In 2015 Milan Municipality and Fondazione Cariplo promoted a Food Policy in order to make the city food system more sustainable and inclusive. Reducing food waste is one of the Food Policy’s priorities and is implemented through the engagement of different local actors such as research centers, institutions, private sector, foundations and CSOs organizations.

To translate this priority in concrete actions, in 2016, Milan Municipality, Assolombarda, Politecnico di Milano and Fondazione Cariplo shared an agreement aimed at developing the “Local Food Waste Hub” model, a recovery and redistribution system of food losses for people in need, designing and testing the engagement of public and private actors, based on the involvement and activation of local actors in different Milan neighborhoods.

The new Gallaratese Hub is the third hub created, after the launch of hubs in Isola neighborhood and Lambrate neighborhood, which guarantee the recovery and redistribution of about 20 tons of food per month (equivalent of 40,000 meals).

From this neighborhood starts the engagement of two new partners, Fondazione Milan guaranteed the economic support for the renovation of the abandoned space in the neighborhood and Terre Des Hommes association as leader of a broad partnership of local actors who will take care of the hub management for the next 4 years.
Recovery of edible food losses
The logistic model foresees two paths for the recovery of food losses:

1. The first one with the contribution of Rimflow, foresees the collection from local supermarkets to collect, with an insulated van, fresh and dry unsold food.

2. The second one integrates the circuit with the storage of large donations and FEAD products at the Segrate logistic center of Italian Red Cross. Further circuits could be connected from company canteens, school canteens and municipal markets, as well as integrating purchased food aid.

Ridistribution to local charities and families
Food resources stored in the hub could be redistributed according to two paths integrated together:

3. The first one, with the contribution of STAG and other QuBi Gallaratese network participants, foresees the possibility of supplying associations, charities and neighborhoods institutions who are active in food distribution to families in need.

4. The second, with the contribution of IBVA, foresees the construction of a Social Market where families in the neighborhood could freely access with a dedicated card, going shopping as in a conventional store.

This model allows broadening the variety of food resources for families in need. Terre Des Hommes, who built a vast local partnership to encourage an increasingly timely response to the neighborhood needs, have promoted the integration between these actors.
The space, owned by the municipality, was an abandoned building, in a state of decay and subject of small illegal occupations.

Thanks to the main contribution of Fondazione Milan and Terres des Hommes, that coordinated the renovation work, the space has been re-functionalized for this project. The Hub and the Social Market are set up with shelves for dry products and a refrigerator room. Specialist help desks and areas for courses and workshops for the neighborhood will compose the space for family services.

Among the innovations of the Gallaratese Hub, there is the integration of a wide range of services for children and families in the neighborhood: support groups for pregnancy and parenting, meetings with specialist doctors, psychological help desk, legal help desk, workshops for children, homework group, distribution of childhood equipment, language and finance classes. Terre Des Hommes will manage these activities with the support of QuBi Gallaratese network, Mitades, Mamme a Scuola, Paloma 2000 and other local actors, putting this space at the service of the community.

From an abandoned building to a multifunctioning hub

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Other Hubs active in Milan

In Milan, other two Local Food Waste Hubs are active, launched in 2019-2020 (Isola and Lambrate) and one is in the design phase (Corvetto). The network involves different partners to consolidate the redistribution of food losses in Milan and to achieve social impacts. This activity is promoted by the Milan Municipality, through the action of Food Policy Office and the Municipal Departments, and in synergy with its partners, through an open call for the selection of supporters and managing actors. Other hubs were realized thanks to the partnership with Banco Alimentare della Lombardia, Number1, BCC Milano, Fondazione SNAM and AVIS Milano.

Involvement of the supermarkets

The Hubs represent an incentive for donations of food losses. The daily collection from the large-scale distribution operators guarantees the flows of resource necessary for the hubs activity, generating more collective social value. The operators of large-scale distribution have the opportunity to participate to a permanent “Community of practice”, observing the trends of donations per store and commenting the monitoring. The activity is developed by Politecnico di Milano around two indicators: food losses/production and donation/food losses. Hubs manage to reach about the 30% of donation/food losses, against a national average of 9%.

The following supermarkets chains are active in the Isola and/or Lambrate hubs:

Sustainability impact of each Hub

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIAL</th>
<th>ECONOMIC</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENTAL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Tons/month food losses recovered in each hub equivalent to around 20,000 meals/month +500 families</td>
<td>30,000 euro/month food donations commercial value Fiscal incentives</td>
<td>497 Ton CO2e/year avoided in the production phase and then disposal of food losses</td>
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