



HUMANITARIAN PILLAR II

SA HARVEST FOOD PARCEL PROJECT

Final Impact Report

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DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT ALLOCATED (EXCL. VAT)	AMOUNT DISBURSED (EXCL. VAT)
SA Harvest	R9 999 982	R9 999 982

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HUMANITARIAN PILLAR MANDATE - PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY

The Solidarity Fund's Humanitarian Pillar worked to support the most vulnerable South African's affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. A key focus for the pillar was supporting and promoting food security, working with government and civil society partners to help vulnerable households' ability to access food. This support began with the distribution of food parcels, and then evolved to the distribution of vouchers to households most in need to purchase food and essential supplies.

To reach more rural beneficiaries and strengthen more sustainable food security, the pillar then supported the distribution of farming input vouchers to subsistence farmers, enabling them to buy the farming supplies they need to maintain and even grow their farms. This served to benefit not only individual households, but also their communities.

COVID-19 has had a sustained effect in the country, continuing to negatively impact the vulnerable in particular. The Fund sought to make a further impact on food insecurity as it started the process of mapping out its transitioning to a scaled down state. The Fund therefore decided to implement a rapid Humanitarian Pillar project focused on providing additional food relief support.

From October 2022 to February 2023 the Fund partnered with four civil society partners to implement various rapid food relief projects to support the vulnerable South Africans who face the daily struggle to afford sufficient food for themselves and their households.

This report discusses the activities and impact of the SA Harvest food parcel project.

SA HARVEST PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Solidarity Fund partnered with SA Harvest NPC to bring relief from hunger by delivering 9 696 food parcels in six provinces over four months from November 2022 to February 2023. **The project aimed to feed a total of 58 176 people for more than one-and-a-half months, delivering over 1.8 million meals.**

SA Harvest is a non-profit organisation that works to address hunger in South Africa. It does this through rescuing nutritious food that would have gone to landfill and redistributing it to where it is most needed. They also work to address the systemic causes of hunger and leverage technology to ensure the effectiveness and scalability of their activities.

The Fund had successfully partnered with SA Harvest on a previous project to deliver food parcels to those affected by the floods in KwaZulu-Natal in June 2022.

The food parcels were packed with a balanced nutritional mix of protein, carbohydrates, fats, fruit and vegetables. **The food parcels were designed to sustain a family of six for between one-and-a-half and two months.** SA Harvest partnered with OneFarm Share for fresh produce, Boxer Superstores for food hampers, and logistics company Meridian Logistix to support the logistical requirements of such a large-scale undertaking.

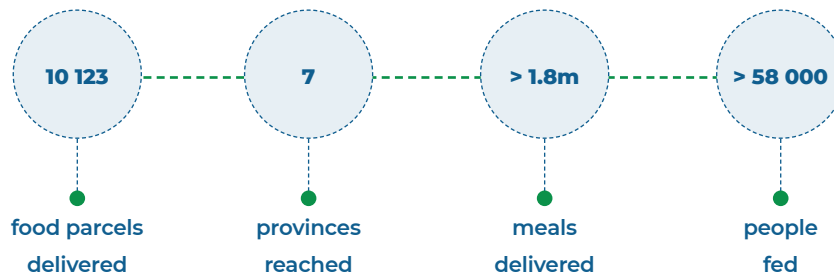
Due to a savings on logistical and food hamper expenses, the project was able to purchase an additional 427 food hampers, although with the limited time, and with the permission of the Fund, these did not include fresh produce, only food hampers.

Food parcel breakdown



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IMPACT AT A GLANCE



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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

SA Harvest, together with their beneficiary organisations, identified the most vulnerable communities in allocated areas where they have a footprint. A huge emphasis was placed on children, child headed households and the elderly. Together with the Solidarity Fund the following regions were identified for distribution:

- Gauteng
- Western Cape
- Eastern Cape
- KwaZulu Natal
- Mpumalanga
- Limpopo

SA Harvest sent a ground team to vet beneficiaries in the identified areas to ensure the most vulnerable communities were being reached. Once key communities were identified, a rollout plan for each region was developed with clear deliverables and timelines and shared with Boxer, OneFarm Share and SA Harvest Regional Managers monthly to advise them of the delivery dates and locations. Food hampers were provided by Boxer stores and fresh produce was supplied by OneFarm Share who support small scale farmers in their network.

For complete transparency and data integrity, SA Harvest had representation at all drop-offs during the project. Data collected through the SA Harvest App provided proof of delivery, signatures, affidavits and ID Copies. Weekly and monthly progress reports were sent to the Solidarity Fund.

Summary project budget (excl. admin fee of R500 000)

BUDGET HEADING	TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATED	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Family Meal Pack	R 7 272 000	R 7 427 720
Fresh Produce	R 1 600 500	R 1 527 080
Logistics, Fuel, Casual Labour, Packaging & Data Collection Team	R 627 482	R 537 536
TOTAL	R 9 499 982	R 9 492 336

Leveraging local partnerships

SA Harvest leveraged its partnerships with several local organisations to facilitate and support the project rollout.

Choice Trust (Limpopo)

SA Harvest's ground partner Agricolleges International assisted with the roll out of the national food distribution project in peri-urban and rural areas around Tzaneen. Tzaneen was allocated 260 parcels each month. Agricolleges requested the assistance of CHoiCe Trust as they already had the required human resources and vehicles for distribution. They also helped to identify beneficiaries that needed the support the most. Agricolleges have access to a storage facility for the produce, which is stored at Green Valley Fruit Packers.

CHoiCe Trust, established in 1997, currently works to address vulnerability in communities by building capacity and implementing project directly in the areas of health, poverty alleviation, rights realisation and environmental concerns.

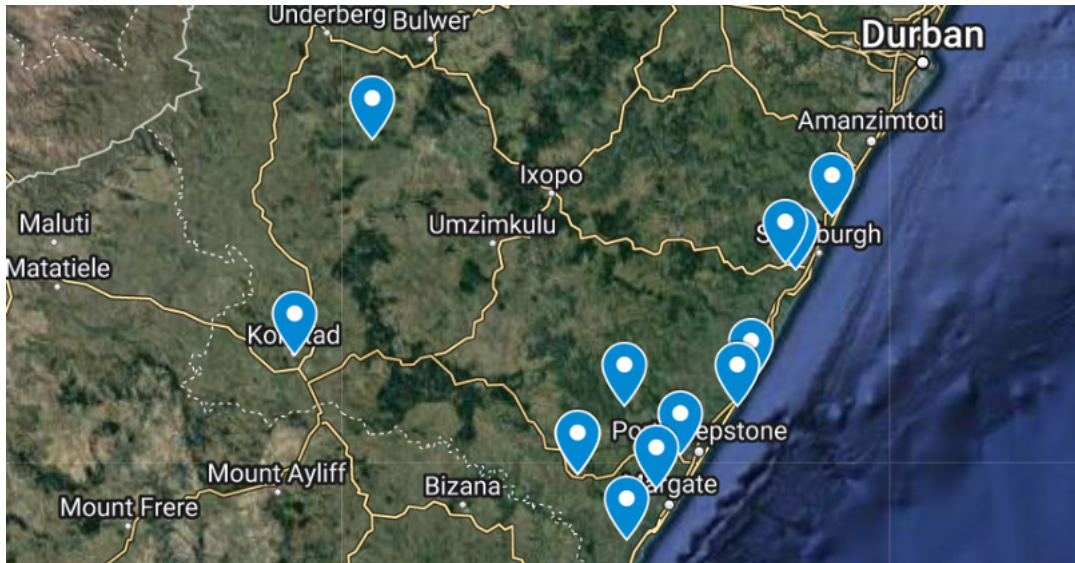
Vulnerable areas reached in Limpopo: Nkambako, Ga-Ntata, Greater Letaba, Moleketral, Nkwasing, Zangoma, Mamitwa, Matupa, Nkwankowa, Lenyenye, Burgersdorp, Parare, Myakayaka, Ntsako, Motupa, Sasekani, Giyani, Lebaka, Nkambako, Mandlakazi, Phalaborwa, Nwamitwa, Msiphani, Mavele, Maruleng, Ka Joppie & Fobeni.



Ignite Revolution (Durban South)

Ignite Revolution is a community outreach driven initiative. They provide food aid, counselling, sports programmes, youth empowerment programmes, and training and employment initiatives. SA Harvest has been working with Ignite Revolution since the civil unrest of 2021 as they bring in-depth knowledge of the most vulnerable communities along the south coast of KwaZulu-Natal.

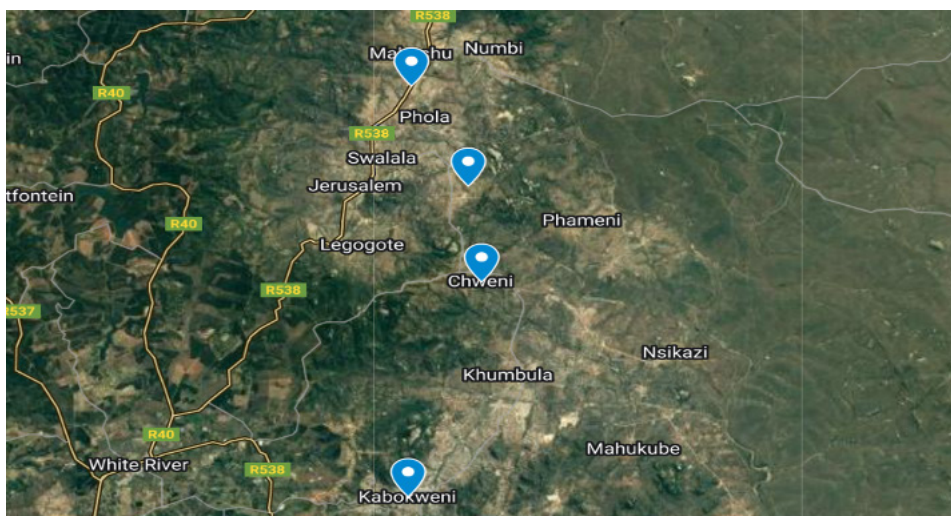
Vulnerable areas reached in Durban South: Umzinto, Umkomaas, Ugu District, Murchison, Merlewood, Masingenge, Margate, Marburg, Kokstad, Hibberdene, Gcilima, Gamalakhe, Ezingolweni and Boboyi.



Children in Distress (Mpumalanga)

Children in Distress is a community based NPO that have been taking care of vulnerable children and the elderly in the greater White River area since 1989.

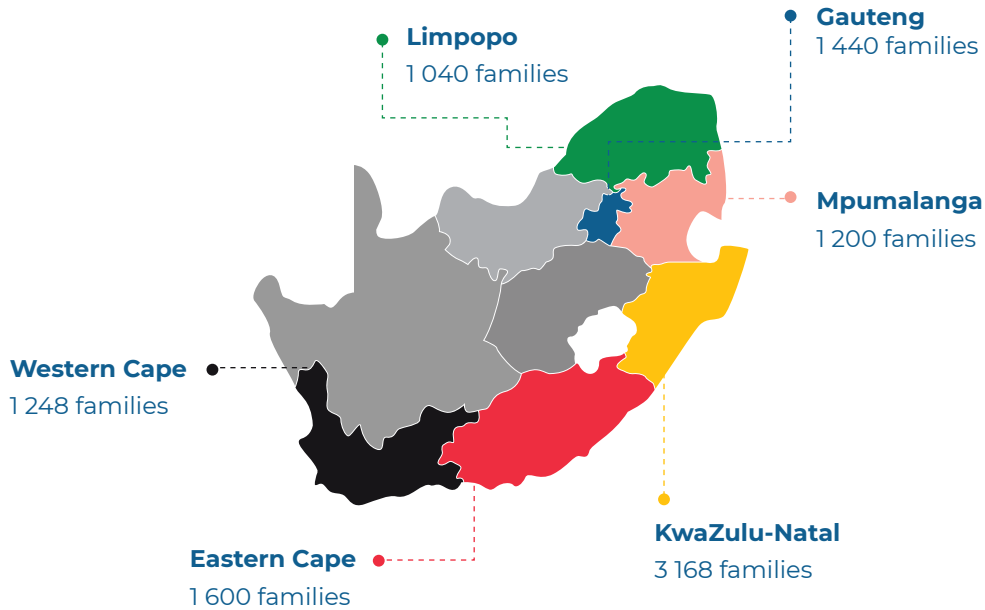
Vulnerable areas reached in Mpumalanga: Phola, Mgcobaneni, Rocky Drift, Barberton, Chweni, Kabokweni, Dayizenza & Cho Cho Cho.



PROJECT IMPACT

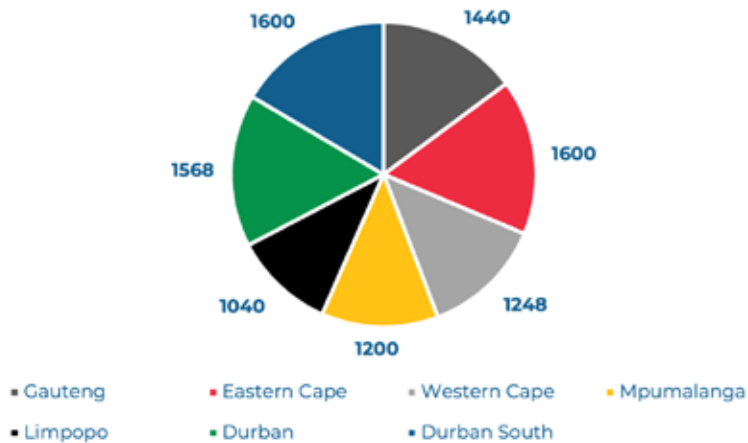
Through this project the Solidarity Fund was able to **distribute 10 123 food parcels benefiting over 58 000 beneficiaries**. This has helped those struggling to survive to be able to feed themselves and their families for almost two months. The map below shows the number of families reached per province.

Families reached per province



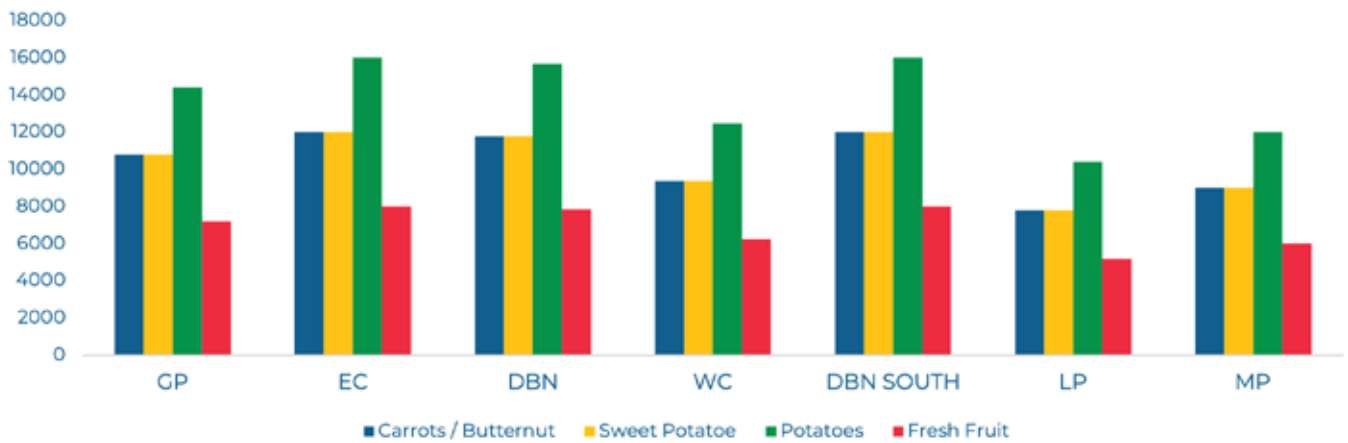
The graphs below show the distribution of food parcels per region, and the distribution of fresh produce and food hampers per region.

Parcel Allocation per region over a four-month (November 2022 to February 2023)

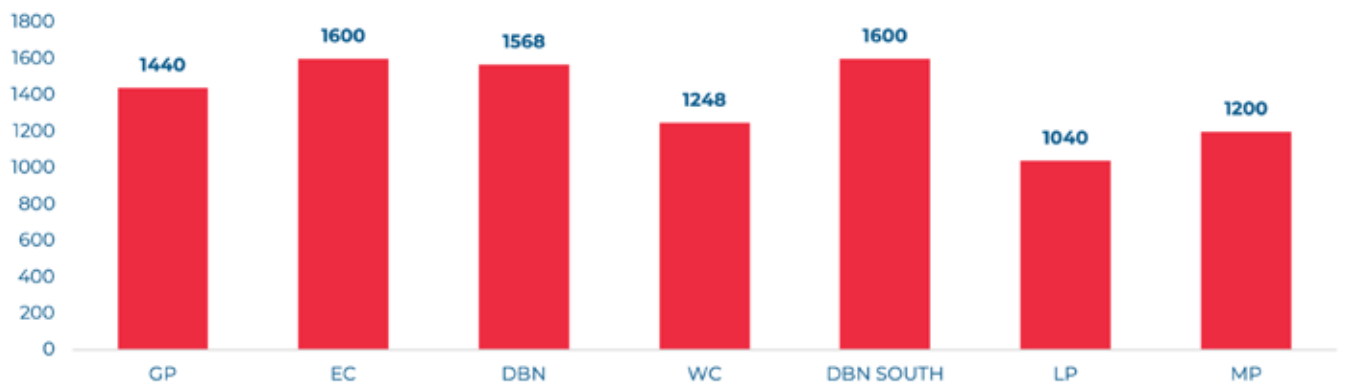


Fresh produce and food parcel breakdown per region

One Farm Share Fresh Produce



Boxer Food Hampers



Partner testimonials

“SA Harvest, with the assistance from the Solidarity Fund, are extremely proud of the huge impact we have made in these vulnerable communities by delivering nutritional food parcels around South Africa. So many of these communities don’t have access to nutritional food, and with these drop-offs, especially in the rural areas, we were able to deliver to the elderly and children who are in dire need of nutrition. With SA Harvest having solid footprint and good data on the ground, we were in the position to make sure that the relief was delivered to the most vulnerable communities. Seeing the tears in people’s eyes when they received the parcels warmed our hearts with happiness knowing that we are making a difference.”

– SA Harvest Team

Ignite Revolution

“It was wonderful to be able to help those in dire need, those parents who are unemployed and had nothing to feed their families, those that broke down and cried from sheer gratitude and relief. We saw the old gogo that could barely walk sticking the walking stick in the air and dancing and praising God for the huge parcel and telling us in all her 90 years she had never experienced something like that. That was just a few of the many experiences we had. The processes and the support from SA Harvest were a real blessing and it made what we do so much easier and streamlined. We value SA Harvest choosing us as their distribution partners, this is an honour that we don’t take for granted.”

– Jessica Naicker, Ignite Revolution

Children in Distress

“This was chance as golden as they come to make it possible to provide food for as many of our residents as we could, from ages 12 and up. The SA Harvest App was a highlight, for me, given that data is such a good tool for transparency and accountability”.

– Lauren Rankin Weitz and Marthina Duminy, Children in Distress

Agricolleges

“Agricolleges International is proud to have been part of this magnificent project. A total of 1,040 parcels were distributed to families in rural Limpopo. Despite certain challenges, especially regarding delivery of produce, we believe the project was a success. The incredible distribution team from Choice Trust was fantastic to work with and we highly recommend them for future project collaborations. We are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to an excellent continuous working relationship between SA Harvest and Agricolleges International.”

– Adri du Plooy, Agricolleges

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CHALLENGES AND MITIGATIONS

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION	MITIGATING ACTIONS
Mobile connectivity	Mobile connection in some areas was challenging however the APP was designed to work offline and synchronised the data when back online.
Weather	February’s distributions were delayed for a few days due to bad weather in most regions. Gauteng had 56 parcels that weren’t registered on the distribution day due to thunderstorms. However, SA Harvest and their partners were able to reach every person on the outstanding list and capture the required data for all parcels delivered.

Protest action	Protest action in the outlying rural areas of Mpumalanga hampered the distribution of some of the food parcels as it was not safe to enter the area. The team on the ground had to monitor the situation until it was safe to enter and deliver the food parcels.
Taxi Association	The taxi association in Lusikisiki would not allow Boxer to deliver the food parcels to the team on the ground to distribute the parcels. The SA Harvest DBN Operations Manager and Chief Mheza met with the head of the Taxi association and resolved the matter. Since the incident the Taxi Association has agreed to support any SA Harvest initiatives in the Lusikisiki area.
Fresh produce shortages	The usual farmer that supplies the fresh produce for the Lusikisiki area had a shortage of butternut. SA Harvest arranged with Boxer to supply the shortfall.
Accident	The vehicle delivering the vegetables to Tzaneen had mechanical issues and crashed into the barrier on the Magoebaskloof Pass. SA Harvest went to the accident scene to ensure the produce was reloaded to avoid looting by passers-by. Thankfully no other vehicles were involved, and the driver sustained only minor injuries.

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LESSON LEARNED

- Existing relationships are important to leverage insight and knowledge of various areas and communities. By supporting these partners, the project contributed to their credibility and footprint and in turn they have provided SA Harvest with invaluable data and complete transparency in this process.
- Providing fresh produce can be challenging due to bad weather and seasonal shortages, especially when using small scale farmers. However, support of these farmers is critical.

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CONCLUSION

This additional food parcel delivery project was designed as a crisis food relief response to help alleviate the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other tragedies that have left many South Africans struggling to feed themselves and their families. Through strong local partnerships, and the use of technology, the project was able to implement rapidly while maintaining robust governance and reporting. This enabled the Solidarity Fund to support the delivery of 10 202 food parcels, helping to feed over 58 000 vulnerable beneficiaries, mostly children, child-headed households and the elderly.

