



Meet the Need
Feeding Aotearoa

Feeding Aotearoa Communities

A year of impact, connection,
and growing need.

IMPACT REPORT 2026



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“Meet the Need support is a vital source of protein for our food parcels.”

We receive a lot of donated food but mostly it doesn't contain the protein which milk and meat have and is so important for a good diet.” - [Temuka Combined Churches Food Bank](#)



In a year where **more New Zealanders than ever are experiencing food insecurity**, Meet the Need has continued to bridge the gap between abundance and need—delivering nutritious protein from farms directly to whānau across Aotearoa.

Food insecurity is no longer a fringe issue. It is a growing, widespread challenge impacting everyday families, many for the first time.

1 in 3

households reported experiencing food insecurity in the past 12 months — with nearly one in five facing severe food insecurity.

68%

of food-insecure households say they first struggled to afford enough food within the last year.

WHAT THIS YEAR ASKED OF US

Against this backdrop, Meet the Need has scaled impact, strengthened partnerships, and deepened its role as a critical link in New Zealand's food support system.

Twelve months.
1.2 million meals.

1.2M

1,277,241 MEALS DELIVERED

Ensuring a consistent supply of nutritious protein to those affected by food insecurity across Aotearoa.



an increase of **81,605** meals from previous year



429,662

Mince Meals Delivered



798,792

Milk Meals Delivered

148

Food banks supported regularly
(up from 135 last year)

24

Volunteer Champions

4.2M

Total meals since 2020

48,787



Food parcel meals distributed through the
All Within Our Hands Metallica partnership



Zellara Holden,
General Manager

“Each meal we deliver is a message: **you are not forgotten.”**

This year has reinforced what we already knew—our work matters more than ever.

As the cost of living continues to rise, we are seeing a shift in who needs support. These are not just the most vulnerable in our communities—these are working families, rural households, and people who have never had to ask for help before.

At Meet the Need, we are uniquely positioned to respond. Our model—connecting surplus and donated protein directly from farmers to foodbanks—is simple, efficient, and deeply human. In the past 12 months, we’ve delivered over a million meals.

But behind every number is a story: a parent skipping meals so their children can eat, a foodbank stretched beyond capacity, a farmer choosing to give back.

The challenge ahead is not just to sustain this impact—but to grow it.

“Our mission is **more urgent than ever.**”

Food insecurity in Aotearoa is rising... and fast.

What we’re seeing now is a structural shift. More families are under pressure, and demand for food support continues to outpace supply.

Meet the Need exists because New Zealand grows enough food to feed everyone. The issue is not supply, it is connection.

That is what we do.

Over the past year, we’ve strengthened partnerships across the agricultural sector, expanded our donor base, and supported over 130 foodbanks each month.

But the reality is clear: demand is growing faster than we are. Our focus for the future is scale. More farmers. More partners. More meals.

Because no one in a food-producing nation should go hungry.



Nick Fisher,
Chair

A New Face of Food Insecurity

Food insecurity in New Zealand is no longer isolated—it is widespread, persistent, and increasingly complex. Charities are under pressure. Foodbanks report longer lines, reduced supply, and growing waitlists. Meet the Need plays a critical role by supplying high-quality protein, something often missing from traditional food donations.

01 Rising cost of living

83% of affected households cited high costs. With 30% of full-time workers unable to consistently afford enough food.

02 First-time foodbank users

68% of food-insecure households say they first struggled in the last year.

03 Charities at capacity

Demand continues to outpace supply. Foodbanks nationwide report longer lines and growing waitlists for parcels.

04 Protein poverty

Beef mince rose 23.2% year-on-year to \$24.46/kg. Nutritious protein is the first item cut from the weekly shop.

WHO'S BEARING IT MOST

(certain populations are more likely to face higher rates of food insecurity)

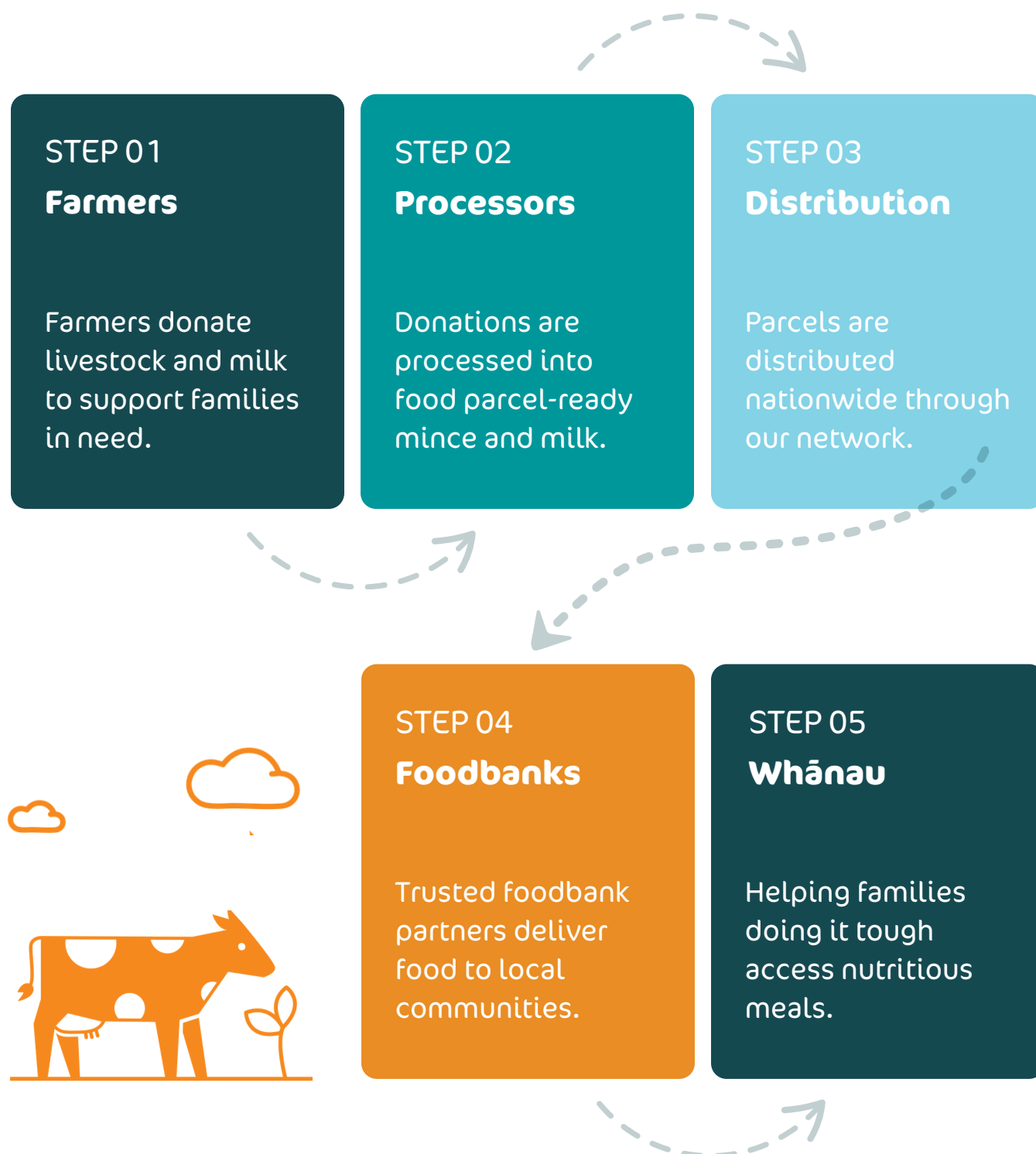
PACIFIC PEOPLE 64%

MĀORI 51%

18-24 YEAR OLDS 50%

Sources: NZFN Hunger Monitor 2026, Stats NZ, Salvation Army

From farm gates to family tables, together we are feeding New Zealand



Stepping up at the farm gate.

On 20 hectares in Ōhaupō, Simon Boshier runs 150 head of beef each year. Six years ago something shifted — and he's donated a beast every year since.



Seeing the need up close

Simon first heard about Meet the Need through Silver Fern Farms, right at its inception. Then he visited The Village Community Services Trust and saw the impact first-hand.

A woman came in with her five children — emotional and grateful, especially for the mince. "That really hit home," he recalls. "I thought, this is something I really want to contribute to."

It's not hard to give a beast

"Farmers are doing well. They're getting record prices for their beef and milk. It's not hard to give a beast."

Each year Simon donates one animal. Meet the Need also lets farmers donate a portion of a beast — accessible at any scale.

"There's no better charity for us. I'd encourage all farmers to do it."

A message to other farmers

"There's no better time than now, while prices are so high." And if hesitation is the only barrier? "They've got to get the moss out of their wallet."

For Simon, giving a beast a year isn't about recognition. It's about remembering the privilege of rural life — and making sure Kiwi families can put mince on the table.

When Things Change Overnight

Just a few years ago, this blended family of seven were doing well. With steady work, a home, and savings behind them, they had built a life that felt secure. Like many Kiwi families, they were getting on top of things — planning ahead, doing the right things. Then Covid hit.

Like many households, they tightened spending and made a plan to get through. “We made a plan, sold down everything we didn’t need... so in essence we were still ok. We had some savings and as long as we aren’t stupid we would survive.” For a time, they did. But just two months later, everything changed.

After returning to work, illness and injury meant the main earner could no longer continue. “He was unbearably tired... he can’t even mow the lawn, it’s an absolute strain on him.”

With one income, the pressure built quickly — and the unexpected kept coming. Repairs, storm damage, rising costs and then redundancy.

Savings that once provided security were used to cover the basics — until there was nothing left. Despite doing everything they could, the family found themselves in a difficult gap — not eligible for support, but no longer able to keep up.

“The daily challenge of having adequate and nutritious food became out of reach.”

Eventually, they turned to a local foodbank. “My friend... dragged me there, I was so ashamed.”

Through that foodbank, the family received a Meet the Need food parcel — including meat and milk, the protein they had been going without.

It meant proper meals on the table again, and immediate relief from one of the most constant pressures. “As promised, we were supplied with enough food to last 6 weeks.”

With that pressure lifted, the family had space to focus on what came next — accessing support, looking for work, and beginning to rebuild.

For families like this — families you might never expect — access to protein isn’t a luxury. It’s what gets them through.

“When I asked if he had a freezer for the mince, his eyes filled with tears.”

— Te Aroha Community Foodbank

The people receiving our meals aren't statistics. They're grandparents, young adults, single parents, rural households, working families going through a tough season.

“

We are seeing more single people asking for food support; the benefit doesn't allow much for food after rent. Many ask for milk and meat. Clients tell us they haven't been able to buy meat for weeks.”

TE AROHA COMMUNITY
FOODBANK

“

Yay, mince! We can do so much with mince and make it stretch further by adding lentils. Some families no longer buy meat - their budget just doesn't allow for this, so they are very happy to see mince in their bag.”

WINTON COMMUNITY
SUPPORT - SOUTHLAND

“

We provide 7-day emergency food parcels - so red meat and dairy are prime examples of what is needed. The mince and milk powder from Meet The Need mean a great deal to our community in need.”

FAR NORTH COMMUNITY
FOODBANK

FOODBANKS SUPPORTED IN EVERY REGION

Northland, Auckland,
Waikato, Bay of
Plenty, Gisborne,
Hawke's Bay,
Taranaki, Manawatu-
Whanganui,
Wellington, Tasman,
Nelson,
Marlborough, West
Coast, Canterbury,
Otago, Southland.

Foodbanks we Support

Each heart represents 25 foodbanks



Foodbanks supplied
in previous year

135

Foodbanks
supplied this year

148

↑ +13 foodbanks

Foodbanks still
waiting for support

158

Our Highlights this Year



FIRST EVER AMBASSADOR

Ben Purua joins Meet the Need

Award-winning dairy farm manager, 2024 Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer of the Year and founder of Kāmu to Pāmu. Ben uses his platform to inspire more farmers to give back and to show what's possible when farming becomes a force for good. "I know what it's like to go without. Being able to give back through farming - to use what we grow to feed those doing it tough - is powerful."



NEW PARTNERSHIP

Case IH

\$50 from every new tractor sold is donated to Meet the Need.



FUNDRAISER

Groundspread NZ Conference

Auction at 2025 Groundspread conference raises over \$61,000.



FUNDRAISER

Volunteers run Golf Day in Waimate

Volunteers Peter and John put on the Rabobank Waimate Golf Day in June 2025, making a day on the course raise over 18,000 meals.

NEW CHAIR

Nick Fisher appointed Chair

Nick Fisher was appointed as the new Chair, bringing commercial partnership expertise and deep rural sector experience to lead the organisation through its next phase of growth. Nick succeeds Julia Jones, who stepped down from the Board.



7 EVENT SERIES ACROSS AOTEAROA

Coffee, Connect & Refuel Events

In partnership with Dairy Women's Network, Fonterra FarmSource, and Silver Fern Farms, Meet the Need volunteers and team members were on the BBQ and connecting with the community at the events across seven FarmSource stores - from Whangarei to Gore. Farmers stopped in for a barista coffee and a burger, and left knowing how easy it is to support the cause.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

CRAIGMORE



TOMPKINS WAKE



NEW DONOR

Harrison Farms

At their first Dairy Genetic sale in March 2026, Harrison Farms donated proceeds equivalent to 5,800 meals.



NEW CAMPAIGN

Elanco expands support

Elanco's partnership and support for Meet the Need expands with Prolaject™ campaign at vet clinics across the country. For every pack sold, \$5 is donated to Meet the Need - raising \$50,000 in 2025.

NEW MILESTONE

4 million meals delivered

Since our inception in 2020, 4.2 million mince and milk meals have gone to those without.

Our Biggest Ever Packing Event

With Metallica's All Within My Hands Foundation

HEAVY
METAL.
HEAVY
IMPACT.



When Metallica's charitable foundation, All Within My Hands, chose Meet the Need as their official New Zealand charity partner for their M72 World Tour, it marked a milestone moment for the organisation. Made possible by CNH/Case IH, who nominated Meet the Need for the partnership, 50 volunteers gathered at the New Zealand Food Network warehouse in Auckland on November 20th to pack for families facing hardship across the country.



1,022

Food parcels packed



12,877

Kg of food distributed



48,787

Meals provided

"Seeing Metallica fans, Kiwi farmers, and community leaders standing shoulder to shoulder to help feed Aotearoa was incredibly moving. Today showed just how much impact is possible when passionate people come together. We're deeply grateful to All Within My Hands and CNH, Case IH for helping bring this to life."

— Zellara Holden, General Manager, Meet the Need



Together, we feed Aotearoa.



Behind every meal delivered is a network of people committed to helping Kiwis in need. From farmers donating livestock, to agribusiness and corporate partners supporting our work, to foodbanks serving their communities on the ground — this impact is only possible through this collective effort.

We also thank and acknowledge the many individuals who have donated, supported, and shared our mission. Every contribution plays a role in ensuring nutritious food reaches families who need it most.

 **511 Donors**

Donations are **down** from 659 previous year

29 Partners

Partners and processors
supporting us to meet the need

Where we showed up - Events 2025 / 2026



We'd like to thank all our partners for their **generous support**

Founding Sponsor



Processing Partners



Diamond Sponsors



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Protein Supporters



We'd like to thank our grant funders for their generous support



This year, more Kiwi families had protein on the table because of YOU.

Thank you!



To every farmer who donated a beast, a pig, or a litre of milk. To every partner who showed up at a field day, packed a parcel, or backed our mission with their business. To every cash donor, text supporter, and person who left a gift in their will. To every foodbank working tirelessly on the ground. And to every champion who gave their time to make this work in their community — thank you.

We also acknowledge our incredible board and team, whose dedication, heart, and hard work make every meal possible. This kaupapa runs on your mahi, and we are deeply grateful.

The need is growing. So is our resolve.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.



Help us Meet The Need

www.meettheneed.org.nz



Donate Livestock

1 in 3 NZ households faced food insecurity last year. Your donation puts protein on their table.

donatelivestock.meettheneed.org.nz



Donate Milk

68% facing food insecurity for the first time. Your milk reaches families who never saw it coming.

donatemilk.meettheneed.org.nz



Donate Cash

Nearly half of food insecure Kiwis are too ashamed to ask for help. Your donation quietly helps.

meettheneed.org.nz/donate



Partner with Us

We can't do this alone. Partner with us and together we can ensure every Kiwi has access to protein.

meettheneed.org.nz/become-a-sponsor

Together, we can ensure every New Zealander has access to the food they need to thrive.