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<i>No</i>	<i>Title/kind (email, note) of document</i>	<i>Author of document</i>	<i>Date of document</i>	<i>AGRI decision Ex. Give access, Refuse, Consult MS</i>	<i>Comment or justification in case of refusal</i>
1	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc document)	Charitable organisation	08/05/2008	Already published in annex to the "Results of the online consultation"	
2	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc document)	Charitable organisation	08/05/2008	Already published in annex to the "Results of the online consultation"	
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6	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.pdf	Cahritable Organisati on	16/05/2008	Already published in annex to the	

	document)			"Results of the online consultation"	
7	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.pdf document)	Charitable organisation	30/05/2008	Already published in annex to the "Results of the online consultation"	
8	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc document)	Private person	27/05/2008	Give access	
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10	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc document)	Charitable organisation	16/05/2008	Already published in annex to the "Results of the online consultation"	
11	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc document)	Cahritable Organisation	08/05/2008	Already published in annex to the "Results of the online consultation"	
12	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc document)	Charitable organisation	08/05/2008	Already published in annex to the "Results of the online consultation"	
13	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc	Private person	08/05/2008	Give access	

	document)				
14	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc document)	Charitable organisation	08/05/2008	Give access	
15	Contribution complementing the on-line questionnaire (.doc document)	Charitable organisation	08/05/2008	Already published in annex to the "Results of the online consultation"	

Nous avons répondu à la consultation par Internet sur le futur du programme de distribution de denrées alimentaires aux personnes les plus démunies. Nous aimerais, comme vous nous l'avez proposé, apporter quelques commentaires complémentaires, et plus particulièrement sur les questions 11 et 13.

Complément à la question 11

Il ne nous semble en effet pas réaliste aujourd'hui de baser uniquement un programme d'aide alimentaire sur la disponibilité d'excédents ; l'expérience montre aussi qu'il ne faut pas en évacuer la possibilité et qu'il faut pouvoir en disposer lorsqu'ils existent. L'achat de produits finis devient une procédure nécessaire et plus productive en général, d'autant qu'elle n'exclut pas la possibilité d'initiatives particulières du type lait, fruits et légumes dans les écoles.

Dans cette optique il ne serait pas illogique de pluri-annualiser le programme européen d'aide alimentaire aux plus démunis.

Complément à la question 13

La mise en place d'un système de bons alimentaires ne nous semble pas répondre à la double nécessité :

- d'accompagner les familles dans leur recherche d'une plus grande autonomie
- de fournir des aides alimentaires répondant aux impératifs nutritionnel spécifiques (parents isolés, sans abris,...)

De plus, les procédures nécessaires à la mise en place et le fonctionnement du système des bons alimentaires nous paraissent d'une très grande complexité.

Cette dernière réflexion nous amène à redire la nécessité d'utiliser la grande expertise des réseaux existants en matière de distribution d'aide alimentaire en nature et de mettre en place des systèmes de contrôle efficaces et adaptés ou à la portée de ces réseaux de bénévoles au service des plus démunis et des plus démunis eux-mêmes.

Nous avons répondu à la consultation par Internet sur le futur du programme de distribution de denrées alimentaires aux personnes les plus démunies. Nous aimerais, comme vous nous l'avez proposé, apporter quelques commentaires complémentaires, et plus particulièrement sur les questions 11 et 13.

Complément à la question 11 :

Il ne serait pas illogique de pluri- annualiser le programme européen d'aide alimentaire aux plus démunis.

Complément à la question 13 :

Il utiliser la grande expertise des réseaux existants en matière de distribution d'aide alimentaire en nature et mettre en place des systèmes de contrôle efficaces et adaptés.

j'ai reçu l'invitation à répondre au questionnaire européen sur le programme d'aide nourriture à destination de ses membres (<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=Mostdeprivedpersons>). J'y ai répondu dans le sens de l'extrême nécessité de pérenniser ce programme.

Néanmoins, je voudrais souligner que le questionnaire - entièrement basé sur l'option tacite qu'il est naturel de trouver des populations incapables de subvenir à leurs besoins alimentaires en Europe, et que cette dernière doit se fixer le but de gérer administrativement cet état de fait comme l'une des politiques ordinaires de l'union - est proprement révoltant.

Je pense qu'il est du devoir, en particulier des organisations caritatives en charge de mettre en oeuvre cette politique d'aide alimentaire, de souligner qu'elles-mêmes, tout comme cette politique, ne devraient tout simplement pas avoir lieu d'être.

sincèrement,

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Bonjour,

Je choisis la réponse ouverte à votre consultation au lieu du questionnaire trop orienté que vous proposez.

N'étant pas d'accord sur cette réforme de la PAC, je ne peux pas me prononcer sur les modalités d'une gestion de la pénurie dans une partie du globe qui croule sous les excès.

Je pense qu'il est très dangereux de se focaliser sur la rentabilité lorsqu'on parle d'alimentation, la loi du marché peut être efficace en matière industrielle et commerciale mais ne le sera jamais sur le plan humain.

Le monde a aujourd'hui 2 défis majeurs : l'énergie et la suffisance alimentaire qui provoqueront les conflits de demain s'ils continuent à être envisagés avec autant d'hypocrisie.

Je comprends bien le lobbying des profits à court terme, mais au-delà nous choisissons en ce moment le visage de la planète du siècle prochain qui comptera 12 milliards d'êtres humain qu'il est techniquement possible de nourrir sans PAC et sans OGM, pour peu qu'on le veuille.

Il ne faut pas rationner l'aide alimentaire aux plus démunis, ni même la conditionner, il faut l'assurer tant qu'on n'aura pas soigné le mal à la racine. La misère est le fruit des choix sociétaux que nous avons fait, il nous faut l'assumer.

Si les excédents disparaissent, il faut au minimum doter les associations de ressources financières nouvelles pour maintenir le niveau d'aide actuel. Accessoirement, leur faire un peu plus confiance ne serait pas un luxe.

Ensuite, il faudrait prendre le problème à l'envers : au lieu de fixer la production et les aides sur la demande solvable européenne, il est déjà urgent de fixer la production mondiale en concertation sur les besoins mondiaux, solvables ou non.

Voilà mon opinion de citoyen, soucieux de mon prochain, qui souhaite voir l'économique au service de l'homme et non l'inverse.

Très cordialement

je suis bénévole dans une association caritative, je viens de consulter votre questionnaire. Il appelle des remarques qui me paraissent essentielles je suis bénévole depuis près de 20 ans et à ce titre je me permets de faire des observations qui découlent de mon expérience "sur le terrain" auprès des gens démunis.

mes remarques portent surtout sur les questions 11-12-13 :

11. il ne peut en être autrement : le programme ne peut être qu'étendu et COUPLE A D'AUTRES INITIATIVES COMMUNAUTAIRES VISANT A LUTTER C/ L'EXCLUSION

SOCIALE

12. Comment peut-on envisager de "découper" en catégories isolées les personnes en difficulté ?

quel ordre oserait-on donner ? quel est le but ? envisagez-vous de donner si peu que vous allez déterminer

une catégorie prioritaire ? diviser les gens en difficulté ? confier aux bonnes volontés les autres ? qui est

prioritaire "priviégié" en misère sociale ? Je trouve l'initiative inhumaine et scandaleuse, il faut être humain

quand on aborde ces questions, être allé sur le terrain, quelle raison "froidement économique" de gestion

qui pousse-t-elle à cette question ? voulez-vous la guerre des pauvres qui se débrouilleront entre eux ?

13. Cette question , la dernière du fil conducteur, révolte : on y devine les desseins économiques... mais ne

pensez-vous pas aussi que les situations des personnes s'il peuvent influer sur des achats guidés (cer-

tainement compensateurs des ventes de denrées) et vous donner un résultat économique que vous

rechercher va avoir un résultat catastrophique humain (et en conséquence économique) Les personnes

se retrouveront donc isolés, sans liberté de choix sur les achats, sous le prétexte de nourriture plus

saine... Savez-vous que dans les associations caritatives NOUS LUTTONS CONTRE L'ISOLEMENT

que nourrir (au plus près des choix des gens, avec une éducation alimentaire que nous savons faire)

n'est pas suffisant , que les pauvres peuvent aussi avoir faim de culture, sinon on peut leur en donner

l'appétit.. que les distributions alimentaires permettent le contact humain et génèrent d'autres ACTIONS

ESSENTIELLES qui permettent aux personnes de vivre humainement, dignement, Dans le comité

où je suis bénévole nous avons : un accompagnement scolaire (avec sorties, interventions diverses)

des enfants de familles en difficultés ce qui fait un lien avec les parents et nous faisons un lien avec

les enseignants et les familles, un atelier alphabétisation , un

atelier cuisine : l'on produit un repas avec

les ingrédients de la distribution et ensuite repas avec un thème éducatif et rencontre d'une "personnalité"

relatif à ce thème, un atelier coiffure et un vestiaire (ça aide pour trouver un travail !) à notre permanence d'accueil nous aidons -dans tous les sens du terme- pour le maintien dans le logement, nous organisons des vacances d'une semaine en famille pour que la famille se retrouve,

nous organisons des sorties culturelles, nous avons même fait du théâtre avec des professionnels

c'est ça l'aide aux personnes en difficulté, notez aussi qu'elles participent souvent aux actions et deviennent des bénévoles où elles mettent leur compétence à la disposition des autres... c'est ça la solidarité et non la charité, l'isolement, la honte d'aller dans un magasin avec "une carte de pauvre" où l'on ne peut même pas choisir... NON MESSIEURS MESDAMES CELA NE PEUT PAS ETRE;; AJOUTONS que la misère peut engendrer des colères justes et des révoltes . Notre seul avenir serait-il de donner à manger aux gens ???

Voilà ..et j'en aurais bien à ajouter.



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FEANTSA Response to the Internet consultation on The Future of the "Most Deprived Food Distribution" Programme

FEANTSA is the European Federation of National Organisations working with People who are Homeless. It is a European NGO that brings together over 100 member organisations in almost 30 European countries and represents the service provider sector working with people who are homeless across a range of areas and needs (more details on FEANTSA mission, structure and activities can be found at: www.feantsa.org).

Based on its expertise and area of activities, FEANTSA's contribution will focus only on specific questions of the online consultation, as appropriate.

4. Have you heard of the European Union's food aid programme for the most deprived people living in the European Union?

Yes, FEANTSA was aware of the programme. However, not all our members knew about it, although they are aware of free food schemes in their own country.

5. Have you, or has the organisation you represent, ever benefited from the European Union food aid programme for the most deprived persons?

FEANTSA as such has never benefited from the EU food aid programme for the most deprived persons, as its main strands of work are: lobbying and policy work at European and national level; transnational exchange and networking; and research (European Observatory on Homelessness).

6. The European Community is committed to supporting and complementing the activities of the Member States in "combating social exclusion" and "improving public health". Do you agree that these are important tasks for Europe and that food aid to the most deprived people in Member States can contribute?

FEANTSA agrees that the EU has an important role to play, together with Member States, to combat social exclusion, improve public health and ensure that everyone's basic needs are met.

In this context, FEANTSA agrees that the free distribution of food to the most deprived can contribute to these aims. However, it is important to stress in this context that food distribution should be seen as an emergency answer to a situation, which should remain exceptional and temporary. Meeting food needs of excluded and deprived people should be seen as a first step towards their full reintegration into society. In general terms, employment and social policy measures should ensure that anyone has access to sufficient resources and support, for him/her to provide for his/her basic needs and those of his/her family, including food.

Food banks and free food distribution services are useful and necessary. However, they need to be complemented with and backed by appropriate policy measures, including adequate resources, capable of breaking the circle of extreme poverty and exclusion. In some countries, such as Spain, people who access free meals distribution services are given an appointment with a social worker within three days, in order to discuss their overall situation and see what steps can be taken to overcome the difficulties they are faced with. Also, children are not allowed into free food distribution services and are directly referred to the appropriate public service responsible for their welfare, which will find appropriate solutions. This aims at avoiding the risk of marginalisation and further exclusion at an early stage.

Similarly, emergency services aimed at people who are homeless are necessary and should be seen as a first temporary step enabling users to move forward towards full reintegration into society.

7. It has been said that "Food security is the most vital of all basic needs. Food insecurity undermines people's ability to learn, work and make progress on other fronts" (L.J.A Mougeot). Do you agree?

There is evidence that malnutrition is an issue among people who are homeless, especially those faced with street homelessness. Of course, food security is a vital basic need, as the alternative is mere survival or starvation. However, FEANTSA would like to stress that food provision is not sufficient and that individual needs should be looked at in a much broader perspective, as fundamental human rights are interlinked. Access to a secure place to live, to health or to employment is crucial to anyone's ability to live a life in dignity. The provision of free food should be seen as a first step in a process. It needs to be part of broader and long term policy framework, which aims at the full integration and participation of individuals in society.

In this context, one problem with free food distribution schemes is that in many countries, the way food is distributed contributes to add to the stigmatisation of the most deprived, especially if there is no perspective for them to move forward to mainstream channels of food provision.

8. Do you think public administrations in each Member State have a duty to ensure that all their citizens have adequate food?

FEANTSA believes that anyone has a right to adequate food.

9. Is it appropriate for the European Union to support Member States in ensuring that all EU citizens have enough to eat?

Yes. As mentioned above, food distribution should be part of a broader policy answer to extreme poverty and deprivation.

10. In view of the growing problems of obesity and unhealthy eating habits, should a future Food Aid Programme for deprived people pay special attention to the nutritional value of the food provided by the Programme?

FEANTSA believes that this is important, as good nutrition contributes to good health, which is a key determinant for individual well being and participation in society. It can be said that ill health conditions can be both the cause and result of social and housing exclusion. Moreover, accessing health care services is often very problematic for people who are homeless, including as a result of stigmatisation, and may imply very late recourse to care.

There is an increasing number of examples of good practice across Europe of healthy eating initiatives in low-income communities and of provision of healthy food within homeless services. The reintegration process can also be linked to the preparation of healthy meals for the whole community.

Also, environmental considerations should be taken into account when designing specific programmes.

11. Up to now, the EU's food aid programme for the European Union's most deprived people has depended on surplus food stocks. Thanks to the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, surplus stocks have practically disappeared. Therefore, do you think the programme should be:

- Phased out gradually as intervention stocks disappear
- Expanded and linked with other EU initiatives to combat social exclusion
- Don't know
- Continued but on the basis of food purchases
- Cancelled immediately.

In general, FEANTSA thinks that food deprivation is very often an element of extreme poverty and social exclusion, including homelessness. These are complex and multifaceted realities, which are partially but not exclusively linked to the lack of adequate resources. Therefore, there is no single or simple solution: extreme poverty and exclusion can be addressed effectively only as part of a wider holistic strategy.

In this context, we feel that the EU's food aid programme for the most deprived people should not only depend on the availability of surplus stocks, but should be more structurally linked to a broader policy framework, both at EU and Member State level.

12. Should the EU target its support, to ensure that deprived people belonging to specific age groups or social categories have access to the healthy food they need (more than one answer possible)

- Pre-school age children
- Single parents
- Homeless people
- School-age children
- Older people (over 70)
- No, all deprived people should be helped.

FEANTSA believes that the programme should target those most in need. Anyone should be able to enjoy his/her fundamental human rights and see his/her basic needs met. When available resources are limited, the urgency of the need should help setting the priorities, in terms of who should be supported first.

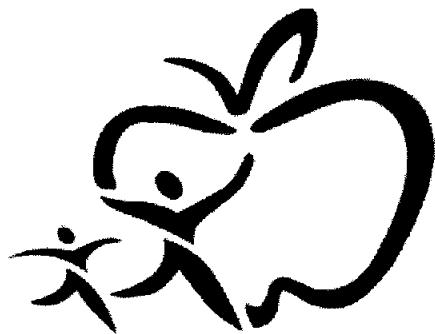
13. Would it be appropriate to introduce a European food voucher system to ensure that low-income families and children have access to a healthy diet? For example, eligible households could be provided with an electronic EU debit card, valid for a certain amount each month, with which they would be able to purchase a specified range of food.

FEANTSA feels that this can be an option in those countries where there is already a voucher system open to the whole population, irrespective of their level of income (see for instance Belgium). In other countries however, vouchers might be seen as a measure only aimed at specific groups of the population, such as people who are identified as poor and who risk further stigmatisation when using them. The implications of such a measure should be assessed.

Also, it is important to keep in mind that the administrative procedure for the delivery of the vouchers can be extremely problematic for people who are the most vulnerable and who don't have a place to live, such as people who are homeless.

To conclude, FEANTSA feels that food aid, although a necessary and useful tool to answer urgent basic needs, should be seen in a much broader framework. There is a need for integrated policies, which would have as a general objective to make sure that people are able to achieve food independence through the implementation of a range of appropriate policies. This should be taken into account when discussing the future of the EU's food aid programme for the European Union's most deprived people.

For more details, please contact Stefania.delzotto@feantsa.org.



Healthy Food for All

access | availability | affordability

Healthy Food for All Initiative Response to Consultation on

**“Future of the European Programme of Food Distribution to the
Most Deprived Persons in the Community”**

30th May 2008

1. Introduction

Healthy Food for All (HFFA) is a multi-agency initiative seeking to promote access, availability and affordability of healthy food for low-income groups on the island of Ireland.¹ The initiative sets out to demonstrate the relationship between food poverty and other policy concerns such as health inequalities, welfare adequacy, education disadvantage, food production and distribution, retail planning and food safety. It seeks to identify and galvanise interest in, and commitment to, eliminating food poverty through raising public awareness, policy advocacy, promotion of best practice models and networking local initiatives with national structures.

In response to the invitation issued by the European Commission to contribute to this consultation process, HFFA held a round-table event with a number of stakeholders on 22nd May 2008 (a list of attendees is contained in Appendix 1). The event was attended by representatives from government departments, statutory agencies, and non-governmental organisations. While the content of this submission was informed by the discussions at this event, the document represents the position of HFFA only.

In Ireland, the Department of Agriculture and Food undertakes the distribution of aid from the Programme to charitable organisations. Normally the Programme is limited to voluntary organisations providing emergency and short-term accommodation for people who are homeless, day-care centres that provide meals for people who are homeless or food banks.

To date there has been little consultation and dialogue at a national level in Ireland between the key stakeholders involved in the management and implementation of the scheme and the distribution agencies. This event served to address this vacuum by raising awareness about the public consultation process and promoting discussion and dialogue with key stakeholders around potential policy options for the Programme's future.

2. Social rationale for food distribution scheme

Food poverty

There are clear links between income status and quality of diet in Ireland. People in the lower income deciles eat less fruit and vegetables; more processed foods

¹ Partnership Agencies: Armagh & Dungannon Health Action Zone, An Bord Bia, Combat Poverty Agency, Community Dietitian Service, Clondalkin Health Initiative, Crosscare, Department of Health & Children, Dublin City Council, Family Support Agency, Focus Ireland, Food Safety Authority Ireland, Limerick Food Partnership, Northern Ireland Public Health Alliance, Population Health (Health Services Executive), SafeFood, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Tallaght Partnership, University College Dublin. HFFA is funded by Department of Social & Family Affairs, Population Health (Health Services Executive), Combat Poverty Agency, SafeFood, Food Safety Authority Ireland.

and consume more saturated fats. This same cohort is less likely to meet healthy eating guidelines even though they spend more on food as a proportion of their income. The 290,000 people living in consistent poverty in Ireland (7% of the population) can be seen to be at risk of food poverty. This means they are living on a low income and are deprived of one or more basic necessities, including various food-related items.

Among those who were income poor in 2005²:

- 11% went without a substantial meal on at least one day in the past two weeks
- 11% were unable to afford a roast once a week
- 9% were unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish every 2nd day.
- 30% were unable to afford to have family or friends around for a meal or drink once a month

Rising food costs

Ireland has the second highest food costs in Europe³ and there is evidence that food costs will rise in the future. Global factors such as climate change policies, sustained rises in energy prices, biofuel production, serious droughts, growing demands for meat and dairy in Asia, high grain prices have affected, and will continue to affect the cost of food.

Obesity

Research clearly demonstrates that people from disadvantaged backgrounds eat a less healthy diet and are less likely to participate in daily physical activity and therefore more prone to becoming overweight and obese. The prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in the EU population is estimated at 30% in 2006.⁴ In Ireland, the National Task Force on Obesity published in 2005⁵, reported that 300,000 children in Ireland were overweight or obese and projected an annual increase of 10,000 per year on this figure.

Market failure

Structural deficits impact disproportionately on poorer people who are living in poorly resourced locations where the type of food outlet available determines the availability and cost of food. It has been observed in research conducted in Ireland,⁶ that the larger multiples that have a greater choice of healthy affordable

² http://www.cso.ie/releasesspublications/documents/eu_silc/current/eusilc.pdf

³ http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-07-090/EN/KS-SF-07-090-EN.PDF

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/nutrition/documents/nutrition_wp_en.pdf

⁵ http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/report_taskforce_on_obesity.pdf?direct=1

⁶ Friel, S, Walsh, O & McCarthy, D. (2004) The Financial Cost of Healthy Eating in Ireland. (Combat Poverty Agency)

food, tend not to enter many regional or other similarly undesirable areas where the catchment market in the surrounding areas is deemed insufficient to justify their entry. In such areas, the 'symbol' category and independent retailer category cater for both 'one stop' and 'convenience' shoppers alike. For households in areas that are considered undesirable to enter by larger multiples, transport to and from supermarket/multiples – often located in out-of town sites with poor or no public transport – is often not feasible. They are forced by their circumstances to shop close to their homes, usually in the aforementioned 'symbol' category of retail outlets or the garage forecourt type of outlet where healthy food is more expensive and less available.

3. Issues, opportunities and proposals

The Most Deprived Programme has played a very important role in securing food provision for Europe's most deprived citizens for over 20 years and must remain in place. However, it is necessary to consider options for the future of the Programme given the disappearance of surplus interventions stocks.

The afore-mentioned round-table event organised by HFfA represented the first opportunity for many of the stakeholders to debate issues relevant to the proposed Programme. Some of the key discussion points were as follows:

Disappearance of surplus food

Surplus food distribution is a rational response to saving waste and providing food to those most in need, thereby producing a 'win-win' situation. However, while surplus food distribution is valuable for the part it plays in alleviating food poverty, among vulnerable groups it has the potential to institutionalise food poverty. In addition the Irish and European policy context within which surplus food distribution operates is lacking.

Direct role for NGOs in Implementation of programme

There is a need for consistent dialogue and consultation between the Member State Governments and the NGOs responsible for distributing the aid. In addition, NGOs should have a key role in decisions related to the implementation of the Programme and the distribution of the aid⁷.

HFfA would like to suggest that the Department of Agriculture and Food in Ireland establish an advisory group consisting of NGOs, Health Authorities and welfare agencies to oversee the administration of the Programme and the distribution of funds. Should the future of the Programme rely solely on market

⁷ In Ireland, the scheme is run at a basic level where only a portion of Ireland's designated aid is drawn down yearly.

purchases, HFfA proposes that the funding be administered by the Commission to the Department of Agriculture and Food for direct distribution to charitable organisations who will have ultimate responsibility for purchasing the food for distribution. This type of administrative approach could also be applied to the proposed option of directing the money towards the establishment of Community Food Initiatives and ensures fair and effective consultation with NGOs. HFfA is not in favour of a voucher system as proposed in the Internet Consultation document.

Support for Community Food Initiatives

Given that surplus intervention stocks no longer exist and the future of the Programme is under review HFfA believes this is an opportune time to review the Programme in terms of the wider food poverty context and consider other potential policy options for improving access to and affordability of food for low-income households. Community Food Initiatives are a means by which local barriers to healthy eating can be addressed in a practical manner. They provide an excellent opportunity to combat food poverty in a local area, giving the power of choice and change back to local communities. They are also identified in Irish government policy as a means of addressing food access issues⁸.

Community Food Initiatives:

- stimulate collective community action on food issues
- prioritise local issues
- involve people affected by poverty in identifying their own needs and developing responses
- increase awareness and knowledge of food issues within the local community
- support local social economy by training local people
- highlight inequalities with regard to access, affordability and availability of healthy food
- contribute to the health and well-being of people in the local area
- provide an alternative route to market for local producers and suppliers.

Examples of Community Food Initiatives include: Food growing projects, community cafes, food co-ops, and local food markets.

HFfA supports the funding of Community Food Initiatives as a proposed option for the future of the Programme in conjunction with market purchases. Responsibility for the dissemination of finances to fund the Programmes should

⁸ Nutritional Advisory Group (1996), Cardiovascular Health Strategy (1999), National Health Promotion Strategy 2000-2005 (2000), Report of the National Taskforce on Obesity (2005) Forthcoming National Food and Nutrition policy, National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 (2007), Towards 2016

be the responsibility of the NGOs which will minimize any administrative burdens on the Commission and Member States.

Programme embedded in broader social inclusion context

HFfA proposes that the future of the Programme is embedded in a broader social inclusion context. The prevention and amelioration of food poverty requires attention to be directed to alleviating both socio-economic inequality and the reasons for socioeconomic variations in dietary behaviour. Different approaches are necessary for different situations. Hungry people require immediate material and practical assistance in order to avoid harm to their health and survival. Social inequality on the other hand relates to the gradients observed in dietary behaviour which, whilst not requiring immediate action for survival purposes, if left long term will lead to continuing social inequality in related health and social outcomes. Addressing these issues require the assembly of appropriate partnerships involving relevant DGs such as Health, Economic and Financial Affairs, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Regional Policy as well as representatives from European NGOs and Member States.

Please note: HFfA also submitted a response to the online Consultation questionnaire.

Appendix 1: Participants at HFfA Roundtable Consultation on Future of European Programme for Most Deprived Persons

Name	Organisation
Ursula O' Dwyer	Department of Health and Children
Jack Dunphy	Crosscare
Jim Walsh	Combat Poverty Agency
Marjo Moonen	Tallaght Partnership
Orla Walsh	Healthy Food for All
Olive Carolan	Community Dietitian (Health Services Executive)
Sonja Kleeman	Community Dietitian (Health Services Executive)
Marie Branigan	Community Dietitian (Health Services Executive)

Oggi ho risposto al vostro questionario; voglio aggiungere che ogni iniziativa che parta dalla società per opera di organizzazioni religiose o comunque assistenziali deve trovare libertà di esprimersi, perché queste sono più efficaci sul piano educativo del cuore dei popoli e più ricche di valori costruttivi di una cultura europea continuatrice della tradizione giudaico-cristiana che ha fondato la civiltà europea. Dedico gratuitamente un pò di me stesso ad opere di questo tipo e dico questo per esperienza personale.

Le soluzioni politiche di alto livello, statale o comunitario, ben vengano, ma come sussidiarie a quelle opere che devono essere favorite sempre di più.

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Buon giorno, mi chiamo Alessandra Sina, abito a Milano e collabro con il Gruppo Auxilium Primatesta. Ho appena compilato il questionario e il riferimento è: IPM 093730819421013008. Il gruppo, che ha sede presso l'istituto salesiano Maria Ausiliatrice, si occupa di aiutare gli indigenti (famiglie numerose, ma soprattutto anziani soli) con frequenza mensile distribuendo loro prodotti alimentari conservati,e, a Natale viene fornito anche il pranzo di Natale a domicilio.

Il mio personale punto di vista è che sicuramente l'attività di distribuzione gratuita dei prodotti alimentari deve essere continuata, ma deve essere potenziata la collaborazione di supermercati e grande distribuzione. Recentemente ho visto in televisione (trasmissoine Report, Rai 3), come i supermercati buttino via i prodotti in scadenza, poichè per loro risuterebbe più un costo ridistribuirli che non buttarli direttamente. Solo in pochissime province stanno iniziando a creare dei last minute market o, comunque dei centri di raccolta e distribuzione dei prodotti in scadenza.

A mio avviso, la Commissione dovrebbe interessarsi a questo argomento di modo da ridurre gli sprechi e poter nello stesso momento aiutare le persone bisognose. Organizzare dei punti di raccolta o, magari mettere le varie associazioni che si occupano di distribuire cibo o pasti tipo la San Francesco nelle condizioni di poter, tramite i propri volontari, andare a ritire tutto quello che per varie ragioni (scadenza ravvicinata, confezioni imperfette etc..)non può essere esposto negli scaffali dei supermercati.

Un'altro argomento su cui invece mi esprimerei in senso negativo sono i buoni spesa. Ho vissuto per un periodo negli Stati Uniti dove è prassi la consegna dei buoni spesa, e ho potuto purtroppo constatare personalmente che i buoni venivano spesi nei suopermercati in modi del tutto inutili se non dannosi (per comprare alcool o sigarette. Quindi penso sia molto più utile cosegrare direttamente il cibo di cui le persone hanno bisogno per il sostentamento.

Grazie per l'ascolto.

Cordiali saluti.

Respondemos à consulta via internet sobre “**O futuro do programa de distribuição de alimentos para pessoas carenciadas**. Conforme vossa proposta, gostaríamos de enviar alguns comentários complementares, em particular sobre as perguntas 11 e 13.

Complemento à pergunta 11

Não nos parece realista actualmente que seja basear um programa de ajuda alimentar unicamente na disponibilidade de excedentes agrícolas. A experiência demonstra também que não devemos eliminar essa possibilidade, sendo indispensável poder dispor desses excedentes sempre que existam. A aquisição de produtos transformados torna-se assim um procedimento necessário e, em geral, mais produtivo, tanto mais quanto essa aquisição não exclui a possibilidade de iniciativas particulares como o caso da distribuição de leite, fruta ou legumes nas escolas.

Nesta óptica, não seria descabido apresentar dados por mais de um ano do programa europeu de ajuda alimentar aos mais necessitados.

Complemento à pergunta 13

A implementação de um sistema de vales alimentares não nos parece responder à dupla necessidade de:

- acompanhar as famílias na busca de uma maior autonomia;
- fornecer ajuda alimentar respondendo aos imperativos nutricionais específicos (famílias mono parentais, idosos, sem-abrigo,...).

Além do mais, os procedimentos necessários à instituição e funcionamento do sistema de vales alimentares parecem-nos de extrema complexidade.

Esta última reflexão leva-nos a reiterar a necessidade de utilizar a grande experiência das redes existentes em matéria de distribuição de ajuda alimentar em produtos e de implementar sistemas de controlo eficazes e adaptados ou alcance destas redes de voluntários ao serviço das pessoas mais necessitadas.

O programa de ajuda alimentar deve ter como objectivo proporcionar aos careciados uma alimentação saudável e digna da sua qualidade de pessoa humana.

Não se pode resumir na disponibilidade de excedentes agrícolas, pois quando estes não existirem deve-se proceder por verbas próprias, à aquisição de produtos transformados que lhes permita usufruir, como anteriormente já foi enumerado, de uma alimentação saudável e digna.

A implementação de um sistema de vales, julgamos ser um sistema que exige um controlo muito apertado e sujeito a muitas fugas transformando, à posteriori, com conivência de fornecedores, os produtos recebidos por outros não aconselháveis e que não conduziam a uma alimentação saudável. O acompanhamento familiar igualmente se realizaria com menos oportunidade.

Atentamente

Somos uma IPSS da cidade do Porto, situados numa freguesia (Campanhã) onde as carencias alimentares e a outros níveis são enormes.

A resposta que demos ao questionário, via internet, sobre "O futuro do programa de distribuição de alimentos para pessoas carenciadas" merece-nos o seguinte comentário:

Pensamos que a distribuição de produtos transformados é um procedimento necessário, até essencial, não descurando os excedentes agrícolas.

Relativamente aos vales alimentares, não nos parece que seja esta uma solução mais viável, uma vez que a experiência no terreno diz-nos que qualquer ajuda que não seja com os próprios bens alimentares é desviada para outras situações.

Não iria de forma nenhuma ajudar as famílias carenciadas.

Toda esta problemática deverá ser articulada com quem no terreno tem conhecimento capaz e experiência nestas situações, ou seja, os Bancos Alimentares contra a Fome.

Melhores cumprimentos.

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Agradecia, se possível e com a maior brevidade possível, o
questionário sobre "O seu perfil" e Questões Chave
Desde já os meus agradecimentos,

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Somos uma Instituição de Solidariedade Social do Porto, que desde já agradecemos esta oportunidade de responder ao vosso questionário, pois precisamos muito de ajuda para as nossas crianças. Das quais muitas são filhos de mães solteiras sem recursos quer humanos quer financeiros.

Com os melhores cumprimentos

A Associação Auxílio e Amizade, IPSS sediada em Lisboa, Portugal, dentro do âmbito que é a sua razão de existência, o auxílio a famílias carenciadas da área de Lisboa, e respondendo ao apelo feito pelo Banco Alimentar Contra a Fome, na resposta à consulta via internet, gostaríamos de acrescentar algo mais, relativo ao âmbito das perguntas 11 e 13.

Não nos parece de todo realista, basear um programa de ajuda alimentar unicamente nas disponibilidades de excedentes agrícolas. A experiência tem demonstrado também que não devemos eliminar essa possibilidade, sendo indispensável poder dispor desses excedentes sempre que existam.

A aquisição de produtos transformados torna-se pois um procedimento necessário, e de uma maneira geral, mais produtivo, tanto mais quando essa aquisição não exclui a possibilidade de iniciativas particulares como o caso da distribuição de leite, fruta e legumes nas escolas.

Quanto à implementação de um sistema de vales alimentares, não nos parece responder à dupla necessidade: de por um lado acompanhar as famílias no sentido de as ajudar a caminhar para uma maior autonomia; e por outro lado, fornecer ajuda alimentar respondendo aos imperativos nutricionais específicos consoante os casos (idosos, crianças, famílias mono parentais, sem-abrigo, etc.).

Creamos por outro lado, que todo um sistema de vales alimentares, seria de tal modo complexo e burocrático, que não iria permitir alcançar eficazmente os propósitos para que são pensados. Julgamos ser de suma importância não esquecer o papel fundamental das redes de ajuda existentes, que com o seu conhecimento prático das realidades que se vivem em cada local, com o seu partilhar de experiências, com a rede de voluntários que movimentam, poderão desenvolver um trabalho mais eficaz e profícuo nesta distribuição de ajudas alimentares aos mais carenciados.

É importante que aqueles que estão por detrás de uma secretaria, encerrados num gabinete, do alto de um edifício, onde felizmente as necessidades alimentares e outras não se fazem sentir, não percam a noção da realidade, não esqueçam os milhares de seres humanos, homens, mulheres, crianças e jovens, que todos os dias acordam e se deitam com FOME. É obrigação dos mais favorecidos, contribuirem para erradicar os males do mundo, e se muitos deles não estão nas nossas mãos acabarem hoje ou amanhã, não é de todo admissível que em pleno século XXI, ainda haja fome, ainda se morra de fome, ainda nas ruas e cidades da nossa velha Europa, se arrastem concidadãos, implorando um pouco de pão para esconder a fome, tantos lares, onde a fome e a necessidade marcam presença diária, tantas crianças crescendo sem a conveniente alimentação.

Existe uma visão muito economicista das sociedades actuais, tudo é redutível a números, a estatísticas, a taxas. Mas o Homem é muito mais do que isso, é preciso dignificá-lo, é preciso ajudá-lo a CRESCER, é preciso que cada um de nós face a sua quota parte, e é preciso que aqueles que têm o poder de decisão, se lembrem de todos e não só de alguns.

Estamos a construir o futuro, estamos a preparar o mundo para as gerações do amanhã, que exemplos lhes queremos deixar? Era bom que todos meditassemos nisso, e que no fim de cada dia, nos inquirissemos, sobre o que fizemos de positivo para ajudar a modificar a sociedade em que estamos integrados. A acção de cada um pode passar despercebida, mas multiplicada por milhares, milhões, pode fazer toda a diferença.