



FEAD 2014-2020

FUND FOR EUROPEAN AID TO THE MOST DEPRIVED (FEAD)

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

*“We must do more to fight poverty. The future of Europe will depend on our young people. We must support them throughout their childhood and into their adult life”
(President Ursula, Von Der Leyen, “My agenda for Europe”)*

Background

Within the European Union, 110 million people were experiencing poverty and social exclusion in 2018. This is 21,9 % of the EU population. Poverty and social exclusion remain a challenge, particularly for children, the homeless, people with disabilities, and people with a migrant background.

Objectives

The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) was established in 2014 to contribute to alleviating the worst forms of poverty. It provides **€3.8 billion of EU funding** for the programming period 2014-2020 (total funding with national contributions is €4.5 billion). FEAD complements national social inclusion efforts as well as other EU funds, notably the European Social Fund.

Implementation

FEAD is implemented at national level through operational programmes:

- 23 Member States chose a programme focusing on **food or basic material assistance support**. It is provided to the most disadvantaged groups through meals, food packages or basic consumer items such as school supplies and toiletries. More than 1.6 million tonnes of food were distributed between 2014 and 2018.
- This support is complemented by accompanying measures to promote the social inclusion of end recipients, e.g. referring them to appropriate services, offering guidance on a balanced diet or providing advice on managing a household budget. Member States cooperate with partner organisations (public bodies or non-profit organisations) to implement the FEAD programmes.
- Four Member States chose a programme focusing on **social inclusion support** to the most deprived through dedicated outreach to specific target groups.

Type of assistance	Member State
Food	BE, BG, EE, ES, FI, FR, IT, MT, PL, PT, SI
Basic material assistance	AT
Both food and material assistance	CY, CZ, EL, HR, HU, IE, LT, LU, LV, RO, SK
Social inclusion	DE, DK, NL, SE

The implementation of the FEAD in the current programming period is on track. Cumulated eligible public expenditure by 27 Member States until 2018 accounted for €2.7 million, representing 61 % of the total resources of the programmes.

In April 2020, the FEAD Regulation was amended to [meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic](#), including through enabling the purchase of protective equipment for those delivering aid. Food and basic material assistance can be delivered through vouchers, lowering risks of contamination.

Annual reach and target groups

On average, based on estimations by partner organisations, FEAD supported nearly 13 million persons per year over the 2014-2018 implementation period.

Figure 1: Number of persons receiving food support and/or basic material assistance

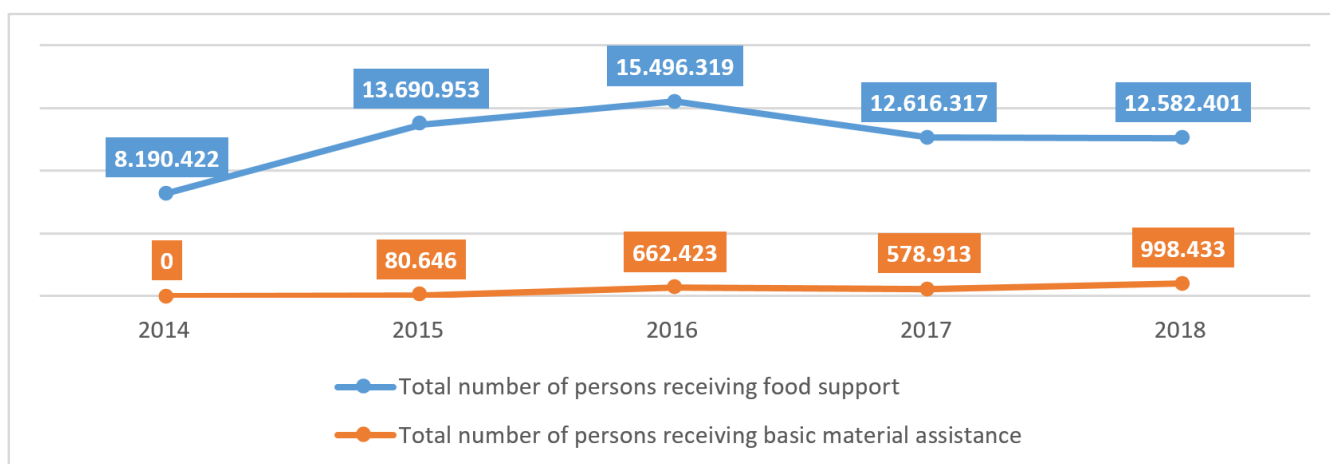
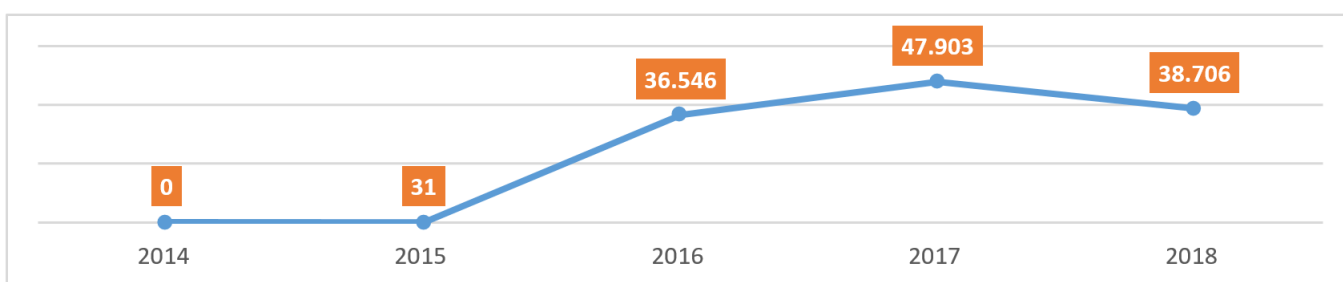


Figure 2: Number of persons receiving social inclusion support

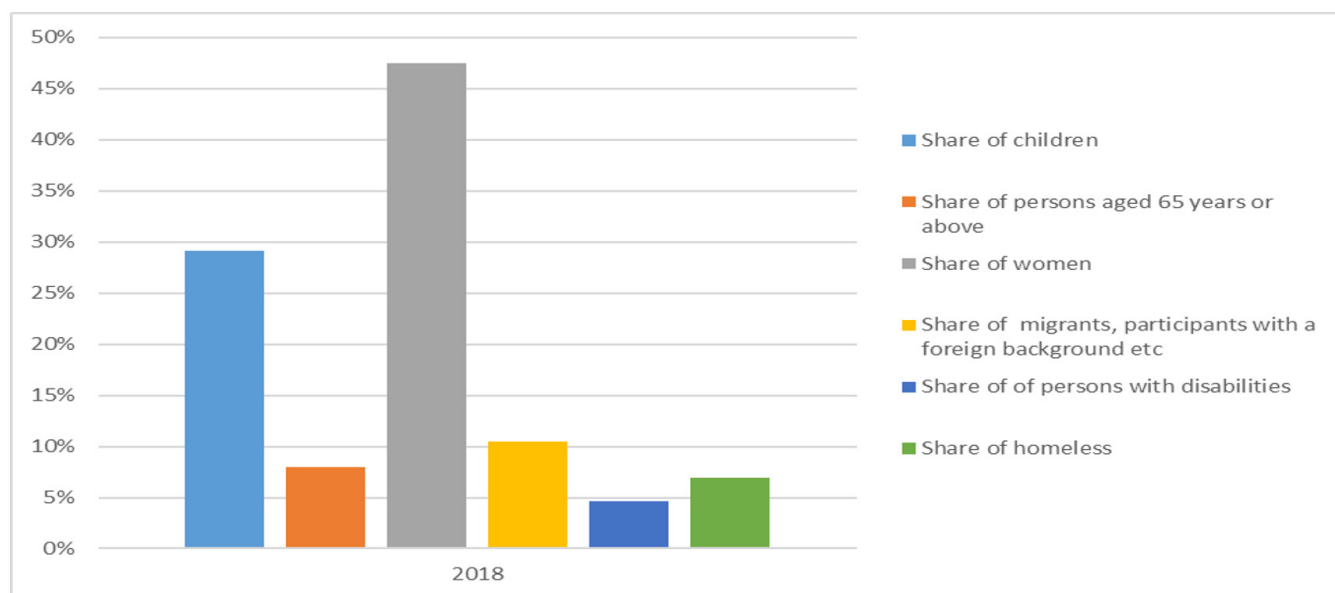


In 2018, women made about half of the total number of people receiving support. Other key target groups included:

- children (29 %);
- migrants and other minorities (10 %);
- the homeless (7%); people aged 65 years or over (8%);
- persons with disabilities (5%).

Examples of the diverse approaches to supporting Europe's most deprived can be found in more details in the [FEAD network case study catalogue](#).

Figure 3: Profile of end recipients reached (2018)



Evaluation findings

[The FEAD Mid-term evaluation](#), published in 2018, concluded that FEAD is providing much needed food and basic material assistance to a large number of the most deprived and is complemented by accompanying measures providing guidance and advice for their social inclusion. The fund is flexible and responsive to emerging needs. The evaluation also confirmed that FEAD is coherent with and complementary to national poverty alleviation systems. In many cases, it reached specific groups among the most deprived such as homeless or refugees, groups that would otherwise not receive any assistance. FEAD is coherent with the Europe 2020 Strategy, as well as with the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Respondents to **the public consultation** conducted in the framework of this evaluation overwhelmingly agree that FEAD makes a difference for the lives of the most deprived (93 %), reaching the intended target groups, especially children at risk of poverty (79 %).

The next programming period / ESF+

In the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021- 2027), FEAD will be merged with the ESF under the ESF+ Regulation. This merger should allow to better combine the provision of food or material assistance with social inclusion measures. In addition, the introduction of electronic vouchers or cards will facilitate distributing the support. To keep the investment levels stable, the Commission proposed that Member States allocate at least 2 % of their ESF+ resources toward addressing material deprivation. At EU level, the proposed target is 4 %.

The negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council are well advanced. Once the negotiations are concluded, the ESF+ programming for the next programming period will enter in its final phase.