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The Global FoodBanking Network

# From Waste to Impact: The Role of Food Banks in Preventing Food Waste and Reducing Emissions

Climate Action: Methane Mitigation in  
Waste Management

March 4th, 2026



The Global FoodBanking Network is an international development organization spanning more than 50 countries, dedicated to the goal of **nourishing people and the planet together.**

We share knowledge, unlock partnerships and provide catalytic funding to help local food banks reach tens of millions of people each year.

**With the help of partners,** we are working to increase food access for 50M people facing hunger by 2030.



**1 in 11** people face hunger.

**1/3** of all food is  
lost or wasted.

**10%** of greenhouse gas  
emissions come from lost  
and wasted food.

**Food banking is a solution.**

Food recovery and  
redistribution addresses  
chronic hunger and tackles  
climate change  
*at the same time, creating a  
unique humanitarian  
climate infrastructure.*

# 2025: An Unprecedented Milestones

## WORLD FIRST

### Paraguay

*First country to include food banking with quantified methane target in an NDC*

0.85 kt CO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2030 – 1.49 kt CO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2035

Fundación Banco de Alimentos Paraguay mitigation measure

## 5 COUNTRIES

### NDC integration

*Food banking formally included in national commitments across 3 continents*

Colombia - México - Ecuador - Chile - Paraguay

Conditional mitigation measures, circular economy pillars, sectorial decarbonization pathways

## CLIMATE FINANCE UNLOCKED

### SOUTH AFRICA

*First food bank approved in a major climate financing platform*

Food Forward SA approved in the Just Energy Transition Funding Platform Project Register

UNIDO fully funded the technological upgrade of the Quito Food Bank's refrigeration systems.

## METHODOLOGY RECOGNITION

### FRAME METHODOLOGY

*Government of Kenya proposed FRAME Methodology to the UN as the global standard*

*Ecuador – South Africa – Paraguay -*

Formally recognizes FRAME methodology to measure methane emissions avoided through food loss and waste prevention

# Unlocking climate finance instruments for food banks

There is an opportunity for food recovery initiatives to access an additional and flexible source of financing:

- Including the work done by food banking organizations in **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs), **with a financing scheme**, can make organizations eligible for government and multilateral funding.
- In some cases, food banking organizations can be a beneficiaries of **carbon pricing mechanisms**.
- With a credible methodology for emissions avoidance, food banking organizations may receive compensation from agrifood donors looking to reduce their carbon footprints through **insets**.
- With a certified methodology and an enabling legal environment at the national level, food banking organizations may be able to participate in the **voluntary carbon market**.
- Food banking organizations may be eligibles for **green bonds**, because of the environmental and social benefits they provide.

A core component of advancing **GFN's Climate Finance Program** will be developing guidance and standards and to ensure credibility and efficiency:

- **Minimum Cross-Instrument Standards:** Transparency, MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, Verification), and social safeguards.
- **Instrument-Specific Standards:** Tailored guidance and compliance standards for each mechanism.
- **Rules for Instrument Use:** Clear guidance on exclusivity or concurrency to avoid double counting.
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Average transaction costs per instrument and best-fit recommendations.
- **Emission Reduction Cost Definition:** Establishing benchmarks for cost per avoided ton (e.g., “recovery ton”).

## Pathways for climate financing

# Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM)

**Active Participants:** Mexico, Peru, Feeding America.

**Exploring Participation:** Israel, Indonesia, South Africa.

### Key Learnings:

- **Price Variability:** \$7–\$10 per credit. (ISO methodology); Verra methodology may reach \$18–\$25.
- **Buyer Identification:** Often led by food bank development teams.
- **Donor Coordination:** ESG reporting overlaps require careful navigation.
- **What Counts:** Whether members can count total product recovered or just the delta from the prior year depends on in-country policies.
- **Revenue Impact:** ~8–10% of annual budget for fully reporting members.



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## Únete

Un mundo sin hambre  
es posible

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