The need for food banks continues to grow, and the social security system remains inadequate for ensuring we can all afford the essentials. 

**Changing Communities**

- 1,699 food bank distribution centres, across 292 local authorities across the UK.
- Around 36,000 volunteers giving their time and expertise.

**Changing Policy**

- 428,916 people actively (financially) giving or supporting (non-financially) our work, with 160,376 actively campaigning.
- 50 corporate partners collaborating with us.
- 70 volunteer Church Ambassadors, partnering with thousands of faith groups across the UK to foster support for our vision.

**Changing Minds**

- 1,000 young people (aged from 11 to 17) who’ve shared their perceptions and experiences as part of our Youth Perceptions of Poverty in the UK research.
- 11.3 million people were estimated to have experienced food insecurity in the 12 months prior to mid-2022.¹

**Who We Are**

- 75% of food banks offered financial inclusion advice (up from 65% last year). Over 65,000 people were supported, with around £66.5 million of financial gains made, over £47.2 million of debt managed and £12.5 million of debt written off (a 183% increase on 2022/3).²
- £22.7 million in grants was awarded to food banks (compared to £20 million in 2022/3).
- 43,627 people in England and Wales were given high quality advice via the Help through Hardship helpline (up 37% from 2021/2).
- 1,958 people received high quality advice in Northern Ireland, with 1,800 people supported via Pathways to Advice and Cash Scotland (PACS).
- A cross-party Work and Pensions Committee report called for a new approach to setting benefit levels based on people’s real living costs, citing our Essentials Guarantee proposal throughout.
- **Our Vision**

A UK without the need for food banks where levels of destitution are so low, and ongoing financial and relational support is readily available, that large-scale emergency food distribution is no longer needed.

- 7,2 million low-income households are going without at least one of the essentials we all need to keep warm, fed and clothed.³
- 3.1 million emergency food parcels were distributed to people in crisis by food banks in the Trussell Trust network between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, with 1.1 million parcels provided for children.⁴
- **4% increase** in the number of emergency food parcels distributed by food banks in the Trussell Trust network during 2023/4, when compared to 2022/3.

**The Situation**

- We successfully implemented the new voucher code system, with 87% of our food bank vouchers issued electronically – a 5% increase on 2022/3 and a 9% increase on 2021/2.
- 132 organisations within the anti-poverty and wider charity sector publicly supported our call for UK social security to include an Essentials Guarantee.
- 31 March 2024, with 1.1 million of debt managed and £12.5 million of debt written off (a 183% increase on 2022/3).²
- 13 Peers and 34 MPs from across the political spectrum supported the extension of the Household Support Fund (which was called for by the Trussell Trust and others).
- 428,916 people actively (financially) giving or supporting (non-financially) our work, with 160,376 actively campaigning.
- 50 corporate partners collaborating with us.
- 70 volunteer Church Ambassadors, partnering with thousands of faith groups across the UK to foster support for our vision.
- 1,000 young people (aged from 11 to 17) who’ve shared their perceptions and experiences as part of our Youth Perceptions of Poverty in the UK research.
- 11.3 million people were estimated to have experienced food insecurity in the 12 months prior to mid-2022.¹

**Our Policy**

- 79% of the UK public think food banks should not be needed in the UK (up slightly from 77% in 2022/3), while 78% of the public agree that hunger in the UK can be ended – up slightly from 76% in 2022/3.¹
- 40 people with lived experience are working closely with research teams to shape the scope and focus of our policy research project Cost of Destitution, exploring the impacts of ’deep poverty’ at an individual, societal, and economic level.
- 70% of those experiencing hardship in England (76% in 2022/3) and 84% in Northern Ireland (88% in 2022/3) report these benefits.
- 87% of the public support our call for an Essentials Guarantee, believing the benefits system should ensure that everyone in the UK can afford the essentials. This figure is consistent with 2022/3 (88%).⁶
- We reached 644 out of 650 MPs. Over 50 high-profile figures from sport, social media, TV, film and music have supported campaigns raising awareness and funds for people facing hardship.

**Changing Minds**

- In 2023/4, we focused on quality and depth of media coverage rather than just our reach, leading to more articles including spokesperson quotes (14% vs. 12% in 2022/3), high impact mentions (3.9% vs. 3.3%) and key message mentions (7.2% vs. 3.3%).
- We awarded over £2.8 million in Organising Programme funding in 2023/4, with around 100 food banks delivering over 400 local influencing activities. Almost all our food banks employ or are looking to employ/collaborate with a local organisation to bring their communities together and campaign for change.

**Our Vision**

A UK without the need for food banks where levels of destitution are so low, and ongoing financial and relational support is readily available, that large-scale emergency food distribution is no longer needed.

1. Joseph Rowntree Foundation, UK Poverty 2023, 2023
2. The Trussell Trust, Hunger in the UK, 2023
3. The Trussell Trust, Youth Perceptions of Poverty in the UK, 2023
4. Financial gains are gains realised from maximising people’s income through, for example, helping them access benefits to which they are entitled.
5. Social media impressions provide information about the number of people who see digital content.
6. YouGov Attitudinal Survey 2023, an online survey of people aged 16+ in Britain, weighted to be representative of the population.