



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

**6 August 2020**

### **Introduction**

The Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) convened a Zoom call on 6 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**

The agenda for this meeting included:

1. Feedback from Western Cape Government
2. Feedback from the City of Cape Town
3. NGO food data process update
4. Community Recovery Project
5. Digital voucher workshop feedback
6. WCG Recovery Plan
7. Next steps

#### **1. Feedback from WCG**

The WCG Cabinet are meeting at the moment. The report on food needs that was compiled from input from this forum is being included in their considerations, as is the need for ongoing humanitarian relief. The plan for the long-term economic rehabilitation of the province is also being developed as part of the Provincial Recovery Plan.

SASSA update: Volunteers have been deployed in communities to assist SASSA applicants, and particularly those whose applications for the Special Covid-19 Relief Grant were declined. The location of these volunteers is detailed in the attachment to this report. It was noted, for emphasis, that the appeals process is still open.

#### **2. Feedback from the City of Cape Town**

61 NGOs were approved for the distribution of the Mayor's Relief Fund of R13 million. Clarity on the extent to which this relief has been distributed is a challenge: a number of sub-councils are reporting that they have been unable to distribute food parcels owing to local conflicts. They are therefore waiting for the situation to stabilise before continuing with distribution.

The Mayor's office has set a deadline of 15 August for all sub-councils to report on the full distribution of the food parcels and vouchers that they have provided. This information will be forwarded to this forum as soon as it has been collated.

As reported in the previous forum report, an additional R25m has been set aside to provide support specifically to food kitchens, with R10m available immediately, and R15m in January 2021 with the adjustment budget.

- This money will be split equally between 116 wards, but kitchens can provide services outside the wards in which they are located.
- The money must be used for operational, not capital, expenditure.
- Only people with experience in running soup kitchens will be considered.
- Given the absence of PPE for the vulnerable, up to a maximum of 20% of the money can be used for PPE at these kitchens.
- Given that this money takes the form of a grant in aid, the standard requirements for such grants (e.g. having a bank account, being registered with SAPS, having a tax number, etc.) will need to be met. These requirements will be specified in the advertisement. Informal community kitchens who may not meet these requirements are permitted to partner with established NPOs and NGOs in order to qualify for this assistance.

*It was suggested that establishing a collaborative approach to these applications – to ensure that no food kitchens are left behind, by encouraging existing networks of suppliers, NGOs and food kitchens to work together – would be useful. A meeting to explore this will be set up as soon as the CoCT advertisement is made public; forum participants who would be interested in joining this meeting should contact Andrew Boraine.*

*The following organisations indicated their interest during the meeting:*

*Somerset West CAN – Erica Inches  
Tableview/Blouberg CAN – Claire McGuinness  
Seaboard/Gugulethu CAN  
Khayelitsha CAN – Connie Augast  
Hout Bay CAN – Elizabeth Drevlow  
Khikhi CAN – Ncediswa Notywala  
Beautiful Gate – Minah Koela  
The Warehouse – Zukile Ngqeza*

Luzuko Mdunyelwa of the City of Cape Town is available to answer queries ([Luzuko.mdunyelwa@capetown.gov.za](mailto:Luzuko.mdunyelwa@capetown.gov.za)).

*Clarity is needed on whether this assistance will permit the purchase of gas or electricity.*

### **3. NGO food data update**

Ikapadata has been commissioned to work with 18 intermediary food providers, listed below, to determine NGO food relief supplied up to the end of July.

- Afrika Tikkun
- Breadline Africa
- Brewers Soup collective
- Community Chest
- DGMT
- Extreem Kwizeen/ Soupathon
- Gift of the Givers
- Ikamva Labantu
- Ladles of Love
- Mustadafin Foundation
- Philippi East Development Initiative
- PnP
- Rotary
- Service Dining Rooms
- Stellenbosch Unite

- The Warehouse
- UCook
- Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading

Organisations participating in this data collection process are requested to use the template that has been sent to them. The Ikapadata team is on standby to provide technical support if needed. However, should the template prove a challenge, organisations are encouraged to send as much raw data as they have, in order to create as full a picture as possible.

#### **4. Community Recovery Project**

The Community Recovery Project is **not** the same as the existing Community Kitchens project, managed by DGMT and EDP, although it was inspired by the latter programme.

The purpose of this project is to inject money into local economies, by providing money to food kitchens to spend at local spaza shops and traders. The projects aims to demonstrate that cash injections into a local economy can have an impact. There are no restrictions on what the voucher can be spent on, as long as the money is spent locally.

It should be noted that the intention of the project is not to support as many kitchens as possible; instead, its aim is to provide sustained support for 6 months to kitchens in vulnerable areas. This automatically means that there is a limit to the number of kitchens that can be supported.

In addition, kitchens need to be located in hotspot areas as identified by WCG.

*Ideally, this project would be dovetailed with the City of Cape Town support, and should be included in the planned collaborative meeting.*

#### **5. Digital voucher adaptive learning workshop feedback**

NGOs and the public sector were involved in this adaptive learning engagement on 5 August, focused on surfacing learnings from designing and implementing digital voucher schemes. A full report on this workshop will be distributed to forum members as soon as possible.

#### **6. WCG Recovery Plan**

The WCG Recovery Plan currently contains three focus areas – jobs, safety, and nutrition. The Department of the Premier will hopefully be able to provide information on the outcome of these discussions at the next forum meeting.

A number of participants suggested additional focus areas for a systemic provincial recovery plan, such as:

- Improving housing
- Digitising the Western Cape economy (through, for example, improving connectivity and digital skills)
- Building on existing strong industries such as boat-building and investment management
- Education

In general, however, there is a recognition that an integrated approach to repurposing and reallocating the budget that is available, is needed.

It was also agreed that this Food Forum network would have valuable input to such a Recovery Plan (and not just in the field of nutrition), and that such input should be encouraged as much as possible.

## **7. Next steps**

It was noted that the online Food Dialogues (<https://capetown.fooddialogues.info>) continue, and that a panel discussion on food and the Covid-19 crisis, moderated by Leonie Joubert, science writer and journalist, is scheduled for Monday, 10 August, at 15h00.

Aside from the next steps and requests noted in italics above, the next meeting of this forum is in two weeks' time, on **20 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 Borraine of the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) at [Andrew@wcedp.co.za](mailto:Andrew@wcedp.co.za).

**Attachment 1: Food Relief Forum attendance 6 August 2020**

**Attachment 2: List of SASSA volunteers in local communities to assist applicants**