



# June Newsletter



Conversations in progress, Coventry University, Monday 20th of May 2019

## Community Food Retail Workshop

Alongside Dr Lopa Saxena and colleagues from the University of Coventry, IFAN trustee and independent foodclub operator Robin Burgess of [Hope in Northampton](#) co-led our recent interactive workshop on community food retail projects - social supermarkets, pantries or food clubs. These projects all share a common inspiration: to make providing cheaper food to people in need more like a commercial business and less like charity. This is in recognition that people have a right to affordable food without receiving it on the basis of charity. It is the first meeting of this type that has ever been held in the UK and

is central to IFAN's purpose: to share learning and best practice amongst its members, to support the independent food aid sector that we represent, and to explore and develop new ways to help people in poverty and on lower incomes to eat well at lower cost.

The workshop went really well, attended by over 20 people from virtually all the major providers of this type of provision - Feeding Britain projects, Food Pantry franchises, Community Shop and independents. The group really got into discussion about how our services should and could be offered, looking at key issues like the business models, where the food can be sourced from, additional services and more. Everyone went away with positive learning, contacts and the experience of peers to inform their practice. It was an inspiring day. Together with Dr Lopa Saxena we hope to support continued discussion and connection between a growing number of community food retail organisations.

Further resources will be available soon on our Events page.

Dr Lopa Saxena's report: [The Emergence of Social Supermarkets in Britain - Food Poverty, Food Waste and Austerity Retail](#)

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## **Global Network for Right to Food and Nutrition Conference: Jakarta, Indonesia**

IFAN, as one of the newest members of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRtFN), was represented at the 5th global meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia by trustee Dee Woods. Dee spent three days working with other members evaluating the Right to Food and Nutrition(RtFN) context globally, strategy building for the network and reviewing the tools for strengthening RtFN work, such as fact finding missions(FFM), RtFN Watch and monitoring tools. A fourth day was spent on a field visit to a fishing community involved in the upcoming FFM with KNTI, Indonesia Traditional Fisherfolks Union.

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Dee co-wrote the Jakarta Declaration outlining the commitments of the network going forward and is contributing to the upcoming issue of the RtFN Watch on Women's Rights, contributing a piece on Racism and Gender. Dee is grateful for the hospitality of Fian Indonesia, the Indonesian people for their generosity and warmth, and the support of Fian International.

Find more information about the network [Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition](#) [here](#).

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### **Webinar on Experts by Experience: Living with Food Poverty and Hunger while Advocating for the Right to Food in North America and Europe - 3pm-4.30pm Wednesday 19.6.19.**

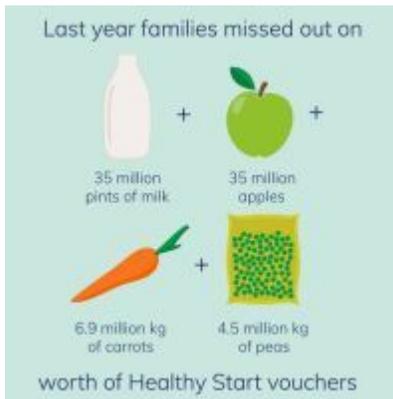
Together with WhyHunger and FIAN International, we are organising a series of webinars on the Right to Food as members of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition. The third webinar, [Experts by Experience: Living with Food Poverty and Hunger while Advocating for the Right to Food in North America and Europe](#), will be held on Wednesday 19.6.19. between 1500-1630 BST and moderated by our very own trustee Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite.

Find links to the previous webinars [here](#).

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### **Healthy Start Vouchers**

A [joint letter](#), led by Sustain and signed by 26 other national charities and bodies including IFAN, was sent to Matt Hancock MP urging the Government to support and raise awareness of Healthy Start Vouchers. It was highlighted that thousands of families are missing out on these vouchers which aim to provide pregnant mothers and children access to fruit, vegetables, milk and infant formula. In 2018, an estimated £28.6 million worth of vouchers were unused by families in need.



[Click here](#) to email your MP to ask for support and promotion of Healthy Start Vouchers to give children the best start in life....

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## Scottish Independent Food Parcel Distribution Data Update

By the end of March 2019, thanks to our collaboration with [A Menu for Change](#), we'd established that 221,977 food parcels were given out by 84 independent food banks operating across Scotland between April 2017 and September 2018. This was on top of the 258,606 emergency food parcels distributed by Trussell Trust venues meaning that the previously unknown figure of nearly half a million food parcels were given out in that 18-month period. Sabine has since been able to update these figures, and with data still coming in, we know that between April 2018-March 2019 at least 159,849 emergency food parcels were given out in Scotland by 84 independent food banks.

Sabine and Dr Mary Anne Macleod of A Menu for Change, will soon be meeting with over 20 representatives from independent food banks and food parcel distributors participating in the data collation project in Glasgow. By now 89 of 96 independent food parcel providers operating in Scotland are involved with the project and we are planning to release further data soon.

Find more information on our website [here](#).

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## Coming Up

### **Rural Food Poverty Workshop in Bristol Tuesday 25.6.19.**

Together with Sustain's [Food Power](#) programme and the [Bristol Poverty Institute](#), [IFAN](#) is organising a series of workshops - **Taking Action To Reduce Rural Food Poverty** - that will be held at Bristol University on Tuesday the 25th June, 2019.

This one-day event will consist of a series of workshops designed to bring together organisations and individuals working to combat rural food poverty and championing social change, as well as experts by experience. Through these workshops we aim to explore key issues, develop ideas, and share best practice on the challenges of rural food insecurity by exploring four key areas:

**Workshop 1:** What are effective community responses to rural food poverty used to date?

**Workshop 2:** How can we overcome the challenges of identifying need and providing access to food and food aid in rural areas?

**Workshop 3:** How can we reduce the rural poverty premium including restricted access to services, transport and the internet?

**Workshop 4:** What are the next steps or actions - individually and collectively?

**If you are interested in attending these workshops please contact Sabine at [ifan.uk@gmail.com](mailto:ifan.uk@gmail.com) to book a place.**

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### **Save the Date for IFAN's Annual General Meeting!**

Our next AGM meeting will be held between **11am and 4pm** on **Saturday the 21st September 2019** at the **Brixton Peoples Kitchen** in Vauxhall London.

Apart sharing news on the past year's work and discussing our priorities going forward, members and supporters will be able to take part in workshops

including a sessions on the **Right to Food** thanks to Imogen Richmond-Bishop of Sustain's Right to Food programme, **Exit Strategies from Charitable Food Aid** led by IFAN trustee Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite and **Community Food Retail** led Dr Lopa Saxena and IFAN trustee Robin Burgees.

You can book a place via Eventbrite [here](#).

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## End Hunger UK Week of Action 2019

The week of action will take place the week of 14-18th October.

**Please see the message below from EHUK:**

We hope that during that week, people on the front-line of food poverty all around the country will be making their voices heard and letting the government know that everyone should be able to afford good food.

There are two ways you can be involved:

1. **Do something locally during the week of 14-18 October** - Arrange to meet your MP, organise an event or do a media stunt. You can arrange this on your own, or as a part of a group you belong to.
2. **Come to London to take part in the Day of Action on Wednesday 16 October** - meet your MP in the Houses of Parliament, take part in an afternoon of workshops and performances and come together with other people who want to tell the government to step up to the plate and end food poverty.

Please [sign-up here](#) to let us know that you want to take part and so we can send you information and resources.

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## Donation Appeal

As many of you know, we have been running IFAN without core funding for nearly 3 years. A Menu for Change has been able to support Sabine's work on the independent food parcel distribution data project in Scotland but the day-to-

day running of the organisation, planning of events, campaigning within End Hunger UK, undertaking the food bank volunteer hour research as well as the mapping of independent food banks across the UK has been done on a pro bono basis.

As our work and the needs of our growing network increases we are working hard to secure funding. In the meantime we wanted to let you know about the [Donate button](#) on our website in case you or others you know would be in a position to support IFAN financially. IFAN now has charitable status and maintains a no fee membership system.

Our vision is of "a country that doesn't need emergency food aid and in which good food is accessible to all" but there is a great deal of work to be done for this to be realised.

Thanks a lot as ever for your support.