

The SOS Food Bank in Warsaw, in a nutshell

WHERE WE COME FROM

The idea to found the first food bank in Poland came over 30 years ago from Jacek Kuroń, working with the Social Aid SOS Foundation in 1993.

Together with the Foundation, created to aid those in need, Jacek Kuroń resolved to put up a fight against malnourishment in Warsaw. As a result, the foundation created the first SOS Food Bank in 1994.

As the organisation evolved, the Bank expanded and professionalised its activities, opening further branches and departments in other Polish cities. It also became a pioneer in the fight against malnourishment and wasting food in Poland. Presently, the Bank procures food from producers, chains, stores, and other donors, then hands it out to people in need.

Being the oldest such organisation in Poland, the SOS Food Bank in Warsaw has been carrying out its activities for 30 years non stop in Warsaw and the neighbouring areas. Since the beginning, it has procured and handed out over 90 million tonnes of food to those in need.

OUR MISSION

Why do we help?

We see that many hungry people are in a position where they must choose between eating and fulfilling other vital needs. We also see how much food goes to waste. We object to this kind of reality – and we do not want to be indifferent to it.

How do we help?

We allow others – companies, institutions, and people – to help others effectively.

We provide tools, suggest methods, and launch mechanisms for connecting donors with those in need. By doing this, we unleash the good will and potential of those who notice the problems associated with food management and wish to address them.

How do we operate?

We organise food and money collection events.

We store food and distribute it among organisations that hand it out to people in need.

We educate people on how to avoid wasting food and get others on board to help.

2024 in numbers

The end of one year and the beginning of another is a perfect moment to reflect upon our work and give a hearty 'thank you' for people's involvement and support in telling the stories we write at the SOS Food Bank in Warsaw every day.

Owing to your work, our numbers are not mere statistics – they become the voice of those in need of help.

- **2,052,423 kilograms** – this is how much food we have procured and distributed this year in order to bring it to those who need it the most (*the exact data will be available towards the end of February*).
- **30 years** – this is how long we've been involved in our mission to fight against wasting food and to support people in need.
- **90,000,000 kilograms** – this is how much food we've managed to save since having set out on our mission.
- **15 employees** coordinating our efforts – small team, big hearts.
- Over **130 NGOs** – our indispensable partners in bringing help to people.
- **almost 27 thousand people** – this is how many people per month receive support owing to our activities. In other words, it's as if almost every one of Warsaw's blocks of flats had at least one person benefiting from the SOS Food Bank's aid.
- Over **3 thousand volunteers** – this is how many heroes got involved in this year's Holiday Food Collection Event.
- Almost **38,000 kilograms** – this is how much food we've managed to collect during the said event.
- **1,000 people monthly** – this is how many people benefit from our Umbrella Point's aid.

These numbers are proof that **together we're able to do more.**
