

# Each and every person in Aotearoa has dignified access to enough good food

## THE PROBLEM

Right now

**15-20%**

of our whānau continue to struggle to access affordable and nutritious kai \*

**This is an issue of gender, race, ethnicity, colonisation, migration, and income.**

Food-related poverty is more likely to be experienced by women, Māori, Pasifika, people parenting on their own, and those on low incomes.

**Food insecurity is a symptom.**

Food insecurity is a manifestation of our nation's most entrenched inequalities and complex social issues. It is experienced by individuals but is driven by systems.

**The problem isn't understood.**

Most New Zealanders aren't aware of the extent of food inequality in Aotearoa, what is driving it, or the approaches needed for change.

**The problem is growing.**

Over the last few years, the number of people experiencing poverty-related hunger has grown steadily. The COVID-19 pandemic has escalated existing challenges dramatically.

## IMPACT

**Immediate needs become the primary focus.**

Social services are struggling to meet the escalating demand; giving out more and more food to people who urgently need it. However the complex drivers that perpetuate food insecurity – like low wages, the cost of housing, and lengthy food supply chains – remain unaddressed.

**People feel disempowered.**

Communities are not supported to draw on local wisdom and enact their own solutions, and individuals feel like they are stuck in a cycle of dependency.

**People's wellbeing is profoundly impacted.**

Sustained food insecurity is hugely stressful and negatively impacts every facet of our life, including our mental and physical health, relationships, ability to engage in daily tasks, educational achievement and our sense of hope for an alternative future.

**Individuals – not systems – are blamed.**

People experiencing food insecurity are often seen as personally responsible for the challenges they are facing. The vitriol and condemnation our hungriest citizens face can generate feelings of profound guilt and shame.

**Shine a light.**

We will use effective, impactful, culturally-appropriate ways to shine a light on the whole, accurate picture of poverty-related hunger in Aotearoa – illuminating pathways towards a food-secure future.

**Build collaborative relationships.**

We will gather, inform, and support a collective who wish to work across sectors and systems to drive sustainable change.

**Work to understand the problem.**

We will define, measure, and track food insecurity and food security in Aotearoa, their drivers, impact, and the approaches needed for change.

## A FOOD SECURE AOTEAROA

**Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.**

We will hold onto Te Tiriti o Waitangi as an anchor as we shift the narratives surrounding poverty-related hunger.

**Uphold mana.**

We will acknowledge and uphold the mana inherent in all things, and champion sovereignty and mana motuhake.

**Celebrate community.**

We will celebrate the role of community in creating sustainable solutions to food security – solutions with connection at their centre.

## WHAT WE KNOW

\*'Kai' is food and eating. It is about engagement and activation; community and connection; whenua and eco systems; past, present and future.

**If we...**

Work with a diverse collective to deeply understand the issue of food insecurity and food security in Aotearoa

**So that...**

We can compellingly shine a light on the challenges and opportunities

**Then...**

We can collaborate with others to build effective long-term solutions

**Ultimately...**

**Ensuring every person in Aotearoa has dignified access to enough good food.**