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Slovakia – Greek Catholic Charity Prešov

Provision of hot meals with accompanying measures as a means of addressing food deprivation

WHY?

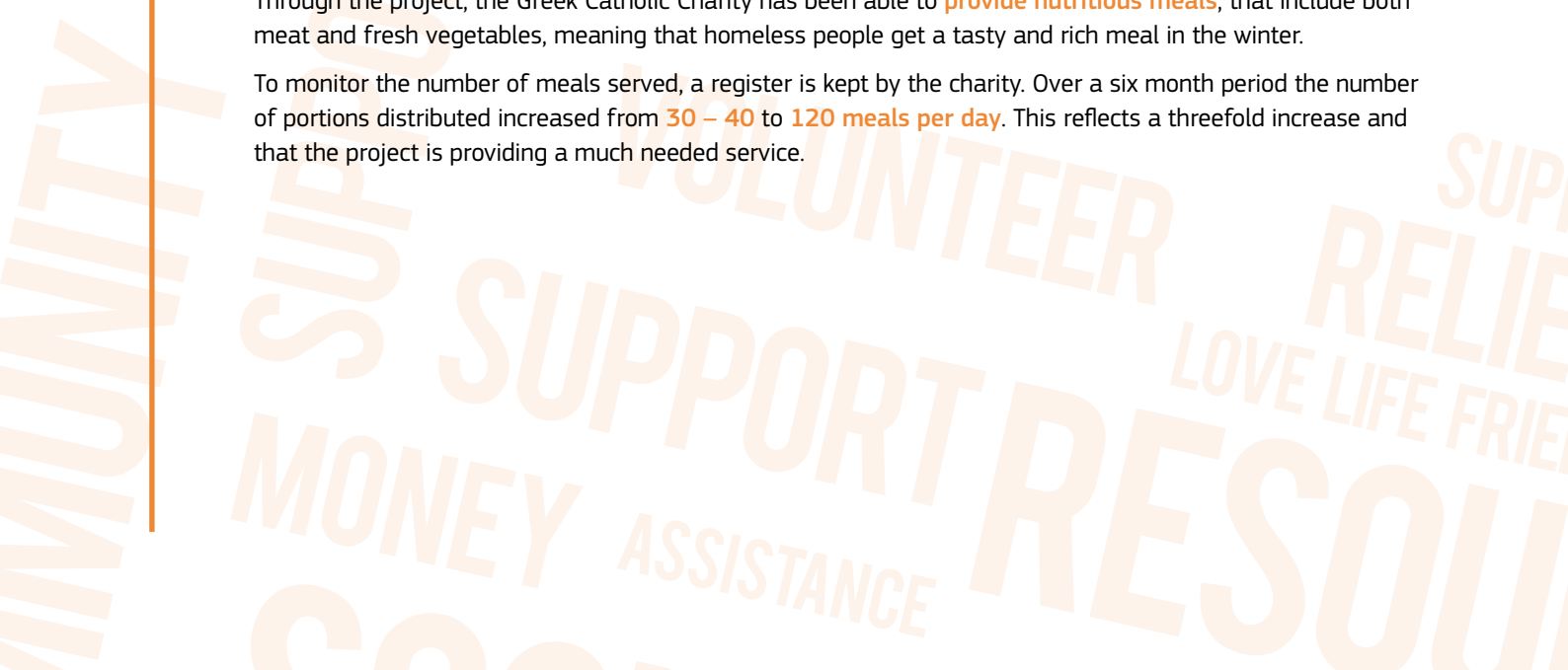
The aim of the project is to support homeless people in Prešov, a city in Eastern Slovakia. Homeless individuals are particularly vulnerable and experience significant hardship due to the cold, especially in winter. The Greek Catholic Charity in Prešov provides warm, healthy meals to homeless individuals to help them during these colder months.

WHAT?

The hot meals comprise soup, a piece of bread and a hot non-alcoholic drink. The charity provides them five times a week from October to April each year, helping to not only satisfy hunger, but also encourage people to come to a social centre where they can access additional support and counselling services. When the soup is distributed, a therapist is also present to respond to the needs of end recipients.

Through the project, the Greek Catholic Charity has been able to **provide nutritious meals**, that include both meat and fresh vegetables, meaning that homeless people get a tasty and rich meal in the winter.

To monitor the number of meals served, a register is kept by the charity. Over a six month period the number of portions distributed increased from **30 – 40** to **120 meals per day**. This reflects a threefold increase and that the project is providing a much needed service.



WHO?

Project activities are carried out by **employed staff** as well as **students**. The project is managed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the FEAD Managing Authority in Slovakia, and is implemented by the Greek Catholic Charity Prešov.

HOW?

The Greek Catholic Charity is a partner organisation in Slovakia and works closely with the FEAD Managing Authority in the delivery of the project. The charity identifies the end recipients of the project and provides the meals. It doesn't limit support to individuals living on the streets, but also helps other individuals whose basic living needs are not being met. Besides a **lack of accommodation**, this may also include **limited access to regular meals** or an **inadequate amount of clothing**. However, priority is given to helping those living on the street and those who do not receive social assistance from public social services (e.g. through shelters or emergency housing).

One of the key strengths of the project is that the provision of a hot meal serves as an entry point for people to access further support services and inclusion activities like community support centre or local monthly newspaper distribution. Over the duration of the project, homeless people started to return to the centre on a regular and even daily basis, allowing social workers to engage with them more consistently and offer support where needed. This reaffirms the belief that food is a **good entry point** for social workers when it comes to helping vulnerable individuals escape poverty and social exclusion.

For more information on the project, contact **Ms. Alena Mitaľová (Miškuřová)** of the Greek Catholic Charity Prešov via:

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