



Food Bank Aid

Report

April 2024 - June 2025



CEO's Introduction



Hello. I'm delighted to be sharing a first official message with you.

In September 2025, The Times highlighted the growing challenge of food poverty in the UK, with **16% of households** unable to afford enough food, a jump from **14% in 2022**.

This is a situation that not only threatens livelihoods but also affects **mental health and well-being**.

Having spent eight years at FareShare, a food charity focused on surplus redistribution, I was struck by Food Bank Aid's **people-first** approach: we provide **exactly what food banks and their clients need**, rather than whatever happens to be available. From culturally appropriate food to age-relevant children's milk and nappies, our focus is always on relevance, timing, and dignity.

Over the past five years, food poverty in London has doubled, food inflation continues to rise, and costs-of-living are increasing. At the same time, donations of food, toiletries, and household items to Food Bank Aid now represent only **20%** of what we distribute, when they used to total **80%** of goods. Fundraising has also become more challenging as we have grown into a "large" charity, requiring investment in staff to maintain professional, consistent delivery at scale as we evolve.

Despite these challenges, Food Bank Aid has reached a major milestone, ranking in the top 5% of UK charities and distributing over **£2.5 million worth of goods**. To continue doing this, we are now exploring new streams of support, such as a Patrons' Circle, and seeking partnerships with surplus food suppliers to meet specific client needs.

The reality is that rising costs and new taxes will make the year ahead tough, but with your continued support, we can expand our reach, sustain our impact and continue keeping the food banks fed.

Poverty Hurts More Than Pockets

It steals health.

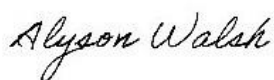
It erodes confidence.

It causes stigma.

It isolates.

I hope you will join me on this important mission.

Thank you so much.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alyson Walsh".

Alyson Walsh, CEO

Food Bank Aid's Impact April 2024 - June 2025 At A Glance

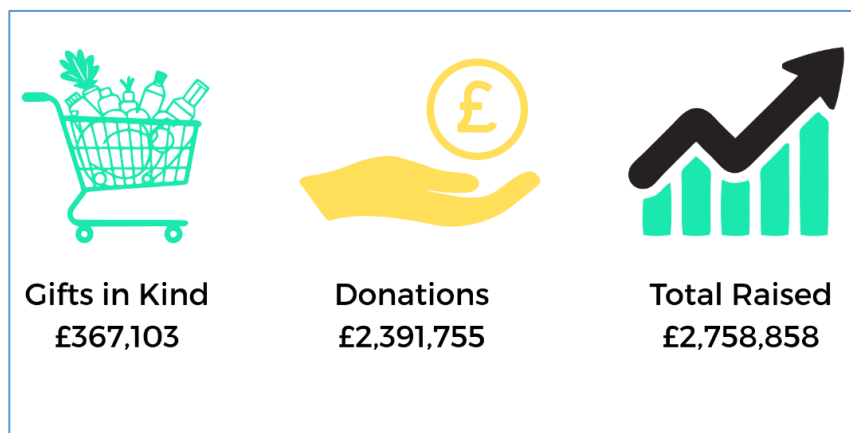
This report features just a snapshot of what we have been able to do as a result of your incredible generosity.

	33	Food banks supported
	20,000	Food bank guests supported weekly
	4,900	Households supported weekly
	8	London boroughs supported
	4,461,597	Number of food items distributed
	£2,546,927	Value of food distributed
	407 5	Volunteers Members of staff
	25,215	Time donated in volunteer hours
	£370,660	Value of volunteer hours (National Council of Voluntary Organisations calculation)
	150	Schools participating in food insecurity assemblies, workshops and food drives
	£127,730	Value of donated bags of food from schools

*"If you have an empty stomach,
it's really hard to concentrate.
You just think about is how hungry you are."*

**James, aged 9
Primary School, NW3**

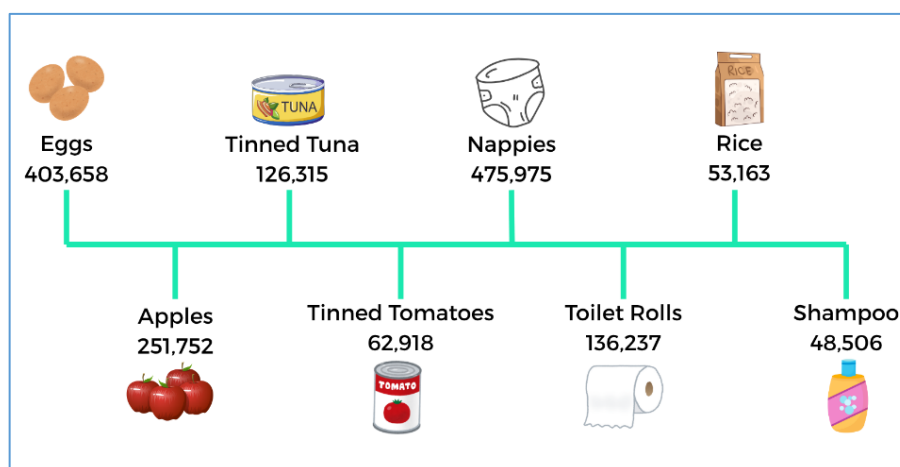
Your donations in the 15 months of April 2024 – June 2025



In addition to financial Donations and Gifts In Kind of **food and computer equipment**, we were delighted to have benefitted from a range of services, generously offered pro bono, including **Legal and IT systems development**.



Over £2.5million worth of goods provided to food banks in the last 15 months



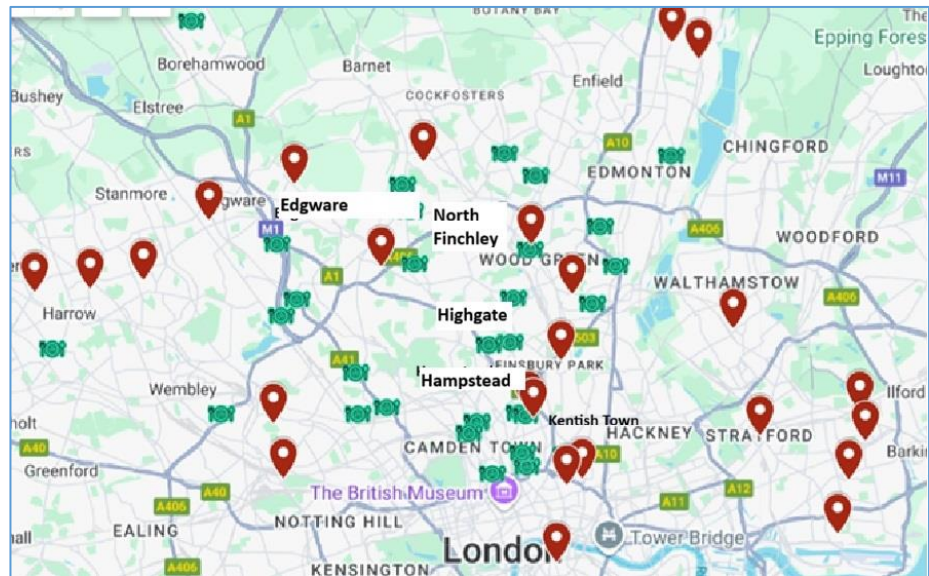
A few examples of the essential items we distributed over the last 15 months.

Why we need your support

It's shocking - the waiting list right on our doorstep

In north London alone, another **23** food banks serving over **15,000** households weekly are desperate for our help, to prevent **3,750** children going to bed hungry.

Euston, our partner food bank, supports **150** families but on some days, has to turn away many in need, due to limited resources.



Key:  existing food banks  food banks on waiting list

"The miracle of Food Bank Aid is that we're able to ask for what we need. Without Food Bank Aid, I would close my doors and turn away in despair".

Lindsey Wylie,
AWTF Food Bank
Manager

Keeping the Food Banks Fed

In the past 15 months, we gave out **£2,546,927** worth of goods, but in order to even stand still, we need to invest to raise more funding.

Our 'give' equates to an incredible **4,461,597** items, which makes for:

- **14,580** items distributed per day, **6** days a week,
- **51** weeks of the year serving **33** food banks who support **20,000** food bank clients, of which **5,000** are children.

We require our food banks to **maintain a register for client monitoring** and data collection. Additionally, they **must offer on-site additional services**, including third-party advisors who provide guidance **on benefits, budgeting, housing, and health**. These services aim to empower individuals, helping them **transition out of food dependency** and achieve stability.

We support organisations like **My Yard**, which offers benefits and financial advice, and **Homeless Action Barnet**, which provides accommodation signposting. Both have successfully helped clients move forward; some, like **Peter**, who had been

homeless and secured housing and re-entered employment as a plumber. Such outcomes demonstrate the impact of these essential support services.

"When my husband died suddenly in a motorcycle crash, I was left with 4 young children. The food bank was my lifeline but I've now qualified as a lawyer and help give back at the food bank."

Gabriella,
former Islington Food
Bank client

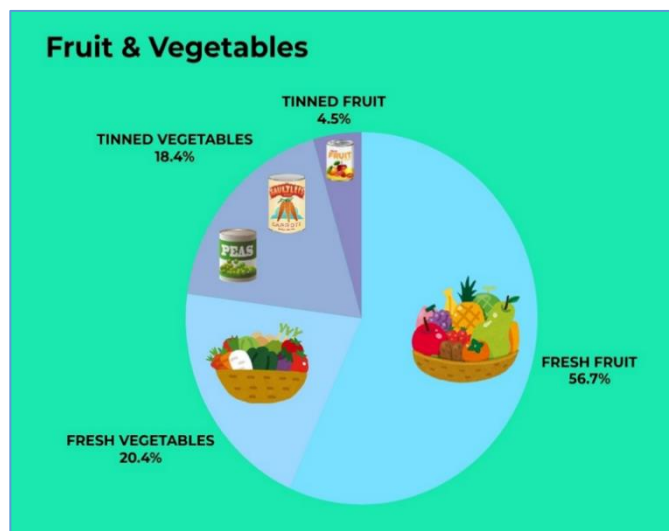
Providing over one hundred essential items, Food Bank Aid offers specific products such as **kosher and halal**, appropriately sized nappies and culturally suitable ingredients, ensuring that the making and sharing of home cooked food is a joyous experience.

Our strategic purchasing fills critical gaps, by sourcing items like cooking oil, toothpaste and baby milk powder that are **rarely available at food banks**.

An overview of goods distributed during April 24 - June 25

"I wanted to cook healthy home-cooked food for my family but couldn't afford to. Now I can get fruit, vegetables, cooking oil and spices, so we don't have to have baked beans on toast so often."

Jenny, former
Southgate food bank
client



Scurvy and rickets on the rise!

Recent data reveals that scurvy and rickets are now **four times** more prevalent in children in the UK than 12 years ago, highlighting ongoing **deficiencies in Vitamin C**.

Between April 2024 and June 2025, we supplied:

- **848,923** pieces of fruit and veg
 - **403,658** eggs
- providing essential sources of both vitamins and vital protein.

Public Health England recommends an **Eat Well Plate** and we are very proud to report that our supply **reflects their recommendations**.

Our long-life food supplies meet the needs of our food banks' clients.

With energy costs rocketing, beneficiaries increasingly prefer convenient options which use **less fuel to cook, such as:**

- porridge
- noodles
- soups
- mashed potato



Parents who have to deny their children an occasional treat are often left feeling demoralised. So at Food Bank Aid, we offer small treats to ensure that life can sometimes be that little bit sweeter.

"I avoided taking my son to the park. There was an ice-cream van at the entrance, and I couldn't afford to buy one for him. Now we go as I can take a few treats with us."

Mum at Hornsey Food Bank

In-Kind Direct's June 2025 report highlights a distressing issue:

1 in 5 children **lack basic toiletries**, often feeling **too ashamed to play** with friends, worried about body odour and bullying. We ensure that families can access the basics of **soap, shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant**.

A Corporate partner generously sponsored a year's supply of children's toothpaste and established a new source of toothbrushes for us, creating better access to essential dental care items.



Over the past 15 months, Food Bank Aid distributed nearly **300,000** toiletry items to families in need.

We also provide thousands of packs of period care products and incontinence pants each year. We ensure that dignity and confidence aren't eroded when budgets are stretched.

"I see our clients treating their laundry tabs like jewels, safely putting them in their pockets to protect them on the way home."

Ailsa, Hornsey Food Bank Manager

Financial challenges

Food prices have increased by **35–40%** since Food Bank Aid began in 2020 (Food Manufacturer magazine).

“Food inflation is going to be the **story of the autumn.**” (The Sunday Times) and is predicted to hit **5.7% by December 2025.**

Our financial donations must increase just to stand still!

Procurement

We have been looking carefully at procurement efficiencies to reduce costs. Some examples are:

1. Trialling **collective purchasing** with our food banks to source larger quantities at better prices.
2. Buying particular products in bulk size for volunteers to decant into portion sizes.

This also helps us offer an alternative to those less able to do heavy lifting activity.

Cost-free space for sorting and storage could potentially reduce some of our product costs by **up to 50%** when we are logistically able to handle this.

Overall food prices, together with recruitment and salaries competing with the commercial sector, and increased fuel and utility costs, make our challenge huge.

Fundraising

Corporate Income Generation

A donor-sponsored salary has enabled us to engage a Corporate Fundraiser.

According to the **Michael Page 2025 Major Workplace Study**, “almost half (45%) of UK candidates now say having a sense of purpose in their role is a top priority” and at Food Bank Aid, we offer meaningful corporate engagement opportunities.

We would welcome any connections with companies and contacts to ensure that this Corporate income stream will be a successful and significant stream.

Corporate Partner Case Study:



Gratte Brothers have been an exceptional partner, providing both financial support and hands-on help. Over the past year, they've delivered **142,500** items to our largest food bank in Euston, **installed industrial radiators** in our unheated Hub, and even sent electricians within the hour when our power failed — keeping our operations running smoothly.

Victoria Gratte

“Supporting an organisation that is working tirelessly to address this food poverty crisis feels both necessary and deeply personal.”

Community Fundraising

Our annual summer **'Schools Out; Food's Out'** 2024 campaign raised **£56,000**, aimed at **filling the gaps** when the safety net of school meals and breakfast clubs is removed.

In March 2025, in an extremely tough fundraising climate, **400 volunteers and 36 schools** joined our **Help Us Give More** matched campaign to raise **£1.3 million**, of which 100% went to purchasing goods.

In this 15-month period, **150** Schools including schools of all faiths, collected over **£127,000 worth of goods** in food collections and assemblies where they learnt about food poverty.

Our work wouldn't be possible without the support of our Food Heroes. Some heroes

- help organise monthly collections from Morrisons supermarkets,
- are corporate partners such as Goldman Sachs, BCLP, Cadwalader, running in-house food drives and of course,
- our wonderful volunteers giving their driveways for goods drop-off points 24/7.

Donated Goods

Between April 2024 and June 2025 date, we donated **£2,546,927** of goods of which **£327,000** was contributed as Gifts in Kind.

Donations from the food industry are increasingly hard to achieve due to national waste charity partnerships and the ever-growing size of the **surplus / discount commercial sector**.

Nevertheless, we hope to expand our reach.

Any introductions, contacts and leads would be more than welcome.

Commercial Partner Case Studies:

Thanks to Filippo Berio's on-going support, we receive regular donations of premium tuna and olive oil – a wonderful addition to our stocks.



"Filippo Berio believes in strengthening our community and helping those facing food insecurity. By sharing our resources, we hope that nutritious food reaches individuals and families who need it most."

Walter Zanre, Managing Director, Filippo Berio

Volunteers at the heart of our operations

Food Bank Aid volunteers are the beating heart of our charity.
From April 2024 to March 2025, they:

- donated over **25,215** hours of their time
- **77%** of them on a weekly basis
- for between **3-5** years
- representing a value of more than **£370,660** to the charity annually

97% of volunteer survey respondents would recommend volunteering at Food Bank Aid

As well as our hub activity, volunteers also help:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - organise events | - conduct supermarket collections |
| - run our Schools' programme | - handle volunteer inquiries |
| - with data analysis | - website management |

We celebrated our amazing volunteers during **National Volunteers' Week** in June and were so grateful that a private funder enabled us to host a **social gathering in November 2024**.



"Volunteering at Food Bank Aid brought a deep sense of fulfilment at a time when I needed purpose and connection most".

Vandana

Community outreach and inclusion

Food Bank Aid is committed to engaging people from all backgrounds and cultures, as well as people and children of all ages to help fight food poverty. We are as committed to this, as we are to keeping the food banks fed.



A couple of examples below demonstrate this in spades:

The **"Tea Ladies"** (plus 1 gentleman) in Mill Hill have hit a whopping milestone. They packed **1 million** individual tea bags into family-sized portions. This spirited group, with an **average age of 86**, turns tea-time into kindness, laughter and connection, proving that giving back can be the highlight of the week.



The Diwali Basket Brigade

supplied good to pack **1,000** food bags in a single day to spread the light of Diwali.

Families across all ages came together to assemble these food bags, encouraging community spirit. It was a sight to see!

The **Tides Foundation** focuses on providing children aged **4-11 years old** with meaningful experiences that foster lifelong memories and promote philanthropy.

In partnership with Food Bank Aid, children and their parents learnt about food poverty by shopping for and packing food donations, **instilling values of compassion and social responsibility** from a young age.



In a notable interfaith initiative, **120** residents from **Hammerson House care homes** in North and South London participated in a Food Bank Aid Mitzvah Day, packing tea bags as an act of service.

The event was attended by faith leaders including **Bishop Jeremiah, Rabbi Charley Baginsky, and Imam Asim Hafiz**, exemplifying unity in community service and shared

commitment to helping those in need.

Children's Case Study:

To mark a special birthday celebration, 13-year-old Levi asked for **cereal instead of gifts**, resulting in **700** boxes worth almost **£2,500**.

We've had all sorts of creative initiatives from bake sales, **running lemonade stalls, donating birthday gifts in lieu of presents**, to sponsored climbs and more. These youngsters are critical to our mission of inspiring the next generations to be philanthropic – we are in awe of what they do!



THANK YOU!

Team Changes

Personnel

Alyson Walsh joined Food Bank Aid as CEO in November 2024. With 8 years as Commercial Director at FareShare and experience in corporate marketing and sales, she brings a powerful mix of charity and commercial expertise.

Paul Kramer has joined as Operations Co-ordinator to assist our Hub Manager.

The Board

Ola Ogunmoyela stepped down as Trustee in March 2025 due to relocating abroad. A volunteer since 2020 and former Financial Director at The Retail Trust, we're deeply grateful for her wisdom and contributions to our growth.

Tania Platt and **Gideon Chain**, both dedicated volunteers became Trustees bringing a wealth of commercial experience with them.

The Board at June 2025

Naomi Russell Co-Chair and Founder

Chris Goodgame Co-Chair and Treasurer

Ishraq Bhatti
Tania Platt

Gideon Chain
Kalbir Sohir

Jonathan Dimson
Charlotte Souter

Martin Smith
Rochelle Trup

Although this review covers the period to June 2025, we would also like to acknowledge that in September 2025, Naomi our founder and long-serving trustee, stepped down from the board.

Her vision and dedication have been instrumental in the charity's growth and impact, and the trustees and team extend their warmest thanks and best wishes for the future.

Heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters

We are enormously grateful for the generous support from all of our Corporate, Trust, Foundation and Gift in Kind partners

Without your incredible generosity, our work would not be possible.

Thank you.