



OVERCOMING THE CRISIS TOGETHER



More than 400 Tafel food banks have received fast and easy support from emergency aid funding, delivered where it was needed most



All Tafel locations have now reopened; the crisis had forced more than 400 of them to close temporarily



There are lots of new people now seeking support from their local Tafel food bank; volunteers are still finding it difficult to reach people who are older or already in poor health

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020, over **400 of the 948 local Tafel food banks** and pantries in Germany were forced to temporarily close their doors. It has been the greatest challenge the Tafel organization had faced since it was founded 27 years ago. Having to abandon people in need was especially painful for our volunteers.

Although the Tafel organization can only offer secondary support and there is no legal obligation to provide our services, there are many people who urgently need them. Before the crisis, **1.6 million people** regularly visited their local Tafel.

For many people, it is far more than just a food pantry. It is a place to meet and socialize, a community space central to the lives of many of our beneficiaries.

It is only **thanks to our reliable partners** that Tafel food banks were able to respond so quickly to the crisis and adapt to the new circumstances. You are one of those partners and, for that, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Delivering food throughout the crisis

Almost all of the Tafel's 45 community food pantries in Berlin were forced to close at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. In order to keep providing food to their 50,000 beneficiaries, the Tafel quickly set up a delivery service. In just four days, they successfully delivered 1,000 bags of groceries to people in need. Priority was given to older people, people with illnesses or disabilities, and single parents with multiple children. During this time, volunteers packed 500 food bags per day.

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC POSES ENORMOUS CHALLENGES FOR TAFEL

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tafel organization found itself facing many different challenges: to ensure the safety of both volunteers and service users, we had to devise and implement new strategies for distributing food. 90% of Tafel's 60,000 active volunteers are older people and therefore considered to be in a vulnerable group, meaning that many Tafel food banks had a sudden lack of volunteers. In addition, the amount of food donations fell drastically in some regions as a result of panic buying.

At the same time, the Tafel were trying to get their services up and running again as quickly as possible so

they could continue supporting people in need. The new restrictions enforced as a result of the pandemic were especially difficult for many of the people who rely on our services, e.g. single mothers who cannot afford their children's lunches, which are normally provided for free by the school.

Once again, it is **thanks to your support** that the Tafel organization was able to master this balancing act so successfully.



1.6 million people regularly use a Tafel food bank, of whom 26 % are seniors and 30 % are children and teenagers



60,000 volunteers save 265,000 metric tons of food from being wasted every year – that's more than 8 kg a second



INCREDIBLE SOLIDARITY

Our volunteers have been working tirelessly, sometimes day and night on end, to find solutions. The support that Tafel received in the first few weeks and months after the coronavirus outbreak was therefore all the more urgent and all the more overwhelming. It is only thanks to this support that Tafel food banks and pantries were able to reorganize their services in such a short amount of time and develop food distribution strategies that adequately ensure the safety of everyone involved. Lots of young people signed up to volunteer at their local Tafel and got involved straight away.

Thanks to this rapid response, which is also partly a result of your support, Tafel food banks were able to...

...**set up delivery services** so that Tafel can continue to support people in need, particularly older people. To do this, some Tafel food banks had to purchase new vehicles, which led to an increase in fuel costs. Other Tafel food banks organized a bicycle delivery service.

...purchase bags, sunshades and canopy tents, enabling them **to distribute food outdoors**.

...implement **new hygiene measures** on site. Some Tafel food banks had to move to new premises as it was not

There is food in the fridge again!

Following the coronavirus outbreak, the Tafel in Schweinfurt had to close on short notice in order to devise new food distribution strategies in compliance with the new hygiene regulations. It was closed for one week. On the day it reopened, one regular beneficiary tearfully thanked the volunteers for their hard work: “My fridge was empty and I didn’t know where to get anything. I’m so grateful. This is like Christmas Day for me.”

possible to observe social distancing measures in their old buildings.

...purchase protective screens, hand sanitizer, masks and other **protective equipment**.

...cover their **ongoing costs**, e.g. rent and utilities.

Thank you for supporting us during this difficult time and helping to give our volunteers and beneficiaries hope for the future.



CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE

All of our branches have now reopened their doors to the public, but the range of services still remains limited. In addition to the regulars, we are now seeing more and more new faces at our Tafel locations. These people, who had led stable, settled lives before the coronavirus pandemic, have now been plunged into poverty by the crisis. At the same time, some people, mostly older people or others with pre-existing conditions, are not using Tafel's services for fear of infection. Other forms of support offered at the Tafel, such as tutoring or cooking courses, have been suspended because of increased operational costs.

The winter will bring new challenges for the Tafel. For example, we will need to adapt our operations to ensure we can keep distributing food regardless of the weather. We will also need to expand our delivery services so that we can respond quickly to any lockdown measures.

Tafel food banks and the beneficiaries still rely on support from donors. With reliable partners on our side, we

will be able to help even the most vulnerable members of our society get through this crisis. Your donation helps us to help people and save food!

Donations account

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft

IBAN: DE63 1002 0500 0001 1185 00

BIC: BFSWDE33BER

www.tafel.de/spenden/jetzt-spenden



Contact

Ryan Harty

International Officer

Phone: +49 (0)30 200 59 76-19

Email: harty@tafel.de

Tafel Deutschland e.V.
Germaniastr. 18, 12099 Berlin, Germany
Phone: +49 (0)30 200 59 76-0
Email: info@tafel.de | www.tafel.de

Tafel Deutschland e.V. has held the DZI Seal of Approval and been a member of Initiative Transparent Civil Society without interruption since 2010. The DZI endorses us as a particularly trustworthy and important aid organization, both generally and specifically during the coronavirus crisis.

