

IMMEDIATE RELEASE 16/10/2012



World Food Day 16th October:

Foodbanks feed over 100,000 Britons in six months

Today UK Foodbank charity The Trussell Trust reveals that a record-breaking 100,000 people have received emergency food from UK foodbanks in just six months. The charity, which released its statistics to coincide with World Food Day, fears that rises in food and fuel bills this winter could force more Britons into a crisis where they cannot afford to eat. World Food Day's campaign to 'fight hunger to reduce poverty' is well timed as three new foodbanks open every week to help meet the growing demand for emergency food in the UK. The Trussell Trust's UK Foodbank Network anticipates feeding over 200,000 people in 2012-13 and warns that this Christmas is looking even bleaker for families on the breadline.



The Trussell Trust's foodbank network has fed almost 110,000 people across the UK since April 2012, compared to 128,697 people in total during the 2011-12 financial year.

The rising cost of food and fuel combined with static incomes, high unemployment and changes to benefits have seen increasing numbers turn to foodbanks over the last eighteen months. Having already fed record-breaking numbers since April this year, news that food prices are likely to rise again, and that British Gas and Npower are set to increase fuel bills by almost 10%, worries The Trussell Trust's 270 strong foodbank network. Trussell Trust Executive Chairman Chris Mould says:

'The Trussell Trust has seen first-hand the devastating impact of rising food prices on people in poverty. It means that the budgets of people on the breadline are stretched even further so that even a small change in financial circumstances can push people into a crisis where they cannot afford food. Day in, day out, foodbanks already meet UK parents who are going

without food to feed their children, or are forced to consider stealing to stop their children going to bed hungry. Further rises in food and fuel bills could see even more people in crisis turn to foodbanks.’

He continues: ‘Many low-income working families are living on a knife edge. This rise in food prices could be enough to tip them into poverty, especially as winter approaches and heating costs increase. Christmas is looking bleak for thousands of UK families.’

Mould adds: ‘The good news is that at a time of growing difficulty for people on low-incomes, communities across the country are pulling out the stops to start new foodbanks and people are donating more food to help those in crisis on their doorsteps.’

The Trussell Trust hopes that World Food Day’s campaign to fight hunger will help to raise the profile of the growing problem of UK food poverty and encourage more people to help their neighbours in need.

Trussell Trust foodbanks provide three days emergency food to UK people in crisis.

Ends.

Notes to the Editor

- 13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK, 1 in every 5 people.
- 1 in 3 children live below the poverty line in the UK (Source: Oxfam).
- World Food Day is on Tuesday 16th October and this year’s campaign is a worldwide initiative to fight hunger to reduce poverty. World Food Day is on Tuesday 16th October and this year’s campaign is a worldwide initiative to fight hunger to reduce poverty. To mark World Food Day, The Trussell Trust is running a campaign to ‘[Give it up for Foodbanks](#)’ to help meet the increasing need for emergency food nationwide.
- The Trussell Trust’s foodbank network partners with churches and communities nationwide to launch foodbanks that provide a minimum of three days emergency food to people in crisis. Over 90% food given out by foodbanks is donated by the public and every foodbank recipient is referred by a frontline care professional such as a doctor, social worker or schools liaison officer.

- Less than 5% of foodbank clients are homeless, many are working families struggling to make ends meet.
- The two main reasons that people were referred to foodbanks in 2011-12 were benefit delay and low income. Other reasons for referrals include delayed wages, domestic violence, sickness, unemployment, debt, benefit changes, refused crisis loans, homelessness and absence of free school meals during school holidays. All those who received emergency food were referred by frontline care professionals such as doctors, social workers and Citizens Advice Bureau.
- The Trussell Trust runs the only network of foodbanks in the UK. The Trussell Trust partners with local churches and communities to launch foodbanks in their towns. There are currently 270 foodbanks across the UK. Foodbanks are operating from Cornwall to Inverness, with 38 projects launched in London so far.
- In 2008-09 Trussell Trust foodbanks fed 26,000 nationwide; in 2009-10: 41,000 were fed; in 2010-11: 61,468; in 2011-12: 128,697.
- Foodboxes contain three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable foods such as tinned fruit, vegetables, meat and fish as well as pasta, cereal, UHT milk, sauces, tea, long-life juice.
- Foodbank clients can receive a maximum of three foodbank vouchers in a row (each voucher can be redeemed for at least three days food), although longer term support is available at the discretion of the foodbank manager.
- Foodbanks signpost clients to other agencies able to help resolve the underlying cause of the crisis. A client struggling with debt, for example, would be referred to CAB or Christians Against Poverty who specialise in resolving debt problems.
- The Trussell Trust receives no government funding and relies entirely on the generosity of the public, businesses and charitable trusts. The Trussell Trust is entirely a-political.
- The Trussell Trust's vision is that every town should have a foodbank, creating a nation where no-one needs to go hungry.
- For more on foodbanks visit: www.trusselltrust.org/foodbank-projects
- The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity that partners with local communities to provide practical, non-judgemental help to people in crisis in the UK and Bulgaria: www.trusselltrust.org

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