



## **Report on 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Food Relief Food4Love and Red Cross 30 June 2021- including first week of December 2021**

### **Introduction**

After the previous food relief ceased in late March 2021 it was evident that people were unemployed and hunger continued to be an issue. The Overstrand Municipality adopted a food security approach that led to the supply of seedlings in order that people could grow their own vegetables, we are not up to date on the progress of this initiative. Soup kitchen ceased in September 2000

These 2 organisations had decided to use the remaining funds of R 245.459 from the first food relief period to cater for Zwelihle and Mt Pleasant's perceived food needs, hopefully improve lives and mitigate potential hunger during a cold winter.

In July 2021 the EMS foundation approved a grant of R 150.000.00 to Food4Love with Hermanus Red Cross. This greatly improved continuing food relief. This was not an integrated multi-disciplinary process of planning but a response from 2 organisations to post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

### **WHAT and WHERE**

The team coordinating the second phase : Natalie Munro, William Ntebe, Angela Heslop assessed existing funds in late March, some of which were used to provide Easter treats in the above neighbourhoods and respond to motivations during April, May 2021. From June food ingredients were purchased from Food Lovers Market and York Cash & Carry. We were gifted with onions and carrots once a week from a Ceres Farm.

### **June 2021**

The team decided to provide for:

5 Days soup to patients attending Swartdam Clinic

2 Informal settlements. Food purchases and soup made by Tulip Kitchen's staff and their wages paid.

14 Community Kitchens that evolved over 6 weeks.

**Swartdam Clinic** soup delivery to clinic Mon- Fri for those collecting chronic medicines. Daily 30 litres: 166 people and children wandering by received a cup of soup and bread.

**Informal Settlements** 30 litres made, 150 people brought bowls to vehicle to receive soup and bread- 6 days Monday- Saturday.

Tulip café offered to make nourishing soup and F4L paid the staff wages. Bread and ingredients purchased by F4L from Food lovers Market. This soup catered for a large informal settlement 6 times a week.

**Community Kitchens** were identified by women in their neighbourhoods (**map appendix A**). Food ingredients and fuel for cooking were provided to each kitchen to prepare soup or meals of their choice. We purchased fresh vegetables, dry ingredients, stock cubes and oil from Food Lovers Market and York Cash & Carry. Gas bottles were refilled. A Ceres Farm gave us 5 tonnes of carrots and onions weekly and the municipality usually collected this produce. Bread was a supplement, sometimes donated. A member of the public organised making approximately 20 bottles of dry ingredients added to water, each bottle making 5 litres of soup.

A questionnaire to community kitchen personnel was employed to provide a sense of their work and outcomes. (**Appendix B**)

### **Mode of distribution**

1 vehicle owned by Red Cross from funds contributed for this purpose, fuel, service and insurance paid from funds. 2-3 people led by William Ntebe delivered food ingredients to Community Kitchens and soup to informal settlements.

### **Some impressions made by William Ntebe – main distributor**

- Numbers of people at the kitchens are fluctuating depending on the time of the month.
- In the first week of the month the numbers are now lower as social grants are received by people and the Covid R350 grant is also paid out from the end of the month.
- The numbers start to increase from the end of the second week of the month as people's groceries run out. This means that the kitchens play an important role as they fill the gap in many households food needs.
- During the school holiday the number of children increase as the school feeding scheme is closed during the holidays.
- The feeding kitchens have played a vital role in the community as many people have lost jobs and are on short time due to the shrinkage of the tourism industry. It will be important to monitor what changes

will take place with the country now in level 1 and if this will produce a turnaround in the job opportunities for community members.

### **Reflections**

Hunger will not go away as long as poverty exists, often in the absence of employment. Food provision cannot be separated from the other fundamental basic services and infrastructure. We have attempted to have dialogues with our municipality who are now committed to growing vegetables. As yet, a clear way forward has not been expressed by our municipality.

As we represented local citizens we endorse a Whole of Society Approach to food relief and food security. We have done our best to cover this time period which included the first week of December. We have been encouraged that community kitchens have made enormous efforts to provide regular meals for their communities.

### **APPENDICES**

#### **Appendices B** Map of Food Relief