the coronavirus crisis was really complicated since charities and associations had to operate under strict protocols and some of them ceased to function. However, after the first 10 days, the situation changed. **The charities expanded their operations and as social needs became more and more intense, they were motivated and began to serve food.**



Explore more on this

68%

increase in food donation since the beginning of the year, compared to the same period last year



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means to continue to carry on our activity. Since early 2020 Food Bank Greece is handling record quantities. COVID-19 is testing our capacity and so far we are coping well and are confident that we shall continue so in the future. One big plus of the crisis is the increased visibility of Food Banks in our society.

Panagis Vourloumis, President





Hungary

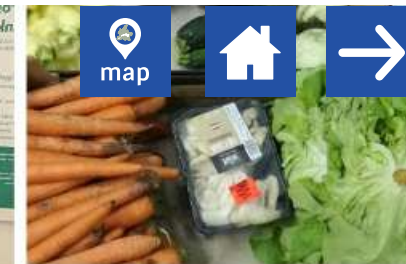
The **Hungarian Food Bank Association (HFBA)** continually receives donations of surplus food from its corporate partners in order to meet the growing needs of those in need.

In the past 10 months of the year, the HFBA distributed more than 6,600 tons of food, for a value of almost HUF 5.8 billion. Only in the first month of COVID-19, in March, 715 tons of food were delivered to those in need as immediate assistance for an amount of more than HUF 580 million. *"We consider it very important to keep our operations going, the situation of a lot of people depends on us now. Most of all, we need additional surplus food and financial assistance"* said Balázs Cseh, President of the Hungarian Food Bank Association.

The difficulties caused by COVID-19 have been a particular challenge for those in need as their situation, care and prospects become even more precarious. In order to receive support even in these difficult times, the role of the organisations that help them will increase even more.

6,600 tons

of food were distributed by HFBA during the last 10 months of 2020



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means that we hope that food companies and individuals who wanted to relieve the effects of the COVID-19 crisis with their support and helped those in need together with Hungarian Food Bank Association will stay with us next year as well. We do our best to keep caring for people in need together with our partners in 2021.

Balazs Cseh, President

Magyar
Élelmiszerbank
Egyesület





Ireland

Between March and June 2020, **FoodCloud** distributed 968 tonnes of food, equating to 2.3 million meals, to a network of over 600 charities across Ireland through their retail technology platform and three warehouses or hubs. This figure was almost double the same period in 2019, reflecting in the increased food demand across communities.

As part of their COVID response, FoodCloud launched an emergency food and funding appeal, which supported to employ 8 new warehouse operatives, double the transport capacity and introduce weekly routes through third party logistics companies and developed 15 new strategic partnerships in 17 Counties with community services and organisations to ensure they could support those in rural communities.

For the first time in their 7 years in operation, FoodCloud's food industry partners donated non-surplus stock to help meet the demand and in partnership with their key retail partners, unveiling a new food initiative called "**Food For Ireland**" in September where shoppers were able to donate non-perishable food in over 400 stores.



The pandemic raised the profile of food recovery organisations in mitigating supply chain volatility. We were a necessary vehicle for redistributing sudden spikes in surplus food whilst also supporting communities resulting from unprecedented increase in demand, increasing food security at such a challenging time for so many.

Iseult Ward, CEO

It is predicted that FoodCloud will distribute over

6.7M

meals equivalent by end 2020





Italy

The sudden closure of **commercial catering** has generated significant volumes of surplus food. The main restaurant chains contacted **Banco Alimentare** to recover about 50 tons of food all over the country.

The Municipalities, the Civil Protection, catering companies, general markets, public transport companies, Banco Alimentare, Caritas Ambrosiana, and the Italian Red Cross have developed the **Municipal Operations Centers (in Italian COC)** to centralize the entire food supply chain and overcome the closures of charities due to volunteers over 65.

#SOSstegno straordinario, a program coordinated by FBAO and Caritas Italiana funded Banco BPM, has enabled the recovery of food to support families in difficulty. Caritas had to collect enough food to guarantee 1,250 groceries shopping per month. FBAO was involved in the recovery of food worth € 250,000 in order to guarantee the variety of products in the baskets.

Federalimentare and Banco Alimentare have joined forces to face the pandemic and help the most deprived. Many associated companies during Easter period donated food products for a total of over 100 tons.

The Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies has financed the recovery of unsold food from the cold meats, dairy products and fruit and vegetables sectors due to the restaurant closure for a value of €300,000,000. Since October, Banco Alimentare has started to redistribute to charities and will continue to do so in the next months.



[Explore more on this](#)

40%

increase in
demand for food
aid throughout
the country, since
March 2020



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means to continue doing what we have been doing since March: our ordinary business in an extraordinary situation. We think it is important that everyone gives serious consideration to their task in moments of crisis.

Giovanni Bruno, President





Lithuania

Maisto bankas, the Food Bank in Lithuania, is fully operating even under these difficult conditions.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Maisto bankas reported a decrease of 25% of small charities that closed because they could not operate, which led to an increase of individuals that needed support in the places where the charities didn't operate. The other 75% of partner organisations collaborating with Maisto bankas operate on the same or even bigger scale.

Maisto bankas launched a campaign to gather non-perishable food in the biggest distribution chains of Lithuania, asking for food donations and surplus food.

As expected, Maisto bankas experienced a lack of volunteers in the first days of COVID, that is why they have joined a national campaign to recruit new volunteers, working even with companies that provided taxi services to promote volunteers among their drivers to help delivering the food.



Explore more on this

25%

of small charities had to close due to COVID-19 which led to a demand increase in food aid



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means increase awareness. The pandemic gave us a challenge to help isolated people and overstressed families, but it also gave us an opportunity to unite more than usual volunteers and donors in an action to help those affected. The pandemic has brought more awareness about our work and has given us a prospect to involve more people and businesses in the future.

Simonas Gurevičius, Director

Maistobankas





Malta

The **Malta Food Bank Foundation (MFBF)** has seen requests for help increased manifold. Requests for additional help came from NGOs that lost many sources of funding and from single families who found themselves in shortage due to a reduced income.

Despite the hardship, new initiative sprouted too. Companies, NGOs, individuals and employees from private companies, including a local bank as well as other employees from governmental departments collected money and bought food that was donated to MFBF. Importers and retailers donated surplus food to MFBF and over the last month alone, the MFBF saw a huge increase in the donation of food.

One particular initiative that deserves a commendable mention is that of a chef whose restaurant had to close down due to the lockdown. He collected excess ingredients from various donors and prepared meals for the needy at his restaurant. The MFBF collaborated fully on this initiative by donating surplus meat to MFBF and the chef prepared nutritious fresh meals, which then the MFBF redistributed to partner charities.

The donation of a refrigerated/freezer van has further saved food as during COVID-19 pandemic MFBF could receive and redistribute surplus of frozen and chilled food that was donated. Moreover, MFBF was able to rescue a great amount of food due to a surplus of fruit and veg that was on the market which would have otherwise gone to waste.



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means the opening of new horizons with new contacts established during the pandemic. This time inspired MFBF to be more visible and active in taking the initiative of educating the public on saving all food, in particular nutritious food that otherwise go to waste.

*Irene Schembri, Founder/
Chairperson*





Netherlands

The **Groente & Fruitbrigade** has saved 1,000,000 kilos of fruit and vegetables from waste and delivered them to **Voedselbanken Nederland** since 2018, thanks to the involvement of volunteers and new suppliers.

In these times it appears even more important than usual to provide the poorest people in the Netherlands with fruit and vegetables. Given the importance of fresh food aid, the Groente & Fruitbrigade is committed to expanding with new locations.

Voedselbanken Nederland started a trial in the summer of 2018 to get more fruit and vegetables into the food packages. The suppliers are fruit and vegetable companies that donate their surplus. They are fruit and vegetables products with a spot or a slightly different shape or colour, which are still perfectly suitable for consumption.

In almost 1 year, the Groente & Fruitbrigade collected over 1,000,000 kilos of fruit and vegetables. With this, the organisation supported approximately 88,000 people per week through Voedselbanken Nederland.

With the coronavirus crisis, the supply of fresh food to the Voedselbanken Nederland is more important than ever. The team's ambition is to provide all beneficiaries of Voedselbanken Nederland in the Netherlands with 1 kg of fruit and vegetables per week.



Having the confidence, we can handle the challenges that 2021 will undoubtedly bring. In the past year we received massive support from all over society. We are overwhelmed by all the contributions and donations from companies, foundations, individuals.

Leo Wijnbelt, Chairman



VOEDSELBANKEN.NL



North Macedonia

The daily activities of **Banka Za Hrana Makedonija** in North Macedonia do not stop and in this period of emergency it contributed to support the most vulnerable people.

Banka Za Hrana Makedonija is the only organisation in North Macedonia that provides aid to persons and families in need. In fact, after several appeals and maximum engagements of all members and volunteers, Banka Za Hrana Makedonija succeeded to recover surplus food and redistributed food and hygienic materials in several municipalities. More and more municipalities are approaching and accepting the Banka Za Hrana Makedonija as real system to face the problems of hunger and poverty.

Over 4,000 households have been supported and still will be supported in the upcoming period, depending on the operators and their quantity of surplus food. Moreover, a lot of companies decided to donate to the Banka Za Hrana Makedonija mainly surplus food to be redistributed.

Last but not least, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the President of North Macedonia decided to support and join the Banka Za Hrana Makedonija in this challenging period.



Discover more about the campaign



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means solidarity which is the challenging formula if we want to save the food and feed the people in need. We are here to support the most deprived, but we need actions and support from all the stakeholders.

Dushko Hristov, President





Norway

While the COVID-19 situation put extra pressure on the **Food Banks Norway**, these adapted and responded quickly and efficiently to the COVID-19 outbreak. From the week the national social distance measures were put in place in late March, until end of May, when restrictions started losing up, the Food Banks Norway rescued and redistributed record amounts of surplus food.

To evaluate the response of the Food Banks Norway during the COVID-19 outbreak, a survey was circulated to its partner organizations. The results of the survey showed that over 82% of the organizations were satisfied with the amount, quality and variety of food during the outbreak.

Food Banks Norway **published also a report** about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its network of Norwegian food banks and partner organizations.

Although the pandemic brought with it many limitations, it also opened the door to opportunities and innovation. Through the project Matsentralen Kitchen, the Food Banks in Oslo and Bergen were able to turn surplus ingredients originally destined to commercial kitchens, into ready meals to be redistributed through partner organisations.

Another project that allowed Food Banks Norway to both be able to receive larger volumes of surplus food and secure a fair redistribution of food through the network, was the project of Internal Redistribution, that through generous economic contributions from several actors, allowed to exchange food within the network in an efficient and professional way.

40%

increase in demand for food during the period March-June 2020, compared to the same period in 2019



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means strengthening the role of Food Banks in the alleviation of both food waste and poverty.

Cristiano Aubert, Chairman of the Board

 **Matsentralen Norge**



Portugal

As a result of the precautions imposed by COVID 19, several Portuguese charities that work with the **Federação Portuguesa dos Bancos Alimentares (FPBA)** suspended their activity, suppressing the supply of food to a large number of deprived people. Nevertheless, some of these organisations, if helped by volunteers, can reorganise, and redistribute food to the most needed.

Aware of this dramatic situation, that is becoming bigger every day, the FPBA in partnership with **ENTRAJUDA** launched “**Rede de Emergência Alimentar**” (**Food Emergency Network**).

It is being organized covering the whole country, a system that, with all information collected, makes it possible to give food aid and deliver meals to those who are lonely and on a more hopeless situation.

FPBA is present in this challenging moment where people in need are more than ever willing for support and hope.



Explore more on this



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means answering to the increase of demands and keep on the daily work thanks to an innovative technological platform mobilizing more volunteers that contributed to help many families in need. The members of the FPBA were recognized once more as a trustable organisation in Portugal that is always present to those in need. Next year will be better.

Isabel Jonet, President



Federação Portuguesa
dos Bancos alimentares
contra a fome



Romania

Even if the year 2020 has been full of challenges caused by the measures against COVID-19 pandemic, the **Banca pentru Alimente Bucuresti (BpA)** has been glad that new retailers, producers or distributors turned their attention towards the BpA and implicitly towards the prevention of food waste.

To save as much food as possible from the received quantities from the HORECA sector, especially milk products, Banca pentru Alimente Bucuresti decided to split it with the other regional food banks in Romania.

Among the projects from this year, it is important to mention the support of the people hospitalized in a military hospital through the partnership with several corporates.

Through the project **"We don't take a break"**, the Banca pentru Alimente Bucuresti helped with 3,500 food packages over 500 disadvantaged families from the suburbs of Bucharest or villages from counties near it.

The Banca pentru Alimente Bucuresti collaborated also with the NGOs that needed storage space and redistributing a part of their donations.



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means solidarity and a closer collaboration with the other regional Food Banks from Romania within the recently open National Federation and a common fight against food waste and food insecurity, in the context of the legislation updated in 2020.

Gabriel Sescu , President

286,132 kg

of food was rescued by BpA and its national network of Food Banks in April 2020





Serbia

The **Banka Hrane Beograd (BHB)** succeeded in providing the biggest food quantities for the most vulnerable groups during the state of emergency period in Serbia, in April-May. **First, by being involved in a large project endorsed by the City of Belgrade, the BHB contributed to preparing 178,000 packages for the pensioners and then, in an action with the Secretariat for Social Protection, 7,300 food packages for the disabled persons and the children with special needs from the 17 Belgrade municipalities.**

After the emergency period the food donations decreased progressively as most of the big companies focused their assistance on hospitals and new specialized ones created due to COVID-19, according to the recommendations by the Government of Serbia to support them primarily.

Despite of the increase in requests for food aid and our many appeals addressed to the companies, the response was and still is weak. The BHB has also tried to provide food through a donation platform, by getting a humanitarian SMS number, boosting posts on social media etc., but the results were similar.

178,000

food packages were delivered
by BHB to pensioners during
April-May 2020



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means strengthening our internal capacities as well as our relationship with all relevant actors in the society and expand them in order to be able together to respond more adequately to increasing requests from vulnerable people though solidarity.

Nemanja Nedović,
Chairman of the Board





Slovakia

The Potravinová Banka Slovenska is the biggest food waste prevention organisation in Slovakia. In 2020 the Potravinová Banka Slovenska faced a lot of challenges, mainly in connection to COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March 2020, it has daily supported the citizens all over the country. Specifically, the situation in marginalised Roma communities in East and South Slovakia was the most complicated since they have very bad access to food. **Three communities were in quarantine for more than 30 days (Krompachy, Žehra and Bystrany) and the Potravinová Banka Slovenska helped them with food, together with the Slovak Armed Forces and with the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak republic for Roma Communities. The Potravinová Banka Slovenska also supported the health workers, social field workers and volunteers who were in the first line. Since March to October 2020 the Potravinová Banka Slovenska donated more than 2,000 tons of food.**

Moreover, the Potravinová Banka Slovenska is organising an online food waste education programme for the students at the secondary school, planned for January 2021.

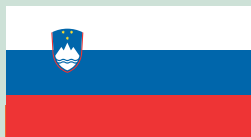
2,000 tons

of food was redistributed by Potravinová Banka Slovenska between March-October 2020



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means restructuring the whole system of the organisation and cooperate with partners to make it more effective for the food waste prevention and awareness about it. We need to focus more on education and the participation of young people in our activities.





Slovenia

The **SIBAHE – Slovenian Food Bank (SIBAHE)** is involved in humanitarian activity with many partner organisations, together with civil protection groups inside municipalities helping more than 10,000 people.

During Easter and Christmas holidays period, the SIBAHE prepared packages of food for families than last year (each worth between 150 and 250 EUR) for 40 families.

The activities continue and, despite the increasing amounts of food donations received, every donated food counts as support the SIBAHE.

SIBAHE remained active through all COVID-19 crises period. We witnessed an increased demand for food aid, especially from families and individuals - this increase in demand has been at least around 30%.

The SIBAHE is taking part in a working group at national level which is preparing a strategy on how to reduce food waste in the framework of the SDG 12.3.

30%

increase in demand
for food during the
COVID-19 period



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means looking for opportunities to upgrade all capacities, with the goal to be more effective and responsive in our work tasks, being able to offer support to those in needs.

Alen Novit, Director





Spain

As many other countries, Spain has been impacted very hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The Spanish Food Banks, under the Federación Española de Bancos de Alimentos (FESBAL), remained open and many initiatives have been taken in order to respond to the social emergency that the pandemic is causing for a lot of people in Spain.

FESBAL set up a crisis committee to respond to COVID-19 and has managed to get the 54 Food Banks of the Federation and their teams of volunteers, despite the fact that some of them are among the population at risk due to their age, to establish a minimum service so that no one is left without food.

In addition, new young volunteers and some units of the Armed Forces (including the Royal Guard) have replaced volunteers who have been unable to keep up with the activity. Given the impossibility of making face-to-face donations as a result of the State of Alarm, digital donations have been promoted, as well as dedicated web pages and a big virtual food collection with an extraordinary response from the society.



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means keeping on with the generosity that Spanish people demonstrated when the need for food is triggered by the pandemic.

Miguel Fernández,
General Manager





Switzerland

After numerous food redistributions since the start of the pandemic, **Partage** in Switzerland remains on the front line.

At the start of the lockdown, Partage initiated the distribution of vouchers for people in need. From 8 June to 11 July, the operation “Genève solidaire” invited Genevans to make in-kind donations directly in the supermarkets.

The Canton of Geneva also supports Partage with an extraordinary grant, to support its activity.

Moreover, starting Tuesday 16 June, full shopping bags were distributed on several township sites. Each bag contained thirty food and hygiene products. The distribution started and will continue in the coming months.



**SAMEDI^{DU}
PARTAGE**



[Read more information](#)



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means forcing the entire Partage team and the stakeholders involved in the fight against food insecurity and waste in Geneva to develop an active partnership which we hope will grow in the coming years.

Marc Nobs, Director





Ukraine

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, **KCCF Food Bank** is becoming stronger, feeling even more socially responsible as ever before. As the coronavirus pandemic spreads in Ukraine, the KCCF Food Bank concentrates the efforts to three directions:

- **supporting for patients and medical staff at COVID hospitals and emergency medical service staff**
- **supporting for people in need through NGOs around the country**
- **strengthening safety policies – both for food products and people communicating, including donor's staff, KCCF Food Bank's colleagues, volunteers and recipients.**

From the very beginning of pandemic unfolds the major food donors of KCCF Food Bank have been increasing donations, helping with delivery, so the KCCF Food Bank was able to serve 45% more people in comparison to total people supported in 2019. The staff and permanent volunteers managed the increased activities during this challenging time, staying calm, positive and working hard.

45%

increase in the number of people supported by KCCF Food Bank in 2020, compared to 2019



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means expanding the cooperation with current suppliers in the direction of logistics, to unite the efforts of all food chain participants who have the ability and desire to improve the situation of food insecurity in Ukraine, by helping these who are in needs, saving food from waste and improving the environment.

Volodymyr Ivanov, Head of the Board





United Kingdom

Food that makes a difference: **FareShare** delivers quality surplus food from across the food industry and gets it to 11,000 charities and community groups across the UK, including school breakfast clubs, older people's lunch clubs, homeless shelters, and community cafes.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, FareShare has more than doubled the amount of food delivered each week to respond to the crisis. At the peak of the crisis, FareShare was providing more than three million meals a week and 90% of the charities served expect demand to remain the same as crisis levels or increase through the winter.

Many of the charities have had to adjust their service to contend with the challenges posed by COVID-19. Lunch clubs have become parcel delivery services and community centres are bringing groceries right to the doorsteps of vulnerable people.

To cope with the demand FareShare secured additional warehouse space in 11 regional centres. FareShare has overhauled the operating procedures to allow, where possible, for social distancing within the warehouses, invested in additional PPE to protect staff and volunteers, and put new hygiene and handwashing measures in place to keep people safe and reduce the risk of transmission.



[Read more information](#)



Looking at 2021, transforming this crisis into an opportunity for our organisation means engaging as many businesses, government agencies, charities, and individuals to recognise the hunger that exists in our countries, acknowledge the wasting of perfectly good food that co-exists in our countries, and work together to radically reduce the environmental impact of surplus food and reduce the levels of hunger at the same time.

Lindsay Boswell, CEO



Acknowledgement

The European Food Banks Federation wants profoundly to thank its members for their daily commitment in preventing food waste and reducing food insecurity in this challenging times. The constant and tireless activity of FEBA members all over Europe makes a real difference and gives a tangible contribution in this demanding period.

The European Food Banks Federation wants also to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the European Commission for concretely supporting the capacity building of FEBA and increasing the expertise to ensure an effective and professional food redistribution to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

There is no better time than during a crisis to have the support of partners like the ones that are standing with us. Thanks to Advanz Pharma, AIDA Cruises, American Airlines, Amplitude Inc., Apption Labs Inc., Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Ben Kelway Studio Ltd, BlackRock, Bloomberg, Blue Yonder, BNY Mellon, Brambles, Bright Funds Foundation Fund, CAF America, CAF Canada, Campofrío Food Group, Cargill, Chubb Charitable Foundation, Ciano International, Confluent, Contentsquare, Corinium Global Intelligence, Costa Crociere, Delamere Diary, Delta Airlines, Digital Realty, Eat Well Global, EDP Renewables, Elanco Foundation, Envista Forensics, Esposito Research & Strategy Ltd, Eurostep, Everis, F5, FMI Agency, General Mills Foundation, Google, Harvard Business Publishing,

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A special thanks also to all the employees of our corporate partners who have supported us, giving free time to their imagination and creativity.

We are grateful to every single individual who has dedicated time and resources to the European Food Banks Federation. Every donation, even the smallest one, has an infinite value for us.

Finally, a special thanks to the 32,280 Food Bankers and volunteers from 430 Food Banks across Europe: your efforts have propelled a wave of solidarity that permitted to continuing, despite the difficulties, to redistribute food to the charities that every day meet the needs of the most hit by this crisis.

Never before have we realised the importance of having people close to us. Our gratitude goes to your support and proximity in this moment. It is a privilege to work with and for you and we hope to do so today and for years to come.

Thank you !





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