



The **Global**
FoodBanking
Network®

POWERING COMMUNITIES FOR ZERO HUNGER

Impact Report

January 2021



Tereo Mission School, a non-profit organization that serves homeless and at-risk youth, is supported by FoodForward South Africa. Tereo provides breakfast and lunch for children of all ages during the school day and food packs for after school. (Photo: The Global FoodBanking Network / Anna Lusty)

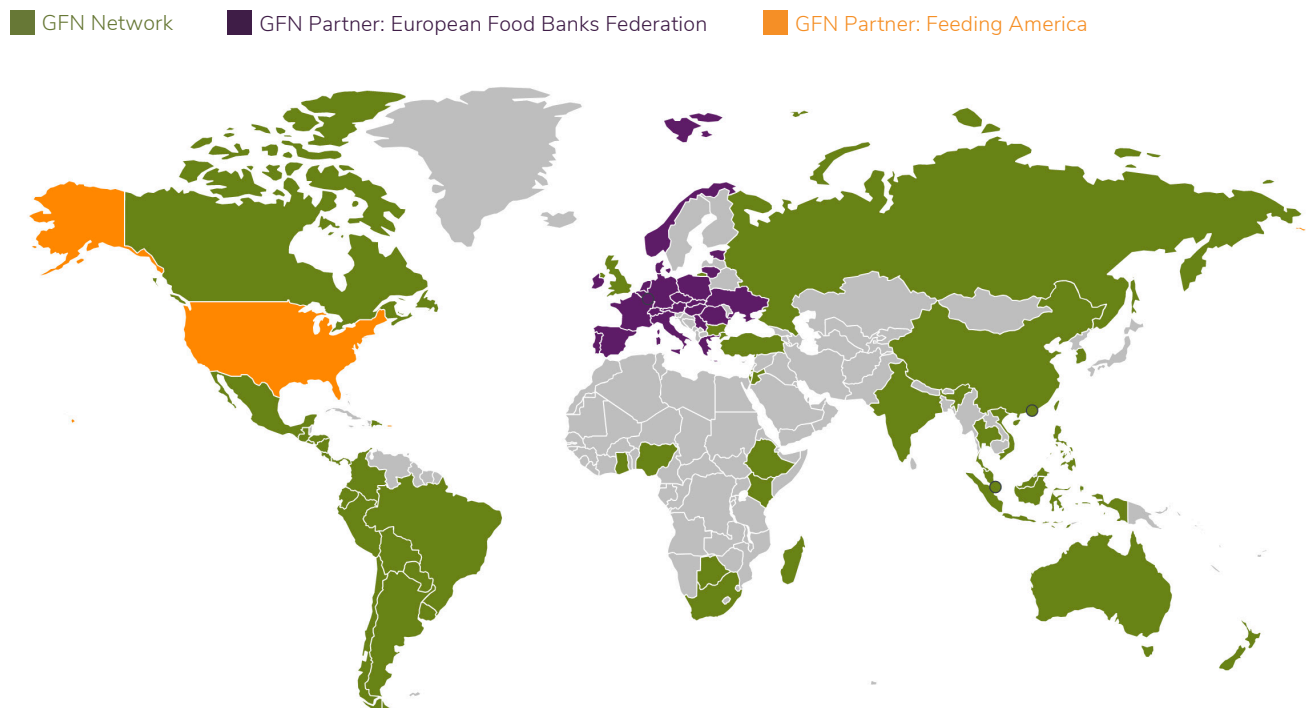
“Day after day we hear stories about locally-led food banks who are innovating in the face of new and persistent challenges related to COVID-19. It is their entrepreneurial spirit and deep commitment to serving their community that fills us with inspiration and momentum as we enter 2021. The Global FoodBanking Network is powering the most vital asset these communities have—their leaders. This crisis is not over. We cannot stop now.”

Lisa Moon

President & CEO, GFN

Prior to COVID-19 two billion people worldwide faced food insecurity. Today, millions more are food insecure and approximately 271.2 million are facing acute food shortages due to the pandemic. **Now more than ever, The Global FoodBanking Network (GFN) is committed to supporting the knowledge, infrastructure, and innovations needed on the ground to achieve zero hunger.**

OUR GLOBAL REACH



GFN is a catalyst and lynchpin designed to accelerate the impact of hunger relief efforts across the globe. Our program model combines knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and funding to help food banking organizations tackle hunger more effectively in their communities.

“For us, it has been a growth trajectory. GFN came in at the right time to support us with technical know-how. As an emerging food bank, there were areas that—in the face of the pandemic—we lacked experience. The help that we got from GFN put us at a point where it made other organizations see that we now have the capacity to handle food banking in Ghana.”

Elijah Amoo Addo

Founder and Executive Director, Food For All Africa

OPERATING IN THE FACE OF UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND

From mid-March through the end of October 2020, food banks in The Global FoodBanking Network served 27.6 million people, up from 16.9 million during all of 2019. Close to 11 million new people have sought support from their local food bank during the pandemic, an average of 200,000 additional people per food banking organization. As of October 2020, 53 percent of food banks/national networks reported that they were still seeing a 51 percent or more increase in demand for emergency food assistance. Thirty-five percent reported that increase in demand is more than 91 percent.

GFN IMPACT THROUGH OCTOBER 2020

27.6M
people served

63%
increase from 2019

1.1B
kilos distributed

51
food banking organizations
supported to provide
emergency food assistance

NIGERIA: Lagos Food Bank Initiative

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country with 200 million people, reported a 52 percent increase in coronavirus cases in late December. While cases across the continent have been relatively low compared to the U.S. and Europe, this rate of increase, compounded by pre-existing levels of need due to conflict, economic decline, and climate extremes, make urgent hunger relief of critical concern.

Despite mandated curfews and lockdown measures, Lagos Food Bank Initiative managed to increase its

food assistance operations to meet the needs of an additional 220,000 individuals between March and October 2020. Utilizing GFN's technical assistance, including the Child Hunger Toolkit, the food bank shifted their operations to target students and low-income schools through direct, door-to-door outreach strategies, reaching young mothers and food insecure children. Lagos Food Bank Initiative estimates to have served 100,000 children since the start of the pandemic and relies on support from 4,800 volunteers in the community.

Lagos Food Bank Initiative developed the Nutritious Meal Plan for Vulnerable Mothers and Children (NUMEPLAN) to improve the nutrition and food intake of pregnant teenagers affected by malnutrition. NUMEPLAN targets the critical first 1000 days of a child's life, using interventions including support for breastfeeding, appropriate complementary foods for infants, and micronutrient supplementation for women and children to address their nutrient deficiencies. (Photo: Lagos Food Bank Initiative)





The Lagos Food Bank Initiative, with support from individuals and corporate volunteers, hand delivers vital food supplies to vulnerable populations living in under-served communities. (Photo: Lagos Food Bank Initiative)

“With the global spread of COVID-19 and the lockdown which started in Lagos, Nigeria in March 2020, our organization became deeply concerned that the already existing food insecurity situation in Nigeria could possibly become more pronounced. We immediately shifted our model and started creating food packs with enough supplies that would last vulnerable families for one to two weeks. With a team of volunteers, we started going into these communities, delivering food packs using the door-to-door model. We’ve been able to serve more than 300,000 people facing hunger since the start of the pandemic. Our work matters because food is essential to the existence of every human being.”

Michael A. Sunbola

President & CEO, Lagos Food Bank Initiative

GFN COVID-19 RESPONSE

In response to the pandemic, GFN has invested **19,000 hours of technical assistance and programming activity** in food banking organizations across **51 countries** worldwide. In an effort to fast-track valuable product donations, GFN more than doubled its number of partnerships with multinational food companies in 2020—now with **68 partners** for sourcing food and grocery products.

INNOVATING TO EXPAND REACH

While the demand for hunger relief has risen due to COVID-19, many of the traditional pathways food banks use to deliver food—such as schools and human service agencies—remain closed due to lack of staff and volunteers, funding challenges, or government mandates. Meanwhile supply chain disruptions have created new challenges for sourcing and storing vital commodities.

In spite of these roadblocks, food banks in our network have gone to incredible lengths to develop new and innovative direct-to-recipient models, as well as sourcing and purchasing strategies, to meet increased demand.

84%

of Network food banks report having changed methods of distribution to meet requests for emergency food.

INDIA: Zomato Feeding India

India has been deeply affected by the pandemic, with over ten million reported cases of COVID-19 and an economy that has contracted by 23.9 percent. While the government's recent mask campaign significantly curbed the September spike of 100,000 cases per day, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 have been devastating, especially for the country's 400 million daily wage workers whose incomes have disappeared completely.

Zomato Feeding India, one of GFN's four regional food bank partners in India, operates through an extensive network of 104 food banks and 1,095 beneficiary organizations. The organization relies on over 26,000 volunteers to help solve hunger across more than 100 cities nationwide.

In response to the dire impact of COVID-19 on daily wagers and their families, Zomato Feeding India

launched a Feed the Daily Wager (FTDW) campaign on March 24, the same day the national lockdown was announced. The program required a 180-degree shift in how the food bank operated its services—from the distribution of donated cooked meals to door-to-door delivery of dry ration kits, sufficient for feeding a family of five, three meals per day for an entire week.

In an effort to support Zomato Feeding India's massive scaling effort, GFN provided targeted technical assistance to expand food banking beyond prepared foods to shelf-stable products, established a new inventory management system, and ensured sustainable operational procedures to accommodate future growth. Since March 24, FTDW has raised \$4.4 million and expanded service to distribute 78.6 million meals across 181 cities nationwide.



Zomato Feeding India launched a campaign to provide relief to daily wagers immediately after the government of India imposed the COVID-19 lockdown. (Photo: Zomato Feeding India)



A woman receives a ration kit distributed by Zomato Feeding India at a food drive for daily wage earners and their families in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, in June 2020. (Photo: Zomato Feeding India)

“During COVID-19, we’ve had to pivot. Education in our country has come to a screeching halt. Classrooms are completely shut. It’s not safe for kids to come together and study. And so, for children who receive food at school, we’ve had to provide food to their households. It’s tough logistically. A lot of this learning has come from The Global FoodBanking Network and other food banks.”

Ankit Kawatra

Founder and Director, Zomato Feeding India

GFN SUPPORT IN INDIA

■ Number of people served in 2019

■ Number of people served Jan-Sept 2020



Zomato Feeding India

56%
increase



India FoodBanking Network

667%
increase



No Food Waste India

71%
increase



Bangalore Food Bank

91%
increase

The Feed the Daily Wager campaign has allowed Zomato Feeding India to distribute more than 749,000 ration kits in 181 cities, providing more than 78 million meals. (Photo: Zomato Feeding India)



WHEN CRISES COMPOUND, FOOD BANKS ARE READY

In addition to the pandemic, at least 207 natural disasters were recorded in the first six months of 2020 alone. In the fall, four typhoons hit the Philippines in just three weeks, compounding the toll of COVID-19 and leaving millions without food, water, or shelter.

Since the start of the pandemic, Good Food Grocer, Philippines has ramped up its distribution by 500 percent to reach a total of 350,000 people as of November. In the face of back-to-back natural disasters, the food bank leveraged its local networks to distribute emergency relief boxes with fresh fruit, non-perishable foods, and personal hygiene products to more than 2,700 families in the hard-hit region of Tiwi, Albay. In the month of November alone, the food bank reached 67,715 families including those displaced by typhoons.



Better World Tondo hosts weekly food distributions in Tondo, Manila for people impacted by COVID-19. During these distributions, beneficiaries visit the food bank and are able to select food items necessary for their household. (Photo: Good Food Grocer, A Rise Against Hunger Philippines Food Bank)

“During ‘normal’ times, 70 percent of Filipino households are already food insecure. Eighty-five children die of hunger every day in the Philippines. We expect this figure will dramatically increase because of COVID-19. The COVID-19 crisis will worsen this situation.”

Jomar Mariano Fleras

Executive Director, Good Food Grocer

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH HOLISTIC SUPPORT

Globally, GFN provides a convening platform for the food banking movement to advance hunger relief from the ground up. From an operational level, GFN offers expertise, resources, and connections that dramatically increase efficiency, assure safety, and catalyze scale.

This engagement package includes:

- ✓ Access to a peer network of food bank leaders in 44+ countries to test new approaches and circulate best practices;
- ✓ Customized training and expert technical assistance;
- ✓ Capacity-building grants to drive efficiency, scale, nutrition, and resilience;
- ✓ Partnerships with global players able to offer food, funds, and local volunteers to support sustainability and growth; and
- ✓ Certification to assure safety, traceability, and legal, and ethical compliance.

BRAZIL: Mesa Brasil SESC

As COVID-19 spread to Brazil, millions of Brazilians faced the challenges of unemployment, poverty, hunger, and growing caseloads. With nearly nine million infections and more than 215,000 deaths, the country is experiencing the third highest rate of COVID-19 infection in the world after the U.S. and India.



Mesa Brasil SESC in Campinas collects lettuce donated by Calusne Farms. Every day the food bank collects food that would otherwise go to waste to distribute to those in need in communities across Brazil. (Photo: The Global FoodBanking Network/Carlos Macedo)

GFN IMPACT IN BRAZIL THROUGH OCTOBER 2020

40M

kilos of food
distributed

1.4M

people
served

91

food
banks

720

volunteers
engaged

Since the pandemic, Mesa Brasil SESC has seen a sharp increase in demand for food aid, growing its food and grocery product distribution by 30 percent and providing emergency food supplies directly to people in need. Technical assistance from GFN, through construction and application of a Network Strengthening Matrix, includes pilot projects in four food banks across Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, measurement and strengthening of network food bank operations, distribution of nearly 64,000 basic food baskets, as well as maternal and child health programs. Targeted technical assistance from GFN has been vital to helping Mesa Brasil prioritize those most vulnerable to hunger during the pandemic, including families with children affected by school closures. Thanks to this support, the food bank has successfully transitioned to providing boxed lunches to feed entire families, along with fruit and vegetable kits to ensure that access to nutritious food is available to children in need.

FOOD BANKS WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN 2021

Food banks, when operating to scale, strengthen the fabric of civil society. As community-led institutions, food banks operate as bridges between government, private, and nonprofit sectors, powering solutions to hunger that build resiliency and leverage local leadership capacity.

GFN will continue to support food banks in more than 44 countries in 2021, all of whom are working tirelessly to reach the millions more who are facing hunger as a result of COVID-19. With GFN's support, food banks are able to sustain increased scale while responding to new and evolving challenges posed by this global pandemic. Our focus on emerging food banks in Africa, Asia, and Latin America is central to our strategy to power and unite food banks through technical assistance, capacity building, and investments that help to build sustainable, resilient communities.

GFN is incredibly grateful to our partners, who remain committed to meeting the urgent needs of our network. As we near the one-year anniversary of the pandemic, we will continue to keep you updated on the lifesaving work of food banks served by GFN.

Your partnership is vital to achieving our mission to scale and sustain food banking as a solution for zero hunger. **Thank you for supporting GFN.**