



Report: Western Cape NGO-Government Food Relief Coordination Meeting

23 July 2020

Introduction

The Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) convened a Zoom call on 23 July 2020, to discuss the ongoing work being done by NGOs, the Western Cape Government (WCG) and the City of Cape Town (CoCT) to provide Covid-19 food relief and humanitarian support.

Agenda

The agenda for this meeting included:

1. NGO report on food needs
2. City of Cape Town feedback
3. Western Cape Government feedback
4. Transition to local economic recovery and resilience
5. For information
6. Update and mapping of NGO food data
7. Next steps

1. NGO report on food needs

Andrew Borraine thanked the forum members for their extensive input into the report compiled on their feedback on food needs, and on their reflections on donor fatigue and declining resources and support. The report was circulated to this forum, and included 8 recommendations to the Western Cape Government (WCG). It has been tabled further at Cabinet engagements, and some follow-up has been promised. In general, the core premises of the report have been recognised at Provincial level, although the ability of the WCG to respond to these is uncertain, due to severe financial constraints.

2. City of Cape Town feedback

The Mayor's office reports that 61 NGOs have been approved, and the R12,1 million from the Mayor's Relief Fund has been allocated to these NGO's for distribution of food relief. Some of these NGOs are still distributing this aid and have yet to register their results; to date, the process has included 4990 food parcels and 3736 food vouchers. Two NGOs, i.e. Afrika Tikkun and Ladles of Love, are two of the NGOs who have distributed significant amounts of aid.

A list of the NGOs who have been approved will be supplied to the forum as soon as it is received.

The City of Cape Town City has set aside an additional R25m for humanitarian relief. R10m will be available immediately; the advertisement calling for NGO applicants will be going

out in two weeks' time. 80% of the funding allocated will have to go to food kitchens, with the remaining 20% being designated for PPE at these kitchens.

The remaining R15m will form part of the February 2021 allocation. It should be noted that all CCT funding in this sense is limited to the Cape Town Metro, and so is not reflected in the rural areas.

A number of forum members had questions and issues relating to the processes around the current Mayor's Relief Fund allocations. These questions should be directed to Luzuko Mdunyelwa at Luzuko.mdunyelwa@capetown.gov.za.

3. Western Cape Government feedback

Masks:

The WCG has started mask activation in the hot spots, and have found mask adherence rates as low as 10% in some communities. They have also partnered with the private sector (Old Mutual and Sanlam to date) on further activation activities.

There is a request to this forum for ideas and learnings on how to change behaviour around masks.

- The 'nudge factor' in formal shopping areas ('No entry without a mask) is effective: how does one replicate this effect in less formal shopping environments?
- How are food relief schemes effecting mask adherence, recognising that many receiving food relief are unable to afford masks?
- How does one capitalise on the behaviour change that schools are effecting regarding wearing masks?

Forum members (and others) who are struggling to access masks should get in touch with Jacqui Boulle of the WCG (recognising that there is a lag in supplying) at Jacqueline.Boulle@westerncape.gov.za. In addition, forum members who have insights or learnings on mask adherence behaviour change, are similarly requested to contact Jacqui.

National thinking on food relief:

A recent National Income Dynamics Study Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM) has verified increased hunger due to lockdown and economic contraction, as well as the fact that special relief grants have not yet had an impact. There is a new proposal by the National Department of Social Development for continued food relief, and for a further 3 months of funding be made available (of which R16m would be allocated to the Western Cape). This proposal has been put to the Solidarity Fund and National Treasury, but no confirmation has been received yet.

Provincial food relief:

The Provincial Department of Social Development and the Provincial Treasury are working on a contingency amount of funding, based on input from this forum correlated with DSD offices and clinics. This has yet to be agreed.

In the interim, a further R3 – 4m is available and will be applied to areas of greatest need. DSD is currently correlating inputs from NGOs with data from Provincial clinics and social development offices.

School feeding schemes:

Currently, 80 - 90 000 learners a day are receiving food at 700 schools through these schemes. This is a lower number than pre-lockdown, owing to not all grades having gone back to school, as well as transport issues.

The guidelines from the Western Cape Education Department remain that any learners who present for food should receive it, whether they are from that school or another located close by.

SASSA Special Covid-19 Relief payments:

630 000 applications were made from the Western Cape: 281 000 were approved, of which 199 000 have been paid out to date. There is an appeal process that has been opened for the significant number of applications that were declined.

It should be noted that there is no data on where the recipients of the payments are located. It was further noted that approved allocations to people in the Western Cape are far lower when compared to other provincial allocations.

4. Transition to local economic recovery and resilience

It remains important to continue to focus both on food relief and on the longer-term goals of local economic recovery and resilience.

One example of a project that does that, is the Community Kitchens programme, being run between the Provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT), the DG Murray Trust and the EDP. The core concept of this programme is that an existing voucher system has been expanded to allow for the vouchers to be redeemed at local food suppliers and spazas, rather than large formal retailers. This allows the programme both to meet social need and food requirements, and to stimulate economic activity and local food systems and food markets. It also thereby avoids undermining local food systems at small scale. The aim is to expand the programme beyond the current proposed 6 months, and to crowd in additional donors.

In addition, the WCG has started looking at what recovery looks like, through a WCG Provincial Recovery Plan. One aspect of this plan is investing in local food economies to improve nutrition, given that poor nutrition has long-term health, social and economic implications. Historical food and nutrition system challenges have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis, and the WCG is therefore exploring a systems approach to nutrition, rather than a series of department-by-department interventions.

Options considered in this Plan could include:

- Strengthening and sustaining community kitchens through public works programmes to make them not just a short-term solution.
- Expanding the roles of 2 000 small-scale farmers and fresh produce markets in the Western Cape
- Supporting own production for own consumption.

Forum members who are interested in providing the voice of civil society to these policy processes should contact Andrew Borraine. Those who indicated an interest during the discussion include:

- SEED
- Living Hope
- Tableview / Blouberg CAN
- The Warehouse Trust
- Hout Bay CAN
- Extreme Soupathon
- Ladles of Love
- Elgin Foundation Solidarity Fund
- Delft Action Network
- Ikamva Labantu
- Community Chest
- Cape Town Together Food Growers' Initiative

- *Centre of Excellence/ Food Governance Community of Practice*

5. For information

- Food Dialogues is a multi-part series of talks on the local food system bringing together speakers involved in shaping the food system, hosted by the SA Urban Food & Farming Trust. *Food Dialogues: Cape Town 2020* will focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has had and will have on Cape Town's food system. Themes for the Cape Town Food Dialogues include: Crisis, Politics, Health, Culture, Economics.

Forum participants are encouraged to view and/or participate in any of the following:

- Prof. Jane Battersby's overview of Cape Town's food system, <https://capetown.fooddialogues.info>
- **Food and Crisis pre-recorded talks** - Monday 27 July 09h00 - How crisis impacts our food system:
 - Gray Maguire, Green Economy Coordinator, DEA&DP, Western Cape Government
 - Farming in a crisis: the case of smallholder farms. Veronica Baleni, Bhukula Farming Cooperative
 - A window of opportunity: Connecting immediate responses around the Covid-19 food crisis to long-term food systems change. Andrew Boraine, Western Cape Economic Development Partnership <https://capetown.fooddialogues.info/?sc=Dtlulddw>
- **Food and Crisis panel discussion** - Monday 10 August 15h00
Theme Moderator: *Leonie Joubert, Science Writer and Journalist*
- A digital voucher knowledge-sharing and learning workshop is planned. The date is to be confirmed, but will be within the next two weeks. Input is sought from anyone with experience to share on vouchers – whether food or other kinds.

Forum members who are interested in participating in this workshop should contact Andrew Boraine. Those who indicated interest during the discussion include:

- *Tableview / Blouberg CAN*
- *The Warehouse Trust*
- *Community Chest*
- *Mustadafin Foundation*
- *Beautiful Gate South Africa*
- *Delft Action Network*
- *Living Hope*
- *Hope Africa*
- *Somerset West CAN*
- *COE/Food Governance Community of Practice*
- *OneAfrica.org*

6. Updating and mapping of NGO food data.

NGO data, with input from this forum, has been collated up to 5 June 2020.

It was noted that this process requires capacity from NGOs, as well as from those collating the data and standardising it. Despite the extensive effort involved, it is known that capturing the effort, in data, of what this forum has achieved, will continue to have significant impact on government thinking.

A further request to update the information to the end of July has been proposed, and the same larger intermediary organisations who assisted previously will be contacted for their help with this effort.

7. 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 **6 August 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 23 July 2020