FIGHTING POVERTY ACROSS OUR NATION
NLC COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

‘When NLC food arrived, we cried’

Struggling Delft families overcome with happiness

“We were extremely emotional and had tears of joy when we received the food parcels. We could not contain our emotions. These food parcels allowed us some time to rest and not stress about food. We want to thank the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) for helping us during this difficult time,” says Helen Sampson of Cape Town.

Sampson lives in a one-bedroom house with six other people and depends on a child-support grant to raise her four children which, for the most part, pays off the monthly rent. She says she has been on a waiting list for a house for about 15 years now.

Families such as these are grateful to have benefited from the NLC’s funding to the Home of Compassion, a non-profit organisation (NPO).

The NPO’s founder and chairman, Charles George, says many of the home’s residents were not prepared for the lockdown and are anxiously waiting to see how they will be able to return to their normal ways of life amid its extensions.

“The NLC’s funding, we managed to feed more than 600 children per day … and supply 520 family homes [consisting of five to seven members per family] with food parcels,” explains George.

“We have also reached out to trauma centres, supplying them with food parcels, as well as some members of our community. Some of the areas that have benefited are, among others, Delft, Mfuleni, Mitchells Plain, and Khayelitsha.

George says: “The NLC funding has helped us offer support and relief to the parents and families who have been severely affected by this pandemic, supplying them with a food parcel per family. We salute you.”

Delft resident Beulahinda Stroebel (59) is a domestic worker and shares her home with five other people. She’s the only one working in her household and survives on the weekly income she receives as a domestic worker. Stroebel also receives a child-grant support for her 10-year-old son.

She was happy when she was told she would receive a food parcel.

“I’m so grateful to NLC. It has brought so much relief and joy to my home. I can’t remember when last I was able to buy so many groceries,” she says, adding that her struggle has narrowed to getting electricity to cook.


Memeza shouts out to abuse victims during lockdown

KwaZulu-Natal-based non-profit organisation (NPO) Memeza Shout is on a mission to reduce violence in households during the lockdown.

The organisation, whose mission is to encourage victims of abuse to speak out in order to receive the support they need to change their situation, says it has seen a surge in domestic violence during the lockdown. Since it started on March 28, 8,700 gender-based violence (GBV) cases were reported, and drastic action needs to be taken.

Memeza recently secured funding from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) to help the organisation intensify its interventions against GBV during the lockdown.

Some of the interventions include an integrated approach in dealing with the police, relevant government departments and the private sector.

The provision of security notification systems, for when the victims are in distress, and the distribution of food parcels, are some of Memeza’s tangible interventions.

“Interventions and internal processes are faster than the government’s. This makes it easier to respond to crisis situations and protect vulnerable individuals,” says Nathi Ngwenya of Memeza Shout KZN.

Commenting on the funding, Ngwenya says it would have been an uphill battle for the organisation to fulfill some social intervention projects had the NLC not come to the party.

“As an organisation, we are not self-sufficient, so we rely on donor funding and the NLC has been instrumental in this aspect. Every day, there is a growing need to assist communities at all levels, such as assisting those affected by domestic violence and families who are languishing in poverty as a result of breadwinners losing their jobs,” he says.

Ngwenya says the lockdown has put a strain on domestic relations, leading to an increase in domestic violence.

Ngwenya urges other stakeholders to also assist NPOs that are working hard to alleviate the negative impact caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic and to emulate the NLC.

Nobawzi Dube, a beneficiary of Memeza’s programmes, is grateful for the NPO’s assistance.

She, however, suggests that Memeza should also assist students at several institutions of higher learning.

“Students in the higher education sector are affected severely by social isolation and there is unreported hunger faced by students in TVET colleges and universities. So, these programmes should be implemented to help students [as well],” explains Dube.
NLC’s act of goodwill goes beyond class

By Marion Hing

Baskets bring out the smiles

Food relief makes burden lighter

By Craig Klauer

Partnership fills empty stomachs in rural areas

By Tatenda Chikoso

Thembile Trust Organisation (EC)

Food relief reaches Eastern Cape villages

By Karen Johnson

Neatly packed parcels were brought to the doorsteps of beneficiaries in the Eastern Cape to alleviate hunger during lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The parcels contained food, personal care items, and household essentials. The NPO has an ongoing program to deliver food and other essentials to those in need, particularly in rural areas where access to markets is limited.
Joy reaches Siyabuswa

A group made up of a ward committee member, royal family member, social worker and a member of the Solomon Mahlangu Marathon has taken up the responsibility to distribute food donated by the National Lottery Commission (NLC) at Siyabuswa, Mpumalanga.

The organisation started in 2018 with the aim to help fight social ills and organise sport and education skills development initiatives in Siyabuswa and surrounding villages.

The old man had nothing, he had no food, and was all by himself

Among its objectives is the distribution of food and donations to disadvantaged members of the community.

Initially, they were moved when investigating the situa- tion of people placed on the list as recipients of food parcels. However, when they returned to the home of a pensioner, who is in his 60s, they were numbed by how the old man appreciated the donation.

The organisation’s spokesperson, Tjihudu Mabena, says the situation of the pensioner, who lives alone, was so painful that it gave him more reason to feed the poor.

“The old man had nothing, he had no food, he was all by himself. A lady we were working with cried and said these are the people who really deserve the food parcels,” recalls Mabena.

Mabena made a decision to receive his food parcels and never stopped saying thank you. And where we are, we can only divert the thanks and appreciation to the NLC. We were not going to be able to feed the poor without this support from the NLC."

The distribution started two weeks after President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the nationwide lockdown and appealed to companies and organisations to join the fight against the Coronavirus and poverty. “When the lockdown started, we knocked at the doors and asked for donations because we knew that most people in our area are not working. “There are no mines, there are no factories. So, we approached the National Lottery and other organisations for help.”

Mabena says although the donations did not reach every- one in the distressed community, the few who received the food parcels were grateful to the lottery commission for the donation, adding that more work still needs to be done in the impoverished community.

Professor Musa Xulu, left, and his team help distribute the food parcels to needy families in KwaZulu-Natal.

Celebration as communities receive COVID-19 relief

Peace institute appeals to private sector for help

Desperate communities in dire need of food relief burst into tears, song and odulation as the Reconcilia- tion and Peace Institute delivered much-needed food and household items for vulnerable villagers in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Reconciliation and Peace Institute is a non-pro- fit organisation advocating for peaceful coexistence between communities. It was one of the many social justice organisations that recently received funding from the National Lotteries Commis- sion (NLC) to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on house- holds.

According to professor Musa Xulu, founder of Reconciliation and Peace Institute, the non-profit sector must be con- tinuously funded because of the dire need on the ground. “The NLC is doing all it can with limited resources. Their generosity enabled us to reach poverty-stricken families and we brought hope to them. But help cannot be enough as the need grows each and every day,” says Xulu.

He says with researchers having already predicted mass starvation and joblessness as a result of COVID-19, civic socie- ty, government and the private sector should join hands and mobilise resources.

Xulu continues: “There is go- ing to be a need for social relief, especially food intervention, for quite some time, as more people stand to lose their jobs.

“More households [around the country] will lose the ability to support themselves. The NLC cannot carry this heavy toll and burden alone, government and the private sector must also come on board.”

He says after conducting a thorough needs analysis of the communities, his organisation decided to focus on the norther- n districts of KwaZulu-Natal, covering the King Cong- ways, Amajuba and Zululand districts.

“Our mission of promoting reconciliation and peace was fulfilled. In some communi- ties, there were already sim- mering tensions over hunger and uneven distribution of food by local councilors. Out of the few nutrition families benefited from food parcels and other items that were distributed. The assis- tance reached over 1,000 lives in the mentioned districts,” Xulu says.

He bemoans that the social relief sector is being hijacked by opportunists and political parties as an electioneering tool ahead of next year’s local elections, appealing that this space be safely guarded.

Induna Alpheus Zulu of the KwaNgenetheni Tribal Author- ity in Vryheid says tradi- tional leaders have welcomed the involvement of the NLC.

“More non-profit organi- sations should assist rural communities instead of leav- ing this to political parties who are exploiting the desperation of people to benefit politically,” says Zulu. “So, we appreciate what loto and these organisa- tions have done in mitigating the effects of the Coronavirus.”

Seeds of hope planted in neglected rural communities

Vulnerable villages glad for food relief

During this difficult time, many poor people in rural areas face not only poverty, but also neglect.

This is the view of Nkosi Menenkulu Joyi Foundation. Joyi decided to establish a foundation to face these challenges head on.

“The organisation believes that limitations to opportunities bring poverty. We establish pro- grammes that can emancipate the poor from poverty and other social ills,” he explains.

“We also offer mitigation strat- egies to fight the heavy impact of poverty, especially in rural areas and informal settlements.”

The NLC funded the National Lotteries Commission’s (NLC) contribution gave his foundation the hope to continue assisting vulnerable communities when the Coronavirus outbreak hit local shores.

“We feel energised and encouraged because rural people are always left out and, for a change, we were able to give our people hope, especially because most of the beneficiar- ies were not aware that there was some help coming,”

“We therefore hope that one day the NLC will help us to build a sustainable programme that will not only alleviate imme- diate hunger, but also create lasting business opportunities to empower our people.”

The NLC has funded Joyi’s foundation to assist the most vulnerable homes with food relief during the lockdown. The foundation has since assisted 2,500 households with food par- cels, benefitting about 540 people. Food parcels have been distributed in many villages including the Madala informal settlement and KwaZangashe in Engcobo.
NLC helps NGO put food on the table

Xilembeni Project feeds poor in Ekurhuleni

While the terrible news tied to COVID-19 comes as a positive story: non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have not sat back with folded arms as hunger ravages the most vulnerable in society.

One such organisation is Xilembeni Projects. The non-profit organisation (NPO), which was established in 2013, has to date helped put food on the table for more than 1,000 households through a generous donation from the National Lottery Commission (NLC) of R25,000.

Nomasonto Zitha from Xilembeni Projects says the funding from the NLC has helped the organisation supply food parcels and masks to 1,109 households in Ekurhuleni, east of Joburg.

Says Zitha: “The NLC funding had a positive impact to complement the drive of the government to provide food parcels to our communities. We couldn’t reach everyone due to limited funds, but we also helped three other NPOs — our strategy was to give these NPOs vegetable seeds so that individuals could start food gardening at their centres.

“These have been tough times as our donors have also come under severe pressure. The funding from the NLC has been crucial in allowing us, as an organisation, to fulfil our mandate.”

One of the beneficiaries of Xilembeni’s assistance is Mokhethi Mohoto, founder of Moleboheng Day Care and Pre-school, which also takes care of orphans and vulnerable children.

Mohoto says the lockdown has had an impact on her operations and that the assistance from Xilembeni came in handy. “At the moment, I have 10 orphans and only two are getting a foster grant. The rest are still in the process of getting one, and we have been surviving with the foster grant and the little we could receive from the creche,” explains Mohoto.

However, since the lockdown and with the creche closed, we are only depending on foster grants. I want to extend my gratitude to Xilembeni Projects for the supply of food parcels in April.

“It has really brought a lot of relief for me because I’m able to provide three meals per day without any hassle. I am also hoping that since we are still on lockdown, we will continue to receive such help.”


It found that 99% of operators reported that parents have stopped paying fees owing to the lockdown, while 83% of early childhood development centres have not been able to pay the full salaries of staff during the lockdown. The study found 90% of providers said their income was not enough to pay operating costs.

Another core function of Xilembeni is safeguarding unemployed youth. The Xilembeni Project Centre of Excellence was officially opened in August last year by the late Gauteng MEC for social development, Thulisenhle Nkabinde, who also created economic opportunities and equipped the youth with knowledge to widen the employment. Zitha says it is important for NGOs to continue to partner with the government and their treatment programme.

The organisation, which has branches in six provinces, helps with community-focused development for widows, abandoned children and rape victims.

Youth For Survival (GP)

The NPO, which has branches in six provinces, offers free skills training to community members in its advice centres. It has helped with community-focused development for widows, abandoned children and rape victims for more than a decade.

Mostly Mathe, the founder of Youth For Survival, says when the COVID-19 pandemic hit South Africa, the organisation could not shy away from what it has been doing for the past decade.

“We bravely went into the COVID-19 camps and shelters to feed the people in distress and give them the information about health and how to use the masks and sanitizers, as well as the importance of social distancing,” says Mathe.

“As skills trainers doing sewing is one of our accredited skills. We produced masks and hand sanitizers and packed them into COVID-19 camps and shelters. To date, we have provided more than 60,000 meals to distressed people. This, we could not have done without the help of the NLC,” Mathe said.

Funding for non-government organisations (NGOs) has been hard to come by as corporates and individuals who fund the sector also experience financial hardship due to the broader impact of COVID-19 on the South African economy.

Despite the negative impact of COVID-19 on the NGO sector, many organisations are still operating during the lockdown, providing essential services, food and medical supplies to vulnerable communities.

These interventions largely complement those of governments and other efforts by businesses, and form an integral part of a collective national response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Mathe says given the impact of the pandemic, NGOs are in urgent need of immediate financial and in-kind donations to expand their interventions.

“The donation that we and other like-minded organisations received from the NLC inspires hope.”

The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that 285 million people across the globe could be pushed into acute food insecurity by COVID-19, almost doubling last year’s total.

WFP’s latest warning underscores the increasing concern among experts in the field that for many people, the biggest impact will not be the disease, but the hunger hanging off its coat tails. Adding to the woes facing poor South Africa is the increase of food prices since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Youth For Survival (GP)

The organisa- tion, which has branches in six provinces, also helps with community-focused development for widows, abandoned children and rape victims.

The NLC’s donation has enabled the NPO to help thousands of distressed individuals impacted by COVID-19.

Lottery intervention makes the heavy burden much lighter for poor people

Youth For Survival, a non-profit organisation (NPO) in Pretoria West, has expressed its gratitude for the donation of more than R200 000 it received from the National Lottery Commission (NLC) that enabled it to help distressed individuals impacted by COVID-19.

The organisation, which has branches in six provinces, also helps with community-focused development for widows, abandoned children and rape victims.

The NPO, which has branches in six provinces, offers free skills training to community members in its advice centres. It has helped with community-focused development for widows, abandoned children and rape victims for more than a decade.

Mostly Mathe, the founder of Youth For Survival, says when the COVID-19 pandemic hit South Africa, the organisation could not shy away from what it has been doing for the past decade.

“We bravely went into the COVID-19 camps and shelters to feed the people in distress and give them the information about health and how to use the masks and sanitizers, as well as the importance of social distancing,” says Mathe.

“As skills trainers doing sewing is one of our accredited skills. We produced masks and hand sanitizers and packed them into COVID-19 camps and shelters. To date, we have provided more than 60,000 meals to distressed people. This, we could not have done without the help of the NLC,” Mathe said.

Funding for non-government organisations (NGOs) has been hard to come by as corporates and individuals who fund the sector also experience financial hardship due to the broader impact of COVID-19 on the South African economy.

Despite the negative impact of COVID-19 on the NGO sector, many organisations are still operating during the lockdown, providing essential services, food and medical supplies to vulnerable communities.

These interventions largely complement those of governments and other efforts by businesses, and form an integral part of a collective national response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Mathe says given the impact of the pandemic, NGOs are in urgent need of immediate financial and in-kind donations to expand their interventions.

“The donation that we and other like-minded organisations received from the NLC inspires hope.”

The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that 285 million people across the globe could be pushed into acute food insecurity by COVID-19, almost doubling last year’s total.

WFP’s latest warning underscores the increasing concern among experts in the field that for many people, the biggest impact will not be the disease, but the hunger hanging off its coat tails. Adding to the woes facing poor South Africa is the increase of food prices since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Youth For Survival (GP)

The organisa- tion, which has branches in six provinces, also helps with community-focused development for widows, abandoned children and rape victims.

The NLC’s donation has enabled the NPO to help thousands of distressed individuals impacted by COVID-19.

Lottery intervention makes the heavy burden much lighter for poor people

Youth For Survival, a non-profit organisation (NPO) in Pretoria West, has expressed its gratitude for the donation of more than R200 000 it received from the National Lottery Commission (NLC) that enabled it to help distressed individuals impacted by COVID-19.
Going beyond a call of duty

Now Amloubuz helps fight poverty

Since the onset of the pandemic, food insecurity has increased in South Africa, resulting in many communities having to deal with malnutrition, with school children the worst hit.

It is this prevalence of hunger that has kicked into action many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and spurred the fight to offset the impact of the pandemic in poor communities. One such organisation is Amloubuz, which has assumed the responsibility of distributing food parcels to communities in Gauteng.

The organisation’s role is largely due to the donation received from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC). Nandi Madadasana from Amloubuz says the donation has had a big impact in her NGO’s ability to lessen the burden of hunger on impoverished households in the province.

“The generous support of the NLC has assisted with the provision of food parcels to child-headed households and senior citizens who depend on Sassa grants in Gauteng,” says Madadasana.

“This was done in partnership with the activists [thus taking an apolitical route to food distribution]. Guided by the activists, we managed to assist 150 families, amounting to 945 individuals. She continues: “We see the devastation that COVID-19 has had on the ground. Being able to assist where we can, because of the assistance we got from the organisations such as the NLC, is most welcome.”

Since its registration in 2018, Amloubuz has been primarily dealing with the facilitation of strategic events, with a focus on the dialogue around the fourth industrial revolution and heritage, in an effort to promote the culture of reading and pushing sales of African literature.

To date, the organisation has hosted four events, including the Future of Work Summit and the Author’s Reflections Series, in partnership with the department of library services at the University of Pretoria. Tuneleng Mosia, one of the recipients of the food parcels distributed by Amloubuz, expressed gratitude for the assistance to feed her family.

“Guided by community activists, Amloubuz has managed to assist 150 families in Gauteng.

“The child grant money I receive for the two children, while it is welcome, falls short of meeting all our basic needs at a time when I can’t do the odd jobs because of the lockdown and the restrictions that come with it,” says Mosia.

“The food parcels I received from Amloubuz and the temporary increase in child support grant introduced by government have gone a long way in keeping my family afloat during this challenging period.”

Madadasana says post-COVID-19, the organisation will turn its focus to helping young people in the province tap into their potential and keep up with technological developments.

Imbokodo showers lotto commission with praise

More than 4 000 families fed during the lockdown

A nutrition advocacy group that is waging war against poverty and hunger in Limpopo has hailed the efforts by the National Lotteries Commission to fund its efforts to help desperate communities.

The Makotse Women’s Club, through funding assistance by the commission, has managed to distribute food hampers and vegetables to more than 4 000 families in the province.

The organisation was formed in 1997 and started a community nutrition programme six years ago. It says the demand for food aid has shot up since the onset of the Coronavirus global pandemic.

The club’s founder and director Mokgadi Legodi says many families in the province were left stranded after the club shut down and stopped its programmes because of the nationwide lockdown.

“We were receiving calls from members of communities who were on our programme and we did not know what to do.

But just when we were giving up, the National Lotteries Commission came through, and we managed to secure food for the poor,” says Legodi.

“If it was not for the National Lotteries Commission, some families were going to spend days without food. We are thankful and appreciate that they [the commission] saved the lives of our brothers and sisters.”

The lottery commission and the women’s club have joined hands to help dozens of households to access food.

“Initially, the organisation had targeted to support at least 13 000 households in Limpopo, but only managed to reach 5 000. A move Legodi says was a relief especially since children benefitting from the programme.

“Though we did not reach everyone, we are happy because some children who were missing meals from schools managed to have something to eat. Initially, we were only feeding the elders, but after the Coronavirus outbreak, we saw an increase of children benefitting from our programme.”

She continues: “Our experience taught us that the more people are hungry, the more they are vulnerable to different sicknesses, their immune systems are weak and more vulnerable.”

The Makotse Women’s Club operates with at least 130 people, including volunteers, who used to handle food, cooking and feed locals in all of Limpopo’s districts.

Legodi adds that she was motivated by President Cyril Ramaphosa’s call when he said it was time to lend a helping hand, a time for those who have to take care of those who are in need and ravaged by poverty.
Shielding the old from Corona

Eyethu and the NLC prioritise Mamelodi's senior citizens

Eyethu Veteran Club, a non-profit organisation (NPO) based in Mamelodi, Pretoria, recently received funding of more than R218 000 from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) towards a food relief programme to benefit the elderly, who are at risk of succumbing to COVID-19.

Evidence is building around the world that elderly people are the most vulnerable group in the COVID-19 pandemic.

They are more likely to develop severe symptoms and die from this viral disease, especially if they have other medical conditions like heart disease or high blood pressure.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused untold suffering for senior citizens across the world. According to data from the UN, while the median age of confirmed COVID-19 cases is 51, fatality rates for those over 80 years is five times the global average.

Over 85% of reported fatalities due to COVID-19 in Europe have been of people 60 years and older.

In the US, 80% of deaths were among adults 65 and over. In China, approximately 80% of deaths occurred among adults aged 80 years and older.

This reality poses a series of direct and indirect challenges for older persons.

Eyethu was founded in 2013. The organisation is known for getting older people into healthy habits. It gained popularity in 2018 when the club introduced cricket to senior citizens of Mamelodi West so they could keep themselves busy and stay fit.

Bepaki Mabuza from Eyethu says the organisation’s area of operation has been in Mamelodi. He says Eyethu has been able to provide 144 families with decent food parcels, thanks the funding by the NLC.

“Our target audience for this programme was elderly/senior citizens, aged between 55-95. This is because health experts have warned that this age group is most vulnerable to COVID-19,” says Mabuza.

With this programme, we wanted to ensure that they have the basics so that they won’t have to go out to look for food during the national lockdown.

He continues: “It is our collective responsibility at this time to take care of ourselves and each other to stop the spread of COVID-19, and the NLC’s grant came in very handy in that regard.”

Mabuza said supporting and protecting older people should be everyone’s business.

During times of isolation and quarantine, older people need safe access to nutritious food, basic supplies, money and medicine to support their physical health and social care.

Most of the time, senior citizens are the ones left to fend for their grandchildren. Their well-being is what should be everyone’s preoccupation at this moment.

“In fact, the wellbeing of our senior citizens should be a priority of everyone all year round. We really thank the NLC for supporting us to extend support to our elderly,” he said.

Last month, President Cyril Ramaphosa linked the age grant by R350 to R2 000 and October as one of the measures to alleviate the pressure faced by senior citizens since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Mapela feels the love and warmth of the NLC

Meals reach needy village people

The Morena O Na Le Rona care group has embarked on a food parcel distribution crusade to help the elderly, unemployed and child-headed families from going to bed hungry during the lockdown.

The non-profit organisation carried out the project in poverty-stricken villages of Mapela in the Waterberg district of Limpopo. According to Statistics SA, the area has a dependency ratio of 91.4% with 50.7% of female-headed households.

The Coronavirus outbreak hit China late last year, and when its impact was felt in the village last month, Nhlabathi Lokalakalala and his organisation felt the pains of hunger.

“The pains were triggered by the lockdown, which barred locals from going to work to earn a living. As a result, the pressure to supply food to the needy skyrocketed, as the demand for meal packets increased. Forcing Lokalakalala to go out and beg on behalf of communities.

Luckily, the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) answered his cry for help, making his organisation one of the beneficiaries from the commission’s social relief programme. With funding from the NLC in place, it became possible to buy food packets and get transport to distribute them to affected households.

The food packets included a bag of 12.5kg maize meal and few basics that enabled the recipients to enjoy a decent meal.

On behalf of beneficiaries, I can say the national lottery saved our lives. We appreciate the assistance. Our wish is for the lotto not to stop because the demand for food is on the rise."

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has commissioned the crèche for helping to distribute food parcels to elderly and child-headed families through the Morena O Na Le Rona care group.

Zodwa Mchunu

Lottery commission benefits rural communities

The Zodwa Mchunu Foundation managed to reach needy communities in areas that would have been impossible to get to during the COVID-19 lockdown, thanks to assistance from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

Zodwa Mchunu, who founded the foundation, says it wants to reach more young people in the rural districts because these far-flung underdeveloped areas are often neglected and characterised by a lack of resources.

However, she lauds that the foundation’s ambition of reaching as many youth as possible would remain a pipe dream without funding to drive key programmes.

“Non-profit organisations (NPOs) are a lifeline of our democracy. They play a crucial role as the second hand of government,” she explains.

She says organisations like the NLC always raise their hand when the need arises to help vulnerable communities.

Mchunu, the wife of former KwaZulu Natal premier William Mchunu, decided to establish the foundation after the hardships she endured following the death of her parents at the tender age of five.

She says: “There are many young people who come from broken families and because of these circumstances they lack aspiration.

“So, the foundation aims to rekindle and nurture youth to reach for the sky.”

Continues Mchunu: “Fundings from the NLC played a significant role and we were able to reach three districts – uMzinyathi, uMkhule and Amajuba. It would have been impossible to reach these communities without the financial assistance from NLC.”

She appealed to the private sector to also assist.

Nontshekelo Ntsiulomo, a volunteer at the Zodwa Mchunu Foundation, says without the NLC, the foundation would have ceased to exist.
NLC COVID-19 Relief Fund changes lives in Alexandra

The pandemic has left many families in SA starving

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) has played a major role to alleviate poverty and hunger among citizens heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The commission, through its funding scheme, managed to fund more than 10 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across Gauteng, to help it reach out to communities in need of food parcels and essential equipment to survive the impact of the Coronavirus.

The global pandemic has left many people starving and without access to basic necessities due to the restrictions imposed by governments around the world in an effort to curb the spread of the virus and save lives.

Like many other organisations that made available the resources to help the less fortunate to live to see another day during this pandemic, the NLC set up a COVID-19 relief fund to the tune of R17.7-million.

The funds were distributed to eight NGOs with a good track record of working with young people, the elderly, disabled and the homeless.

It was in that spirit that the

NGOs such as Zakheni Ma Afrika (Alexandra), People Matter Foundation (Tembisa and Roodepoort), Soshanguve Selfhelp (Soshanguve) and City of Tshwane Ambassadors (Pretoria) applications for funding were approved, as they were identified as relevant to help the NLC reach out to those in need of assistance across Gauteng.

These NGOs received funds to the tune of R250,000 each to buy food parcels, protective equipment and hygiene products to distribute in their respective areas of operation, help feed the hungry and all those affected by the Coronavirus.

Zakheni Ma Afrika (ZMA) - Alexandra

The organisation’s vice-president, Shaun Mpho Lanto, says they are grateful for the support and funding from the NLC as it helped minimise the impact of COVID-19.

“T}he pandemic has left many families in SA starving. We received the grant just when the pressure was piling up on families. People Matter Foundation (Tembisa)

A member of People Matter Foundation helps distribute food parcels.

That is the spirit that the NLC has been trying to live up to. The organisation, which has been helping the less fortunate for years, has always been there to help those in need.

The NLC’s donation to buy food parcels and hygiene products such as sanitisers and soap, which were distributed to informal settlements in Alexandra.

Zakheni Ma Afrika, which is also part of the Lindi Twala Foundation, was established to look after the interests of young people, disabled and the elderly.

With the funding, Lanto says they bought 500 food parcels that included meals–meal, tin fish, baked beans, cooking oil, washing powder and soap.

These benefitted 310 households and 506 individuals.

The food hamper was designed to feed a minimum of three people in a family.

Among those who benefited were the most marginalised and vulnerable people like the elderly, most of whom are bed-ridden and unable to work or support themselves and their families.

These were followed by women who lived in squatter and without jobs, and those living at women hostels.

The project benefitted at least 47 youth, 132 men without jobs, 55 women, six disabled, and at least 196 elders, all of whom came from informal settlements.

Lanto lauds the NLC for its efforts, saying they were spot on and their support came at the right time. “We received the grant mid April, just when the pressure was piling up on families.”

One of the members of the non-governmental organisation gets ready to hit the road on a mission to distribute food parcels to distressed communities around Gauteng.

People Matter Foundation (Tembisa)

T he Tembisa-based People Matter Foundation is one of several organisations that have benefited from NLC funding.

Led by Pastor Mathabula and founded on the principles of caring for others, irrespective of who they are or where they come from, the organisation runs a programme that assists people in need, especially those affected by disasters.

The foundation has already helped people who were affected by floods in Durban and those devastated by floods in Mozambique.

With the NLC relief funds, the People Matter Foundation bought 2,000 food parcels, which have been distributed to disadvantaged communities in and around Tembisa, east of Johannesburg.

Those who benefited from the wonderful gesture by the NLC, says Pastor Mathabula, include people whose source of income has been affected by the outbreak of the Coronavirus and unemployed people in Every Park, Winnie Mandela squatter camp, Madelakufa and some areas of Birch Acres.

The distributed food parcels were warmly welcomed by the beneficiaries in these areas, as they were scrambling for food everyday.

“The NLC food hamper was like the only meal they had,” says Mathabula.

More than 600 families benefited from the food parcels.
Homeless people across the Free State are not only provided with temporary shelter during the lockdown, but also receive three meals a day.

**Homeless people get their dignity back**

Hunger is now a thing of the past

Homeless people across the Free State are not only provided with temporary shelter during the lockdown but also receive three meals a day, thanks to the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) funding to the Red Cross.

The non-profit organisation (NPO) has since assisted 475 homeless people who have been accommodated in community halls across the province.

The NPO’s Free State provincial manager, Claudia Mangwagape, says the partnership started last month through the Department of Social Development. “We’re still continuing to feed homeless people in shelters across the province,” says Mangwagape.

“We have also distributed food parcels to 75 people who don’t have any source of income during the COVID-19 lockdown.

He continues: “Some are child-headed families, people coming from disadvantaged families that are doing odd jobs, and older persons who were all challenged during the lockdown period. Those areas that benefited from the NLC’s funding include Sasolburg, Parys, Kroonstad, Bloemfontein, Botshabelo, Thaba-Nchu, Rouxville, Zastron, and Dewetsdorp.

“We always respond during any form of disaster in the country and assist those affected. Our mission is to render services to prevent and alleviate human suffering and foster human dignity by addressing the basic needs of the people.

“The challenges that we have experienced include everyone thinking that they qualify to receive the food parcels, even those that could afford, and as much as we try our level best, we couldn’t reach everyone in need.”

Byrone Abrams is one of the homeless people who have been accommodated at a shelter. “I’m grateful to have something to eat every day, a shelter over my head, and blankets. “I now feel important in the community. I want to say to the lottery they should keep on doing the great job and assist as many people as possible,” says Abrams.

The Red Cross says: “We will continue to serve our communities with such a partnership, and we want to give a big thank you to them.”

**Footprints Foundation (NC)**

**The Red Cross has pledged to continue helping poor people.**

**Lottery leaves behind solid footprints in poor areas**

NPO used funds to distribute sanitary pads to pupils

A food security remains a burning issue across the country due to lockdown restrictions, about 200 impoverished households in Kuruman, Northern Cape, have received donations of food parcels.

Struggling families in villages around the town have benefited from the National Lotteries Commission’s (NLC) funding to Footprints Foundation, a non-profit organisation (NPO).

The foundation was among those selected by the lottery to distribute food parcels to poor communities during the lockdown, which was put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. The organisation aims to tackle the problems facing disadvantaged youth, women and children in South Africa and neighbouring countries. Its programmes are also implemented in rural areas, informal settlements, and in other identified areas where the youth, women and children are marginalised.

Chairman Mofokeng Moloi says they’re always doing humanitarian work like the distribution of sanitary pads.

The foundation has so far distributed more than 1.3 million sanitary pads to about 40 000 pupils in six provinces.

“We were given a grant on condition that it’s used only for buying and distributing food parcels. We then purchased various items using local suppliers in the Northern Cape,” explains Moloi.

“We packaged 200 food parcels for 200 beneficiaries. We did not choose the beneficiaries, they were chosen by the provincial department of social development. They have a list of indigent families... and the food would be to distributed to those specific families.”

The food parcels were delivered to the department for distribution, he says, noting that the biggest challenge was getting permits to travel across the provinces to get to Kuruman.

“Every bit helps, and as much as we may just be scratching the surface in terms of helping the poor and needy, we cannot discount the effort which has been made by the NLC.

Continues the foundation’s chairman: “I wish we could all do more, however, this is certainly a job well done and will go far in making a difference in many people’s lives.”

**The challenge of getting permits to travel across provinces never stopped the foundation to get to Kuruman.**

---

**About the NLC**

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) was established in terms of the Lotteries Amendment Act No 32 of 2013 to regulate the national lottery and other lotteries, including society lotteries, to raise funds and promotional competitions. The commission evolved out of the National Lotteries Board. Other responsibilities of the NLC include advising the trade and industry minister on policy matters relating to the national lottery and other lotteries. The members of the commission are also trustees of the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund, into which the national lottery proceeds intended for allocation to good causes are deposited. The NLC does not adjudicate applications for funding or make allocations to organisations. This job is Cape is done by committees known as distributing agencies, which are appointed by the minister of trade and industry and other relevant ministers after public nominations. The lotteries commission provides administrative support to the distributing agencies.