

# SURPLUS FOOD DONATIONS

## SURVEYS OF BUSINESS PERCEPTIONS

Food loss and waste is one of the greatest food system challenges. In South Africa an estimated 10 million tons of food is lost or wasted annually, while approximately 30 million people have no regular access to enough affordable nutritious food.

The donation of surplus food is a critical solution to address food loss and food insecurity. There are two significant barriers to the donation of safe, surplus, and wholesome food:

- 1 A lack of clear food safety laws and regulations or guidance regarding food donations
- 2 Potential donors fear that they will be held liable after beneficiaries consume donated food

During April and May 2022, we conducted two surveys – one on food safety for food donations and the other on liability protection for food donors. The surveys were completed by 60 food businesses within the network of the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA). Here are the results.

### SURVEY RESULTS

#### FOOD SAFETY



When potential donors are uncertain as to the steps necessary to safely and legally donate food, they are less likely to make food donations.



**76%** of respondents agreed that they would be more likely to donate or would donate more food if the government provided official guidance on food safety laws related to food donations.



**30%** of respondents believed they were not allowed to donate perishable and non-perishable foods or were uncertain about whether they were allowed to do so.



**90%** of respondents agreed that as long as food remains safe to eat, food businesses should be explicitly allowed to donate food that is unsaleable.



**75%** of respondents agreed that food businesses should be allowed to donate food past the “best before” date as it is a freshness indicator.

#### LIABILITY PROTECTION



When potential food donors fear that they will be held liable, they are less likely to make food donations.



**85%** of respondents indicated that concerns about liability due to food safety issues, is a barrier to food donations.



**62%** of respondents agreed that they would start donating or would donate more food if they were legally protected from liability.



**78%** of respondents believed that if food businesses donate surplus food, taking all food safety steps to ensure food safety, food businesses should not be liable for resulting harm or injury to a beneficiary of free food.