

# GFN Spotlight 2024

**In an era of ongoing uncertainty and disruptions, food banks prove to be resilient, dynamic organizations that support communities around the globe.**

In 2024, [The Global Food Banking Network's](#) (GFN) member food banks provided service to more than 38 million people struggling with food security. Since 2018, food and grocery product distribution in the network has increased by 50%.

While global hunger rates improved slightly in 2024, 673 million people are undernourished and 2.3 billion people faced food insecurity, as persistently high food prices kept a healthy diet out of reach for far too many.

The GFN Spotlight 2024 draws on data from **55 food banking organizations** across **46 countries**<sup>1</sup> in The Global FoodBanking Network, to provide a look at developments and innovations in food banking, spotlights on members' achievements, and a glimpse at increasing food security challenges in 2025.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

1	In 2024, GFN worked with food banks to dramatically increase the amount of food delivered to people, reaching near-record highs.
2	Supported by GFN's new Agricultural Recovery Hub, food banks are rapidly increasing recovery of fresh fruits and vegetables from farms and local markets, delivering more highly nutritious food to people.
3	Food banks kept 512 million kilograms of nourishing food out of landfills, roughly equal to the emissions of 443,000 passenger vehicles in a year.
4	Newer food banks that are part of GFN's <i>Accelerator</i> program are growing quickly, driven by intensive technical assistance and catalytic funding from GFN.
5	Food banks are hubs of community resilience, where an increasing number of volunteers come in to serve their communities.



**In the face of so many global challenges, food banks across the globe are navigating complex supply chains to recover more food — preventing the harmful environmental effects of food waste — and are adapting their distribution models to meet the distinct needs of dense urban cities, remote rural areas and communities of every size in between.”**

*Lisa Moon, president  
and CEO, The Global  
FoodBanking Network*

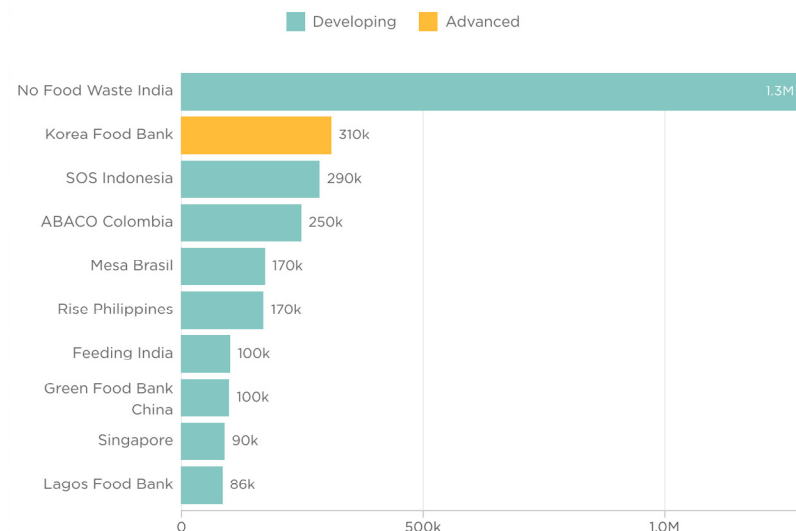
<sup>1</sup> Does not include data from partner organizations, Feeding America (U.S.A) and the European Federation of Food Banks. Members of GFN's New Food Bank Development Program do not submit data.

## In 2024, GFN worked with food banks to dramatically increase the amount of food delivered to people, reaching near-record highs.

- Partners in the network provided **762 million kilograms** — equivalent to nearly **2 billion meals** — of food and other essential products, an **increase of 17%** compared to the previous year.
  - This represents the highest figure outside of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Food banks in emerging markets and developing economies were responsible for 56% of total network distribution.
  - Demand for food assistance remains very high, and food banks are responding. In total, the network served more than **38 million people**, 84% of whom live in emerging or developing economies.
  - **43% of people served are children.**

### 9 out of 10 largest increases in people served were in emerging and developing economies

Total change in people served, 2023-2024



### Food Bank Spotlight: No Food Waste India

No Food Waste India (NFW) continues to be a leader on the sub-continent for its food recovery and community kitchens model.

NFW fed 3.2 million people in 2024, almost double the previous year, driven by expansion of their role in a state government-led school feeding program, through which NFW is feeding students in more than 1,000 schools in southern India. Distribution doubled to 7.5 million kilograms to meet school feeding programs, by opening new branches and increasing agricultural recovery.

**Supported by GFN's new Agriculture Recovery Hub, food banks are rapidly increasing recovery of fresh fruits and vegetables from farms and local markets, delivering more highly nutritious food to people.**

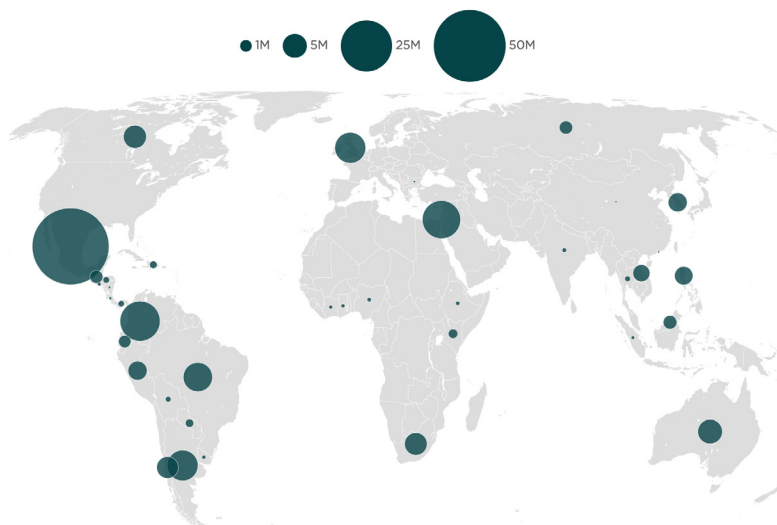
- Food banks sourced nearly 147 million kilograms of products from the agriculture sector in 2024, more than double compared to just five years ago.

- Latin America was the largest provider of agricultural products, recovering nearly **100 million kilograms**.
- Meanwhile, growth in agricultural products was strongest in regions that have recently added agriculture recovery programs: **Asia Pacific grew to 14.9 million kilograms**, and **Africa grew to 5.1 million kilograms**.
- Food banks in **35** countries, or **65% of the network**, now have some type of agricultural recovery program, either directly from farms and/or from produce markets

- **Fruits and vegetables represent 41% of all distribution, the largest single product category, and 58% of all food that GFN provided in 2024 is highly nutritious** (fruits and vegetables, animal protein, dairy, legumes, grains and nuts)

- This growth comes as GFN launches the **Agricultural Recovery Hub** in Nairobi, Kenya, which brings together knowledge sharing and best practices for food banks around the world.

#### Agricultural Recovery in 2024 (kilograms)



### Food Bank Spotlight: It Rains Food Bank of Ethiopia

In the midst of devastating food insecurity and famine, It Rains Food Bank of Ethiopia launched its agricultural recovery program, bringing in 60,000 kilograms of fresh fruits and vegetables, driving distribution up by 60% year-on-year. Now working with large commercial farms, the food bank has access to an abundance of nutritious food, meaning that 99% of the food they distribute to people is considered nutritious, the highest such figure in the network. It Rains Food Bank is attempting to increase food recovery as quickly as possible to serve people and other organizations impacted by foreign aid cuts.

Eliminating USAID funding will likely have severe impacts on those suffering acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, and the World Food Programme expects 1.5 million people in Ethiopia to lose food assistance this year because of budget shortfalls.

## Food banks kept 512 million kilograms of nourishing food out of landfills, roughly equal to the emissions of 443,000 passenger vehicles in a year.

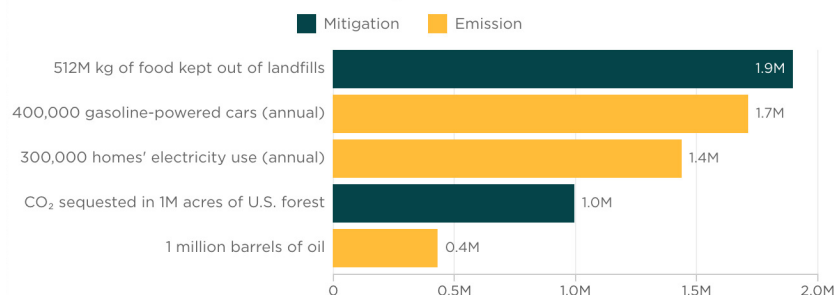
- Food banks are an essential part of the supply chain, serving as key actors in reducing the amount of food that ends up in landfills, protecting the environment and natural resources.
- Food banks advocate for government policies that drive increases in food donation and reduce waste.
  - [Three member food banks](#) advocated for new legislation in their countries that reduces food loss and waste and increases food donation.
- [FRAME Methodology](#): In 2024, six food banks across Mexico and Ecuador completed the first successful pilot of GFN's FRAME (*Food Recovery to Avoid Methane Emissions*) methodology, precisely measuring their emissions mitigation.
  - The FRAME methodology is being expanded to eight more countries in 2025, and the standard is being developed for Gold Standard accreditation.



### Food Bank Spotlight: Banco de Alimentos Quito

Banco de Alimentos Quito (BAQ), a food banking innovation leader in Ecuador's capital, increased distribution by 23% to 4.3 million kilograms in 2024. BAQ was a key partner in refining the FRAME Methodology to precisely measure their emissions mitigation. Through that work, BAQ has now become part of the government's Zero Carbon Program (*Programa Carbono Cero*) and is helping drive stronger national policy to reduce the environmental impacts of food loss and waste.

### GFN's environmental impact in terms of emissions / mitigation (kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>)



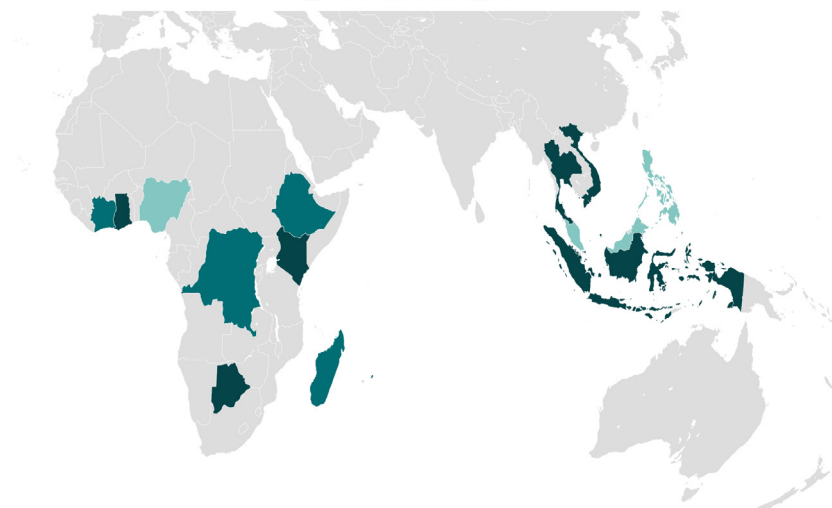


## Newer food banks that are part of GFN's *Accelerator* program are growing quickly, driven by intensive technical assistance and catalytic funding from GFN.

- The three food banks in the **Asia Pacific Accelerator**, on average, increased distribution by **13%** and fed nearly **30,000 more people in 2024**, largely in Malaysia.
- The six food banks in the **Africa Accelerator** increased distribution **33%** and fed an **additional 60,000 people in 2024**, driven largely by growth in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Food banks in the first cohort of the *Accelerator*, which graduated in 2024, continue to demonstrate sustainable growth and on average increased their distribution by 30%.

### Accelerator Programs

■ Cohort 1 ■ Cohort 2 ■ Both<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Country has multiple food banks but in different cohorts



### Food Bank Spotlight: Banque Alimentaire de Côte d'Ivoire

In West Africa, Banque Alimentaire de Côte d'Ivoire nearly doubled its distribution and nearly tripled the number of people served over the last year. The food bank has achieved major growth by strengthening partnerships with local retailers for food recovery, launching an agricultural recovery program and activating the community to donate 22,000 kilograms of food as a part of its annual food drive.

The food bank is a critical source of support for people in vulnerable circumstances in the capital, Abidjan. They deliver food to organizations supporting single mothers, schoolchildren, people with disabilities, migrants facing homelessness and abandoned children.

## Food banks are hubs of community resilience, where an increasing number of volunteers come in to serve their communities.

- **More than 436,000 people** volunteered their time and labor to food banks in 2024, up 40%, totaling **4.3 million hours** across the network.
- Food banks in the network delivered food through/in partnership with **59,000 community service agencies** (examples include food pantries, soup kitchens, schools and shelters), making sure a wide range of community organizations can serve wholesome food.
- Food banks offer wraparound services to provide **vocational training, health services, nutrition education, tutoring, childcare, social support and more**, the building blocks of a just and equitable society.

### Support this Work

GFN is so proud of the significant impact showcased by these results. With your support, our food bank partners around the world can reach even more people in the years to come. Together, we can build stronger, more resilient communities and get nutritious food to people who need it most.

[Learn more about how your organization can partner with GFN today.](#)

