

FOOD AID SCHEME

The objective of this scheme is to supply food from intervention stocks (although more recently the scheme is increasingly reliant on community market purchases) to the most deprived persons in the Community through recognised charitable organisations. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3149/92 of 29th October 1992 lays down detailed rules for the supply of food from intervention stocks for the benefit of the most deprived persons in the Community and subsequent amendments.

The Commission draws up a yearly plan allocating resources to Member States who have expressed their intention to participate in the Scheme. This plan identifies the total financial resources, type and quantities of products allocated and information on the intervention agencies where the allocated intervention products are stocked.

Malta, through the Paying Agency within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs has been participating in this programme since 2005. So far Malta has been allocated a variety of products including cereals, rice, sugar and milk products. Lately grants have been allocated to purchase cereals, rice and milk products from the local market.

The final beneficiaries of this scheme are those persons who fall under one or more of the following:

- Persons who have no possibility of maintaining themselves and/or fall under the basic standard of living;
- Persons who reside in non-governmental institutions such as orphanages, emergency shelters etc;
- Persons who receive non contributory social security assistance including unemployment, disability and medical benefits.

Beneficiaries are to present a certificate issued by the department responsible for Social Policy to the designated charitable organisations, indicating that they qualify for aid. Beneficiaries may apply for aid through participating parishes, NGOs or directly through the designated charitable organisations

For the 2009 Plan, the food range consists of milk products (fresh pasteurised milk and skimmed milk, yogurt and ricotta), sugar, jam, rice and pasta and distribution shall be managed by the designated charitable organisations namely YMCA Homeless for Malta and Caritas for Gozo.