Transforming Surplus into Opportunity – How COVID-19 shone a light on the role of Food Banks for food security

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EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
Transforming Surplus into Opportunity
How COVID-19 shone a light on the role of Food Banks for food security

Angela Frigo, European Food Banks Federation
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Responding to COVID-19
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COVID-19... Challenges

- Lockdown and restrictions
- c. 40% of charities closed
- Food service shuts down with huge time sensitive surplus
- Adapting operations to meet safety measures
- Panic buying hugely impacts retail
- No volunteers
- Unprecedented demand for food from charities and individuals
- Huge volatility in supply of food
- >250k Easter Eggs - no flour, rice, pasta
- Struggle to get PPE
FOODCLOUD COVID-19 EMERGENCY APPEAL

HELP US GET FOOD TO OUR 500+ CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

"NO-ONE SHOULD GO HUNGRY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. WE URGENTLY NEED FOOD AND FUNDING TO ENSURE THAT EVERY MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY HAS ACCESS TO GOOD FOOD."

ISEULT WARD, CEO, FOODCLOUD

DONATE AT FOODCLOUD.IE

#FOODFORIRELAND #FEEDINGKINDNESS
COVID-19… Response

- Optimising operations, increasing resource and allocation of food
- Working with community networks to get food to those in need
- Engaging with food chain to maximise food in
- Doubling weekly volume of food through warehouses
- Leveraging technology
Food redistributed weekly - retail

Highest ever levels of retail redistribution

Panic Buying

KGs Redistributed

Weeks

2019 2020
Food redistributed - supply chain

Surplus Food Redistributed in first 5 months of 2020 is already 70% of 2019 levels
COVID-19... learnings

- Ability of Food Banks to adapt and respond effectively to societal needs
- Importance of Food Banks in the future of food sustainability and food security
- Essential role of food redistribution in responding to crises and shocks to food system
- Importance of technology and the need to support digitisation of NGO sector
- We are only at the beginning of the real crisis
Ordinary people doing extraordinary things
Please support us ensure no good food goes to waste at this time of unprecedented need.
Thank you!

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