

## Stresses / Shocks

## Qualities of a resilient city



Food insecurity



Economic crisis



Informal settlements



Unemployment



Poverty



Robust city



Flexible city



Resourceful city

## RESILIENT CAPE TOWN PILLARS

**PILLAR 1:**  
People  
**Compassionate,**  
holistically healthy city

**PILLAR 2:**  
Place & Space  
**Connected,** climate  
adaptive city

**PILLAR 3:**  
Economy  
**Capable,** job  
creating city

**PILLAR 4:**  
Disaster readiness  
**Collectively,**  
shock-ready city

**PILLAR 5:**  
Governance  
**Collaborative,**  
forward-looking city

# Covid-19 local food security response: Mobilising partnerships to build community resilience during an acute shock



## Purpose

The full socio-economic repercussions of Covid-19, and the subsequent lockdown regulations implemented in South Africa, are yet to be fully understood as the country continues to navigate through the cycles of this acute shock, and its economic and social repercussions.

The City of Cape Town's Resilience strategy states: "With regards to shocks, there are arguably several other categories of shock events that could occur in the future that are not accounted for in the strategy." Pandemics were not identified as potential shocks, yet Covid-19 and its impact is definitely an example of such an unforeseen shock.

This case study explores some of the first-

response partnerships formed between civil society and the private sector in Cape Town during the early stages of the Covid-19 lockdown. These partnerships have helped build local economic resilience, whilst securing food security in a vulnerable community.

It draws primarily on insights from the Philippi Economic Development Initiative (PEDI) partnerships with meal kit delivery service UCook and Ladles of Love, through the newly formed Food Fund.

### The case study discusses:

- The value of community-led crises response initiatives.
- The role of urban farming in building local food security resilience.

- The City of Cape Town's partnership with civil society organisations like PEDI to create enabling environments for resilient shock responses.
- Examples of the interplay between various agencies, including the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP), can mobilise relief during a shock.

### It is written for:

- Cities exploring partnerships with urban farming initiatives to support resilience.
- Private organisations exploring partnership initiatives to mobilise resources towards food security.
- Civil society organisations exploring ways to pivot to community-led crises response models.

This case study is part of a series highlighting how Cape Town is building resilience in order to: **SURVIVE | ADAPT | THRIVE**

Cape Town's Resilience Strategy is a commitment to ensure that the City thrives in the future regardless of what shocks and stresses it faces. Resilient Cape Town offers a roadmap for a 21st Century metropolis to enable the city to become more resilient to growing physical, social and economic challenges. It envisions Cape Town as a **compassionate, connected, and capable** city where Capetonians **collaborate** across households, communities and institutions, to build **collective** responses to the current and future social, environmental and economic challenges.



Food insecurity



Economic crisis



Informal settlements



Unemployment



Poverty



Robust city



Flexible city



Resourceful city

## KEY INSIGHTS

### The PEDI Covid-19 partnerships build resilience by

- ✓ Securing market access and income for micro-farmers at risk of losing their income during the Covid-19 lockdown.
- ✓ Tapping into and strengthening relational networks with community leadership structures.
- ✓ Aiding in ensuring food security during an acute shock for vulnerable community members.
- ✓ Avoiding food loss and waste through the SA Food Forward partnership.

### Key lessons include the importance of

- ✓ Community-led distribution models for relief efforts.
- ✓ Adaptive civil society funding models.
- ✓ Rapid response mobilisation through strong existing partnerships.

PEDI has implemented stringent Covid-19 hygiene measures to protect their staff. Temperatures are taken twice daily, with records kept of regular health checks. Staff are supplied with personal protective equipment, including shields and masks, and frequent hand sanitising is required.

## Background

### Covid-19

The current Covid-19 crisis is revealing how the impact of an acute shock can be amplified by existing chronic societal stresses such as poverty, food insecurity and a lack of social cohesion.

### Food security partnerships

The Philippi Economic Development Initiative (PEDI) was established in 1998 as a Section 21 Company by the City of Cape Town in partnership with the Western Cape Provincial Government, businesses and the community. From the outset, its primary aim was to promote economic growth and development in the Philippi Industrial area. PEDI trains emerging farmers and creates market access for them to sell their produce and support their families. Most recently, PEDI has redirected their efforts to ensure that food grown by farmers is going directly back to the communities from which it came.

PEDI is putting together fresh vegetable packs and distributing them with a special focus on the Philippi area in an effort to help fight hunger resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak.

This work is supported by funding that has been mobilised specifically to respond to the Covid-19 crises, through UCook's Food Fund.

As an authorised essential food service provider, UCook was able to continue its delivery service during the national level 5 lockdown period. They created the Food Fund as a direct response to ensure that no one goes hungry in South Africa over this challenging period.

The UCook Food Fund supports PEDI, Ladles of Love and UCook's nutritious food parcel programme, which ensures that people in need receive packs of fresh vegetables and essential foods.

Ladles of Love is a volunteer-run organisation in Cape Town that supports the less fortunate with nutritious meals. Ladles of Love has grown to run an extensive volunteer programme as well as a school feeding scheme, and is dedicated to helping eradicate hunger. During Covid-19 lockdown, Ladles of Love, based at The Hope Exchange in Cape Town, is supplying food to various soup kitchens and shelters, and working with over 50 beneficiaries and NPOs to get food out to where it is most needed.

Donations from the UCOOK Food Fund help prepare essential food packs. These are distributed alongside the PEDI vegetable parcels to provide families with enough nutritious food for a healthy diet.

## The Food Fund partnership has demonstrated qualitative and quantitative impact, including:

- **Creating food security for vulnerable people during an acute shock:** **3 667 parcels** distributed to families in and around Philippi between March and June 2020
- **Community Ownership:** Community-led distribution model for parcels involving local government and community leadership networks
- **Food Waste Diversion from Landfill:** The fund assists FoodForward SA to distribute surplus food from the supply chain to people in need
- **7.3 tonnes** of produce bought from small scale farmers
- **Income Retention – R190 000** paid directly to farmers, supporting the economic livelihood of 29 farms.
- **Fundraising:** Raised over 1 Million Rand and fed **1 million mouths**

## Stresses / Shocks



Food insecurity



Economic crisis



Informal settlements



Unemployment



Poverty

## Qualities of a resilient city



Robust city



Flexible city



Resourceful city

## What is resilience?

In human terms, resilience refers to “the ability of an individual to recover from setbacks, adapt well to change and to keep going even when facing difficult circumstances”.

Chronic stresses weaken the fabric of a city on a day-to-day or cyclical basis, for example, high unemployment, inadequate public transport systems, endemic violence, food insecurity and substance abuse. Acute shocks are sudden sharp events that threaten a city, for example, drought, fires, floods, diseases outbreaks and infrastructure failure.

Building resilience to shocks and stresses matters because disruptions or disasters of any sort, whether regional or distinctly local in scope, short or long in time scale, can be costly to those they impact. They can result in the loss of livelihoods, they can severely impact citizens’ mental health, they can result in injuries and death, and they can drive apart communities.

A resilient Cape Town is a compassionate, connected, and capable city, where Capetonians collaborate across households, communities and institutions, to build collective responses to the current and future social, environmental and economic challenges.

## PILLAR 2

Cape Town is a connected, climate adaptive city

### VISION

Capetonians work together to create place-based responses to shocks and stresses.

#### GOAL 2.1

Grow partnerships that strengthen transportation systems and improve mobility

#### GOAL 2.2

Engage communities and the private sector to improve public spaces

#### GOAL 2.3

Build climate resilience

#### GOAL 2.4

Innovate for improved conditions, service delivery, and well-being in informal settlements

## PILLAR 3

Cape Town is a capable, job creating city

### VISION

Capetonians turn the challenges of resource constraints and rapid technological change into new opportunities.

#### GOAL 3.1

Foster green economic growth

#### GOAL 3.2

Enable enterprise development in the informal economy

#### GOAL 3.3

Connect the workforce with a changing economy

#### GOAL 3.4

Collaborate with businesses to achieve a resilient local economy

## PILLAR 4

Cape Town is a collectively, shock-ready city

### VISION

Capetonians prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters while building back stronger and more resilient.

#### GOAL 4.1

Future-proof urban systems

#### GOAL 4.2

Strengthen individual, household and community resilience

#### GOAL 4.3

Encourage responsible investment in household and business resilience

#### GOAL 4.4

Explore funding mechanisms for shock events

## WHAT IS THE GREEN ECONOMY?

The working definition for the green economy as it relates to Cape Town is: “expanded economic opportunities created through the provision of goods and services and the use of production processes that are more resource efficient, enhance environmental resilience, optimise the use of natural assets and promote social inclusivity.”





Food insecurity



Economic crisis



Informal settlements



Unemployment



Poverty



Robust city



Flexible city



Resourceful city

## Other examples of partnerships mobilising food relief responses during the Covid-19 crisis

The Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP) has a history of convening diverse stakeholders, on a number of issues, and of enabling the co-development of shared solutions to multi-faceted problems. The EDP response to the Covid-19 food crisis in the Western Cape was two-fold: it focused on its strength in facilitating strategic collaboration, and also utilised its experience and capabilities for coordination and delivery on the ground.

This resulted in two headline programmes:

- Convening the Western Cape Government-NGO food relief coordination forum
- Co-designing and managing the Community Kitchens programme.

### Key partners

The Western Cape Government-NGO Food Relief Coordination Forum includes representation both from the Provincial Government, via its humanitarian response team, and the City of Cape Town, as well as a broad range of civil society organisations involved in providing food relief.

More than 140 participants in the forum aimed to share information where it would otherwise have stayed siloed, to surface common issues in providing food relief, and to co-develop solutions to these issues where possible. The Community Kitchens programme linked Cape Town Together (CTT), the EDP, and the DG Murray Trust (DGMT) to establish a fund, called Community Kitchens, to provide direct assistance to informal community based food schemes during the crisis. This is a supplement to the aid being provided by government and NGOs, and is seen as bridging a gap between formal and informal, top-down and bottom-up systems.

CTT has, through its network of Community Action Networks (CANS) identified 100 existing kitchens operating throughout Cape Town. The direct assistance to these kitchens is paid weekly, via a digital voucher, to the food scheme organisers. The EDP role, having set up this programme, is to administer the provision of the vouchers on an ongoing basis, communicate with the kitchen organisers, and liaise with the DGMT which is ensuring transparent governance of the programme.

PEDI continues to be a stakeholder in EDP's WC NGO forum.



## Stresses / Shocks



Food insecurity



Economic crisis



Informal settlements



Unemployment



Poverty

## Qualities of a resilient city



Robust city



Flexible city



Resourceful city

### Reach

The WCG-NGO Food Relief Coordination Forum extends beyond the Cape Town metro, and addresses issues in surrounding municipalities as well. A number of the civil society participants have a national footprint, which will facilitate the extension of the learnings of this forum beyond the Western Cape. Some of the efforts of the

forum, particularly in setting up an online platform to map food distribution, while currently only reflecting Western Cape data, are applicable regionally and nationally and the data is available to any organisation. The 100 kitchens currently part of the Community Kitchens programme extend throughout the Cape Town area.







## Solution:

**Initiatives like the PEDI partnerships with UCook's Food Fund help to build community and economic resilience during the Covid-19 crises in Cape Town, in at least three ways:**

**1. Securing market access and income for micro-farmers at risk of losing their income during the Covid-19 lockdown.**

Local farmers, who supply many restaurants in the area with fresh produce, have found their livelihoods at risk following the subsequent closure of these restaurants under lockdown. PEDI has been able to buy the surplus supply from these micro-farmers and redistribute the produce into the fresh packs being given out. This has secured the livelihood of 29 farms over the period of March to May 2020.

**2. Tapping into and strengthening relational networks with community leadership structures.**

By implementing a community-led distribution model for food parcels, PEDI taps in to the relational capital of the formal and informal community leadership networks through relationships with local ward councillors and street committees. These networks not only help to identify the most vulnerable families in need of support, but they also assist in securing the acceptance of the teams working in the area.

**3. Aiding in ensuring food security during an acute shock for vulnerable community members.**

Between March and May 2020, more than 2 800 food parcels have been distributed to Philippi, Khayelitsha, Nynaga, Manenberg, Grassy Park, Lavender Hill, and Vrygrond, to help fight hunger resulting from the economic repercussions of the Covid-19 outbreak.



For more information and support contact GreenCape's agriculture sector desk: [info@greencape.co.za](mailto:info@greencape.co.za) or call (021) 811 0250. Additional resources are available from GreenCape's website: [www.greencape.co.za](http://www.greencape.co.za)