



## **Report: Western Cape NGO-Government Food Relief Coordination Meeting**

**14 May 2020**

### **Introduction**

The Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) convened a Zoom call on 14 May 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 one of a series of such weekly calls. Detailed reports on the previous calls were produced and circulated to all participants. Copies of these reports are available on request.

### **Agenda**

The agenda for the call included the following:

1. Update on draft regulations affecting the provision of cooked food by NGOs
2. Update on COVID-19 Social Relief Grant
3. Update on NGO food relief data mapping processes
4. Anticipatory planning

### **Introduction and welcome**

New participants were welcomed to the meeting. The aim of the meeting is to encourage a whole-of-society collaborative approach to the planning and distribution of food relief during the Covid-19 crisis.

#### **1. Update on draft regulations and Western Cape Government (WCG) response**

Brent Walters (WCG Head of Humanitarian Response) referred to the national regulations being considered which would ban the distribution of cooked food by NGOs and require all NGOs to apply for permits in order to distribute any form of food aid. He stated that these regulations would also affect public sector school feeding schemes, and confirmed that the Western Cape Government has responded at all possible levels to register their opposition.

The regulations could be published on 15 May, after which WCG will consider their response. If necessary, WCG would consider approaching the courts and requested support from NGOs and CBOs in opposing the regulations, should this happen.

The recent media release detailing the response from the WCG Minister of Social Development is attached as *Attachment 1*.

A number of call participants (e.g. Rotary) have also been involved in expressing their opposition.

This forum will be used to communicate any breaking news related to these regulations.

## 2. Update on COVID-19 Social Relief Grant.

Since opening applications, nationally, 3 million have been received in the first three days. Over 2 million of these were via the USSD, with 500 000 applications via email. The speed and success of the system will only be fully established once the money has been transferred to approved beneficiaries.

Details for applying were clarified as included below:



### How to apply for COVID-19 R350 Social Relief Grant



1 Who can apply?	2 What you need?	3 Apply via...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>An unemployed person</b></li><li>▪ <b>Must be over 18 years old</b></li><li>▪ <b>Not receiving social grants, UIF OR NSFAS stipend</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Identity Document</b></li><li>▪ <b>Banking details</b></li><li>▪ <b>Contact Number – Cellphone number</b></li><li>▪ <b>Proof of residential address</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Send message to: <b>082 046 8553</b></li><li> USSD Code: <b>*134*7737#</b></li><li> Email: <b>srd@sassa.gov.za</b></li></ul>

**Payments will be made through direct deposits into bank accounts or a money transfer to a mobile phone.**

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## 3. Update on food relief data mapping processes

There remains a need at WCG level to understand what is happening in terms of food relief at a localised level, not least so that this information can be matched with health data and efforts at ward and sub-ward level.

A number of different groups are working on developing NGO data mapping systems:

- A data mapping and reporting system is being produced for WCG Cabinet

- An app for the non-metro areas has been developed by WCG, with potential application for the metro area and for NGO access and reporting
- Sam Vos and his team from U-Turn Homeless Ministries have developed a comprehensive approach, which was demonstrated at the meeting. Gavin Miller confirmed that this would have real value and should be integrated with the Provincial work.
- Local food networks are mapped out by individual NGOs and Community Action Networks.
- LinkedTo is a longer-term multi-user, multi-sector platform under development.

There was general agreement from the NGOs on the call that the tool as demonstrated by Sam captured the main fields required.

It was suggested that the option to enter food voucher assistance should be added to the system.

It was noted that data capture is demanding for most NGOs, given that they are operating at full capacity currently. It was agreed that any final data mapping system should default to simplicity and ease of use.

It was also noted that the usefulness of any system depends entirely on the accuracy of the data that it is based on. It was suggested, for example, that NGOs should commit to entering data at least weekly, if daily entry is not possible.

It was also agreed that the data should be used for planning, and that inputting retrospective data on past food relief is not a priority.

FNB noted that they have designed a process linked to the FNB app which NPOs and NGOs can use to track and capture details, check for duplications of food parcel collections, etc. While not yet activated, it would be a free tool for organisations to use.

*As a next step, the EDP will convene a technical group from WCG, CoCT and NGOs early next week to finalise the following key elements of the data mapping system:*

- *Data entry fields*
- *Definitions (such as the definition of "feeding")*
- *How to ensure ease of access and registration*
- *Communication to NGOs and CBOs*

Given finalisation of these elements, the system should be set up for data capture and reporting as soon as possible.

#### **4. Forward planning**

The approach of winter and associated increased food requirements, allied with donor and volunteer fatigue and severe public sector funding constraints indicate that working only to solve current problems in food relief is inadequate. There needs to be strategic thinking and anticipatory planning, by the public sector as well as NGOs, CBOs, and others, about how to handle at least the next three months in terms of ensuring that food relief continues and that food needs are met.

The EDP proposed working with volunteers drawn from the participants on this call to begin this strategic planning process. The EDP has compiled a draft food relief risk register which could be utilised in the discussion.

*The EDP will send out a meeting invitation for early next week to brainstorm planning for the longer term, as well as ways in which NGOs and CBOs can work more closely together.*

*It would be preferable if this group included representation from WCG, to ensure that public sector budgetary constraints are taken into account.*

Two further opportunities were mentioned:

- Lizo Madinga of Afrika Tikkun is willing to share data on food parcel distribution, challenges faced, and partnering experience with DSD and WCG.
- Paul Stohrer of PEDI noted that the Philippi Fresh Produce Market not only sources produce from small-scale and emerging farmers in the area, but also has warehousing space available for potential use as packing space or even food preparation from 1 July.

This group will reconvene on **Thursday, 21 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 Borraine of the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) at [Andrew@wcedp.co.za](mailto:Andrew@wcedp.co.za).

#### **Attachments:**

#### **Attachment 1: Media release by Minister Sharna Fernandez**

#### **14 May 2020: Attendees**

Please note that this list may not include the full details of new participants to this forum. We will make every effort to obtain these details before the next scheduled call on 21 May.

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