

<b>Institution:</b> University of Sheffield		
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> C-19 Politics and International Studies		
<b>Title of case study:</b> Transforming policy and public understanding of hunger in the UK		
<b>Period when the underpinning research was undertaken:</b> September 2014–2020		
<b>Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:</b>		
<b>Name(s):</b> Hannah Lambie-Mumford	<b>Role(s) (e.g. job title):</b> Lecturer	<b>Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:</b> September 2014–now
<b>Period when the claimed impact occurred:</b> 2015–2020		
<b>Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014?</b> N		
<p><b>1. Summary of the impact</b> (indicative maximum 100 words)</p> <p>Dr Hannah Lambie-Mumford's pioneering research into UK hunger has fundamentally changed the way NGOs, politicians and the public understand the rise of food charity and household food insecurity in the UK. Her research underpinned NGO and public campaigns for rights-based responses to hunger [Text removed for publication].</p>		
<p><b>2. Underpinning research</b> (indicative maximum 500 words)</p> <p>Lambie-Mumford's research has set out clearly, for the first time, the drivers and nature of modern food charity as a response to contemporary household food insecurity in the UK, and the implications for social and economic human rights. Her research [R1-R5] highlighted the importance of structural determinants of food insecurity and the food charity response, setting out the need for systematic rights-based responses. These findings were also some of the first to highlight the important role that welfare reform and austerity played in driving the need for - and growth of - emergency food charity. The primary research [R1-R2, R4-R5] was undertaken using qualitative methods and involved in depth case studies of the largest food charity networks in the UK. Quantitative research methods were used for R3, drawing on Trussell Trust food bank network data.</p> <p>Key findings included:</p> <p>F1. There is a close relationship between welfare reform and the rise of food charity, with reforms since 2010 driving the need for, and influencing the shape of, charitable food provision. [R1-R5].</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">F1.a. Cuts in service provision, reduced and increasingly conditional social security provision and social security administration processes have increased the numbers of people relying on emergency food provision [R1-R5].</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">F1.b. Welfare diversification policies (1997 and 2010) have structurally embedded expectations that the voluntary sector will take increasing responsibility for responding to poverty in local communities [R1, R2].</p> <p>F2. From a human rights perspective (both in terms of the human right to food and social rights more broadly), food charity systems are ultimately not adequate. Food charity systems are ultimately not an adequate response to a lack of access to food. By their nature they are not</p>		

universal or based on rights or entitlements. The provision of food assistance through these systems is socially unacceptable, unsustainable, vulnerable and unaccountable by human rights standards [R1-R5].

F3. The state has retrenched its social provision extensively since 2010 and retreated from its duty to respect, protect and fulfil the human right to food. Emergency food provision is assuming the responsibility to fulfil this right. [R1, R4-R5]

F4. The human right to food could be a particularly useful framework for pursuing structural responses to hunger in the context of contemporary poverty and food policy making in the UK. It enables a wide range of stakeholders, actors, and interests to be considered in the process of pursuing the realisation of the right. [R1, R4-R5]

Based on these findings, the research recommendations included the following:

- That food charities should focus on advocacy and campaigning work at local, devolved, and national levels [R1].
- Government should establish and fund a regular systematic measure of food insecurity in the UK [R1 and R5].
- Government-led policy responses are urgently required, based on rights and entitlements [R1-R2, R4-R5].

Lambie-Mumford is a member of the Food Standards Agency's Advisory Committee on Social Science and the Child Poverty Action Group Policy Advisory Committee.

### 3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

- R1.** Lambie-Mumford, H. (2017). *Hungry Britain: The rise of food charity*. Policy Press. Available by request.
- R2.** Lambie-Mumford, H. (2018). The growth of food banks in Britain and what they mean for social policy. *Critical Social Policy*, 39(1), 3–22.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0261018318765855>
- R3.** Lambie-Mumford, H., & Green, M. A. (2015). Austerity, welfare reform and the rising use of food banks by children in England and Wales. *Area*, 49(3), 273–279.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12233>
- R4.** Lambie-Mumford, H. and Silvasti, T. (Eds) (2020). *The rise of food charity in Europe*. Policy Press. Available by request.
- R5.** Lambie-Mumford, H. and Church Action on Poverty (2018). *Step Up to the Plate*. Church Action on Poverty, January 2018. [ISBN 978-1-9999669-0-4](https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12233). Available by request.

### 4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Dr Lambie-Mumford's research has underpinned NGO and public campaigns for rights-based responses to household food insecurity. [Text removed for publication].

The research has underpinned three key outcomes:

- 1) NGOs are more effective campaigners because they have been able to draw on a robust evidence base to build the case for hunger as a rights issue requiring state-based, as opposed to charitable, responses.
- 2) The public has a better understanding of the 'right to food' which has driven local campaigning and activism, in turn enhancing the effectiveness of NGO campaigns.
- 3) [Text removed for publication].

### **Transforming NGO understanding of household food insecurity and establishing the pivotal End Hunger UK campaign**

Major NGOs including Church Action on Poverty (CAP), Oxfam, Save the Children and nine others joined parliamentarians and campaign group Feeding Britain at a Westminster roundtable event in September 2015 to focus on how NGOs could apply Lambie-Mumford's research findings. The event was called 'The Right to Food: a different way of thinking about food poverty', and was hosted by the Bishop of Truro, Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Food Poverty and Hunger. The CAP Director said the NGOs did not previously have a history of working together before this point, but the research provided both the evidence and catalyst to make them more effective campaigners:

*"[We] realised that the added value of working together was very clear, based on the research findings. In more than 20 years of campaigning against poverty, I have never seen such coherence and appetite across multiple NGOs for a joint campaign based on academic research" [S2].*

By considering their campaigns through Lambie-Mumford's 'right to food' lens [R1,4,5], NGOs now had an evidence-base to approach the campaign collectively on a human rights platform. Following this event CAP was able to secure agreement from the NGOs to collaborate on a national 'right to food' campaign, based on Lambie-Mumford's findings [F1-4] - this became 'End Hunger UK', launched in October 2016. The first End Hunger UK national conference in October 2017 was attended by 150 delegates. Jackie Long, Channel 4 News Social Affairs editor chaired the session, and was joined on the panel by Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group; Sharon Hodgson MP, Shadow Public Health Minister and Lambie-Mumford [S3]. The conference generated significant media coverage, featuring on Channel 4 News and BBC News. Over 18,000 individuals and 140 groups have since taken action as part of End Hunger UK by signing petitions, writing to their MPs, attending conferences and other events [S4].

### **Improved public understanding of the right to food, leading to activism and citizen empowerment**

The research identified the importance of the right to food approach as a lever for pursuing more structural responses to hunger [F4]. Lambie-Mumford worked with CAP to design a successful grassroots outreach programme in 2015, working with local activists to embed the 'right to food' campaign narrative. CAP facilitated two workshops in 2015 in Halifax and Salford. The sessions drew together 20 experts by experience of food poverty to discuss the research findings [F1-4] alongside their own lived experiences, and how far they felt that the 'right to food' could be a meaningful and useful way to advocate for effective policy changes [F4]. Participants spoke about feeling empowered and enlightened by the findings [S2]. Before this engagement work there had been very little national-scale public discussion of the human right to food in the UK,

particularly in a church context. CAP was able to deliver further grassroots engagement and enhance public understanding based on the findings:

They published a video drawing on these lived experiences and the research findings [F2 and F4] which has been viewed online over 805 times [S5].

- ‘Right to Food Sunday’. CAP made the right to food the theme of their national ‘Church Action on Poverty Sunday’ on 7th February 2016, producing free hardcopy and downloadable worship and reflection materials. They were used in an estimated 700 churches across the country. Without the findings, CAP would have been unable to produce this engagement programme and inform an estimated minimum 42,000 people about their ‘right to food’ [S2, S5 and S6].
- CAP ‘Right to Food’ roadshow. From 2015 into spring 2016, CAP launched a series of roadshows based on Lambie-Mumford’s findings. The roadshow presentations were called ‘Right to Food’, and were delivered in collaboration with the Fabian Society in 20 towns and cities across the UK to 795 people. [S2, S5].
- Importantly, this activity and engagement work made a significant difference to the experts by experience who took part in the grassroots work:
  - A grassroots participant from Salford appeared on the BBC’s ‘Breakfast’ programme to talk about the right to food. Average [viewing figures](#) are 1.5 million.
  - A grassroots participant set up his own local Right to Food campaign in Halifax, spoke at local schools and became a CAP trustee. He also spoke at the 2015 Westminster debate to establish End Hunger UK [S2, S5].
  - Another grassroots participant from Salford was nominated for a Salix community award for ‘campaigns against the stigma of people on benefits’. Salix is a multi-award-winning social housing provider based in Salford [S7].

This community engagement was significant for CAP, not only in terms of the large numbers of outreach participation, but it enhanced their work and role as a community empowerment body, which is part of CAP’s mission [S2]. With the roadshows, and empowering those with lived experience of food poverty through engaging with the research findings [F1-3, R5], CAP changed its approach to outreach delivery: *“Without the Lambie-Mumford research findings, we would have been unable to produce this engagement programme and inform an estimated minimum 4,200 people about their ‘right to food’”* [S2].

### **Research used as part of the evidence base to make the case for a national Government measure of household food insecurity**

Lambie-Mumford’s findings [R1-3, F1-3] identified the need for state-based responses to hunger based on rights and entitlements, better monitoring and cross-governmental working. Household food insecurity has been an active policy concept in the UK government since the mid-2000s. However, government understanding of the scale of household food insecurity was – and remained until 2019 – limited, relying on proxy measures such as food prices, which fail to account for the experiential and dynamic aspects of household access to food.

Following on from Lambie-Mumford’s ‘right to food’ outreach work with CAP based on her research findings, CAP worked with Emma Lewell-Buck MP to host a parliamentary roundtable

in January 2018 to discuss the recommendations of the 'Step up to the Plate' report [R5] written by CAP and Lambie-Mumford. One of the five recommendations called for the government to adopt a household food insecurity measure. The roundtable was attended by cross-party senior parliamentarians and ministers, as well as key NGOs including the Food Foundation, Oxfam and the Trussell Trust. Emma Lewell Buck MP, then Shadow Minister for Education (Children and Families), consequently tabled a Food Insecurity Bill calling for the systematic measurement of household food insecurity in the UK, drawing directly on Lambie-Mumford's findings and citing her research [R5] on the Bill webpage [S8]. The Bill was a key part of the wider End Hunger UK campaign to press the government to measure household food insecurity. [Text removed for publication].

#### 5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

- S1. [Text removed for publication].
- S2. Director of Church Action on Poverty, testimonial letter.
- S3. End Hunger UK Conference, 2017 (<https://www.endhungeruk.org/2017/10/24/conference-review/>).
- S4. End Hunger UK campaign statistics (<https://www.endhungeruk.org>).
- S5. Church Action on Poverty, 'The right to food' documentary (<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/righttofood>).
- S6. Church Action on Poverty, CAP Sunday 2016 resources, including the resource pack 'Bread broken for ALL: raise money to help us end the scandal of UK hunger with a soup lunch' (<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Bread-Broken-for-ALL-worship.pdf>).
- S7. Salix Homes, Salix stars finalists announced, 5-Oct-2015 (<https://www.salixhomes.org/news/salix-stars-finalists-announced>).
- S8. Emma Lewell Buck MP's Private Member's Bill (<https://www.emma-lewell-buck.net/emmas-food-insecurity-bill-is-happening/>) that directly draws on Lambie-Mumford's 'Step up to the Plate' report ([Measuring Food Insecurity - Feeding Britain](#)).
- S9. Butler, P. (2019) UK hunger survey to measure food insecurity , The Guardian, 27-Feb-2019 (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/feb/27/government-to-launch-uk-food-insecurity-index>).