

# Supporting our communities.

## Why it matters.

We have a vital role to play in local communities, as reflected explicitly in our purpose ‘Serving our customers, communities and planet a little better every day’. Through our work with local causes and our food redistribution programmes, we want to make a big difference and are proud to support the projects and organisations that really matter to our colleagues and customers in the communities where we operate.

## Relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



**SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities** focuses on the importance of transforming communities. We are committed to supporting projects and causes that bring benefits to the areas where we operate, working in partnership with NGOs, suppliers and the wider industry.



**SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals** recognises the importance of collaboration. Our community programmes and partnerships across the Group have been developed with the input, knowledge and expertise of our colleagues and NGO partners, and ongoing collaboration is critical to their success.

## Highlights.

### UK

More than £100m in grants awarded to support over 50,000 community projects since 2015.

Redistributed more than 166 million worth of meals in the UK in partnership with FareShare and OLIO since 2016.

£25.3m donated during our five-year Health Charity Partnership.

Over £37m raised for Race for Life over the past 21 years.

### Central Europe (CE)

More than £4.4m of grants awarded to more than 6,300 community projects in our You Choose We Help Programme since 2016.

Redistributed over 130 million meals in partnership with Food Banks and local charities since 2016.

### ROI

€7m in donations given to more than 22,000 community projects since 2014.

€21m raised through the Tesco Ireland Charity Partner Programme since 2001.

€8m fundraised for Children’s Health Foundation helping Ireland’s sick children since 2014.

## Our approach.

Community is central to our purpose and we are passionate about making a positive, long-lasting contribution to the communities we serve, especially as economic issues continue to be a challenge. Given our reach across towns, regions and countries, we are proud to work with a wide range of national and local organisations to deliver impactful schemes and responsive programmes that make a real difference.

Our role in our communities has never been more critical, at a time where many people are facing unprecedented challenges associated with the current cost-of-living crisis, we are committed to helping our charity partners provide much needed support where it's needed most. Alongside the financial contribution we make to good causes, we also run donation appeals with our colleagues and customers.

### Community Grant programmes

Our Tesco Community Grants provide much needed financial support to smaller community groups that matter to our colleagues and customers. Through programmes in the UK, ROI and CE, we fund a wide variety of projects that our customers vote for in store. Examples of grants can range from providing sports equipment and play areas for local groups, to counselling and support services.

With many small, often volunteer-run groups facing rising costs, Community Grants provide vital support. The current cost-of-living crisis is also seeing many groups starting to offer hot meals or warm spaces in addition to their usual services.

To celebrate the milestone of £100m worth of grants being awarded to 50,000 organisations, in October 2022, we launched the Tesco Golden Grants competition in selected Tesco stores across the UK. This included a lucky dip-style event for customers to find gold voting tokens worth a combined total of £1m in grants to local good causes. The campaign provided 100 x £10,000 grants to local groups including schools, children's sports clubs, domestic abuse charities, homeless charities, animal welfare charities and counselling and support service providers for young people.



[Read more about our Community Grants here.](#)

### ROI: Community Fund

Since 2014, the Community Fund initiative in ROI has donated €7m to support more than 22,000 local community projects countrywide including schools, animal shelters, sports groups, elderly care centres, health organisations and many more.

- **Customers can nominate local causes** they wish to receive a donation from the Community Fund and vote in store with a recyclable blue token to show their support.
- **Each Tesco store donates up to €2,000** between three local good causes in its community every 12 weeks.



[Read about our ROI Community Fund here.](#)

## CE: You Choose, We Help

Our You Choose, We Help programme in CE enables customers to vote for local projects that benefit their community to receive a grant from Tesco to support their work. Since 2016 our customers cast over 95 million votes to choose their favourite community project. The scheme, the largest of its kind in the region, has reached more than 6,300 community groups across CE since 2016. Local organisations are invited to submit proposals for their projects which are then shortlisted by colleagues, before customers vote in store for their preferred project.



Read more about our You Choose, We Help programme [here](#).

## UK: Community Grants

Our community grant scheme (previously Bags of Help) provides funding for local projects across the UK. To date, we have awarded over £100m in grants to over 50,000 community projects since launching in October 2015.

Charities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations can apply for one of our grants through our charity partner Groundwork. Eligible projects are put forward to shortlisting panels where Groundwork and Tesco colleagues select the projects that will go through to a customer vote. Customers and colleagues then vote with a blue token for the project they would like to receive funding in their local community.

## Supporting communities through food redistribution

Good food should never go to waste, and we're committed to getting food to those who need it, when they need it most. In line with our efforts to combat food waste, through our Food Surplus redistribution scheme, we have redistributed the equivalent of more than 166 million meals in the UK to those that need it most, in partnership with FareShare and OLIO since 2016. This also includes meal donations from our distribution and fulfilment centres.

Through our Food Collection scheme our customers have helped us donate more than 114 million meals of long-life food to the Trussell Trust and FareShare. Initiatives include:

- **Customer food collections:** Our customers in the UK, ROI and CE can donate long-life food to charity through our annual food collections. During 2022, our summer and winter Food collections in the UK redistributed 3.8 million worth of meals donated across large and convenience stores and raised over £760k through round up at tills and matched online customer Clubcard voucher donations. In addition to our annual food collection events, we have also introduced permanent food collection points in all our UK Express stores.
- **Stronger Starts Programme:** In November 2021, Tesco Ireland launched a new programme aimed at providing thousands of meals to feed children and families experiencing food insecurity. The programme is delivered through the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) network based in some of the most underprivileged communities in ROI. In May 2022, we announced an expansion of the Stronger Starts programme, aiming to provide one million free, healthy nutritious meals to primary school children and their families by May 2023.
- **Buy One to Help a Child:** In March 2022, we launched our second [Buy One to Help a Child](#) event where we provided a donation when customers purchased healthy fruit and vegetables in store or online during the campaign. Across the two events, our food redistribution charity partner, FareShare received over £5 million in food and funds to help thousands of children's charities across the UK who rely on regular donations to help families and young people in communities get the food and help they need.



Read more in our Food waste and redistribution factsheet [here](#).

## Working in partnership

We work with charities and organisations whose vision matches ours as we strive to make a big difference. We raise funds through a combination of corporate giving as well as colleague and customer fundraising to donate millions to charitable causes and community projects. Alongside our fundraising and donations, we also work with our charity partners on key strategic initiatives. Our largest beneficiaries include:

- **Health Charity Partnership:** Our ‘Helping you to live healthier’ partnership with [Cancer Research UK](#), [British Heart Foundation](#) and [Diabetes UK](#) aims to inspire colleagues and customers to make healthier food choices to reduce disease and live longer. We run several initiatives throughout the year to enable customer and colleague involvement. In 2022/23 we held two fundraising appeals across all our UK stores where customers were able to round up their shop to the nearest £1. Over the 14-day in-store appeal on both occasions, customer donations totalled over £1.4m.
- **Cancer Research UK:** We have partnered with Cancer Research UK on Race for Life for the past 21 years to raise money for vital research into over 200 types of cancer, contributing more than £37m since 2002.
- **British Red Cross:** Since 1997, we have donated over £25m to support their work in providing vital support for emergencies in the UK and humanitarian aid overseas.
- **Children's Health Foundation:** The Tesco Ireland Charity Partner Programme has raised over €21m for charities in ROI since 2001, with the Children's Health Foundation its chosen charity partner since 2014. To date, we have raised over €8m to fund the purchase of vital medical equipment for this charity.

Alongside our fundraising and donations, we also work with our health charity partners on strategic initiatives such as our Know your Risk campaign with Diabetes UK to promote an online risk assessment for type 2 diabetes and our free blood pressure check service in partnership with British Heart Foundation. As part of Better Baskets, both campaigns provided free healthy recipes approved by the charities online at Tesco Real Food. Follow the link here for recipes from Diabetes UK and here for heart healthy ones.



Read more about our charity partnerships [here](#).

## Supporting those affected by crisis

We are committed to supporting humanitarian relief efforts through our partnerships with the Red Cross, food banks and other relief organisations.

In response to the war in Ukraine, combining our own donations and matching those of customers, we have raised over £8.5m to support the vital work of the Red Cross, as well as more than £500k for humanitarian organisations in CE as of April 2022.

In response to the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria, our customers and colleagues raised over £950k to support the vital work of the Red Cross.

Beyond financial support, we have also worked alongside the Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations in Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic to help in very practical ways, donating food, clothing and hygiene items for refugees, as well as offering logistical support and helping to move supplies at the Ukrainian border.

In 2022/23 in the UK&ROI, Tesco Mobile calls to the Ukraine have been made free for those trying to reach friends and loved ones and Tesco Bank has removed all send fees, so customers can send money direct to a bank account for free using Moneygram at Tesco's International Money Transfer service.

## Memberships and partnerships.

Here are some examples of our key collaborations to support communities:



WWF is working in partnership with Tesco for more sustainable food choices.



## Awards and benchmarks.

### Most Admired Corporate-NGO Partnership - C&E

We were named joint winners for our Health Charity Partnership with British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK and Diabetes UK. Since 2018 we have been working to help our customers and colleagues make sustainable lifestyle changes and adopt healthy habits.



### Business in the Community

Tesco Ireland has been awarded the Business in the Community "Business Working Responsibly Mark", Ireland's leading independently assured ESG accreditation.



### The Charity Times Award

Corporate National Partnership of the Year with a Retailer  
Our partnership with FareShare was recognised as an excellent example of just how powerful the collaboration between a corporate and a charity can be. Judges said there is simply nothing else quite like it.



### CE highlights

Awards in 2022 include: Slovak Government Social Responsibility Award, Effekt 2030 Award for Social Impact, Czech National Quality Award for Sustainability and Business in the Community Top Responsible Company Award.

## Performance.

Group data						
Commitment	KPIs	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Support the projects and causes that matter to the local communities where we operate	Corporate giving (£)	£83.1m	£73.9m	£109.2m	£89.2m	£119.2m
	Number of local projects or causes supported	25,848	17,406	23,192	18,043	17,463

## Looking ahead.

We are committed to supporting causes that our colleagues and customers care about on a local and national level. We will continue to provide much needed financial support to smaller community groups through our community grants programmes and continue to work with our charity partners, helping to raise vital funds for causes that matter. This year we are supporting the Trussell Trust with emergency food support and exploring ways our suppliers can give support to FareShare.

### Commitments and targets

To help build stronger communities through food and support for other projects or causes that matter in the towns and cities where we operate.

## Methodologies.

### How we measure our progress

To track our progress in making a positive difference to the local communities where we operate, our KPIs track our total corporate giving and the number of local projects supported. A brief description of both can be found below.

#### Corporate giving (£)

Defined using '£' corporate giving aggregates the direct financial contribution Tesco makes to support external community projects and charities. Here, "direct financial contribution" refers to cash donations, gifts in kind, time (e.g. volunteering in work hours) and management costs. This is collated and reported annually across all markets.

#### Number of local projects or causes supported

The breadth of charities, community groups and organisations which provide support to children and families such as food banks, breakfast clubs and holiday hunger groups are all included in this KPI. We also include the national organisations that are supported by local level community groups.

Our colleagues nominate groups, charities or organisations that may be important to them as part of our Tesco Community Grant vote every three months.

Fundraising for these or other charities outside our main charity partners are recorded as part of our corporate giving figures.

This KPI only covers our main organised community initiatives and does not cover ad hoc support or donations. Support includes cash donations, food donations, gifts in kind and/or colleague volunteer time.

Results for these KPI's are rounded, using standard calculation practices.

## Read more about our approach

### More information

[Our community grants approach](#)

[Community grants \(UK\)](#)

[Our Community Champions](#)

[Our charity partnerships](#)

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### Policies

[Group charitable donations policy](#)

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