



Report: Western Cape NGO-Government Food Relief Coordination Forum

20 August 2020

Introduction

The Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) convened a Zoom call on 20 August 2020, to discuss the ongoing work being done by NGOs and the Western Cape Government (WCG) to provide Covid-19 food relief and humanitarian support.

Agenda

1. City of Cape Town call for proposals for support to community kitchens: Discussion on a collaborative approach
2. Transition to food and nutrition security: Feedback on WCG Recovery Plan
3. Update on NGO food data collection process
4. Mapping Civil Society Food Relief Data Report: Lessons and experiences
5. Digital Vouchers Report: Learnings from the Covid 19 Humanitarian Response
6. Feedback on food workshops and webinars:
 - Cape Town Food Dialogues, July-August 2020
 - Inspired Futures Dialogue #2: Sustainable food for the nation – what can be done to build back better, 19 August
 - Garden Route Food Security Webi-shop, 19 August
7. Forthcoming food workshops and webinars:
 - Conversations in the Kitchen, a dialogue with Vuyani from Gugulethu Urban Farm Initiative, the Seaboard CAN, and Ladles of Love. 7pm, 20 August. Zoom ID : 813-1638-5720; Password: 778843
 - Community of Practice Meeting: Food security and Covid-19: Is urban agriculture the long-term solution to the food crisis? 10-12.30, 26 August 2020.

1. City of Cape Town food relief services to vulnerable communities: Discussion on a collaborative approach

Applications for the first tranche of the City of Cape Town Humanitarian Relief Fund, as detailed in earlier Forum reports, have opened. While all requirements are listed in the application form, some of the high-level requirements include the following:

- Applicants must be registered NPOs and PBOs.
- Applicants must be able to show at least 3 months of experience and a track record of delivery.
- Applications must be to provide cooked meals or to produce and/or distribute raw products to kitchens producing cooked meals.
- The deadline for submission is 3 September.

It was clarified that there are 3 steps to the application process:

1. Verification of applicants' eligibility.
2. Based on the target areas as specified, applications will then go to sub-council(s) for discussion and recommendations.

3. Recommendations will then go to full Council in October, for final decisions.

The funds are to be transferred to successful applicants no later than 1 November 2020.

Given that most community kitchens are not registered NPOs or PBOs, they will need to establish partnerships with registered NGOs in order to apply.

Clarity was provided on a number of issues:

- While only one application or project is permitted per organisation, the application can apply to multiple sub-councils and wards.
- Only one certificate of acceptability is required per application, regardless of how many community kitchens are involved. The City of Cape Town holds the 'parent NGO' which is making the application liable for health standards at the kitchens within the application.
- If applicants do not have a certificate of acceptability, they are encouraged to include their application for this certificate along with their application for funding. Approval of their funding application would then be subject to their being granted a certificate of approval.

The contact for a certificate of acceptability is Jaqueline Petersen at the City of Cape Town: jacqueline.petersen@capetown.gov.za. Tel: 0860103089.

- The lower financial limit per application is R15 000; there is no upper limit.
- In terms of the 'handling fee', as long as the funds are not put to uses specifically prohibited in the application, and are addressing food needs, applicants have the latitude to use this funding as appropriate.

If any community kitchens do not have access to a registered NGO with whom they could apply, they should contact Andrew Boraine at Andrew@wcedp.co.za or Luzuko Mdunyelwa at Luzuko.mdunyelwa@capetown.gov.za. Anna Hart from The Brewers Soup Collective is also available to assist: annacarinhart@gmail.com.

2. Transition to food and nutrition security: Feedback on WCG Recovery Plan

Dr Hildegarde Fast of the Western Cape Government briefed the Forum on the Provincial Recovery Plan. This plan was necessitated by the 5-year Provincial Strategic Plan, completed in 2019, needing to be re-thought and re-worked in the light of Covid-19.

WCG have conducted a situational analysis to inform the Recovery Plan: in essence, old challenges remain, but in many cases have worsened, while new problems have also arisen due to the pandemic. (For example, vaccination and TB testing rates have dropped significantly, signalling long-term health and social issues.)

There is an explicit realisation that in order to address these sorts of issues, provincial departments are going to have to work together in ways not previously envisaged.

The Recovery Plan is currently considering immediate interventions. For these initiatives, there is a bias for targeted programmes with a track record of delivery that have the capability to scale up.

In terms of short-term food relief and a transition to longer-term food security and better nutrition, there is a request for members of this Forum, and the Forum as a whole, to work with the Western Cape Government and to assist as a sounding board for solutions as they are proposed.

A number of Forum members indicated their willingness to assist, and suggested a number of possibilities for consideration:

- Peninsula School Feeding Association (with reference to expansion of feeding in schools, after school programmes and ECD's). The PSFA is willing to partner and network with government and other organisations for better impact on addressing childhood hunger. Petrina Pakoe : petrina@psfa.org.za.
- Jenny Soderbergh: How government could support micro-entrepreneurship in vulnerable areas, such as efforts in Gugulethu to empower one of the kitchens to become a restaurant, earning income and linking to local food growers. jennysoderbergh@gmail.com.
- Ilse Maartens of MES (Mould Empower Serve): Consider micro site kitchens (container kitchens) with help from SA Harvest. ilse@mes.org.za.
- Tarryn-Lee Bell of The Community Chest: The Community Chest could also provide capacity-building training via its Leadership Academy and Training Institute for these kitchens/organisations. This training could cover Governance and Compliance, Non-Financial data (NFD), recording and impact, and fundraising for beginners. Contact: training@comchest.org.za.

The next Food Forum on 3 September will include a session to surface and discuss these and other ideas from the Forum for the Provincial Recovery Plan. Forum members are encouraged to send their thoughts on community-led recovery programmes (e.g. food kitchens, food gardens, small scale producers, informal economies, ECD centres, healthcare networks, safer spaces, etc) to Andrew Borraine: Andrew@wcedp.co.za.

Hildegard Fast will respond to the Forum as the process continues, via Forum meetings.

3. Update on NGO food data collection process

Jan Schenk of ikapadata.com reported that 16 organisations have submitted their information so far, with 2 outstanding. The report with full results will be available at the end of next week, and will be distributed to the Forum.

4. Mapping Civil Society Food Relief Data Report: Lessons and experiences

For any questions on this report, circulated with this Forum meeting invitation, contact Andrew Borraine at Andrew@wcedp.co.za.

5. Digital Vouchers Report: Learnings from the Covid 19 Humanitarian Response

For any questions on this report, circulated with this Forum meeting invitation, contact Andrew Borraine at Andrew@wcedp.co.za.

6. Feedback on food workshops and webinars:

- **Cape Town Food Dialogues, July-August 2020**

Jenny Soderbergh, a food systems researcher with the EDP, provided some key impressions from the Dialogues:

- There is no 'silver bullet' solution to address the food poverty in Cape Town and South Africa.
- Placing the responsibility for finding a solution to food issues on the most marginalised in society (such as by requiring them to grow their own food, or learn about nutrition to make better food choices) allows the bigger players in the system to be 'off the hook' (not that urban farming or nutrition information programmes should stop).
- It was noted that the formal retailers were regrettably absent from the Dialogues, which otherwise included the full perspective of food system stakeholders.

The Food Dialogues are available for replaying online at <https://capetown.fooddialogues.info/replays/>.

- **Inspired Futures Dialogue #2: Sustainable food for the nation – what can be done to build back better, 19 August**

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLDjC6hXUw0&feature=youtu.be> for information on this session.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/670655126826113/>, for information on future sessions. All interviews and invitations are posted there.

- **Garden Route Food Security Webi-shop, 19 August**

The Garden Route District Municipality met to consider proposals for a food bank, a community food hub, and a living food pantry, amongst others. The Red Cross has performed an analysis of need in the district.

The District Municipality will produce a strategy to align proposals, and to capitalise on the general agreement on the need for sustainability and taking local needs into account.

The Forum will be kept informed of progress with this strategy.

7. Forthcoming food workshops and webinars:

- Conversations in the Kitchen, a dialogue with Vuyani from Gugulethu Urban Farm Initiative, the Seaboard CAN, and Ladles of Love. 7pm, 20 August. Zoom ID : 813-1638-5720; Password: 778843
- Community of Practice Meeting: Food security and Covid-19: Is urban agriculture the long-term solution to the food crisis? 10:00-12.30, 26 August 2020. <https://mailchi.mp/2e5c6ca7fbf5/invitation-local-food-system-governance-cop-10827884>.

Any Forum participants whose organisations are holding, or hosting, workshops or events related to food relief or food security are encouraged to let Andrew Boraine know, for onward communication to the Forum.

Next steps

Aside from the next steps and requests noted in italics above, the next meeting of this forum is in two weeks' time, on **3 September 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.

Attachment 1: Food Relief Forum attendance 20 August 2020