

TYPOLGY MAP OF COMMUNITY FOOD ORGANISATIONS

This typology map is an interactive conceptual map of organisational models and activities found within the community food sector in the UK, based on research in the Fair Food Futures UK (FFFUK) project. It also includes connections and relationships between community food organisations (CFOs) and a range of other organisations and networks. Finally, the map includes a series of themes and challenges noted by representatives from CFOs and related organisations.

The map is accessible here: <https://embed.kumu.io/861432ce004b8f031b1dbea336fc6ca7>

The map is intended to be read and utilised along with other project outputs, especially the local and national policy briefings, which summarise project findings, themes and challenges, and include policy and practice recommendations for local and national stakeholders. The typology map can be used as a guide or template to aid further mapping work at a local, regional or national level, as well as a resource to inform policy, practice and research in addressing food insecurity.

This typology map illustrates the evolving diversity and differentiation of the CFO sector in terms of models, activities and relationships/connections. It also illustrates a need to place CFO models in the context of the local and broader food and welfare systems in which they exist. This includes the nature of organisational relationships and connections, as well as key themes and challenges faced by CFO models in seeking to address food insecurity. These all contribute to the form and focus of particular 'models' of CFOs, beyond terms such as 'food bank' or 'food pantry'.

What we did

The typology map was co-produced through participatory research with representatives from CFOs and related organisations, primarily through three online workshops. The first workshop included representatives from organisations based in Bradford, the second with representatives from organisations based in Tower Hamlets (east London), and a third with representatives from CFO networks and organisations working on food insecurity at a national, UK-wide level.

Through the first and second workshops, the participants produced two empirical typology maps of CFO models and activities in Bradford and Tower Hamlets, the two research locations for FFFUK, discussing and building on research material from two prior workshops.

The empirical maps were then discussed in a national workshop, out of which a conceptual map was produced, of CFO and related models and activities in the food support system. These workshops built on existing research including interviews with 36 CFOs and related organisations. The map complements a wider set of research activities in the FFFUK project, please see the FFFUK website for further details.

The typology map

The map illustrates types of models and activities in the food support system / community food sector at a given local (authority) level, including relationships with regional and national organisations. Rather than a geographical map of particular organisations, it is a conceptual typology of CFO and related models and activities, as well as the likely links and relationships between them. In addition, it includes a series of themes and challenges related to CFO models, noted by research participants.

As the map is a conceptual typology of likely models and relationships, the relative nature of particular models (e.g. a food pantry), activities and relationships (e.g. source of food supply or funding) will vary in practice. Terms such as 'food bank' or 'pantry' refer to broad features of CFO models, but require understanding in the context of food/welfare systems. Relationships (e.g. network membership, funding, local authority policy), organisational aims and challenges faced are important to consider in understanding CFO models and activities.

This typology is based on insights from representatives from CFOs and related organisations, while the broader project includes work with people with lived experiences of food insecurity.

Navigating the map

There is a legend on the map, which explains the colour-coded circles (elements).

To navigate the map, click on an element, e.g. 'food bank', and select the 'target' icon (⊕), which will show the particular arrows (links/relationships) a food bank is likely to have.

Selecting an element on the map will also show a series of descriptive bullet points related to that element (e.g. CFO model). These describe likely characteristics (e.g. of food banks), as well as likely connections/relationships. The number and nature of relationships particular CFOs have, as well as the nature of particular CFOs, will vary significantly in practice.

Elements (circles)

These represent either:

- CFOs (e.g. food banks, pantries, community fridges, food co-operatives);
- Related organisations or agencies (e.g. advice organisations, local authorities, Jobcentre Plus offices, credit unions);
- National networks/organisations (e.g. food bank and pantry networks);
- Food suppliers (e.g. food redistribution networks);
- Local/regional networks (e.g. local CFO networks and anti-poverty networks);
- Activity/service (particular activities noted by participants, e.g. the Holiday Activities and Food programme, fruit and vegetable prescription schemes, campaigning and influencing work).
- Themes and challenges (of/facing CFO models and activities, as detailed by workshop participants).

Links/relationships (arrows)

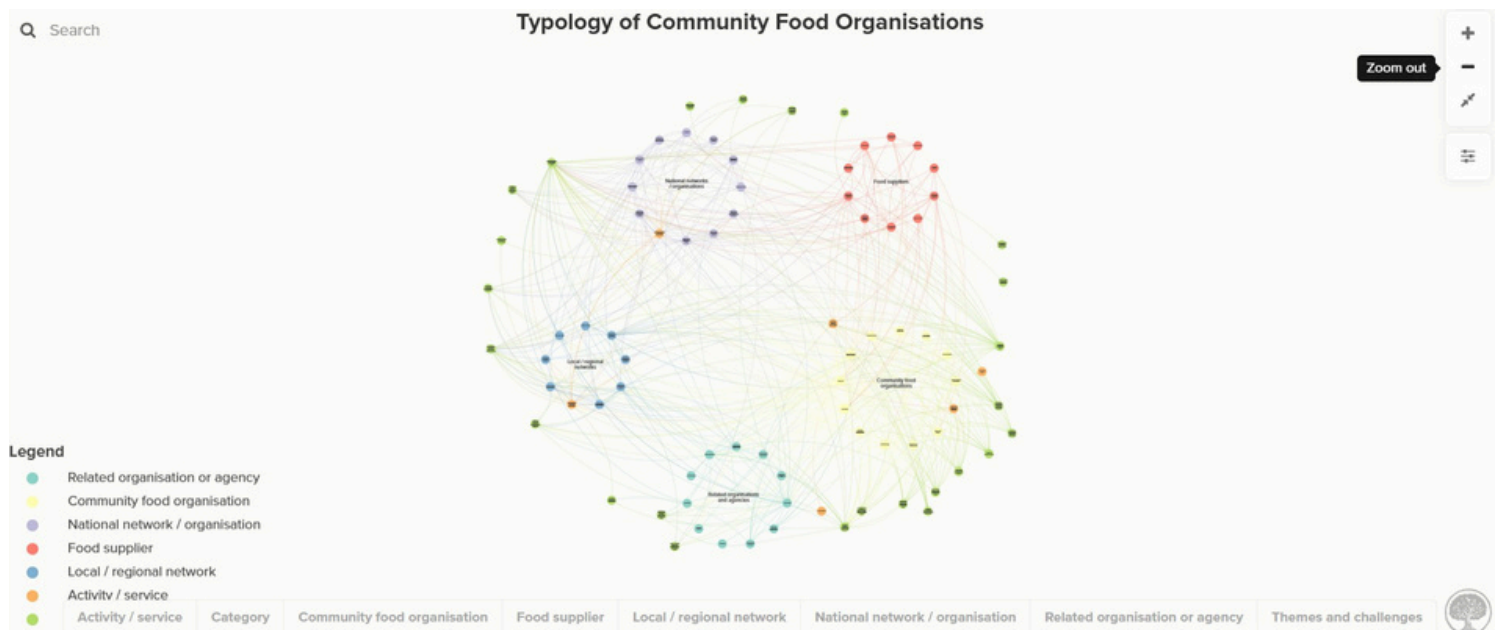
These represent either:

- Food supply relationships (e.g. supply of surplus food);
- Activity/programme relationships (e.g. running a food bank or pantry; delivering advice support, involvement in campaigning work);
- Network relationships (e.g. membership of regional and national CFO networks);
- Referral relationships (e.g. referral of people into CFOs or referral of people from CFOs to related organisations).
- Funding relationships (e.g. local authority funding of CFOs).
- Links to themes/challenges (e.g. differences in aims/objectives among CFOs; CFOs experiencing rising need/demand for services).

The connections/relationships on the map are directed arrows to or from a particular element to another, or mutual connections in which arrows are in both directions. These show the direction of the link (e.g. food supply, network membership, running a CFO model, involvement in activities, etc). Many connections have descriptive text with further detail on likely links / relationships, which appears on the screen when links are selected.

Link to the map on Kudo:

The map is accessible here: <https://embed.kumu.io/861432ce004b8f031b1dbea336fc6ca7>



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Further information

This brief was researched and written by Fair Food Futures UK, a collaboration among the Department of Health Sciences (University of York), the School for Business & Society (University of York), UCL Social Research Institute, Bradford Institute for Health Research, Tower Hamlets and Bradford Councils. Additional outputs can be found here: <https://www.fairfoodfuturesuk.org/outputs>

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