

Resolve Poverty - The Role of the Private Sector in the Mission to End Poverty

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Overview of the Data Fellowship

During my fellowship at **Resolve Poverty**, I worked as part of a research team with Q-step colleague on a study exploring the ways in which private sector initiatives can cause improved outcomes for socio-economically disadvantaged individuals. The project was inspired by Resolve Poverty's flagship initiative, Money Matters, in collaboration with Kellogg's, providing debt and benefit advice in schools in the area of Greater Manchester.

Data Analysis

Our data analysis began with comprehensive desk-based research into existing literature on the role of the private sector in anti-poverty efforts which we used to critically examine open-source impact reports about ongoing initiatives by the private sector in the UK and worldwide. Building on this foundation, we contacted various representatives from the organisations and their partners to arrange interviews. We conducted **semi-structured interviews with 6 different organisations**, with a number of interviews scheduled to be done after the end of our fellowship. This was an impressive outcome given the scheduling difficulties associated with annual leave coinciding with the duration of our fellowship. The interviews were conducted with careful consideration of ethical standards, and we analysed the transcripts thematically, identifying central themes



Fig1. is a map that indicates the scope of our case study research. The lighter blue represents studied areas of impact but not separate case studies

shared across all the data and subthemes unique to each individual organisation.

Findings

Our preliminary findings highlight the significant yet underutilized role of the private sector in anti-poverty initiatives. The findings



Fig2. is an image from Resolve Poverty's 2025 Annual Conference.

are still being shaped as the paper continues to develop with more interviews to support the case studies, however major findings include:

- **Cross-sectoral collaboration and the pooling of resources and skills result in more effective anti-poverty action.** This was especially clear in an Australian case study which demonstrated deeply rooted long-term collaboration between the private, VCSE, and public sectors resulting in a highly successful financial inclusion program aimed at low-income families.
- Interview analysis furthermore expanded the presumed financial role of the private sector in anti-poverty initiatives, concluding that **structural/targeted forms of funding increased the effectiveness and spread of anti-poverty action.**
- A large proportion of successful case studies of private sector partnership in anti-poverty initiatives adopted an approach that provides individuals with **long-term tools to achieve economic independence**, such as the financial inclusion approach.

Key Skills Learnt

Through this fellowship, I developed strong qualitative research skills, including the ability to identify and critically assess open-source case studies in a field with limited existing research. I also gained greater proficiency in Excel and Word.

Conducting interviews and performing thematic analysis enhanced my analytical and communication skills, while managing outreach to organisations improved my confidence in professional engagement.

Overall, this experience strengthened my research capabilities and inspired me to pursue a future career in third sector research and anti-poverty action.