



WESTFÄLISCHE
WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNSTER

Contribution of non profit organisations to reduction of food poverty



Structure

“War against hunger”

Reasons for a food rescue in Germany

Food rescue organisations in action

Ideas for the future of food rescue

Conclusion



“War against hunger”

- Charitable non-profit organisations and federal organisations gave food to needy US-citizens since the early 1960s.
- 1967 the St. Mary's Foodbank in Phoenix/Arizona, was the first non-profit organisation established for this charitable purpose only.
- 1984 the idea came to France.
- 1993 the first German food rescue organization (FRO) opened up in Berlin.

Reasons for food rescue in Germany

*“Old bread isn't hard –
no bread at all, that's hard”* (German adage)



Poverty in Germany

19 million German citizens live below the poverty line or, because of social welfare transfers, just above the line (Bundesregierung 2008).

The monthly given amount of welfare lasts for food:

- 19,5 days in the early 1990th (Roth 1992)
- 23 days for 4 years old children in 2004
- 17 days for 17 years old teenagers in 2004
(Kersting and Clausen 2007)
- Adults would have comparable problems.

Food insecurity

“Limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways” (Andersen 1990).

Feichtinger (1995) differentiates between materially and social food insecurity.

Materially and social food insecurity

Materially food insecurity	Social food insecurity
Not enough money to buy food	Problems to build and foster relationships
Inadequate physiological quality of the food	Problems to fulfil social rolls and functions
Inadequate hygienic quality of the food	Problems to achieve rights and responsibilities
	Problems to realize food related habits



Consequences of food poverty

Participation, communication, social gathering, joy and pleasure are impaired.

The quality of life decreases.

Morbidity and mortality rates are higher within the poor population than within other groups (Mielck 2008).

Leftovers

In order to fight waste, food can be picked up free of charge at:

- Growers
- Processors
- Distributors
- Retailers
- Prepared Food Establishments
- National and European public authorities
- Other civic organisations

Main reasons for food leftovers

- Production of 120% to 140% of the food demanded (Selke 2009).
- The claim to get faultless products
- Sell-by date
- Producing reasons and demands of the retailer
- Wrong ordered or declared food
- Wrong content
- Food intervention by the European Union
- Damage to a van/store etc.
- Bankruptcy of food retailers

Food surplus in Germany*



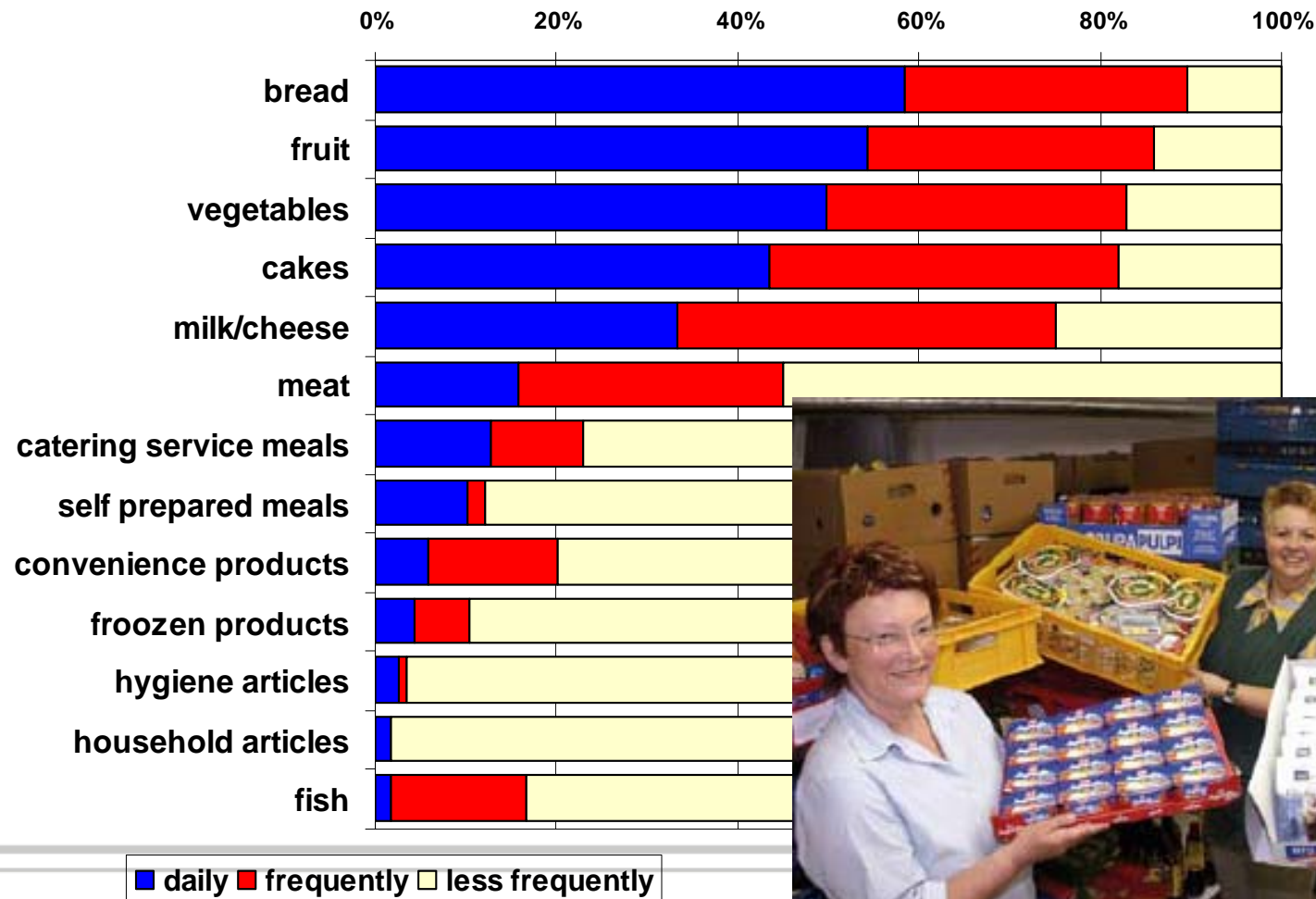
*In procent of the goods value not weight

Source: Completed in addition to Schäfer (2001)

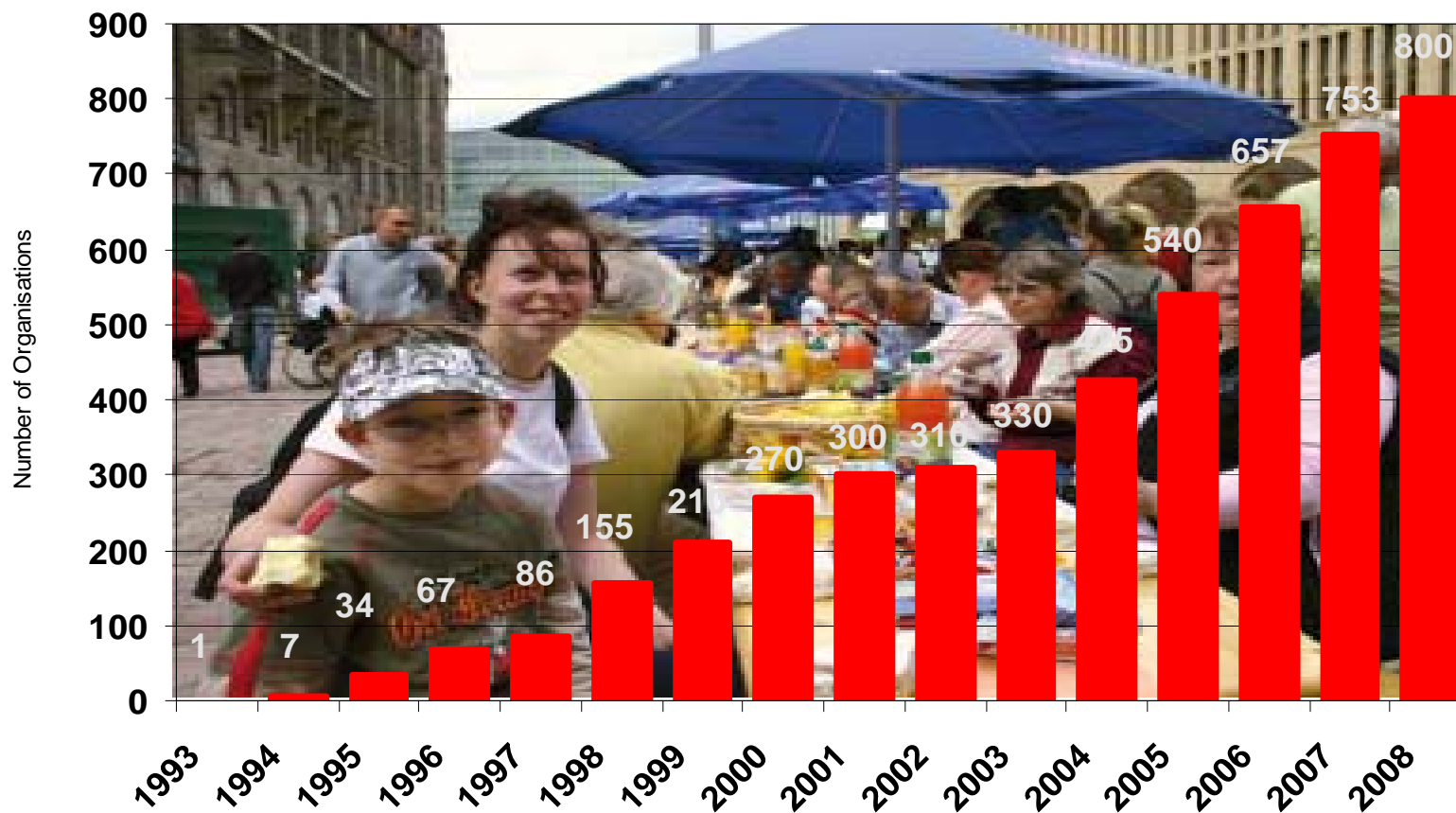
Quantity of household, manufacturer's and agribusiness waste

- Waste in 2005: 331 million tons (Stat. Bundesamt 2007).
- Amount of waste from vegetable and animal origin: 9.75% (Stat. Bundesamt 2008).
- Waste from settlements: 17,700,000 tons (BMU 2009).
- 9.75% of 17,700,000 tons = 1.72 millions tons from vegetable or animal origin.
- Related to 1.72 million tons FROs preserved 6.9% of the amount of waste. In 2008: 120.000 tons.

Distributed foodstuff and frequency of offer



Food rescue organisations in action



Food rescue means saving food from being wasted



Distribution channels

FROs distribute the food collected to local charitable organisations.



These voluntary associations carry out the distribution of food and only they work in direct contact with the needy.

FROs act as charitable organisation themselves and distribute food directly to the needy.



The needy

Children
Single Parent Families
Battered Women
Elderly
Mentally Ill
Working Poor
Unemployed
Disabled
Homeless
Victims of Disasters



Performance of the organisations

About 800.000 needy people reached per day

Average weight of one food distribution : 3.4 kg

Average value per one food distribution: 5 Euro

Proof of need: 96% of the FROs check neediness

Payment by the needy: 89% FROs charge payment

Average price per one food distribution: 1 Euro

Reasons for the success

The Idea: Fighting hunger with food leftovers.

The volunteers want to prevent food waste.

The volunteers stay within the organisations because they get what they want:

- they see their wishes and expectations come true,
- get strength and confidence out of their activity,
- stay in contact with other volunteers, and
- have fun volunteering at the FRO.



Ideas for the future of the food rescue organisations

- Strengthen communication: “Do good and talk about it”
- The organisations themselves should combine the urgent help “from hand to mouth” with a long-standing “helping people to help themselves”.
- Policy should improve and foster contemporary education on food and home keeping

Conclusion

- Food rescue organisations offer a broad and regular variety of valuable foodstuff to fight food insecurity and to relieve poverty.
- 800,000 needy people were reached every day.
- Reduction of the yearly amount of food waste by at least 120,000 tons.
- FROs will not eliminate poverty on their own. Therefore a strict poverty eradication policy is needed.



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FROs reducing food poverty

Thank you for your attention!

For further information look at www.tafel.de

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WWU Münster