

FEAD Community –

Distribution of food parcels to students in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region

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Introduction : Food Banks and the COVID-19 crisis

- 79 Food Banks in France
- Network fully mobilised since the beginning of the health crisis to ensure continuity in food aid distribution
 - First confinement (March-May 2020):
 - + 400 new organisations joined the Network during this first confinement.
 - +22% increase in demand for food aid
 - 1500 new volunteers to replace elderly and at-risk volunteers
 - Pressures on stocks (dry goods)
 - Second confinement (October-December 2020) :
 - + 70 new organisations
- Numerous initiatives on the territory to respond to the social emergency

Origin of the operation

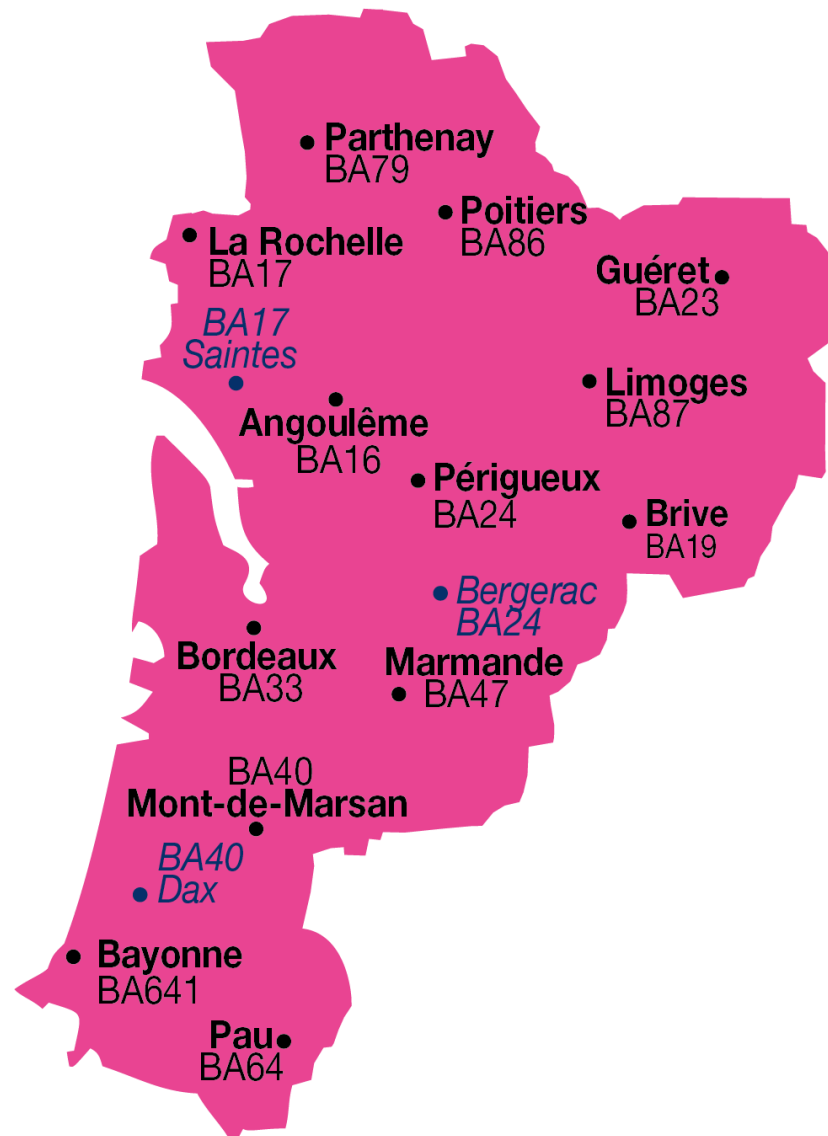
- **Start of the discussion on 20 March in Bordeaux:** the CROUS close the university restaurants (because of confinement) and the social grocery shop partner of the Food Bank of Bordeaux and Gironde is not able to meet the high demand.
- Identification of 2 places to deliver food parcels to students, mostly identified by CROUS social workers.
- Distribution of parcels once a week (dry/fresh goods/hygiene kits), i.e. approximately 8kg per parcel.
- Mobilisation of a community of actors (local authorities, CROUS, Universities, Banques Alimentaires and their volunteers) to provide a pragmatic and coordinated response to an emergency situation.

First Operation: Bordeaux, end of March – end of April

- Outcomes: positive but social workers were overwhelmed and could not meet the requests of all students.
 - 200 tons distributed, of which more than 25% were regional products (fruit and vegetables, dairy products...).
- Request from the Nouvelle Aquitaine Region to the Food Banks network to extend this system to the student population (which is within the Region's competence) throughout the Region, in conjunction with the CROUS and their local branches.
- Beginning of May: the players sit around the table to duplicate the experience initiated in Bordeaux throughout the entire Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region.
- Validation of the project by the Plenary of the Region at the end of May, in view of the implementation at the beginning of June 2020.

Development of the project throughout the New Aquitaine Region

- Beginning of this region-based operation at the beginning of June in all the Food Banks in connection with each local branch of the CROUS of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region.
- 13 Food Banks
 - 3 branches



Second operation/December 2020: Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region

- 9 out of the 12 departments of Nouvelle-Aquitaine take part in this operation
 - Although the aim is to help the most vulnerable students, local solutions and financing processes make it possible to provide a response, at least occasionally, also on sites that are not included at the beginning of the 2nd regional action.
- **Role of actors:**
 - CROUS : identifying students in situations of food insecurity.
 - Banques Alimentaires : preparation of parcels, implementation of distribution, most often in conjunction with associative partners.
- **The levers for this operation:**
 - The Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region finances EUR 13 per each parcel of around 8KG (market value FFBA 3.31€/kilo).
 - Involvement of all the Food Banks of Nouvelle-Aquitaine.
 - Strong delegation of initiative to each Food Bank and its local actors (no single model imposed)
 - Reporting of regular indicators (number of parcels, tonnage distributed, number of beneficiaries, % from local supply, etc.) to the Region's services.

Post-confinement: emergency food aid for 15–30-year-old

- Setting up, in each department, a collaborative network linking social centres, youth centres, local missions, etc. to identify 'invisible' groups in very precarious situations (i.e. not identified by employment services, training centres, etc.) so that they can benefit from food aid.
- Each department will have a leader who will become the Food Banks' contact for the distribution of these emergency food parcels to this young population.
- This new scheme, called "Rebound for youth", parallel to that for students, is also supported by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region for the year 2021.