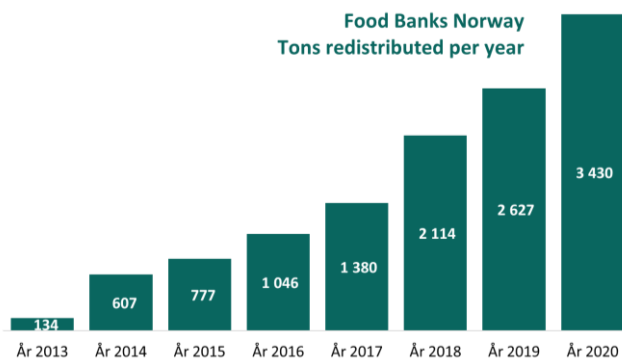


2020 – A YEAR OF GROWTH AND INNOVATION IN A NEW ERA

It is not a surprise that 2020 was one of the most intense years for the network of Norwegian Food Banks. The Pandemic affected the food system and the demand for food assistance, but through cooperation and innovation, the of Norwegian Food Banks were able to, not only continue on supporting both the food industry and charity organizations helping people in need, but actually increase their capacity to redistribute surplus food in order to avoid food waste and help people in need during these difficult times. Below you can find a summary of the highlights of 2020

VOLUME

2020 reached a record in surplus food redistributed. While in 2019 the of Norwegian Food Banks redistributed 2600 tons of surplus food, in 2020 the volume reached over 3400 tons. This is a 30% increase in volume.



GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Based on a growth and development plan made with the assistance of [PwC](#) in 2019, and rushed by the emergency situation brought upon by the Pandemic, 2020 saw the launching of several projects focused on increasing the amount of food rescued and the reach to people in need. The project [Matsentralen Kitchen](#) turned surplus food originally destined to commercial kitchens (affected by the lockdown) into ready-meals to be redistributed by our partner organizations. The project of *Internal Transport* allowed the Food Banks to exchange food with each other, which meant that now Food Banks could rescue larger volumes of food locally, that can be redistributed nationally. In line with the growth strategy, we also started working on developing new concepts for food redistribution, such as Food Stations and Agricultural Hubs, which we look forward to launching in 2021.

INTERNATIONAL WORK

Most of the international work has been as members of the [Federation of European Food Banks \(FEBA\)](#). We continued our participation in the project [“Quantifying the impact of Food Banks”](#) through virtual meetings and workshops, we also participated in FEBA’s General Assembly and [Annual forum](#) where our Project Manager presented some of our challenges and opportunities during the Pandemic. We also organized a [“Nordic Stakeholder dialogue”](#) in cooperation with the Food Banks in Sweden and Denmark and as part of [FEBA’s event for the first International day on Food Losses and Waste.](#)

In addition, we were contacted by several research projects and initiatives for skill-sharing and advising, such as Örebro University, Wageningen University/Malta Food Bank, Ricardo Energy & Environment (On behalf of the Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland) and the Salvation Army in Iceland. Last but not least, Food Banks Norway contributed to the EU Platform on Food Losses and Waste through professional advice to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

RESEARCH

Food Banks Norway launched a report on the [impact of the Pandemic on the Norwegian Food Banks and partner organizations](#). In addition, our project manager participated in the workshop “[Developing Future Scenarios for Food Waste](#)” as part of the BREAD project on behalf of the TIK Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture in the University of Oslo.

In cooperation with the research Institute [NOFIMA](#), Food Banks Norway started also in 2020 a research project to look into the impact of interventions such as school visits, presentations and material to raise awareness about food waste among school children.

Food Banks Norway has also been working on an article on the impact of the Pandemic on the European Food Banks in cooperation with the University of Oslo and the University of Pisa, which we hope to publish in 2021.

SUPPORT AND SPONSORS

None of the achievements of 2020 would have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. In addition to our regular sponsors from both national and local governments, foundations and actors in the food industry, Food Banks Norway also received economical support from [FEBA's social emergency fund](#). In addition, the supermarket chain Joker launched a [campaign](#) to collect money for the Food Banks through the sale of bread and the Foundation [Kavlifondet](#) and [Findus](#) supported some of our projects.

COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

2020 saw the birth of the Norwegian network “[Cut Food Waste](#)”. Initiated by the organization Matvett the network gathers actors and experts working on food waste reduction with the objective to cooperate towards the goal of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030. In addition, Food Banks Norway participated in several activities organised by the [S-Food network](#), which gathers actors working in food sustainability in Norway. Our project leader also participated in the “[Development Goals Forum](#)” that took place in Oslo in march 2020. Last but not least, Food Banks Norway participated in the event “[Smak 2020](#)”, which gathers the most important actors in the food system and several industry internal events