



Republic of Cyprus

2014 – 2020 FOOD AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

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European Social Fund Unit - Cyprus

CY Food and/or Basic Material Assistance Operational Programme - OP I

- CY OP Budget: **€4,640,000**
- 2 distinct FEAD projects targeting specific populations:
 1. **“Baby’s Dowry”** delivered by the **Social Welfare Services** (Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Security)
 2. **“Free Daily Breakfast in Public Schools”** is delivered by the **Ministry of Education and Culture**

How the End Recipients are identified

End Recipients are GMI Recipients

- **Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI)** is provided under the 2014 Law on the guaranteed minimum income and social benefits in general (**Law 109(I)/2014**).
- A new body, the Service for Administration of Welfare Benefits, has been set up since 2014. Responsible for the implementation of the law on the GMI and for administering all social benefits paid by the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance.
- The philosophy of the new legislation is to create a minimum standard of living through benefits granted after the resources of beneficiaries and their families have been examined; these resources include income, immovable property, bank deposits, stocks, bonds, securities, insurance policies, accounts receivable and other similar items owned by members of the family unit.
- GMI is a well established and operating government venture running under specific criteria

How the End Recipients are identified

- Additionally, the **Social Welfare Services** also cover two more categories of End Recipients:
 - Those who are **receiving Social Welfare** and are in the process to be admitted as recipients of the GMI

and

- Parents/Mothers who are not GMI recipients, but in need of assistance, **according to a report by the Social Welfare Services** (e.g. deprived immigrants or other deprived groups).

Social Welfare Workers are invited to examine the applicant's living conditions and draft a report based on the findings, suggesting the approval or disapproval of the application.

Why Target Aid/End Recipients at OP Level

- Nature/Size of CY FEAD Operational Programme - A “small” OP (€4.6 mln with 2 projects)
- MA and Partner Organizations both Government Bodies – efficient/direct communication
- A political approach that assistance is directed to those in need
- While the target population is identified in the OP, the identification criteria/procedure was set-up by the partner organizations (a hybrid of both approaches)
- One project (Breakfast) was already set-up / target population known
- “Baby’s Dowry” population needs identified by a Government Department, the *Service for Administration of Welfare Benefits*, a specialized unit for providing the Guaranteed Minimum Income. Identification mechanism in place.
- *Social Welfare Services* designed the project utilizing their expertise and knowledge of the target population.

Advantages and Challenges

Advantages

- Utilizing already set-up mechanisms and databases
- The End Recipients selection process set up, additionally monitors their needs and can detect further problems and assist in various helpful ways
- It allows for closer collaboration between MA and Partner Organizations since the mechanism is set up in consultation
- Criteria are known and transparent
- Assistance directed to those in need

Advantages and Challenges

Challenges

- More rigidity in case a need for adaptation/update arises, although this can be dealt with by incorporating some discretionary criteria to begin with
- Risk of stigmatization, especially when dealing with children – Set up the most appropriate mechanism / Utilize expert assistance and community knowledge
- Creates a bureaucracy level which in some cases might even exclude recipients who are indeed in need of assistance – It's good to leave some discretion to the selection body

The “Baby’s dowry” Project

Target Population: **Deprived newborns and their families**

Budget: €3.500.000 of which **Accompanying measures:** €175.000

Programme type: **Material deprivation**

Offering newborn **essential items/products** (to ensure the healthy wellbeing of the beneficiary babies). It additionally offers free **Baby Diapers** for a 2 year period

Prerequisite for the parents to receive the items:

To first attend a training seminar on improving parenting skills and additionally information on where and how to receive government offered assistance, employment programmes, job training etc.

“Baby’s dowry” products offered

Items offered:

- Baby clothing, baby bed, baby relax chair, sleeping, eating and bathing items

Each complete **pack** costs apprx. **€1000**

- **€650** Baby Items + **€415** Baby Diapers

Launch Date: 1st of Jan. 2017

- Packages delivered so far: **1100**
(1 package for each Newborn Baby)
- Total Cost of Delivered items: **€724.155,00**

WHY offer the “Baby’s dowry”

- The GMI does **NOT** provide for the economic burden of a newborn and FEAD covers this.
- Statistical Analysis and Research has revealed that young people suffered severely during the economic crisis and are in serious need of economic support.
- (Young) couples and especially (young) parents have increased economic needs right after the birth of their baby since essential newborn products are quite expensive
- Offer expert parental advice through the Accompanying Measures while at the same time constructing a supportive bond with the Social Welfare Services
- Enhance Social Inclusion and relieve/tackle poverty

Baby's Dowry: Benefits / Challenges

BENEFITS:

- Receiving crucial and expensive items for the wellbeing of newborns' families in risk of poverty
- Providing the Accompanying Measures to these families, thus, enhancing Social Inclusion efforts and supporting alleviating serious forms of poverty
- Almost half of the End Recipients are immigrant families who have minimal other resources

CHALLENGES:

- Maintaining a high level of discretion and respect for the end-recipients
- Identifying, informing the target population (prospective parents) and maintaining contact for future support
- The timely offering of the package (applications are received during pregnancy)
- Communication issues due to multilingual background of end recipients
- Logistics issues

Free Daily Breakfast for Deprived Public School Students

Specific Target: **Deprived Public School Students in all levels of Education**

(Preschool, Elementary and Secondary)

Budget: apprx. **€800.000**

No Accompanying Measures funded by FEAD, since schools already fully provide them / Psychological, Counselling + other kind of Support

Programme type: **Food Support**

Offering free daily Breakfast (**sandwich** or **other type snack**) to pre-selected deprived students

No Prerequisite to receive the Breakfast:

End Recipient Students are firstly selected by the School Advisory Committee

Free Daily Breakfast for Deprived Public School Students

- School Breakfast government programme launched in 2013 using own funds and private donations. The overall programme covers apprx. 700 schools and 12,000 students
- The programme employs well set criteria and processes for the student selection process

FEAD support was launched in 2017:

- Verified Expenses apprx. **€585.000** (until Dec.2018)
- Apprx. **2000** out of a total of 12.000 students who receive Breakfast on a daily basis each year are supported by FEAD
- CY FEAD financially **compliments** the programme (replaced withdrawn private donations)

WHY offer the “Breakfast”

- Statistical Analysis has shown that people with unskilled labor occupations, are at a high risk of poverty or social exclusion – have the highest levels of Unemployment
- The main effort is to limit early school leavers and increase school participation
- Helps students remain focused in their school work and remain healthy
- Psychological and counselling Assistance and other support is also available (not funded by FEAD)
- The overall schooling “product” is strengthened when healthy students participate

The “Free School Breakfast” Challenges

- Stigmatization and personal data issues
- Administrative burden assigned to teachers and school units
- Logistics issues

Thank you for your attention



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Baby Dowry items

