

GFN Spotlight 2025

The last several years have seen near-constant shocks to the food system: conflict, geopolitical crises, disasters and related events all contributing to supply chain disruptions and food price spikes. The effect on people, especially those living in already vulnerable conditions, has been profound.

When we look to 2025, dramatic and sudden reductions in official development assistance set off the most significant upheaval of humanitarian funding in decades. Many countries, including the U.S., Germany, the U.K., France and Japan, all slashed their international humanitarian assistance. At least 70 countries have been affected by reduced international support and cancelled projects. At the most extreme level, a projected 23 million lives are at risk across 93 countries between now and 2030.

Food banks — ever agile, responsive and resilient — serve as safety nets around the world, connecting local communities to nutritious food, despite the challenges that food bankers face.

In 2025, members of The Global FoodBanking Network (GFN) served approximately 2 billion meals to 40.5 million people facing hunger in 2025. This was an increase of 2.5 million people above 2024 levels and a reflection of the ongoing work that food bankers do to support their communities.

The GFN Spotlight showcases annual data from 55 member food banking organizations across 47 countries. It provides a look at developments and innovations in food banking, highlights members’ achievements, and demonstrates the ways that food bankers are responding to the omni-present disruptions and challenges in the world.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

1

GFN food banking organizations served approximately 40.5 million people facing hunger in 2025, which is nearly the same number of people served during the height of the COVID pandemic.

2

Food banks prevented approximately 534 million kilograms of food from going to waste, reducing pressure on natural resources and slowing the release of methane into the atmosphere.

3

Supported by GFN’s Agricultural Recovery Hub, food banking organizations collected 55% more from agricultural sources in 2025 than they did in 2024, delivering more highly nutritious food to people.

4

Newer food banks that are part of GFN’s *Accelerator* program expanded their product distribution by 40% over the prior year, outpacing the average growth of the rest of the network.

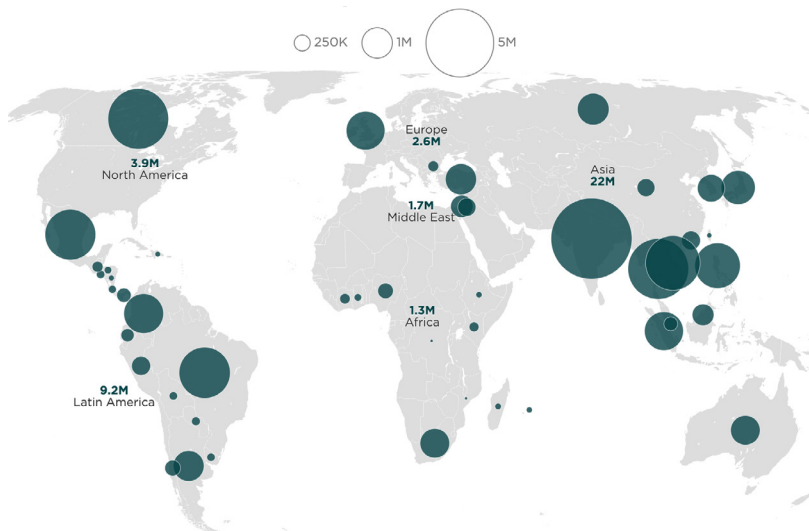
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Agile and innovative food banking models are expanding, particularly virtual food banking, which accounts for 8% of the network’s total distribution.

GFN food banking organizations served approximately 40.5 million people facing hunger in 2025, which is nearly equal to people served during the height of the COVID pandemic.

- Network members provided **820 million kilograms** of food and valuable grocery products, **an increase of 7%** compared to the previous year.
- The food provided is equivalent to around **2 billion meals**.
- The number of beneficiary organizations working with food banks **grew 18%** over the previous year, reflecting strong commitments to their communities and response to rising need.

People served in 2025



Food Bank Spotlight

In Nicaragua, many charities and community organizations closed after USAID funding ceased.

Banco de Alimentos Nicaragua responded with new partnership and diversification strategies, leading to a 47% increase in kilograms distributed over the previous year.

No Food Waste India reached an additional 200,000 people with over a million more kilograms than in 2024, due to the launch of chapters in new cities.

Driven largely by agricultural recovery, **It Rains Food Bank of Ethiopia** increased food recovered by 201%, allowing them to improve service while reaching 45% more people.

Food banks prevented approximately 534 million kilograms of food from going to waste, preventing the release of methane into the atmosphere.

- By keeping nourishing food out of landfills, food banks mitigated an estimated **2 million metric tons of CO₂e**, roughly equal to pulling **473,000 vehicles** off the road for a year.
- Food banking organizations in **six countries** became eligible for climate financing either through accessing the voluntary carbon market or through incorporating food banking into national climate plans.
- GFN is working with **nine additional food banking organizations** to access climate financing in the years ahead.

Network food banks recovered **534 million kilograms** of food, diverting it from landfills.

This is equivalent to the CO₂ emissions from:



473,508 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year



423,043 homes' electricity use for one year



4,699,879 barrels of oil consumed

This is equivalent to the carbon sequestered by:



2,036,210 acres of U.S. forests in one year



Food Bank Spotlight

As of 2025, 61% of the network had a budget that is less than US\$1 million. Strong data combined with inclusion in official government plans can lead to climate finance opportunities, which help food banks diversify revenue streams.

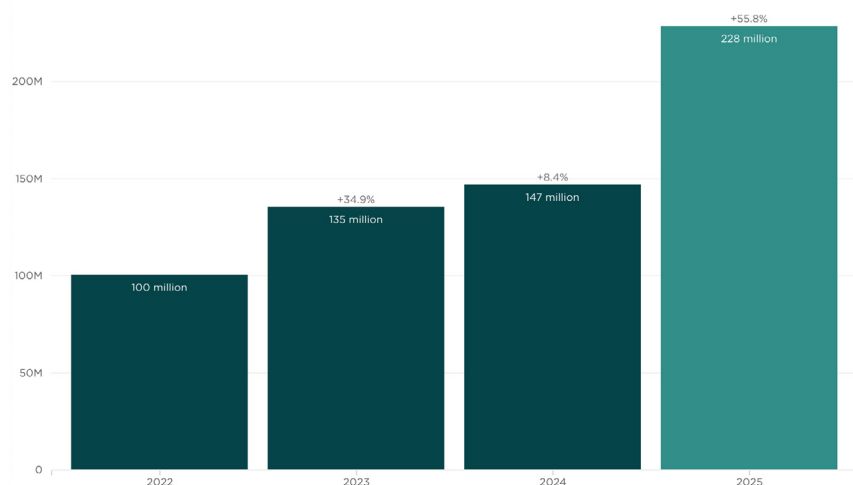
For example: UNIDO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, fully funded an upgrade of **Banco de Alimentos Quito's** refrigeration system — which was directly connected to the food bank's environmental impact data collected from [GFN's FRAME methodology](#). And **FoodForward South Africa's** methane project was recently approved for the government's [Just Energy Transition \(JET\) Funding Platform Project Register](#).

These cases show a direct line that connects climate data, government recognition and access to international climate finance — the pathway GFN is replicating across its network.

Supported by [GFN's Agricultural Recovery Hub](#), food banking organizations sourced 55% more from agricultural sources in 2025 than they did in 2024, delivering 228 million kilograms of nutritious food to people.

- In 2025, fruits and vegetables accounted for nearly **half of all food** distributed by the network, the largest single product category.
- **More than two-thirds** of the network had an agricultural recovery program in 2025.
- Food banks reported working with **10,826** small- and medium-scale farmers and **131** commercial farmers in 2025.

Kilograms distributed from agricultural recovery



Food Bank Spotlight

Agricultural recovery is a major contributor to total kilograms distributed by food banks at all sizes and stages of development. It even accounts for most kilograms distributed for some food banking organizations, like [Bancos de Alimentos de Argentina](#) (97%), [Leket Israel](#) (96%), [Red de Bancos de Alimentos de México](#) (53%), [It Rains Food Bank of Ethiopia](#) (100%) and [The Lost Food Project](#), Malaysia (82%).

For food banks like [FoodCycle Indonesia](#), investment in agricultural recovery pays dividends quickly. FCI started an agricultural recovery program in 2024. In 2025, after expanding the program to new areas, they expanded total kilogram distribution by 300%.

Newer food banks that are part of GFN's *Accelerator* program grew by 40% over the year prior in terms of product distribution and outpaced the rest of the network.

- It can take new food banks **10 to 15 years** to move from inception to full maturity — GFN's *Accelerator* fast tracks the launching and scaling of food banks.
- Driven by intensive technical assistance and catalytic funding from GFN, these food banks collectively distributed **3.9 million kilograms** of food and grocery products in 2025.
- **Two-thirds** of *Accelerator* food banks are implementing agricultural recovery programs as a key strategy for growth.

***Accelerator* program in 2025 (Cohort 2)**



Food Bank Spotlight

Across the [Accelerator program](#), food banks grew and adapted to meet the needs of their communities.

In Indonesia, **Aksata Pangan's** impact grew exponentially in 2025, distributing 34,000 kilograms of food — an increase of more than 350% from 2024. This was made possible by investments in logistics capabilities, including their first food bank-owned vehicle. In Malaysia, **The Lost Food Project's** increased distribution by 49% over 2024, through investments in staffing capacity, like the hire of a full-time food rescue staff member to explore new food donor opportunities and strengthen existing relationships.

Driven largely by agricultural recovery, **It Rains Food Bank of Ethiopia** increased food recovered by 201%, or 130,000 kilograms, allowing them to improve service while reaching an additional 6,000 people, a 45% increase.

Agile and innovative food banking models are expanding, particularly virtual food banking, which accounts for 8% of the network's total distribution.

- **Innovative supply chain models** are both low cost and low infrastructure, offering dynamic alternatives in resource-constrained environments.
- **Virtual food banking**, or “direct collection,” allows people with surplus food to provide it directly to community agencies that distribute food, usually with the aid of technology.
- In 2025, **27 food banks** in the network operated virtual food banking programs.
- Other agile, innovative food banking models used in the network include: **decentralized distribution** (or zero warehouse), **hub and spoke**, and **mobile depots**.

Support Our Work

Food bankers throughout GFN's network are working each and every day to prevent good food from going to waste, instead ensuring that food makes it to people facing hunger. With your support, our food bank partners can reach even more people. 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.](#)



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