

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 Rachel 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 benefitted 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.

“With 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 benefitted are, among others, Delft, Mfuleni, Mitchells

Plain, and Eersterivier.

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

Delft resident Beaulinda 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.



Distressed communities have stopped going to bed with empty stomachs.



Tears of joy for farm workers

P2



Prof's timely intervention

P3



Embracing our senior citizens

P6



Helping the poor see another day

P7

Memeza shouts out to abuse victims during lockdown

KwaZulu-Nata-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 seen a surge in domestic violence during the lockdown. Since it started on March 26, 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.

“Our interventions and internal processes are faster than the government's. This makes it easier to respond to crisis [situations] and protect vulnerable individuals,” says



Since the start of lockdown, 8 700 GBV cases have been reported countrywide.

Nathi Ngwenya of Memeza Shout KZN.

Commenting on the funding, Ngwenya says it would have been an uphill battle for the organisation to

fulfil 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.

Nolwazi 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 ills 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.

Itekeng Disabled Centre (FS)

NLC's act of goodwill goes beyond class



Farmworkers in the Free State, some now without jobs, are grateful for the food parcels.

'My family was over the moon for the food parcels'

Ntsoaki Maphisa, a 27-year-old woman from Ficksburg in the Free State, stays with five people, including a child and a person living with a disability. No one works in Maphisa's household and they survive on a child-care grant.

"My family was over the moon when we received food parcels, others were even crying because they were happy. We were unable to feed everyone because we didn't have anything," she explains.

Maphisa's household is part of a group of about 230 farm dwellers who received help from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

Another farm dweller who was able to feed her family is Mampho Moorosi. She lives



Poor households who survive on child-care grants benefitted from the NLC's donation.

with eight people including one living with a disability.

The 79-year-old works at a farm. Her employer had to release all the workers because of the COVID-19 global pandemic. "I'm currently not receiving any

income because I'm not working. We're happy that we can now put food on the table and sleep with our stomachs full."

Moorosi and Maphisa's new reality was due to the funding provided by the NLC to Itekeng Disabled Centre, a non-profit organisation (NPO).

The various areas that the food parcels were distributed to are Obreykoskop, Franshoek, Syprex Farm, Malmal Spruit Farm, Daeskop Farm, Uitkyk Farm, Kristovillo Farm, Laer Plas Farm, Naledi Farm, Harmonia Farm, Valema Farm, Deemstal Farm, Squatorcamp Ficksburg, and Branquela Farm.

The centre started operating in 1998, providing a place of hope to the disabled, orphaned and vulnerable children in the area. The NPO's director, Mary Raletsoane, says: "I want to thank the NLC for making a huge difference and changing people's lives."

Thabang Community Development Centre (NC)

Baskets bring out the smiles

Food relief makes burden lighter

About 180 destitute households in the Northern Cape were able to feed their families during the lockdown period.

These families, who consist of child-headed homes, seasonal workers, low-income groups, unemployed people and disabled people, benefitted from the National Lotteries Commission's (NLC) COVID-19 emergency relief.

Thabang Community Development Centre, a non-profit organisation (NPO) based in Hartswater in the Northern Cape, received funding to assist with food parcels for 857 people residing in the surrounding areas such as Jankempdor and Pampierstad.

The beneficiaries comprised 209 young people, 197 women, 426 children and 25 disabled people, among others.

The NPO chose the beneficiaries through community profiling conducted by the Department of Social Development. The process aimed to identify the struggling households on the organisation's database.

"All processes were done by the local social workers, com-

munity caregivers and volunteers. We received funding in mid-April for the COVID-19 emergency relief to procure the goods, and everyone received the food parcels by the end of the month," explains Sarah Arends, the chairperson of the NPO.

Linda Tsubane, who is unemployed and shares her home with 10 family members, was one of the recipients. She says: "We had no food, thank you very much for the food, it helped my family a lot and I hope that you will always

“You truly make a difference in our lives and we are grateful

assist us.”

Arends adds: "Through your [Lotto] donation, we have been able to accomplish the COVID-19 food relief and continue working towards alleviating poverty and hunger in the community. You truly make a difference in our lives, we are grateful."



Community profiling was used to identify struggling households who then received food parcels in the Northern Cape.

Thembele Trust Organisation (EC)

Partnership fills empty stomachs in rural areas

Food relief reaches Eastern Cape villages

The need to deliver food parcels to the most impoverished communities in the Eastern Cape, who are affected by the lockdown regulations due to the novel Coronavirus, saw the birth of a fruitful partnership after the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) funded Thembele Trust Organisation, a non-profit organisation (NPO).

The NPO believes in empowering needy households and

eradicating poverty in various villages in the Eastern Cape.

The organisation's chief operations officer, Lungile Njanjala,

says they were bound to be involved in the COVID-19 social relief programme initiative.

Established in 2013, the organisation addresses issues such as reducing poverty by developing and improving livelihoods of communities. The partnership with the NLC was forged last month when 250 households comprising the elderly and

child-headed families from Dutowa and surrounding villages, benefitted by receiving food parcels. The parcels included vegetables, fruits, toiletries and food.

"We partnered with three local organisations – Imbhokodo Ya BaThembu, Mbashe CSGA and Nyhwara Home-Based Care – who are responsible for identifying the beneficiaries through door-to-door mobilisation. Our targets were the most marginalised groups in our society," says Njanjala.

It's not the first time that the

NPO has assisted impoverished communities through food parcels distribution.

Nokuthamba Sivela was one of the recipients. The 40-year-old is unemployed and shares her home with five other people.

Njanjala explains: "We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the National Lotteries Commission for the commitment they have pledged to alleviate poverty in the most rural parts of the Eastern Cape during these difficult times that we are faced with."

“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the NLC for their effort to alleviate poverty

Solomon Mahlangu Marathon (MP)

Joy reaches Siyabuswa

Poor pensioner now laughs loudest

Members of Solomon Mahlangu Marathon, a non-profit organisation in Mpumalanga, recall how a reclusive pensioner battled to hold back the tears when a food parcel was delivered to his house last month.



The few who received the NLC's donation in Siyabuswa have expressed appreciation.

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 Lotteries 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 situation 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 spokesper-

son, Tjhudu 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.

“The old man stood up 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 the help of the commission.”

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 that although the donations did not reach everyone 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 done in the impoverished community.

Reconciliation and Peace Institute (KZN)



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 ululation as the Reconciliation and Peace Institute delivered much-needed food and household items for vulnerable villagers in KwaZulu-Natal.

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

According to professor Musa Xulu, founder of Reconciliation and Peace Institute, the non-profit sector must be continuously 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 society, government and the private sector should join hands and mobilise resources.

Xulu continues: “There is going 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 northern districts of KwaZulu-Natal, covering the King Cetshwayo, Amajuba and Zululand districts.

“Our mission of promoting reconciliation and peace was fulfilled. In some communities, there were already simmering tensions over hunger and uneven distribution of food by local councillors. Over 140 poverty-stricken families benefitted from food parcels and other items that were distributed. The assistance 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 KwaNgenetsheni Tribal Authority in Vryheid says traditional leaders have welcomed the involvement of the NLC.

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

Nkosi Minkulu Joyi Foundation (EC)

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 Minkulu Joyi, founder of the Nkosi Minkulu Joyi Foundation. Joyi is a young royal leader and senior traditional leader of the Bhaziya Traditional Council in the community of Bhaziya in the AbaThembu Kingdom in Mthatha, Eastern Cape.

After noticing the social ills caused by poverty in his community, Joyi decided to establish a foundation to face these challenges head on.

“The organisation believes that limitations to opportunities bring poverty. We establish programmes that can emancipate the poor from poverty and other



Nkosi Minkulu Joyi

social ills,” he explains.

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

Joyi notes that 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 beneficiaries 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 immediate hunger, but also create lasting business opportunities to activate our local economy.”

The NLC has funded Joyi's foundation to assist the most vulnerable homes with food relief during the lockdown. The foundation has since assisted 308 households with food parcels, benefitting about 1 540 people. Food parcels have been distributed in many villages including the Madala informal settlement and KwaZangashe in Engcobo.

Xilembeni Projects (GP)

NLC helps NGO put food on the table

Xilembeni feeds poor in Ekurhuleni

Amid the terrible news tied to COVID-19 comes 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 Lotteries Commission (NLC) of more than R200 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 fulfill our mandate.”

One of the beneficiaries of Xilembeni’s assistance is Motshidisi 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 oper-



The Xilembeni Projects has to date helped feed more than 1 000 households through a donation from the NLC.

“We thank the NLC for seeing it fit to extend support in these tough times

ations and that the assistance from Xilembeni came in handy.

“At the moment, I have 10 orphans and only two are get-

ting 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.”

A recent study by Ilifa Labantwana, Nelson Mandela Foundation, National ECD Alliance, Smartstart and the South African Congress for Early Childhood Development, paints a grim picture for the sector.

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 96% of them reported their income was not enough to pay operating costs.

Another core function of Xilembeni is skilling unemployed youth. The Xilembeni Project Centre of Excellence was officially opened in August last year by the late Gauteng MEC for social development, Thuliswa Nkabinde-Khawe. The centre creates economic opportunities and equips the youth recovering from substance abuse with skills to survive beyond their treatment programme.

Zitha says it is important for NGOs to continue to get funding.

“The work we do can make a real difference in the lives of many people. We thank organisations such as the NLC for seeing it fit to extend support to the sector during this tough time.”

Youth For Survival (GP)

Youth For Survival meals keep the hunger at bay



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 Lotteries Commission (NLC) that enabled it to help distressed individuals impacted by COVID-19.

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

Moshy Mathe, the founder of Youth For Survival, says when the COVID-19 pandemic reached South African shores, 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 sanitisers, as well as the importance of social distancing,” says Mathe.

“As skills trainers sewing is one of our accredited skills. We produced masks and handed them out in the COVID-19 camps and shelters. To date, we have provided more than 10 000 meals [to distressed people]. This, we could not have done without the help of the NLC.”

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 im-



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

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 government 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 265-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 underlines 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 Africans is the increase of food prices since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Last month, the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity Group collected food prices in supermarkets that target low-income groups in the area. It found that in the first three weeks into the lockdown (April 2-April 23), the cost of a household food basket rose by R252.75 (7.8%), from R3 221 to R3 473.75.

Mpho Lephoto, one of the beneficiaries of Youth For Survival meals, said: “The food we receive makes my burden much lighter.”

Amlobuzz (GP)

Going beyond a call of duty

Now Amlobuzz helps fight poverty

Since the onset of the COVID-19 global 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) into joining the fight to offset the impact of the pandemic in poor communities. One such organisation is Amlobuzz, 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 Amlobuzz 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 get from the organisations such as the NLC, is most welcome."

Since its registration in 2018, Amlobuzz has been primarily dealing with the facilitation of



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

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

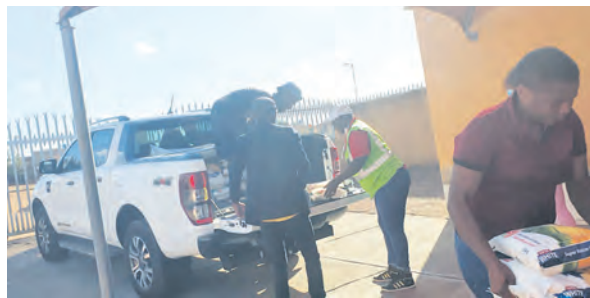
Author's Reflections Series, in partnership with the department of library services at the University of Pretoria.

Itumeleng Mosia, one of the recipients of the food parcels distributed by Amlobuzz, expressed gratitude for the assistance to feed her family.

"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 Amlobuzz 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.



The scope of the NGO has expanded since the onset of COVID-19.

The support of the NLC has assisted with the provision of food parcels

Makotse Women's Club (LP)

Imbokodo showers lotto commission with praise

More than 4 000 families fed during the lockdown

Nutrition advocacy group that is waging a 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 1995 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.



With the help of the National Lotteries Commission, the Makotse Women's Club has managed to distribute thousands of food parcels and vegetables to poor families in the province.

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.

"The profile we gathered indicates that we were able to only help about 10% of village populations in areas where we have food nutrition programmes."

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 benefitted 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.

Eyethu (GP)

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 95% 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 60 years or older.

This reality poses a series of



The Mamelodi-based NPO is putting senior citizens first in line to benefit from lotto's R218 000 food-relief donation.

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 Ma-

mamelodi West so they could keep themselves busy and stay fit.

Bopaki 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 55-65. This is because health ex-

perts 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 wellbeing 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 extending support to our elders."

Last month, President Cyril Ramaphosa hiked the old-age grant by R250 to R2 110 until October as one of the measures to alleviate the pressure faced by senior citizens since the outbreak of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Experts have warned that old people are the most vulnerable to COVID-19

Zodwa Mchunu Foundation (KZN)

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 youth in the rural districts because these far-flung underdeveloped areas are often neglected and characterised by a lack of resources.

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



Zodwa Mchunu

"Non-profit organisations (NPOs) are a lifeblood 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 Willie 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 aspirations.

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

Continues Mchunu: "Funding from the NLC played a significant role and we were able to reach three districts - uMzinyathi, uThukela 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.

Nontsikelelo Nxumalo, a volunteer at the Zodwa Mchunu Foundation, says without the NLC, the foundation would have ceased to exist.

Morena o Na Le Rona care group (LP)

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 91.1% with 56.7% of female-headed households.

The Coronavirus outbreak hit China late last year, and when its impact was felt in the village last month, Hlahla Lekalaka 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 pres-

sure to supply food to the needy skyrocketed, as the demand for meal parcels increased, forcing Lekalaka 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 parcels and get transport to distribute them to affected households.

The food parcels 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 lotto commission has answered the cry for help to feed poverty-stricken villages of Mapela in Limpopo through the Morena O Na Le Rona care group.

Xilembeni Projects (GP)

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 R1.7-million.

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

It was in that spirit that the



Among those who benefitted from the NLC funding were women who live in the hostels in Alexandra.

“We received the grant just when the pressure was piling up on families

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 intervention in Gauteng.

These NGOs received funds to the tune of R220 000 each to buy food parcels, protective equipment and hygienic 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.

It used the donation to buy food parcels and hygienic products such as sanitisers and soap, which were distributed to informal settlements in Alexandra.

Zakheni Ma Afrika, which is also part of the Linda 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 mealie-meal, tin fish, baked beans, cooking oil, washing powder and soap. These benefitted 310 households and 506 individuals.

The food hampers were designed to feed a minimum of three people in a family.

Among those who benefitted 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 squalor and without jobs, and those living at women hostels.

The project benefitted at least 47 youth, 102 men without jobs, 55 women, six disabled, and at least 196 elders, all of whom come 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.”

Soshanguve Selfhelp

The Soshanguve-based non-governmental organisation was also one of the recipients of the National Lotteries Commission's (NLC) COVID-19 Relief Fund to help with the distribution of food parcels and hygienic products to the less fortunate who have taken a hit due to the Coronavirus global pandemic.

Normally a centre responsible for looking after people with disability in and around Soshanguve, Mabopane and Winterveldt – the Soshanguve Selfhelp says 200 families have benefitted from food parcels and sanitizers, as well as protective equipment, thanks to the R220 000 received from the NLC.

The food hampers comprised mealie-meal, sugar, milk, baked beans, tin fish, macaroni, washing powder, tea bags, and soap.

The organisation's centre manager, Kholofelo Dau, says the NLC funding came in handy as the municipality's food parcels were depleted, while there were still many families who needed assistance. Those who benefitted from NLC's gesture, Dau says, included homeless people and nyaope addicts, who received masks, sanitisers, and food parcels.

“The people were happy and grateful to the NLC for the food parcels and the sanitisers because it gave them a chance to live to see another day,” says Dau.



A member of People Matter Foundation helps distribute food parcels.

People Matter Foundation (Tembisa)

The Tembisa-based People Matter Foundation is one of several organisations

that have benefitted from NLC funding.

Led by Pastor Mathebula 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 displaced 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 benefitted from the wonderful gesture by the NLC, says Pastor Mathebula, include people whose source of income has been affected by the outbreak of the Coronavirus and unemployed people in Ivory 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 hampers were like the only meal they had,” says Mathebula.

More than 600 families benefitted from the food parcels.



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.

Face of Tshwane Ambassadors (Pretoria, Centurion and all municipalities of Gauteng)

This is another organisation that benefited from the NLC's funding of R220 000 to help distribute food parcels and hygienic products to the most vulnerable.

With interest in sport, arts, agriculture and education, Face of Tshwane Ambassadors has won numerous awards including a Gauteng Premier Excellence and Service award for its programmes on drugs and substance abuse, women and children abuse.

Its chairperson, Tonakgolo Kgosi Seabe Shekhinah, says the funds from the NLC have

enabled the organisation to provide food parcels to 225 individuals who represent about 2 625 beneficiaries in households and 15 shelters across Gauteng. The beneficiaries included abused women, substance and drug addicts, and homeless people.

Others who also benefitted were the elderly, youth and child-headed families in the province.

The organisation expressed gratitude to the NLC for the support and funding, adding that it would also like to echo the sentiments of President Cyril Ramaphosa that indeed it has been a hard time for the nation but, for the sake of the nation, we need to persevere through the lockdown and practise safe hygiene for the preservation of life.

Red Cross (FS)



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's (NLC) funding to the Red Cross.

The non-profit organisation (NPO) has since assisted 476 homeless people who have been accommodated in community halls across the province.

The NPO's Free State provincial manager, Claudia Mangwegape, says the partnership started last month through the Department of Social Development. "We're still continuing to feed homeless people in shelters across the prov-

ince," says Mangwegape.

"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 benefitted

The Red Cross has pledged to continue helping poor people.



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)

Lottery leaves behind solid footprints in poor areas

NPO used funds to distribute sanitary pads to pupils

As 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 benefitted 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 Mcfarlane Moleli 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 140 000 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 Moleli.

"We packaged 200 food parcels for 200 beneficiaries. We did not choose the benefi-



The Footprints Foundation purchased various items using suppliers in Northern Cape.

“We cannot discount the effort made by Lotteries Commission

ciaries, they were chosen by the provincial department of social development. They have a list of indigent families ... and the food was to be 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, includ-

ing 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 reserved for 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.