

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SUPERMARKETS & FOOD CHARITIES IN REDUCING



1. The Challenge

Supermarkets have a big role to play in reducing food insecurity.

Supermarkets need to move away from the current food redistribution model that doesn't tackle the root causes of insecurity; and move towards more ethical and sustainable solutions.

4.7 million

**households experienced
food insecurity during COVID**

Food Foundation, 2021

2. The Research

Research from The University of York investigated the relationship between supermarkets and food charities, **and whether they support an ethical and sustainable solution to food insecurity.**

The Research team:



undertook a **literature review**;

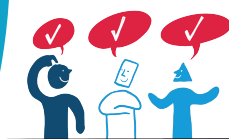


worked together with Co-op, engaging in knowledge exchange;



and conducted a **workshop** with food charity practitioners **and hosted a webinar with a panel of experts** (academics, charity groups, and Co-op).

3. The Findings and Recommendations



**WORK TOWARDS
ALIGNED, COMMON
GOALS**

Food redistribution (unsold or unsellable food) cannot solve the systemic root causes of food insecurity. To address this, partnerships between supermarkets and food charities have an **aligned common goal** reflecting the values and ideals of ethical and sustainable food insecurity reduction.



**CREATE EQUITABLE,
STRONG
RELATIONSHIPS**

Relationships between supermarkets and charities **aren't aligned around common goals and values.** An example of this is supermarkets donating large quantities of a single food a charity cannot give away before it expires. To prevent this, relationships between supermarkets and charities **need to be equal, strong and consistent to tackle food insecurity.**



**APPLY SUPERMARKETS'
SHARED VALUES AND
GOALS THROUGHOUT
BUSINESS AND SUPPLY
CHAINS**

Supermarkets' own policies, structures and practices can contribute to food insecurity within their own business and supply chains, such as pay and allocation of hours, putting staff at risk. To resolve this, supermarkets' need to apply shared values and goals throughout their business and supply chains to **limit the chance of contributing to the problem, such as:** supporting **poverty alleviation initiatives**; paying a **Living Wage Foundation real living wage** with proper allocation of working hours; and **lobbying government** action on reducing poverty and inequality.