

Community Stakeholder Map



Mapping the key networks that currently contribute to, or have the potential to contribute to, supporting and scaling food redistribution at a community level across Ireland.

This stakeholder map has been collaboratively developed to identify and illustrate the key networks that currently contribute to - or have the potential to contribute to - scaling food redistribution at the community level and community food sharing across Ireland.

Contributors to this process included FoodCloud's Community Stakeholder Group, which brings together representatives from a wide range of community organisations operating at both local and national levels. Their insights were enriched by input from FoodCloud's Community Development Team, Support Team, Education Coordinator, Innovation & Development Director and Head of Public Engagement.

The map is intended to serve **multiple purposes**.

Firstly, it aims to **visualise the broad and interconnected system** that underpins community-based food redistribution in Ireland, highlighting the importance of coordinated efforts and government support.

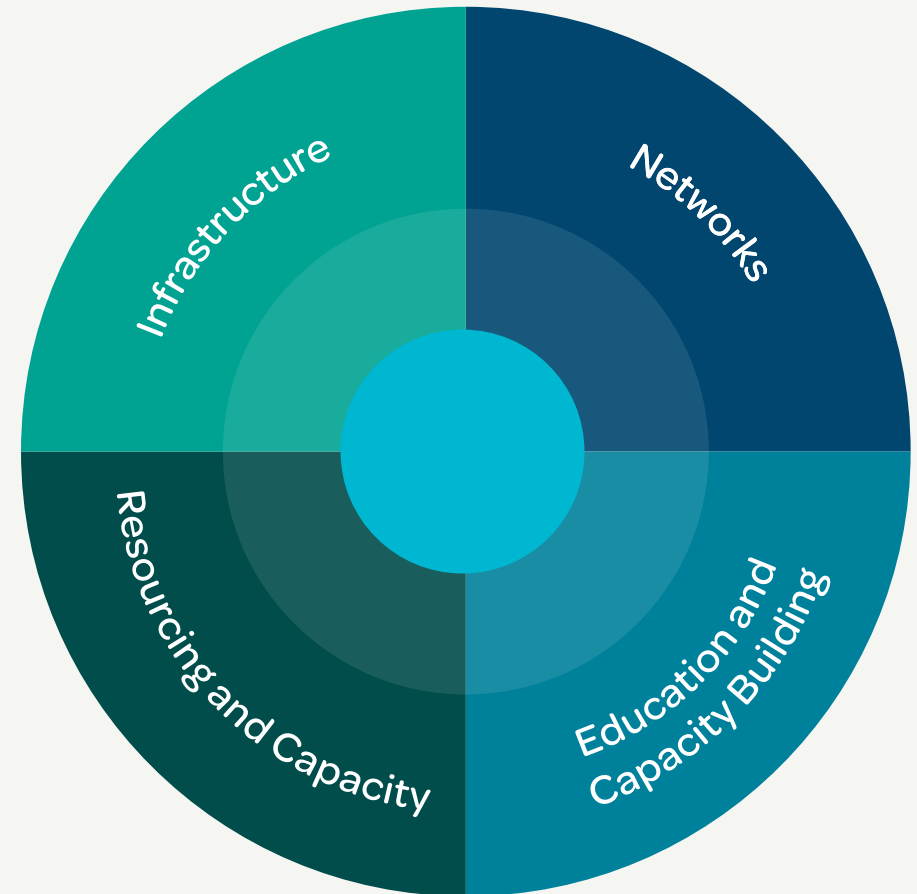
Secondly, it acts as a **signposting tool**, helping organisations navigate this ecosystem and identify potential areas for collaboration, partnership and support.

To reflect the diversity of actors and efforts across the country, the map incorporates examples from both smaller, grassroots organisations and larger, national bodies.

It is structured around **four key sections**:

- **Infrastructure**
- **Networks**
- **Resourcing and Capacity**
- **Capacity Building and Education**

Together, these elements aim to deepen our collective understanding of what it takes to build a more resilient and connected surplus food redistribution network and to inspire further action and collaboration along the way.

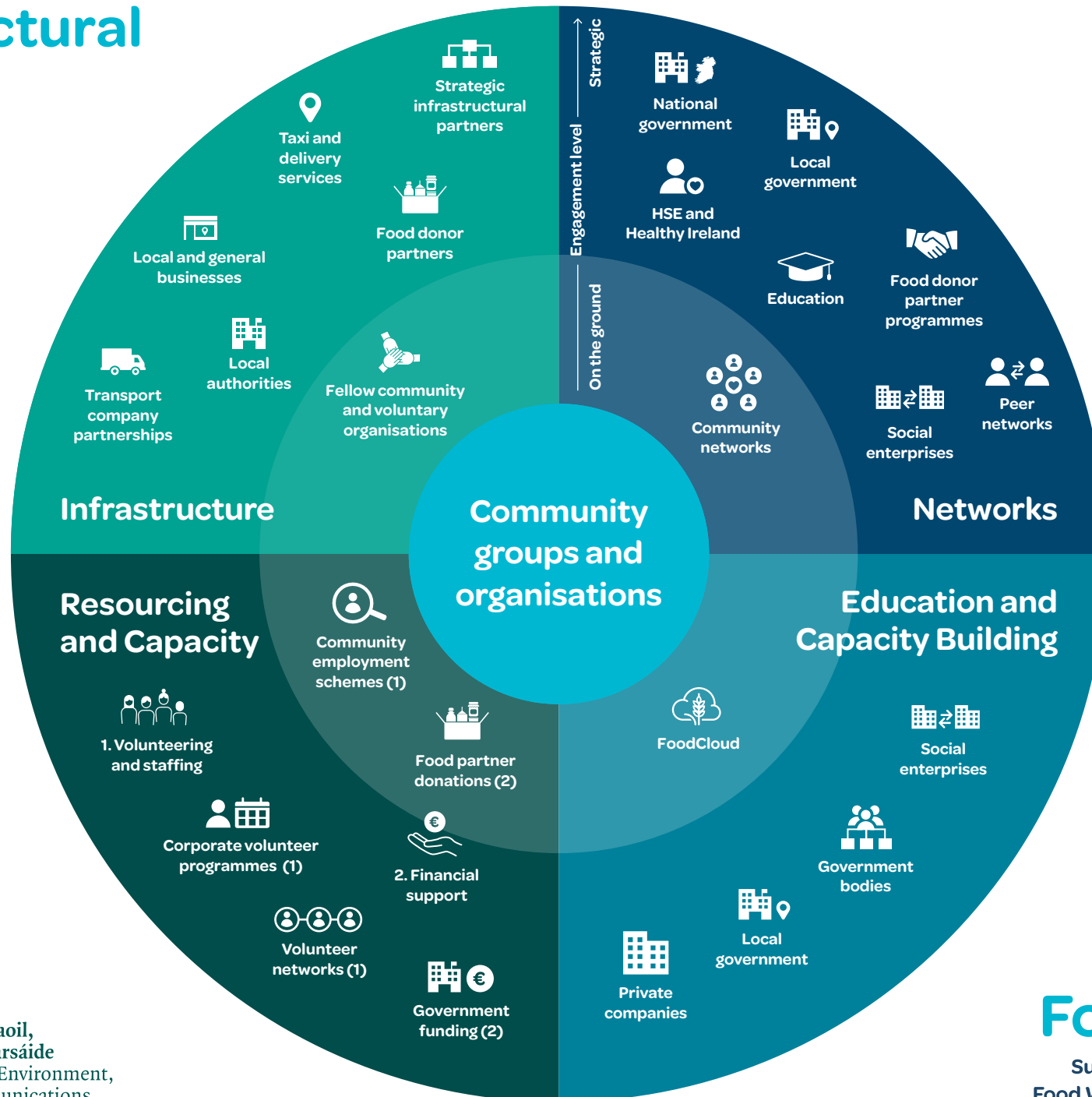


Food Circle
Supporting Ireland's National
Food Waste Prevention Roadmap



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Infrastructural network



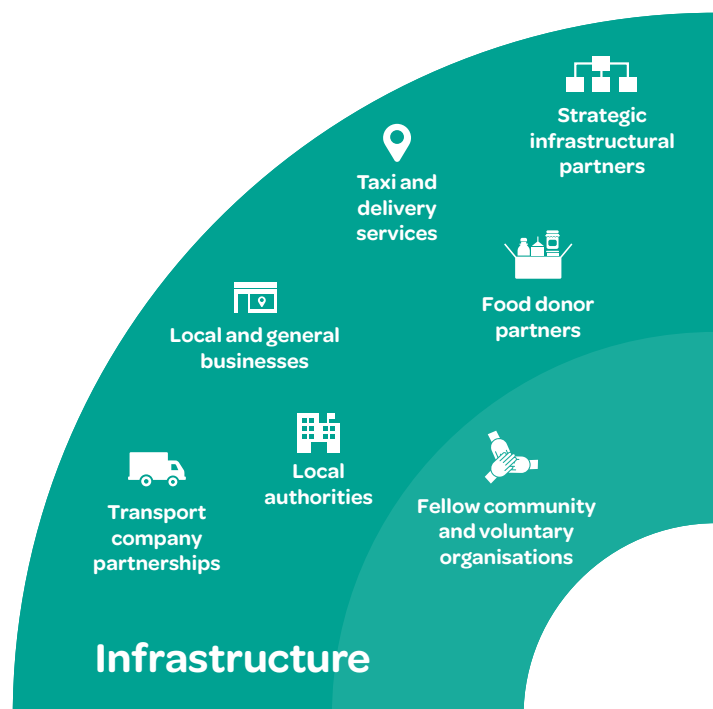
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Infrastructure

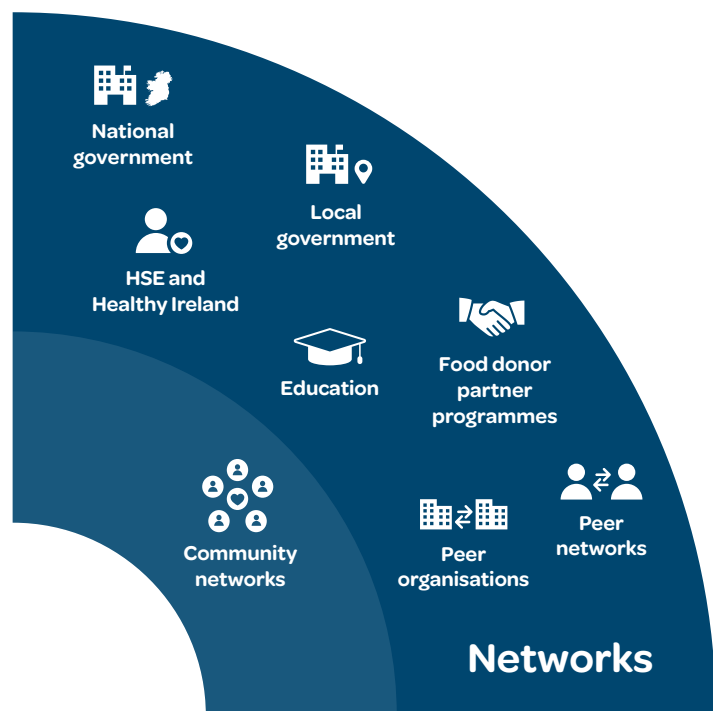
Robust and reliable infrastructure underpins the daily operations of food redistribution. From storage capacity and vehicles to logistics support and strategic partnerships, this section highlights the range of infrastructural supports, formal and informal, that help or could help community organisations access, manage and move surplus food efficiently.



 Strategic infrastructural partners	These organisations provide long-term infrastructure support through coordination, storage, local delivery networks and access to physical resources. They are often central actors in regional food redistribution systems.	Examples: • Local development companies • FoodCloud • FoodShare Kerry
 Fellow community and voluntary organisations	Community and voluntary organisations often collaborate by sharing resources like equipment and storage space. This peer-to-peer exchange helps maximise the use of infrastructure and supports smaller or newer initiatives.	Examples: • Sharing on extra surplus food • Sharing transport vehicles • Mutual volunteers for collections
 Local and general businesses	Local enterprises and commercial partners can play a vital role in supporting infrastructure needs by donating equipment, offering services, or forming local partnerships that meet specific logistical challenges.	Examples: • Local businesses • Local transport companies • Corporate partners
 Food donor partners	In addition to donating surplus food, many food donors support infrastructure by providing transport solutions, cold storage equipment and other logistical supports.	Examples: • Tesco • Lidl • Aldi
 Taxi and delivery services	Outside of Ireland, taxi and delivery services, often through partnership or CSR initiatives, contribute to local food movement by filling last-mile gaps or offering on-demand transport for collections and deliveries.	Examples: • FREENOW • Deliveroo • DHL
 Transport company partnerships	In addition to donating surplus food, many food donors support infrastructure by providing transport solutions, cold storage equipment and other logistical supports.	Examples: • DHL • BWG Value Centre branches • Irish Haulage Federation
 Local authorities	Local authorities play, and could further play, a vital infrastructural role through the provision of facilities, logistical supports, funding for equipment, and integration with broader community development strategies.	Examples: • County and City Councils • Local Authority facility use • Grants and funding

Networks

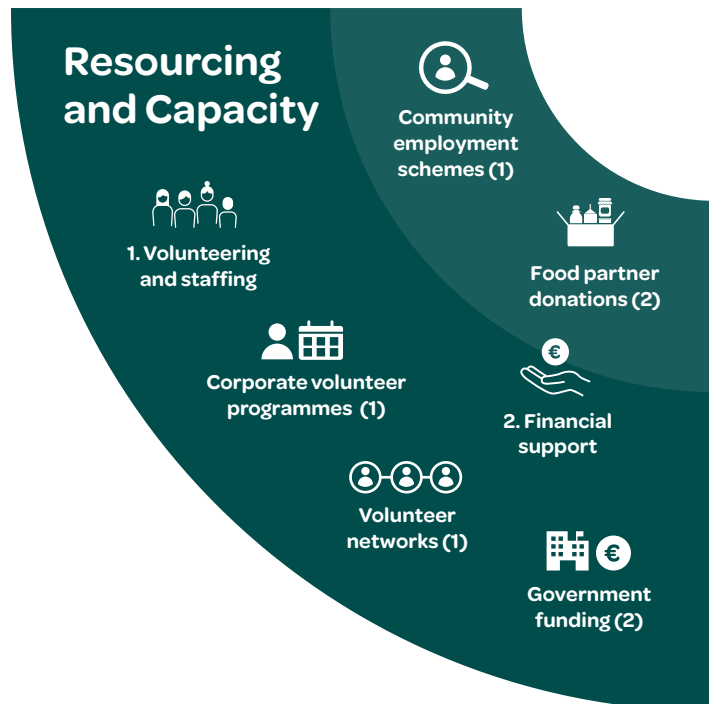
The success of community food redistribution in Ireland relies heavily on the strength and connectivity of various networks. These networks, ranging from governmental bodies to peer organisations and grassroots community groups, provide essential infrastructure, guidance, advocacy and operational support. This section outlines the diverse network actors who collectively enable and amplify the impact of food sharing initiatives at local and national levels.



 National government	National government departments and agencies play a key role in shaping the policy environment that supports food redistribution, through funding, regulation and leadership on climate and social justice agendas.	Examples: • Department of Social Protection • Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications • FSAI
 Local government	Local authorities provide crucial on-the-ground infrastructure, funding and policy implementation that supports community-based initiatives, including food redistribution efforts.	Examples: • City and county councils • Community climate action officers • Local enterprise office
 HSE and Healthy Ireland	The Health Service Executive (HSE) and Healthy Ireland support community health and wellbeing through direct service delivery and funding of programmes that address food insecurity and promote nutrition.	Examples: • Community food and nutrition workers • Sláintecare programme • Food coordinators
 Education	Educational institutions and networks contribute to both practical redistribution efforts and to building knowledge, awareness and skills related to food, sustainability and community development.	Examples: • Universities and colleges • ETBs (Education and Training Boards) • Home School Community Liason Officers (TUSLA)
 Food donor partner programmes	Food donor partners provide the essential surplus food that fuels redistribution systems. Many also offer internal programmes that also enable surplus food redistribution at a community level.	Examples: • Tesco Area Champions • Lidl Green Fund • Musgrave Learning Academy
 Social enterprises	These organisations work independently but align in ways with FoodCloud's mission, often leading in innovation, education and environmental approaches that complement food sharing efforts.	Examples: • GIY - Grow It Yourself • Common Knowledge • Rediscovery Centre • FoodCloud
 Peer networks	Peer networks provide advocacy, collective learning and sector-wide coordination, which are vital for strengthening the impact and visibility of community food responses.	Examples: • Community Work Ireland - CWI • Community Resources Network Ireland - CRNI • All Ireland Food Poverty Network
 Community networks	Local and national community networks form the backbone of food redistribution, delivering services, connecting people and enabling long-term community-led responses.	Examples: • Meals on Wheels Network • Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) • Family Resource Centres National Forum

Resourcing and Capacity

A well-resourced community food initiative requires both people and funding. This section outlines the key mechanisms through which organisations can access volunteer and staffing supports, alongside financial resources that sustain and scale their impact. By tapping into structured supports across volunteering, employment and funding streams, communities can enhance their ability to deliver food sharing services effectively and sustainably.



1. Volunteering and staffing

People are at the heart of community food work. Volunteer networks, structured employment schemes and in-house programmes provide the human capacity needed to deliver services, collect and distribute food and engage with local communities.



Volunteer networks

Volunteer networks link individuals eager to contribute with organisations in need of time, energy and skills. They also play a role in training, recognition and retention of volunteers across the sector.

Examples:

- Local Volunteer networks
- Volunteer Ireland
- Mens Sheds



Corporate volunteer programmes

Corporate volunteer programmes, including FoodCloud's corporate volunteer programme, play a critical role in supporting surplus food redistribution. These programmes could also be expanded out to the community, supporting community organisations.

Example:

- FoodCloud volunteer programme



Community employment schemes

Employment programmes offer structured roles within community projects while supporting people to gain experience and re-enter the workforce. These schemes are especially valuable for increasing staff capacity at local level.

Examples:

- Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
- Tús
- Community Employment (CE) Programme



2. Financial support

Sustaining and scaling community food efforts requires ongoing financial support. From public grants to private donations and dedicated funds, diverse streams of funding help cover operational costs, equipment and programme delivery.



Government funding

National and local government funding programmes support community development, health and climate action, often with streams specifically targeting food poverty and social inclusion.

Examples:

- Sláintecare - HSE
- SICAP and CCAP - Pobal
- Healthy Ireland - Dept of Health



Food partner donations

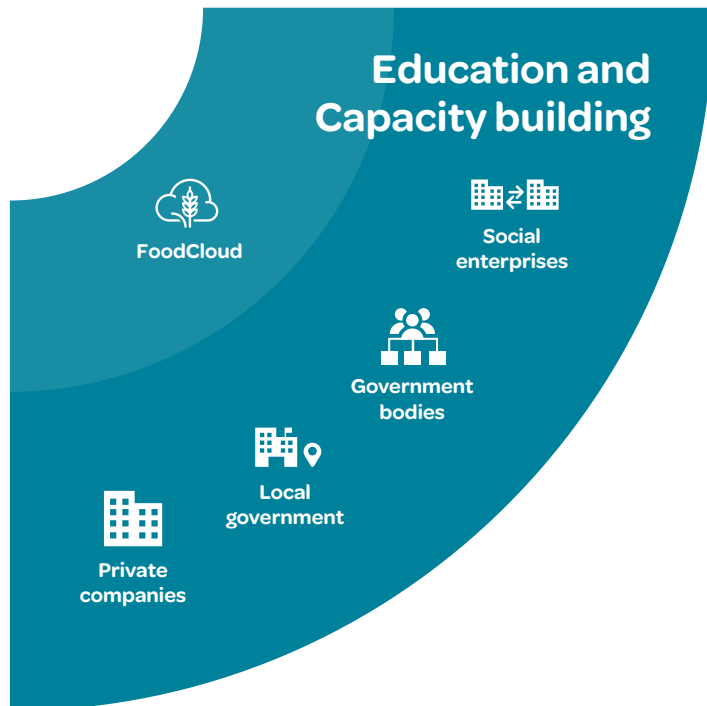
Retail partners do and could further contribute financially through donation campaigns and in-store initiatives, offering accessible ways for the public to support local food charities.

Examples:

- Tesco Community Fund
- "Tap and Go" donations (not in practice)
- Donation rounding (not in practice)

Education and Capacity Building

Empowering communities to take action on food redistribution and food waste requires strong foundations in knowledge, training and skills. This section highlights the organisations and entities involved in developing capacity across the sector - whether through education, technical expertise, regulatory knowledge, or peer learning. These actors help build more resilient, informed and sustainable community food initiatives.



 Social enterprises	Social enterprises contribute valuable expertise in areas such as sustainable food production, circular economy practices and resource efficiency. They offer educational programmes, toolkits and mentorship to community organisations.	Examples: • GIY - Grow It Yourself • The Rediscovery Centre • Clean Technology Centre - CTC • FoodCloud
 Government bodies	National and regional government bodies provide vital public education, guidance and regulation related to food safety, nutrition and environmental health, helping ensure food initiatives are safe, sustainable and aligned with public health priorities.	Examples: • FSAI - Food Safety Authority of Ireland • Safefood • EHOs - Environmental Health Officers
 Local government	Local government supports capacity building at a community level through training and embedded health and wellbeing roles. These structures are essential for delivering place-based responses to food insecurity.	Examples: • Community climate action officers • Healthy communities coordinators • Environmental officers
 FoodCloud	As a central actor in Ireland's food redistribution landscape, FoodCloud not only facilitates surplus food sharing but also provides education and empowerment of community partners through dedicated training and learning programmes.	Examples: • FoodCloud Academy • Food safety training
 Private companies	Private companies support surplus food redistribution by providing essential training such as manual handling and food safety, as well as key services like insurance that enable initiatives to operate safely and legally.	Examples: • Manual handling • Food safety • Insurance