

Food Bank – Community Kitchen

Private and Confidential

To serve the people in our country who are struggling financially in a way that preserves their dignity. To provide a confidential environment that respects an individual's privacy and acknowledges how difficult it is to ask for assistance. To empower people to be self-sufficient as quickly as possible without placing additional stress on them. To involve the community in a way that teaches empathy, encourages respect and nurtures compassion.

-:Knowledge and Intelligence:-

Dr. Waseem Ahmed

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Executive Summary



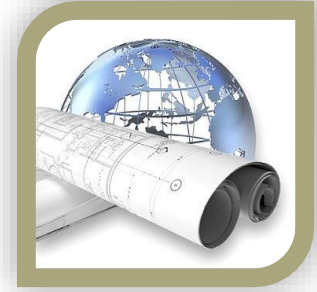
UNITED KINGDOM FOOD BANKING SYSTEMS

Effort is currently underway to start with a pilot Food Banking Systems in London and Wales with support from the Government of United Kingdom. The mission of Food Banking Systems would be to alleviate hunger and provide nutritional food to the needy through soliciting, collecting, sorting and creating a distribution network of feeding programmes and

PROVIDING ALL LIVING SUPPORTS (PALS) by;

- ~ Augmenting on-going Government initiatives and other feeding programs run by nonprofits.
- ~ Establishing a donation network of private sector such as retailers, wholesalers, hotels, restaurants, traders, processors, food manufacturers and fundraising initiatives.
- ~ Targeting to provide sustained access to nutritional food to a large number of beneficiaries through institutional feeding programs.
- ~ Effectively distributing food and all living supports to families **(PEOPLE ON BENEFITS/HOMELESS/ROUGH SLEEPERS)** that are identified by institutional feeding programs.

Food Banking Systems



WHAT IS A FOOD BANKING SYSTEM?

A food banking system creates a system that provides relief in the face of immediate need as well as support and services that help reduce the need in the future. While they serve the critical purpose of feeding hungry people (People on Benefits/Low Income) and providing nutrition in the short or long term, food banking systems also become essential community assets that help break the cycle of poverty over time. Food banking is a system that moves food from surplus to the people who need it and engages all stakeholders. The food bank feeds millions of people each year across the globe and has become a vehicle for building public awareness about hunger, malnutrition, its impact and possible solutions. Currently, there are over 1000 Food Banks across 30 countries feeding an estimated 40 million plus annually in the US alone.

HOW A FOOD BANKING SYSTEM WORKS?

A food banking system is a non profit flexible distribution model that serves the community. It acquires donated/purchased or governments' food and makes it available to the hungry (People on Benefits/Low Income) through the network of institutional feeding programs. These programs include school feeding programs, charitable hospitals, orphanages, the destitute, beggars, homeless etc.

WHY IT WORKS?

Food Banking System is an effective approach to alleviating the food crisis and Providing All Living Supports **(PALS)** because it is:

UNIVERSALLY SUPPORTED – Universal acceptance, recognition and respect for the idea that no one should go hungry and without living supports.

Practical and efficient - Food Banking System appeals to the heart and the head; it feeds people through an established system. (What Prime Minister and Parliamentarian eat, wear, live and used same available for People on Benefits/Low Income).

Democracy is a form of government in which all citizens have an equal say and equal rights in the decisions that affect their lives. Democracy allows citizens to participate equally either directly or through elected representatives in the proposal, development, and creation of laws and citizens welfare. It encompasses social, economic and cultural conditions that enable the free and equal practice of political self-determination.

Scalable – Food Banking system can start at the community level and expand and network to feed a state and the nation.

ADAPTABLE – Food Banking system can operate in different ways to suit different state or regional cultures and economies.

NON-COMPETITIVE – Food Banking System complements the government, social and commercial channels of food distribution. It is an effective, outlet for businesses, a credible distribution vehicle for governments and owned by the local communities and boroughs.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAMME

We aim to provide the quality standard of food, clothing and living support standards available to parliamentarian and Prime Minister same available to low income and people on benefits. This programme is being brought forward with intension to reduce class differences within society and establish **Role Model Society (BIG SOCIETY)** and proud nation. This programme reflects on other countries as well and you would be founding pioneer of **Food Banking Systems**.

This programme will would be cost effective and save considering the billions of pounds spent on welfare programmes to private companies and service providers. This programme also develops strategies for future food and economic crises. This programme is primarily aimed at people in the **'central'** - whether this be local, regional or central government, or even a sub-regional partnership - who set up and/or sponsor partnerships.

WHY BRITAIN'S FALLEN OUT OF LOVE WITH THE WELFARE STATE?

UK now spends 7.2 percent of GDP on it's welfare system, and the costs of supporting the, supposedly, needy continue to rise. As the Whitehall empire grows, drowning the noble intentions of welfare in red tape, so too do the number who chose to abuse the system.

The Food Partnership puts food at the heart of all we do. Growing food, cooking and eating are great ways to help improve people's lives.

History

The world's first food bank was the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance in Arizona, founded by John van Hengel in 1967.^[3] According to sociology professor Janet Poppendieck, hunger within the US was widely considered to be a solved problem until the mid-1960s.^[10]

By the mid sixties, several states had ended the free distribution of federal food surpluses, instead providing an early form of food stamps which had the benefit of allowing recipients to choose food of their liking, rather than having to accept whatever happened to be in surplus at the time. However, there was a minimum charge and some people could not afford the stamps, leading to severe hunger.^[10]

One response from American society to the rediscovery of hunger was to step up the support provided by soup kitchens and similar civil society food relief agencies - some of these dated back to the Great Depression and earlier. In 1965, while volunteering for a community dining room, van Hengel learned that grocery stores often had to throw away food that had damaged packaging or was near expiration. He started collecting that food for the dining room but soon had too much for that one program. He thought of creating a central location from which any agency can receive donations. Described as a classic case of "if you build it they will come", ^[11] the first food bank was created with the help of St. Mary's Basilica.^[12]

Food banks spread across the United States, and to Canada. By 1976, the precursor to Feeding America had been established. As of the early 21st century, their network of 200+ food banks provides support for 90,000 projects. Other large networks exist such as Ample Harvest, which lists some 33,000 food pantries that can utilise overproduction of fresh produce.^{[10][13]}

It was not however until the 1980s that U.S. food banks began to enjoy rapid growth. A second response to the "rediscovery" of hunger in the mid sixties had been extensive lobbying of politicians to improve welfare. Until the 1980s, this approach had greater impact.^[10]

In the 1970s, U.S. federal expenditure on hunger relief grew by about 500%, with food stamps distributed free of charge to those in greatest need. According to Poppendieck, welfare was widely considered preferable to grass roots efforts, as the latter could be unreliable, did not give recipients consumer-style choice in the same way as did food stamps, and risked recipients feeling humiliated by having to turn to charity. In the early 1980s, president Reagan's administration scaled back welfare provision, leading to a rapid rise in activity from grass roots hunger relief agencies. Poppendieck says that for the first few years after the change, there was vigorous opposition from left, who argued that state welfare was much more suitable for meeting recipients needs. But in the decades that followed, food banks have become an accepted part of America's response to hunger.^{[10][14]}

Demand for the services of US food bank increased further in the late 1990s, after the "end of welfare as we know it" with President Clinton's Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act.^[15] In Canada, food banks enjoyed a period of rapid growth after the cutbacks in welfare that took place in the mid-1990s.^[5]

As early as the 1980s, food banks had also began to spread from the United States to the rest of the world. The first European Food bank was founded in France during 1984. In the 1990s and early 2000s, food banks were established in South America, Africa and Asia, in several cases with van Hengel acting as a consultant.^[16] In 2007, *The Global Food Banking Network* was formed.^{[3] [17]}

POST 2007 FINANCIAL CRISIS

Following the 2007–2012 global financial crisis, and the lasting inflation in the price of food that began in late 2006, there has been a further increase in the number of folk requesting help from US and Canadian food banks. In 2012, *Gleaners Indiana Food bank* reported that there were now 50 million Americans struggling with food insecurity (about 1 in 6 of the population), with the number of folk seeking help from Food banks having increased by 46% since 2005.^[18]

According to a 2012 UCLA Center for Health Policy Research study, there has been a 40% increase in demand for Californian food banks since 2008, with even married couples who both work sometimes requiring the aid of food banks.^[19] Dave Krepcho, director of the *Second Harvest Food Bank* in Orlando has said that even college educated professional couples have begun to turn to food pantries.^[20]

By mid 2012, US food banks expressed concerns on the expected difficulty in feeding the hungry over the coming months. Rapidly rising demand has been coinciding with higher food prices and with a decrease in donations, partly as the food industry is becoming more efficient and so has less mislabelled and other slightly defective food to give away. Also there has been less surplus federal food on offer.^[21]

Additionally, there have been recent decreases in Federal funding, and Congress have been debating possible further cuts, including potentially billions of dollars from the Food stamp programme.^{[22][23][24]} In September, Feeding America launched *Hunger Action Month*, with events planned all over the nation. Food banks and other agencies involved hope to raise awareness of the fact that about one in six Americans are struggling with hunger, and to get more folk involved in helping out.^{[25] [26]}

There has been rapid growth in the provision of food banks since hunger in the UK became a prominent issue after the financial crisis, and austerity that followed it from late 2010. Almost all UK food banks are co-ordinated by The Trussell Trust, a Christian charity based in Salisbury which serves as the UK's only food bank network.

In 2004 Trussell only ran two two food banks.^{[27][28]} Before the financial crisis, food banks were

"ALMOST UNHEARD OF" in the UK.^{[29][30]} In 2007 / 2008 there were only 22 food banks in the Trussell Trust Food bank Network; by early 2011, The Trussell Trust supported 100. As of May 2012, they had 201. By August, 252. The rate of increase has been rising rapidly.

In 2011, only about one new food bank was being opened per week. In early 2012, about two were being opened each week. By July, The Trussell Trust had reported that the rate of new openings had increased to three per week. In August, the rate of new openings spiked at four per week, with three new food banks being opened in that month for Nottingham alone.

By October 2012, the rate of increase had fallen back to about two or three per week.^{[31][32][33][34][35] [36]} Close to half of those needing to use food banks have had issues with their benefits, though many have low income jobs, but struggle to buy food after making debt repayments and other expenses. Demand for food banks is expected to increase even further when cuts to welfare come into effect in April 2013; several councils have begun looking at funding food

banks to increase their capability, as cuts to their budgets mean they'll be less able to help vulnerable people directly.^{[37][38]}

Most UK food banks are hosted by churches. They operate on the **"FRONTLINE"** model, giving out food directly to the hungry. About a third of their food comes from supermarkets, with much of it donated by individuals. *The Trussell Trust* had aimed to provide short term support for people whose needs have not yet been addressed by official state welfare provision; those who had been 'falling into the cracks in the system'. The Trussell franchise has procedures which aim to prevent long term dependency on their services, and to ensure that those in need are referred to qualified outside agencies. The charity suggests that the *credit crunch* caused an upsurge in the number of people needing emergency food.

Since 2010, demand for food banks continued to increase, and at a more rapid rate, partly as austerity began to take effect, and partly as those on low incomes began to draw down savings and run out of friends of whom they were willing to ask for help. Unlike *soup kitchens*,^[39] most UK food banks are unable to help people who come in off the street without a referral - instead they operate with a referral system. Vouchers are handed out to those in need by various sorts of professional, such as Social workers, health workers and housing officials. The voucher can typically be exchanged at the food bank for a package of food sufficient to last three days.

A small number of food banks have been set up outside of the Trussell system, in part as they don't like having to turn away folk without referrals. There is also FareShare, a London based charity which operate some 19 depots which operates on the US style warehouse model. Rather than giving out food directly to individuals, FareShare distributes food to over 700 smaller agencies, including some Trussell foodbanks, but mainly to smaller independent operations like soup kitchens and breakfast clubs.^{[27][31][32][33][40][41][42]}

People who turn to food banks are typically grateful both for the food and for the warmth and kindness they receive from the volunteers. However sometimes food banks have ran out of suppliers by the time they arrive. Some find it humiliating to have to ask for food, and that the packages they receive don't always seem nutritious. Some food banks have tried to respond with innovative programmes; *London street food bank* for example has began asking donors to send in supermarket vouchers so that those they serve will be able to chose food that best meets their nutritional needs.^{[28] [33][43][44]}

Britain's prime Minister David Cameron has welcomed the efforts of food banks; Caroline Spelman, his *Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*, has described food banks as an **"excellent example"** of active citizenship. Labour MP Kate Green has a different view, feeling that the rise of food banks reflects folk being let down by the State Welfare system, saying "I feel a real burning anger about them ... People are very distressed at having to ask for food; it's humiliating and distressing."^[33]

The first European food bank was founded in France during 1984.^[3] Similar to the UK, they have become much more common within continental Europe since the crisis that began in 2007, and especially since austerity began to take effect from late 2010. In Spain, demand for food has been such that some have resorted to extra-legal methods to acquire it; in August 2012 the "Robin Hood" mayor Sánchez Gordillo led raids where food was forcibly removed from supermarkets, and later given to food banks.^[45]

The number of food banks has increased rapidly even in Germany, a country that has weathered the crisis relatively well, and has not needed to implement severe austerity. In 2012, professor Sabine Pfeiffer of Munich University of Applied Sciences said there has been an "explosion" of food bank usage.^[14]

THE MOST DEPRIVED PERSONS PROGRAMME

While many European food banks are run by civil society with no government assistance, there is a project funded by the EU, the *Most deprived persons programme* (MDP), which specialises in supplying food to marginalised people ^[46] who are not covered by the benefit system and who may be reluctant to approach the more formal food banks. Food is largely given out by Catholic churches. However, the EU is due to end funding for the MDP in 2013. Similar to the US, the EU no longer expects to need to buy much food to help farmers, as with high global food prices, market surpluses are now much less frequent. So there is less food available to hand out to food banks. ^[14] ^[47] In October 2012, the European Commission proposed a new Fund to replace the *Most deprived persons programme*.^[48]

Several Asian countries have begun to use food banks; these include South Korea, Japan and Taiwan. ^[49] In India the Food Banking concept is being pioneered by the India Food Banking Network to augment ongoing Government and Non Profit feeding programs, with the establishment of the Delhi Food Bank. IFBN acquires donated food in the form of grains, pulses, oil, spices etc. sourced on the basis of community food habits and makes these available through a network of mostly community owned agencies. These agencies and institutional programs include school feeding projects, shelter homes, Old age homes, substance abuse clinics, and after-school programs which cater to various needs.^[50]

Delhi food bank is an organisation that feeds, empowers and transforms lives in the New Delhi / NCR Region. They hold that their shared capabilities can make the basic aspiration of universal access to food a reality. They attempt to pursue this vision through high quality and standards for processes leveraged by technology to get the right aid to the right people at the right time.^[51]

Singapore Buddhist Lodge offers free vegetarian food to people.^[52]

The *Egyptian Food Bank* was established in Cairo in 2004, and in less than 10 years later, food banks run on similar principles spread to other Arab countries in North Africa and the Middle East. ^[53]

In Sub-Saharan Africa, there are charity run food banks that operate on a semi-commercial system that differs from both the more common "warehouse" and "frontline" models. In some rural LDCs such as Malawi, food is often relatively cheap and plentiful for the first few months after the harvest, but then becomes more and more expensive. Food banks in these areas can buy large amounts of food shortly after the harvest, and then as food prices start to rise, they sell it back to local people throughout the year at well below market prices. Such food banks will sometimes also act as centres to provide small holders and subsistence farmers with various forms of support. ^[54]

Formed in 2009, *Food Bank South Africa* (Food Bank SA) is South Africa's national food banking network and a member of the *Global Food Banking Network*. Food Bank SA's vision is "A South Africa without hunger and malnutrition".^[55]

Since the 1980s food banking has spread around the world. There are over 20 countries with active food bank groups under the umbrella of the *Global Food banking Network*. Countries in the global network include Australia, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and the UK. There are also several countries with food banks but which have not yet joined the network, either as they don't yet meet the required criteria or as they have not applied.^{[56][49]}

An alternative facility offering food to the hungry can be found worldwide wherever there are sizable Sikh communities. Long before food banks were invented, Langar (Sikhism) has been making free vegetarian food available to Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike.

REACTIONS

The rise of food banks has been broadly welcomed. Not only do they provide a solution to the problem of hunger that doesn't require resources from the state, but they can be viewed as evidence of increasing community spirit and of active, caring citizenship. In the UK for example, Patrick Butler, society editor for The Guardian, has written that the rise of food banks has been most enthusiastically welcomed by the right, but also by many on the left of the political spectrum, who were often "nervously excited" about them.^[57]

However there has been considerable concern expressed by some researchers and politicians. Drawing on the United States's experience after the rapid rise of food banks in the 1980s, American sociology professor Janet Poppendieck warned that the rise of food banks can contribute to a long term erosion of human rights and support for entitlements. Once food banks become well established, it can be politically impossible to return responsibility for meeting the needs of hungry people to the state. Poppendieck says that the logistics of running food banks can be so demanding that they prevent kind hearted people from having time to participate in public policy advocacy; yet she also says if they can be encouraged to lobby politicians for long term changes that would help those on low income, they often have considerable credibility with legislators. As of 2012, senior US food banks workers have expressed a preference to remain politically neutral, which political activists have suggested may relate to their sources of funding. ^{[14][57] [58]}

Rachel Loopstra from University of Toronto has said food banks are often inefficient, unreliable and unable to supply nutritional food. She said a survey in Toronto found that only 1 in 5 families suffering from food insecurity would turn to food banks, in part as there is a stigma associated with having to do so. Elizabeth Dowler, Professor of Food & Social Policy at Warwick University, said that most British people prefer the state to take responsibility for helping the hungry. Hannah Lambie-Mumford, from Sheffield University, echoed the view that some users of food banks find having to ask for food

humiliating, and also that food banks volunteers should be encouraged to advocate for long term solutions to the underlying causes of poverty and hunger.^{[14][27][43][57]}

News Story

DESPERATE PEOPLE FACING 20-MILE HIKE FOR FOOD

Desperate people are walking up to 20 miles to get emergency food hand-outs.

(Wednesday 5 Dec 2012 6:30 am UK)

The hungry are turning up at food banks on foot because they cannot afford public transport. Nearly all of them have their own homes and many of them are in work, charities report.

One woman walked a round trip of almost 20 miles through torrential rain to collect rations, while another, who had not eaten for two days, slogged 12 miles on foot despite suffering from rheumatoid arthritis.

It's a sign of the desperation people feel that they will walk that far. I know sometimes volunteers have given them a lift a back in their car but that's not always possible so they've had to walk back.'

The number of people turning to food banks is expected to double to more than 220,000 this year. Charities expect the problem to worsen with further benefit cuts in today's autumn statement. Woman in her late 50s walked almost ten miles each way in driving rain to collect food. She arrived here looking like a drowned rat. We filled her bags with food but we felt totally useless because we couldn't pay for her transport to get her home.'

The arthritis sufferer, 42, told Metro she visited a food bank in Salisbury, Wiltshire, after walking 12 miles. She said: 'It was painful but I had no money left and I couldn't afford the £5.70 bus fare. In another example, a mother hitchiked and walked to a food bank in Cornwall with her child in a pram. Oxfam's Sarah Dransfield said benefits cuts were a major cause. 'A lot of people will be struggling this Christmas,' she added.

WOMAN IN TENT KILLED IN EXETER TREE FALL AS FLOODS HIT COUNTY



Police said the woman was in a sleeping bag when the tree fell. (25 November 2012)

A WOMAN IN A TENT HAS BEEN KILLED BY A FALLING TREE AS HEAVY RAIN SWEEP ACROSS DEVON.

The large spruce came down late on Saturday night in Western Way, Exeter, trapping the 21-year-old woman and injuring two other people. Devon and Cornwall Police said it was thought she could have been homeless. The force said that across the two counties 250 homes had been flooded, including 30 properties in the village of Kennford, near Exeter.

FOOD BANKING SYSTEM STRATEGIES

ESTABLISH NEW MODEL FOOD BANKING SYSTEMS – COMMUNITY KITCHEN

“The true grandeur of humanity is in moral elevation, sustained, enlightened and decorated by the intellect of man.”

A **“Food Banking System” Co** is a non-profit, charitable organization that distributes food and Providing All Living Supports (**PALS**) to those who have difficulty purchasing enough to avoid hunger.

In the United States and Australia, food banks usually operate on the **“warehouse”** model. They act as food storage and distribution depots for smaller front line agencies; and usually do not themselves give out food directly to the hungry. After the food is collected, sorted, and reviewed for quality, these food banks distribute it to non-profit community or government agencies, including *food pantries*,^[1] *food closets*,^[2] soup kitchens, homeless shelters, orphanages, and schools.

"FRONT LINE"

Outside of the US and Australia, the "FRONT LINE" model is common. Such food banks give out most or all of their food directly to the end users. For both models, the largest sources of food include for-profit growers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers who in the normal course of business have excess food that they cannot sell. Some food banks receive or collect a substantial proportion of their food from individual donors, including their volunteer or paid workers. There is considerable overlap with food salvage, food rescue and gleaning, although not with freeganism or dumpster-diving.

The world's first food bank was established in the US in 1967, and since then many thousands have been set up all over the world. In Europe, which until recently had little need for food banks due to extensive welfare systems, their numbers grew rapidly after the lasting global inflation in the price of food which began in late 2006, and especially after the 2007 – 2012 global financial crisis began to further worsen economic conditions for those on low income.

The growth of food banks has been broadly welcomed, most especially by those on the right of the political spectrum, but also by many on the left, who see them as evidence of active community that is independent of the state. However, academics and commentators have expressed concern that the rise of food banks may erode political support for welfare provision. Researchers have reported that food banks can be inefficient compared with state run services, and that some people feel ashamed at having to turn to them.

“All surplus and clearance grocery products that are being needlessly wasted. Why waste perfectly good food when there is a world shortage of food?”

Consumers use common sense when making buying decisions. If it looks good, smells good, and tastes good - it is good! With this in mind why dump it?

Groceries are required to display stock dates - a best before date is a guideline - it is effectively only a date on the pack. When it comes to Cadbury Chocolate, ETA chips, Pascal lollies, Coca-Cola, Sanitarium breakfast cereals and other well known brands let's use good old common sense.

Grocery customers know the supermarket merchandise we stock throughout grocery stores is fine to eat, that's why they keep coming back. Customers know how to save money on groceries. Customers have discovered the secret that is why they keep coming back.

Reduced to Clear clearance stores offer a 100% money back guarantee on every product. At Reduced to Clear we know that it is fine to sell consumables up to/after their best before dates, Grocery savings as well as helping the planet and future generations. We put a tasty spin on recycling.

STANDARD MODEL

With thousands of food banks operating on six of the seven continents there are many different models.^[3]

A major distinction between food banks is whether or not they operate on the **"FRONT LINE"** model, giving out food directly to the hungry, or whether they operate with the **"WAREHOUSE"** model, supplying food to intermediaries like food pantries, soup kitchens and other front line organisations.^[4] In the US, Australia and to an extent in Canada, the standard model is for food banks to act as warehouses rather than as suppliers to the end user, though there are exceptions. Some food banks will charge a small **"shared maintenance"** fee for the food to help defray the cost of storage and distribution. In other countries food banks usually do hand out food parcels direct to hungry people, providing the service that in the US is offered by food pantries.

Another distinction is between the charity model and the labour union model. At least in Canada and the US, Food banks run by charities often place relatively more weight on the salvaging of food that would otherwise go to waste, and on encouraging Voluntarism. Whereas those run by unions

can place greater emphasis on feeding the hungry by any means available, on providing work for the unemployed, and on education, especially on explaining to users their civil rights.^[5]

In the US, cities will often have a single food bank which acts as a centralized warehouse and will services several hundred front line agencies. Like a blood bank, that warehouse serves as a single collection and distribution point for food donations. A food bank operates a lot like a for-profit food distributor, but in this case it distributes food to charities not to food retailers.

For many US food banks, most of their donated food comes from food leftover from the normal processes of for-profit companies. It can come from any part of the food chain, e.g. from growers who have produced too much or whose food is not sufficiently visually appealing; from manufacturers who overproduced; or from retailers who over-ordered. Often the product is

approaching or past its **"SELL BY"** date. In such cases, the food bank liaises with the food industry and with regulators to make sure the food is safe and legal to distribute and eat.

Other sources of food include the general public in the form of **"FOOD DRIVES"** and government programs that buy and distribute excess farm products mostly to help support higher commodity prices. Food banks can also buy food either at market prices or from wholesalers and retailers at discounted prices, often at cost. Sometimes farmers will allow food banks to send Gleaners to salvage left over crops for free once their primary harvest is complete. A few food banks have even taken over their own farms, though such initiatives have not always been successful.^[6]

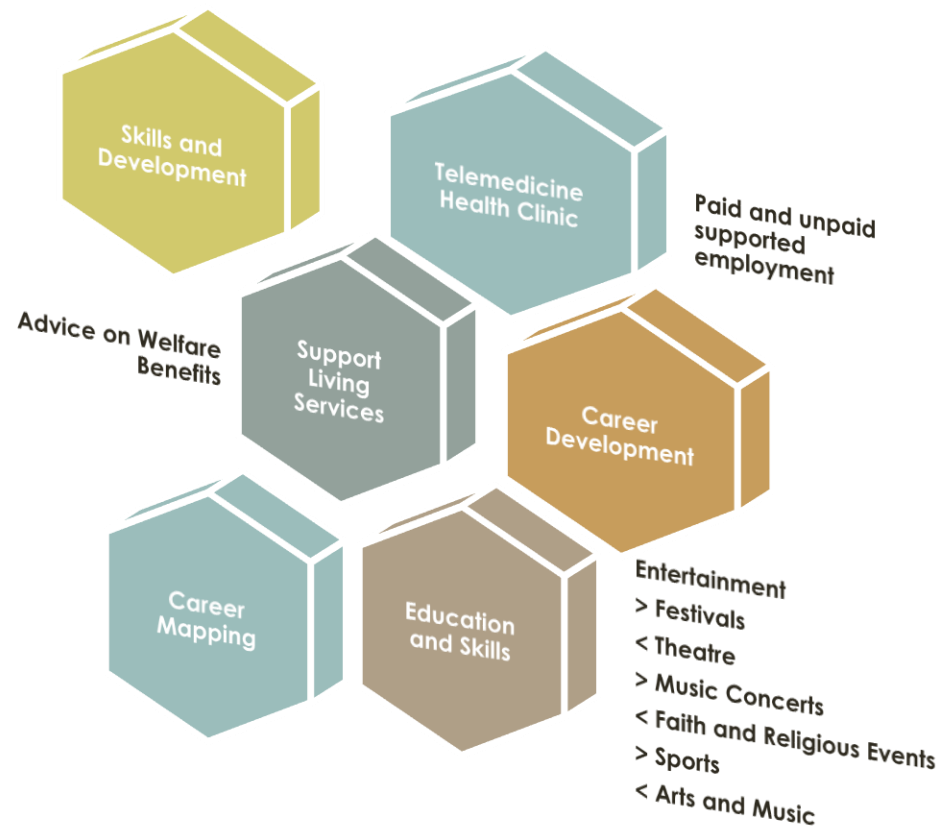
Many food banks don't accept fresh produce, preferring canned or packaged food due to health and safety concerns, though some have tried to change this as part of a growing world wide awareness of the importance of nutrition. As an example, in 2012 London Food Bank (Canada) started accepting perishable food, reporting that as well as the obvious health benefits, there were noticeable emotional benefits to recipients when they were given fresh food.^[7]

Summer can be a challenging time for food banks, especially in regions where school children are usually given regular free meals during term time. Spikes in demand can coincide with periods where donations fall due to folk being on holiday.^{[8] [9]}

Food Banking Systems Model

Objectives;

- ☆ To increase in Food Banking Systems provision in the UK; **Providing All Living Supports (PALS)**





To present factual data on the reasons for and motives behind this increased provision;



Food Banking System phenomenon within theories of food poverty, food insecurity, living standard, education and skills, socio-economic and health inequalities;



Barriers to accessing food banks can result in decreased usage of food banks. Transportation to the facility, stigmatization and policies that limit frequency of assistance can contribute to decreased participation and decreased ability to sufficiently impact individual or household food security.

Food Banking Systems are community-based projects, where food is donated by local stores, hotels, restaurants, super stores and local people, stored locally and distributed to local people in need. The model is described in the Food Banking System Operating Manual in the following way:

The **‘FOOD BANKING SYSTEMS’** stores food donated by the business community

and local community, and can be drawn on by people in crisis. It is a simple and unique concept designed to help individuals in crisis by providing free emergency food for two days (19 balanced meals). Two days is the period assessed as the minimum time it takes for the appropriate agencies to be in a position to assist. This period can be extended if necessary. We collect food from the public at supermarkets and through local groups and schools, and this is ‘banked’ in a store. Food is drawn in two ways [vouchers redeemable at the Food Banking System or Urgent Food Boxes held by distributors], both of which operate as a result of referrals from registered Care Professionals such as Social Services, Health Visitors, Probation Officers, Church Pastoral Workers, Islamic Centre

Committee, Gurdwara Committee, Temple Committee, schools and others working in the front line of poverty.

Food Banking Systems are set up by collaborations of Government and local businesses who obtain the franchise through a one-off donation and nominal annual donations. Each Food Banking System is audited annually and they receive on-going support from a Network Model Director and where available, regional director.

Food is collected from people in the community, most commonly through hotels and restaurants, schools and special collections at local supermarkets. All food parcels contain a prescribed combination of key (long-life) food items, enough for 19 meals; whilst the basic composition of each parcel is the same, the amount of food provided is increased according to the number of people in the household.

As the description above suggests, recipients of food parcels have to be referred to a Food Banking System by a 'care professional' who is working with FBS, and either provides them with a voucher or gives them a box directly. Recipients can be given up to Seven food parcels; where they might need a Eight, or more, the care professional (or 'distributor') is required to make special arrangements with the Food Banking Systems.

CONCEPTUALISING CHARITABLE FOOD ASSISTANCE

Charitable food assistance comprises a number of different types of initiatives which work in some way to provide food for people who are experiencing limited access to food, often conceptualised

in an immediate sense – as **‘EMERGENCY’** provision and long term provision.

These charitable initiatives include food banking system, kitchens and shelters.

The Food Banking System social franchise model provides a ready-made, reputable tool to take up as part of the social action. At the same time, the strategic approach to the roll-out of the model amongst FBS work towards its mission that every town should have a Food Banking System in light of the geographical reach throughout the country.


“Food Banking Systems as a Social Franchise”

GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

A key consideration for the going forward will necessarily be that of managing the early and maturing growth and the sustainability of FBS and the network. Financial security and quality control are likely to be key to this.

Strategic approach as the FBS Network grows, on 'changing gear' and ensuring that the structures are in place. The FBS obtained funding from a range of Government, organisations and Big Lottery Fund, and 'have never been dependent on any one source of income. Whilst this diversified approach to sourcing funds avoids any situation of dependency on one income stream, at a time of financial austerity in the public and voluntary sectors the FBS will need to maintain innovative approaches to generating income (Fund Raising Initiatives, Sports, Exhibitions, Trade Shows, Concerts etc).

FOOD BANKING SYSTEM AND SUPERMARKETS

 Food Banking Systems reflected on the possibility of a more pro-active role for supermarkets in terms of partnership working and food donations. At a local level one participant talked about getting supermarkets to match every item of food purchased for donation at their store.

Tax break incentives for donations and the idea of 'a donation in terms of food itself of 1% or 2% of their annual turnover'. In achieving the goal that

'NO ONE GOES HUNGRY AND SLEEP WITHOUT A ROOF' and also without

Providing All Living Supports (PALS), we need to work together with effective partnerships. Partnerships have been one of the most innovative and successful approaches adopted by government and others to address many local problems. By bringing together key stakeholders, they have enabled a variety of social and economic issues to be tackled, which, otherwise, would have been beyond the scope of any one particular organisation.

"...partnerships should be formed to deal with challenging long-term issues that require the involvement of multiple organisations, who really do need to work together..."

Food Banking System desire that no-one goes **Hungry** and without **Providing All Living Supports (PALS)** many of the principles which underlie the current Food Banking Systems model. With regard to the relationship between Food Banking Systems and distributors, the desire that no-one goes hungry can over-ride more sustainable approaches to growth, leading to FBS developing their capacity by taking on more and more distributors who hold more and more vouchers.

Similarly, feeding everyone in need can also compromise FBS' approaches to clients who fall outside of any kind of 'managed process', such as asylum seekers and refugees, and run the risk of becoming their most significant form of support for an indefinite period of time.

To take on bulk food donations or establish nation-wide donation processes with large food industry corporations in order to more comfortably feed the 'needy', this goes against the underlying principle that FBS are local programmes where local people meet local need.

Food Banking Systems need to be clear and consistent about the overall aim of the Food Banking Systems initiative. Is it that 'no-one goes hungry' (while they await support from other services)? If so, the current model may not be the most effective way of achieving readily-accessible emergency food and a more centralised system involving nation-wide logistical planning and partnerships with some of the main food industry corporations might be preferable. Or is the main aim for local communities to work together to meet local need? If this is the aim then projects need to be made aware of and supported through the limitations of their work, particularly in the early stages of

growth, and come to terms with the seemingly harsh practicalities involved in protecting the viability of the project.

This programme has shown how the local nature of the work, where it has captured the imagination of local institutes and their communities has been central to the successful growth of the Food Banking Systems initiative. As the findings from strategic-level indicate the idea of a national-scale top-down initiative (such as that identified above to ensure 'no-one goes hungry' (while they await support from other services)) was shunned in favour of the social franchise model. The origins and original motivation of the Food Banking Systems programme is community-based social action.

The Food Banking Systems, are uniquely placed to raise awareness of the social injustices faced by their clients, to promote and facilitate change.

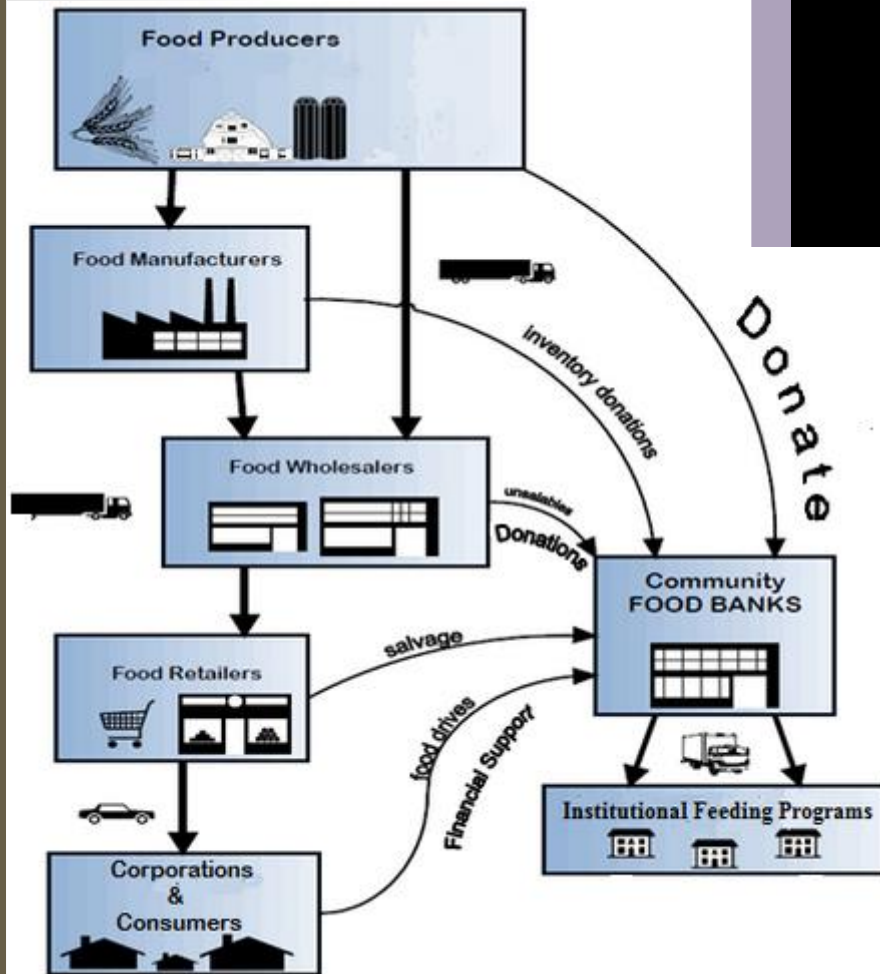
The Food Banking Systems programmes are that it will be important going forward that the proliferation of Food Banking Systems and the success of the Network does not become an end in itself, at the sake of those the initiative seeks to serve and that the FBS continues to press for change and social justice.

The presence of national scale emergency food initiatives such as Food Bank highlights a number of stark questions for research, policy and practice:

- ~ What does the wide-spread presence of Food Banking Systems tell us about society and welfare provision?
- ~ What does it tell us about the lived reality of poverty in the UK today? Should the state be supporting its citizens in accessing food and all living support?
- ~ Or are voluntary providers best-placed to respond to these needs? How effective are these initiatives? While such initiatives grow and begin to become entrenched, how can we ensure that focus is maintained on questions of tackling poverty and inequality?
- ~ Government wasting billions of pound in Welfare Programmes i.e. New Deal, Flexible New Deal (FND), Jobcentre PLUS Support Contract (JCPSC), Work Programme (WP) etc (Service Providers failed to deliver programmes according to contractual obligations, customers are suffering due to incompetency of service provider and weak policies of the Department of Work and Pension – (DWP – Jobcentre)
- ~ Customers registered with Jobcentre PLUS, advisors (JCA) failed to developed “Customers Action Plans – Employment Plan - Career Development – Referred to Quality Standard Service Provider”. In short public welfare offices are failed to delivered quality service. (If Government structure Public Accounts Committee who investigate and audit public offices (Jobcentre PLUS, Councils, Department of Work Pension, Benefit Offices) than you find high level of corruption, discrepancies, negligence, waste of public funds, mismanagement, misused of authorities and system exploitation.

Locating the Food Banking Systems model within theories of food poverty will also be important, through the exploration of the impact of emergency food provision on these experiences and the political implications of their presence for the food poverty debate.

Food Banking Systems – Community Kitchen **Model**



FOOD
BANKING SYSTEM

Fair Society Feeding Love – Humanity – Hope
Providing All Living Supports **(PALS)**

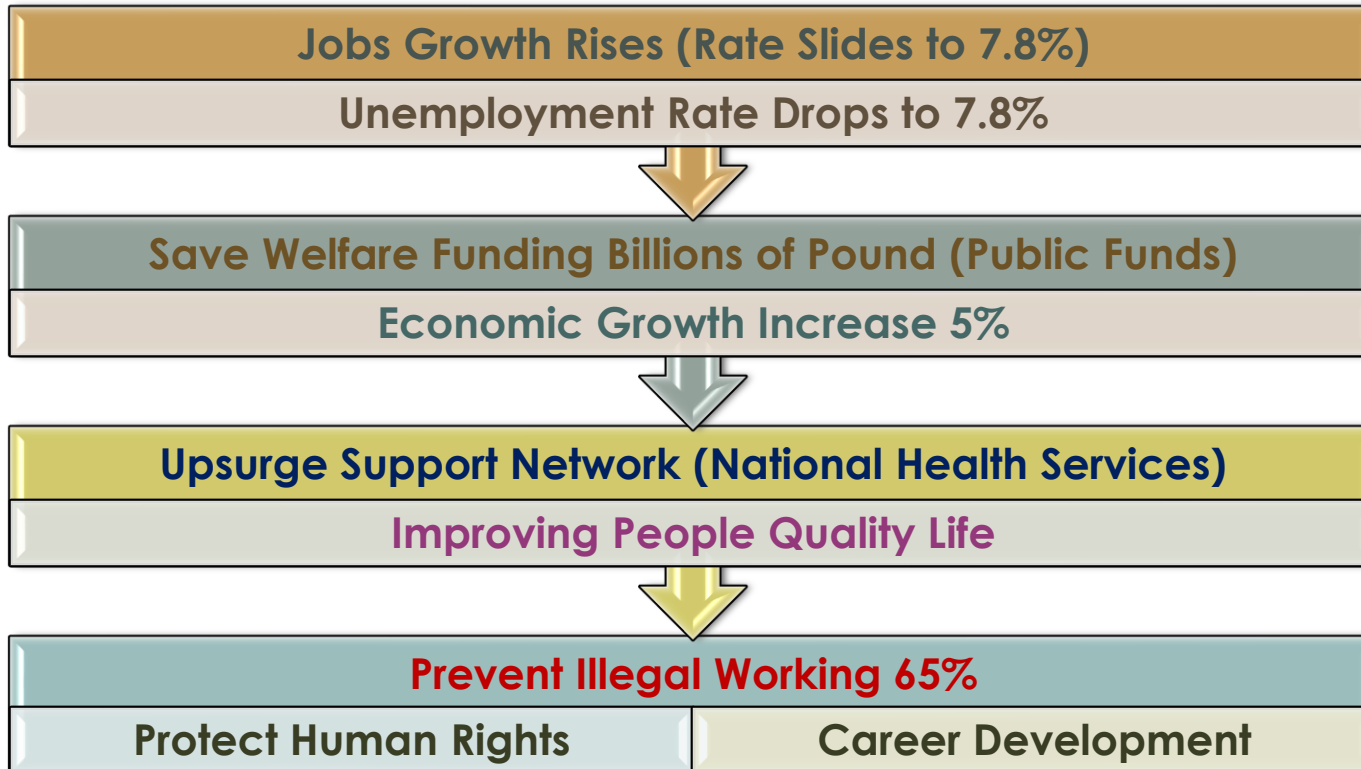
FOOD BANKING SYSTEMS OPENS DOORS IN ALL UK TOWNS

“Every Little Service” Providing All Living Supports (PALS)

Education and Skills	Garments House
Telemedicine Clinic	Everyone Matters
Employment	Logistics
Career Development (Career Mapping)	Research and Development
Advice and Counseling	Community Engagements
Festivals	Travel and Tourism
Music and Arts	Role Model Citizens
Sports	Mental Health
Investing in Society	Money Advise
Improving Society	Others



IMPACT. of Food Banking Systems



THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES FOR EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING

A large body of experience and research - including our own – provides clear evidence about many of the key determinants of successful partnerships. The most important features of an effective partnership are engaging the right people and ensuring they function as a genuine team.

To achieve this requires:

- **A BALANCED TEAM:** Partnerships need to consist of a balanced team involving all relevant bodies. The team needs to have good leaders who can understand the complexities of group working, build up motivation and trust, and resolve conflicts between members when they arise. The team needs to have both senior people, who have the authority to take decisions on behalf of their organisations, and innovative people, who have the experience to develop new solutions to a range of problems.
- **TRUST:** Before people are prepared to implement the partnership's decisions in their own organisations, they need a high level of trust in each other and hence confidence in the collective decisions they take.
- **MOTIVATION:** To ask people and organisations to work in partnership is to ask them to adopt new ways of working and to accept a degree of collective control over their activities. To do

this, people need to be motivated by a common vision in which they all believe, and a confidence in their collective ability to achieve it.

- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION MECHANISMS:** Bringing people together in partnership, often with divergent views on issues, leads to conflicts within the group. These need to be faced by the partnership and overcome through conflict resolution mechanisms, such as trading on a hierarchy of preferences.

“Resolving conflict within the partnership helps build trust and motivation within the team.”

- **COLLABORATION:** The ability to work collaboratively and take collective responsibility for decisions reached is vital for effective partnership working. This requires that everyone's view is respected, and included in transparent and open discussion.
- **CLARITY OF OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** If the people working in partnership are to be well motivated and able to work well together, they need to be clear about what they are trying to achieve, how they are going to achieve it and where their individual and group accountabilities and responsibilities lie.

- **APPROPRIATE FUNDING:** Funding for partnerships needs to be pursuant to the task. Partnerships need long-term funding in order to deal with long-term issues. Funding for partnerships also needs to be simple to access and, where possible, be delivered by a single strand of government.
- **CONTINUED SPONSORSHIP:** Successful partnerships enjoy the continued support of their key sponsors, helping them to address critical blockages.
- **ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE:** The organisations that make up the partnerships, particularly public sector bodies, need sufficient freedoms and flexibilities, for example in the use of budgets, in order to contribute effectively to the partnership.

Notes and References

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**ONE PERSON
CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE,
AND
EVERYONE
SHOULD TRY.**

-JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

Social Work  Career