In a world where food is more abundant than ever before, we face a global crisis where hunger and malnutrition are on the rise.

Many factors have reinforced this tragedy time and time again: Population booms, climate change, uneven economic growth, food price inflation, natural disasters, and more. Around the world, in countries at varying income levels, we’re trapped in a cycle of hunger, thanks to the persistence of poverty, unemployment, inequality, geopolitical conflict, and environmental overload.

Right now, nearly 821 million people – one in nine – around the world go to bed hungry every night and an estimated two billion are food insecure. Yet hunger is a solvable problem. Our world produces enough food for all, but about one-third of food produced is wasted or lost before it reaches the dinner table (FAO).

We desperately need to change this story – and the future of millions of people.
The Global FoodBanking Network (GFN) is an international development organization with the goal to fight hunger through community-based food banking service. Food banks both tackle hunger and recover wholesome food that would otherwise go to waste. In 2018 alone, GFN food banks rescued more than 940 million pounds of food and redirected it to people facing hunger.

Food banking is one of the most promising, community-based solutions to hunger. Just one food bank can help nourish a community. At GFN we believe a network of food banks can help nourish the world. Launched in 2006, GFN is now connected to food banks in more than 40 countries, supporting these partners with the tools to fight hunger and food waste more effectively in their communities. Peer-to-peer learning, customized training, capacity building, access to global partnerships and certification all help local food banks advance their missions better. The real heroes are the food bank leaders who GFN serve, who provide inspiration and best practices to other hunger fighters around the world via GFN’s international platform.

On average, GFN member food banks are able to deliver enough food for eight meals for every US dollar invested. Food banks distribute meals to a network of local agencies – more than 55,000 around the globe – that then provide food to people facing hunger. This model is adaptable, efficient and powerful – above all, it’s catalytic.
Expanding Food Relief

Food banks in North America and Western Europe have taken more than 30 years to mature. Despite operating in challenging conditions, with assistance and guidance from GFN, food banks in Asia and Latin America are making similar progress in less than a decade.

Since its inception, GFN has partnered with food banking organizations in more than 40 countries to build effective strategies and efficiently tackle hunger through food loss reduction. Together, the global community of food banks convened by GFN has increased the amount of product recovered and re-distributed by 19%, and expanded food relief service to 9.6 million people.

Food banking brings together community assets from the business and voluntary sectors and marries it with the passion of individuals, in order to extend food relief to local people and families in need. Food banks serve as a convener of public and private sector stakeholders with the models and tools communities need to feed themselves.
The Next 10 Years for GFN: Toward Zero Hunger

Millions of people facing hunger could be served if the food banking model can be further replicated and scaled.

Because of this opportunity, GFN has set a north star goal to help close the hunger gap by expanding food banking service to an additional 40 million people in need by 2030. It is anticipated that the majority of this service expansion will need to occur in low- and middle-income countries where hunger needs are most wide-spread and public sector social protection systems are far too insufficient.

Over the past ten years, food banking has made significant progress globally. With the understanding that the food banking model has broad cultural application, and with an international network of food bank leaders ready to offer their support to founders in new communities and countries, it is now time to accelerate this movement – to deepen impact and scale for sustainable global transformation.

EXPANDING THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

Our mission
To help nourish the world’s hungry through uniting and advancing food banks.

Our vision
A world free of hunger.
Why 2030?

We’re aligning GFN’s ambitious goals with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030. Specifically, we’re focused on SDG 2: Zero hunger and SDG 12.3: Halve per capita global food waste and reduce food losses.

The SDGs promote a long-term approach to addressing global challenges – and with food banking, we’re taking the long-term approach to solving hunger.

ZERO HUNGER > GOAL 2

Achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round.

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION > TARGET 12.3

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. By 2030 halve per-capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including postharvest losses.
Food banks are critical to nourishing communities and tackling food waste. Experience shows that a food bank connected to GFN can scale faster, operate more efficiently, and help influence the actions of businesses, policy players, and thought leaders to address hunger much more rapidly than a food bank operating outside of the GFN network. Further, the experience and innovation occurring in food banks throughout the GFN network provide an opportunity to scale best practices and promising new approaches much more quickly.

Our accelerated food banking movement will address unmet hunger needs and advance the food security and food recovery agenda on the global stage.
GFN’s Pivotal Stage: Ignite & Innovate

We’ve set a big, bold goal for 2030. But we know it’ll require a phased approach to get there. So, to activate our growth trajectory, here is a snapshot of our Phase I Strategic Plan through 2022:

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

#1 Expand food relief

Our goal as a network is to reach more people facing hunger through food banking and with the types of food they need to thrive. Through partnering with local entrepreneurs in South and East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, where hunger needs are profound and urgent, our work will help them start, expand or develop new food banks. In Latin America and other parts of Asia-Pacific, our ongoing work in food bank development includes extending supply chains, strengthening distribution models, and fostering agency networks – all with the aim of reaching 15.23 million people-in-need by July 2022.
These days, food banks are serving more diverse and vulnerable populations such as refugees and economic migrants, building supply chains into remote areas to provide relief to hard-to-reach populations, designing and operating programs for children to achieve better nutrition and health outcomes, and responding to natural disasters. At the same time that GFN continues to advance an evolved food banking model tailored to socio-economic and cultural needs, we will support member food banks in the next stages of their development to attain greater social impact.

Food banking is a powerful, community-based model for providing short-term hunger relief. Through its partnerships with social service agencies that offer job training, address debilitating health conditions, and advance educational outcomes, it can play a role in addressing the root causes of poverty. However, long-term change to tackle hunger, poverty, and food loss and waste will require policy action and support from the broader business and civil society communities. Because of its grassroots approach, GFN has a responsibility to leverage its global network of food banks to advocate for long-term change in tackling the dual challenges of hunger and food loss and waste.
1. **Launch new food banks with a focus** on Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

2. **Expand existing food banks’ service** to vulnerable people in their communities.

3. **Enhance support to children and mothers facing hunger** and help break the cycle of malnutrition and hunger.

4. **Advocate for policies that fight hunger and reduce food loss and waste** at the national and global level.

5. **Partner with like-minded organizations to better address the root causes of hunger.**
What Will It Take?

GFN is driving a proven, effective, and sustainable global food banking model – revolutionary in impact and scale – one that helps feed the world, reduce food waste, and build local institutions which strengthen community. To see the model expand in such a robust and transformative way by 2030, the organization’s budget will need to expand as well. To ensure that fifteen million people in need have access to nutritious meals, by FY 2022, GFN’s budget must grow from $7M to $11M.

Teaming UP

Food banks are local heroes, conveners of cross-sector stakeholders, fighting hunger and food waste every single day. Food banks transform lives and communities and create powerful impact as a green intervention toward zero hunger. It’s true – collectively, we can end hunger. Join GFN to help move from crisis to solution.