



Western Cape NGO-Government Food Relief Coordination Meeting

30 April 2020

Introduction

A Zoom call, convened by the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP), was held on 30 April 2020 to discuss the coordination of food relief efforts between Government and NGOs in Cape Town and the Western Cape, and to find a common approach to the strategic challenges emerging in this area.

This was the second such call, with the first being held on 23 April. A detailed report, available on request, was produced for that call and circulated to participants.

Agenda

The agenda for the call included the following:

1. An update from the Western Cape Government on their food relief activities
2. A proposal for building a shared and dynamic Western Cape mapping system for food relief
3. Any other business (specific problems and challenges).

1. Western Cape Government update

- The WCG is working with SASSA, NGOs and local authorities to align food relief activities. Brent Walters expressed appreciation to those NGOs who had helped provide data to map these efforts.

The current status of the data, i.e. mapping requests for assistance to the WCG alongside food relief on a geographical basis – was demonstrated to participants. The WCG plan to have this system up and running for general use by next week.

- At a high level, the principle is to move from providing food parcels, to providing assistance through the Social Distress Relief grant. There is a recognition that there will be some issues in the implementation of this grant, but that the intention is to address distress that is not otherwise covered by SASSA.
- A question was raised regarding the possibility of additional assistance to institutions such as shelters, which are currently feeding many more people than normal.

Brent Walters undertook to raise this issue with DSD.

- With the introduction of Level 4, revised permits are required for workers in essential services (with the main alteration being the requirement for their residential address to be included on the permits). These permits can still be issued by the head of the organisation in question, as was the case in Level 5.

The revised permit format is on page 29 of the new regulations which are supplied with this report.

A period of transition is also being sought, to allow enough time for these permits to reach government departments and all relevant organisations and to be completed. Brent Walters undertook to keep participants on the call informed on any progress with this.

2. Building a shared and dynamic Western Cape mapping system for food relief

Andrew Boraine described a proposed mapping system for Western Cape food relief efforts.

Objective: Improve the effectiveness and performance of the integrated food relief system in the Western Cape by:

- Rapidly identifying needs and requirements
- Tracking distribution of humanitarian and food relief, i.e. grants, special grants, UIF, digital food vouchers, food parcels, food kitchens, donations, etc
- Identifying gaps and overlaps in the system
- Addressing obstacles and barriers to delivery
- Effectively communicating to partners and stakeholders

System criteria:

- Based on a partnering rather than proprietary approach
- Provides value for multiple users
- Promotes mutual accountability between partners
- Promotes transparency of who is doing what and where
- High level of usability
- Allows real-time feedback from communities and civil society
- Security – protects personal details
- Reduces opportunities for external manipulation and diversion of food relief efforts
- Modular – start small, add on as we test and learn

Multi-user system:

- Communities
- Government
- Municipalities
- NGOs involved in distribution
- Civil society
- Donors

Ability to interface with other systems:

- Health responses, e.g. Covid-19 hotspots, quarantine and isolation sites, etc
- Economic stimulus, e.g. local retailers, spazas and informal economies; Cloth mask production and distribution

Requirements from all parties:

- Consensus on the need for such a system
- Agreement to co-develop and co-implement the system through sharing data, expertise and technology

Governance:

Stakeholder steering committee.

This proposal received broad support from participants in the meeting. A number of additional criteria were suggested:

- That there is clarity on the operational definition of “a parcel” – that it should clearly reflect how many people it benefits, and for how long.
- That “meals” are also clearly defined, in terms of whether this refers to the number of meals supplied, or the number of people receiving meals.
- That there is clarity on the timing of relief activities. Simply building a cumulative picture of activity by region, for example, will not help planning or assessment.
- That the system should map ALL grants going in the system, including the Social Distress Relief Grants. This will help identify gaps.
- That the system should be set up to identify duplication as a priority, i.e. before food is supplied. This should be done without compromising confidentiality.

In order to begin to realise this system, a number of actions were agreed:

1. That this group would work on co-developing and co-implementing such a system.
2. That the system would not be wedded to any particular platform but would build on local coordination systems that have emerged as well as work done by many other stakeholders.
3. That this group would explore working with a national consortium – Help Out – to establish an operating platform for this system.
4. That a Steering Committee be set up, from group, to drive this process. The following participants volunteered to work on this Steering Committee:
 - Michael Krause – VPUU
 - Gray Maguire – WCG
 - Gavin Miller – DSD
 - Marli Goussard – Stellenbosch CAN
 - Siham Salie-Abrahams
 - Faizel Deyal – SANZAF
 - Kayleen Simpson – CCT
 - Nadine Coetzee – CORC
 - Karen Shippey – WCG
 - Crystal West – DAG
 - Conrina Kriedler (suggested by Gray Maguire)
5. The Steering Committee would meet on Monday, 4 May, at 2:00 p.m. Invitations to the meeting will be sent out on 1 May.
6. That mapping efforts for the potential Help Out system would begin with a number of NGOs over the weekend. A number of participants volunteered to assist with this:
 - Marli Goussard – Stellenbosch Civil Advocacy Network/ Stellenbosch Unite
 - Cindy Duvelt – Beautiful Gate (volunteered by Gray)
 - Faizel Deyal - SANZAF

3. Additional issues or challenges

- The Philippi Economic Development Initiative (PEDI) are close to ramping up their output of fresh produce considerably. However, they need to partner with entities who can match their fresh portion of a food parcel with dry food parcel components.

Anyone with information on organisations that could help with this should email Gray Maguire at gray.maguire@westerncape.gov.za.

- Solutions for security for food parcel delivery were requested. Suggestions included sending smaller units (i.e. not trucks), as well as enlisting the help of law enforcement. To help the Safety Cluster with planning for support for these deliveries, NGOs are requested to communicate their delivery plans to SAPS and the Security Cluster.

Please email delivery plans to Jacqui Boule at jacqueline.boule@westerncape.gov.za, who is acting as the point person for this information.

- Information about WCG beneficiaries was requested, to avoid duplication. It was noted that there is sensitivity around this information, and that the best course of action for NGOs is for them to liaise directly with their local, or even regional, offices.
- Clarity was sought on whether soup kitchens will be able to operate again with hot food under Level 4, and on what the regulations around cooking this food are.

Brent Walters undertook to revert to the group on this once the regulations, which were received at noon today, have been studied.

- In terms of the City of Cape Town, it was noted that the Mayor’s Relief Fund has been launched. This fund will focus on a mix of food parcels and support for feeding schemes.

The DG Murray Trust, the EDP and Cape Town Together Community Action Network have already identified and verified 150+ community kitchens and have the processes in place to support them with digital food vouchers on a weekly basis. Should the City of Cape Town wish to utilise this existing platform, more information is available from Andrew Boraine of the EDP.

- The question of whether specific additional support is being provided by WCG for institutions such as old age homes, etc. was raised. It was noted that all normal DSD subsidies to such institutions are continuing, and that where possible, additional assistance, primarily for sanitiser and PPE, is being provided.

It was, however, noted that any additional assistance to such institutions, particularly in less-affluent areas, is always needed and appreciated.

This group will reconvene on **Thursday, 7 May 2020 at 2:00 p.m.** Invitations will be sent out; participants are encouraged to nominate other role-players in this area who would benefit from, or contribute to, the discussion.

For further information or questions about this report, contact Andrew Boraine of the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) at Andrew@wcedp.co.za.

30 April 2020 : Attendees

NAME, ORGANISATION, and ROLE:

Abigail Jacobs-Williams	City of Cape Town, Social Development
Adi Kumar	Development Action Group (DAG)- networked to informal settlements and backyarders
Brent Walters	WCG Humanitarian Cluster Lead
Bridget Hannah	Western Cape Government
Craig Stewart	The Warehouse (representing Western Cape Ecumenical Network as well)
Crystal West	Development Action Group
Dirk van Doorn	WCDM Logistics Support
Faizel Deyal	Deputy Chairman SANZAF WESTERN CAPE

Gavin Miller	DSD, Researcher, Demographer and Knowledge Manager
Gill Cullinan,	EDP
Grant Stephens	City of Cape Town: Social Development & ECD
Gray Maguire	DEA&DP & PDMC Food Cluster
Hildegarde Fast	Western Cape Government
Jacqui Boule	Western Cape Government
Jared Rossouw	Cape Town Together Community Action Networks - Food Security Team, volunteer
Jeanneret Momberg	Stellenbosch Unite Coordinating Function
John Brooks	DHL - WCDM Logistics Support
Karen Shippey	WCG Provincial Disaster Management Centre - Food Security Support
Karriem Booranoodien	SANZAF Chair
Kayleen Simpson	City of Cape Town - Strategy and Policy
Marcela Guerrero Casas,	Cape Town Together, volunteer
Marli Goussard	Chairperson of Stellenbosch Civil Advocacy Network (SCAN), facilitating food distribution to NGO member beneficiaries alongside Stellenbosch Unite
Michael Krause	CEO, VPUU NPC
Moefeeda Salie-Kagee,	COCT-Head Area South
Moutie Abrahams	in for Sihaam Salie
Nadine Coetzee	(CORC) Architect/Project Support + SASDI COVID-19 Response Coordination for WC
Pearl Nel	Cape CSI & Volunteers Rep
Rudi Botha	Urban Studio, helping to facilitate co-ordination between different role players in terms of food relief co-ordination. Currently assisting City of Cape Town and FNB
Shireen Kamaldien	Head of Projects & Programmes
Stephan Claassen	FNB
Wendy Lewin	The Warehouse Trust, Programme Coordinator

Attachment

- Form 2: Permit to perform an essential or permitted service