

# FareShare

## About FareShare



FareShare is a UK wide charity fighting hunger and food waste. We redistribute good food that would otherwise go to waste to frontline charities and community groups that support vulnerable people.

By ensuring good food is not wasted we turn an environmental problem into a social solution.

For more than 23 years FareShare has been working with the food industry to identify quality, in date surplus food that can be redistributed to charities.

FareShare reaches over 1,500 towns and cities, providing food for **36.7 million meals a year** and supporting **772,390 people every week**.

The **9,653** charities that receive food through FareShare provide a lifeline to vulnerable people, including homeless hostels, children's breakfast clubs and lunch clubs for older people. By receiving food through FareShare, these organisations are better able to provide nutritious meals alongside life-changing support.

## Food poverty in the UK

- **8.4 million people in the UK, the equivalent of entire population of London, are struggling to afford to eat<sup>1</sup>**
- FareShare definition of food poverty: *people with low or no income with poor access to affordable nutritious food and that lack the knowledge, skills or equipment to ensure food is safe and prepared properly.*

## Food waste in the UK

- **1.9 million tonnes** of food is wasted every year in the supply chain in the UK<sup>2</sup>
- Wrap estimates **at least 270,000 tonnes of surplus food** from the food and drink industry could be redistributed to feed people each year. This is enough for at least 650 million meals for people in need
- FareShare currently handles approximately 5% of the surplus food available in the UK.
- Last year **FareShare redistributed enough food for 36.7 million meals**. The majority of this food is fresh, such as fruit, vegetables, meat and dairy products.
- The term surplus applies to any food that does not have a commercial outlet but is within date and can still be consumed. It has become surplus for various reasons including overproduction, errors in forecasting, incorrect labelling and damaged packaging.



<sup>1</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Voices of the Hungry*, 2016

<sup>2</sup> WRAP, *Quantification of food surplus, waste and related materials in the grocery supply chain*, 2016

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## Where does the food go?

- 9,653 charities receive food through FareShare, helping to feed 772,390 people every day.
- Our member charities include hostels, women's refuge centres, drug rehabilitation centres, lunch clubs for older people and children's breakfast clubs. These charities use FareShare food to make nutritious meals for their clients and provide their beneficiaries with additional support to help get back on their feet.
- Charities receiving food from our 21 Regional Centres estimate it would cost them on average £7,900 a year to replace the food provided by FareShare. Across all charities, that's a value of £28.7 million.



## What is the impact of this food?

According to NatCen's report *'Saving money, improving lives: Survey of FareShare's Community Food Members'* one in five FareShare charity members say they would have to close if they didn't get FareShare food. Furthermore:

- 58% say they might have to reduce the amount of food they provide clients.<sup>3</sup>
- 25% thought they might have to cut back other services.

The food provided helps charities do more:

- 70% indicate that the quality of food they are providing has increased.
- Many CFMs say they are able to provide a greater diversity and quality of food - offering more meal types (49%), onsite food on more days (27%) and extra food parcels (48%).
- FareShare enables charities to reinvest £2.3 million a year into other areas and support services, such as general overheads and bills, recreational activities and training for clients or additional staff.

The food has an impact of beneficiaries too:

- 77% of FareShare's charity members agree that FareShare food has improved their clients' diet.
- 62% agree that FareShare food means that clients worry less about money.
- 75% say the food enables them to better engage with their clients.

## Additional information and media enquiries:

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<sup>3</sup> *'Saving money, improving lives: Survey of FareShare's Community Food Members'*, NatCen, 2015