

FOOD POVERTY

Food poverty has frequently been a subject of media attention due to the proliferation of foodbanks in Britain over the last few years. Over 400 Trussell Trust foodbanks distributed more than 1.1 million three-day supplies of food to UK residents in 2015/16, not to mention the numerous independent foodbanks such as those run by the Salvation Army. Since the global financial crash of 2008 and subsequent austerity measures, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people who cannot afford to feed themselves or their families. Churches are on the frontline in most towns and cities, partnering with referral agencies, supermarkets and other charities to feed those in need in their communities.

FRANCHISES

One of the most effective ways for your church or Christians in your community to help people facing food poverty is by adopting a franchise that already exists. Usually this means that for a small annual or monthly subscription, you gain all the expertise and knowledge of an organisation that has already tried and tested what is most effective at helping and supporting people.

Foodbanks

The Trussell Trust is now the largest network of foodbanks in the UK, though numerous independent foodbanks also exist, notably those connected with the Salvation Army. To find out more about how to set up at Trussell Trust foodbank, visit www.trusselltrust.org, which also explains more about their *More than Food* programme and has foodbank use statistics.

MakeLunch

More than 1.2million children are eligible for free school meals, but outside of term-time many of them will go without regular hot food. MakeLunch was established in response to this, covering the 13 weeks of school holidays when free school meals are not available. It is a franchise that your church can sign up to, benefitting from their expertise at running Lunch Kitchens in churches since July 2011. www.makelunch.org.uk

REPORTS

Feeding Britain

Published just before Christmas in 2014, the [Feeding Britain](#) report reveals the findings of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the United Kingdom.

Below the Breadline

This report into the rise of food poverty in Britain was also published in 2014, by Oxfam, Church Action on Poverty and the Trussell Trust. [Read the report here.](#)

You can find our latest blogs, research and media on the issue of food poverty [here...](#)