



WESTERN CAPE
Economic
Development
Partnership

Western Cape Food Forum
Thursday, 2 - 3.30pm, 26 May 2022

Full session recording, meeting chat, and attendance list [available here](#)

1. **Welcome and overview of food and nutrition system activities**– Andrew Boraine, EDP

The meeting started by acknowledging that this is the start of the third year of Food Forum meetings – thank you to everyone who has been a part of this journey so far.

We also want to acknowledge that the Cape Town Together Food Growers Initiative also recently celebrated 2 years - congratulations! This has been a vital platform for sharing knowledge and learning across the Western Cape. There are lots of initiatives that are still being shared by the group, including an upcoming Pruning Workshop on the 16 July, information about city-supplied composting bins as part of an initiative to reduce landfill, and ways to comment on the [climate change bill](#).

We've emerged from two years of Covid, but aren't out of the woods yet. There is a lot of writing and talk about a potential global food crisis which is important to note. A few recent articles include:

- [19 May edition of The Economist](#): *The coming food catastrophe*. The Economist's concern about mass hunger is being echoed by [the United Nations](#), [the World Bank](#), [the IMF](#) and [civil society organisations such as Oxfam](#).
- [Mark Heywood, Daily Maverick, Act now to mitigate the impending food crisis — or face starvation and riots](#): “The response to the pandemic has taught us that leaders of developed countries are not capable of working together to protect lives. As the world scrambles for food, in coming months it is more likely that we will see a repeat of what happened with Covid vaccines. South Africa should steal a lead and show the world how to respond fairly and equitably to the looming hunger catastrophe”.
- George Monbiot, The Guardian (and author of recent book *Regenesi*), [The banks collapsed in 2008 – and our food system is about to do the same](#): “Many people assume that the food crisis was caused by a combination of the pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine. While these are important factors, they aggravate an underlying problem. For years, it looked as if hunger was heading for extinction.

The [number of undernourished](#) people [fell](#) from 811 million in 2005 to 607 million in 2014. But in 2015, the trend began to turn. Hunger has been [rising](#) ever since: to 650 million in 2019, and back to 811 million in 2020. This year is likely to be much worse”.

The food crisis and hunger crisis are still with us, there is a need to shift the food system fundamentally. It's important to keep this in mind as we continue our work within the food system in the Western Cape.

2. Stories from the ground: updates from grassroots efforts and organisations close to the ground across the Western Cape

[Worcester food learning journeys](#) – SAFL, EDP, and CoE-FS (presented by Marcela Guerrero Casas)

On May 12-13, the EDP, Southern African Food Lab, and the Center of Excellence in Food Security worked with the Breede Valley Municipality and Western Cape Government to bring participants together for a learning journey based on research conducted by the CoE that identified nutritional deficits within the community. The two sites identified for the learning journeys were Durban Road in Parkersdam and Zwelethemba. The learning journey was an immersion into physical spaces to experience the food system and generate ideas for improving it.

On day 1, groups went and explored various sites on Durban Road to engage with fruit and veggie sellers, a formal retail outlet, wholesalers, fish mongers and butchers. Groups also had to source their own lunches based on a budget of R20 a person (roughly calculated based on the daily amount of a child support grant). A key finding of the group was that nutritious, affordable food was available in the area, though challenges related to safety, security, and public facilities did exist. On day 2, participants went in groups to Zwelethemba ECDs to learn about child development and the nurturing care framework. After visiting 5 ECDs, groups came together to share reflections and ideas. Key takeaways included the need for ECDs to access vacant land for gardens and play space, as well as a need for better and more support for food gardens. Next, the group will design and conduct a learning journey in Langa in August – stay tuned.

Inyathelo - Nazeema Mohamed – presentation can be found [here](#).

Inyathelo was established as a non-profit Trust in October 2002 with a mission to help build a strong, stable civil society in South Africa by contributing to the development of sustainable organisations and institutions

As lockdown restrictions were lifted, support to CAN kitchens dwindled and kitchens were struggling with how to remain financially sustainable. At the end of last year, Inyathelo had conversations with CAN kitchens and a collaboration formed between Inyathelo, the Bertha Centre, and around 30 CAN Kitchens to look at how to build

financial resilience, whether and how to register as formal entities, growing the network of orgs working towards food security, facilitating relationship-building and partnering, participating in co-research, centering communities through advocacy programmes, contributing to social justice and equity, and showcasing community philanthropy. The programme has been going for several months but has only scratched the surface on development support. The kitchens are more than kitchens, they are community hubs led by women who are community leaders who are concerned about many issues in their communities. While the kitchens are run by volunteers and have huge resource constraints, they demonstrate an immense philanthropy and collaboration.

The collaboration takes place on Saturdays, and is looking to frame a conversation on what food security means. **The workshop on food security is coming up on June 4 and needs help with designing a programme for the day and providing information for what kitchens need to know for food security (nutrition, engagement with local government, policy issues etc.). This includes designing conversations for adult learners, potentially with support for multiple languages. To help support this workshop, contact Nazeema Mohamed nazeema@inyathelo.org.za**

Question & comments:

Andrew: sustaining bottom-up grassroots mobilization is a huge challenge, This is very exciting work and needs to be run for many more months and organisations. There are many interconnected challenges that community kitchens, ECDs, clinics, etc. face – and support systems that are supposed to support these entities are stratified. How do we get a more integrated response from the public sector?

Deon Britz: I am the Chairman of the Western Cape NPO Association (was established during Covid, belongs to national interim NPO structure), the majority of Soup Kitchens are members of the association. I would like to request that the following area in the Province be considered because there is a great deal of poverty in the area, Oudthoorn, Uniondale, Grootkaroo, Calitzdorp, Ladismith and in this the Metro we forget about Atlantis area. In Atlantis we have 54 soup kitchens, have secured 3 big pieces of land (one from CoCT and two from churches). We are working with other institutions for funding to develop community food gardens. We do not have funding yet, also need the experience to start the project.

- Suggestion to contact Atlantis Rotary Club who have 14 food successful food gardens on Atlantis - connect with Geraldine geraldinehnicol@gmail.com
- Another suggestion to connect with people in Mamre that might have an interest in the community gardens and possible collaboration

Food Agency Cape Town (FACT) - Nomonde Buthelezi

A lot has happened with FACT over the past year! Currently, FACT has a reading circle "book club" that helps co-researchers understand what terms mean and look at other

literature. This is held in partnership with community dialogues hosted in multiple languages with multimedia outputs. Currently, women from partner kitchens and FACT are also on a writing retreat together to collect stories of the women and work which will come out towards the end of the year. FACT also recently had an opportunity to showcase a video of how research meets poetry with RISE Africa. There is also a possible upcoming partnership with Inyathelo, and FACT are planning a bigger policy event later this year with TMG Think Tank.

In early May, FACT had a visioning workshop to look at the next 5 years. In April, FACT worked with SCAT to have a governance workshop; FACT is not yet a registered entity, and first wanted to understand the roles and responsibilities and options for registration. In late Feb/early March, FACT hosted the Urban Food Futures partners week (including ACC, HBF, Sun Development, Mycelium, and TMG Think Tank, and organisations in Kenya and Burkina Faso) to look at pathways of transformation and the research programme. Part of this effort included going to Kenya in February to facilitate a workshop with displaced people who had just begun cooking and had followed the work of FACT. They were inspired to start something and start cooking in Kenya. There was also a community kitchen exchange visit for cross-learning and knowledge exchange.

You can find FACT at a shared space at Bertha House, as well as on social media as **Food Agency Cape Town**.

Questions & Comments –

Andrew: food is more than calories, it is about belonging, history, culture etc. This brings a different angle to food discussions and we look forward to seeing what comes out of the story writing. The reading circles also sound impactful for linking short-term actions with long-term thinking about changing the system.

Luke Metelerkamp: Its really striking from all the three speakers how much work is being done by community kitchens all over the province, and wondering if anyone on this forum is aware of any form of focused audit to understand the actual extent of kitchens across the province?

- Suzanne Solomons: TMG and FACT did a really amazing food flow map with Gugulethu [here](#).
- Danny Diliberto: Ladles has 140 soup kitchens we are supporting with bulk food supplies.
- Ghairunisa: Mustadafin has initiated a campaign with bikers for change who are travelling through Africa 92000 km from Cape to Tanzania to raise funds for feed a belly. We work in Western Cape and Eastern Cape follow up on www.mustadafin.org.za

3. Upcoming events

Food Imbizo - Realising the Right to Food in South Africa: Has the pandemic moved us forward? Tuesday 21 June 2022, 10.00-12.30. Register [here](#).

CTT Food Grower's Initiative proudly presents: Pruning Workshop

Date: 16 July 2022, Time: 9am to 12 pm

Location: 14 Brahman Street Montana | Donation: R100

Facilitator: Prince Nyadimbo (Permaculturist)

To book your seat WhatsApp Prince on 083 356 5789 or Latiefa Ishmail on 076 186 2000

4. Funding opportunities

[GAIN - Request For Expressions Of Interest "Developing A Business Case For Investing In Workforce Nutrition Programmes"](#). Expression of Interest submission deadline: June 10, 2022. Global Alliance for Improved nutrition (GAIN).

[The United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance \(BHA\)](#) is seeking applications for funding to support the rapid transportation, delivery, and distribution of shelf-stable, prepackaged commodities to be distributed under the International Food Relief Partnership (IFRP) program. Please refer to the Funding Opportunity Description for a complete description. Deadline: June 21, 2022.

5. Recent articles

[Vegetable garden project brings hope to Knysna community](#), GroundUp, 9 May 2022

[Starving in the city: Why SA's richest province is hungry](#), Bhekisisa, 10 May 2022

[Not everyone is satisfied just yet, but SA's first agriculture master plan has been signed](#), News24, 13 May 2022

[Staple foods are fast disappearing from the table of millions of South Africans](#), IOL, 20 May 2022

[Acute malnutrition robbing children of their full potential](#), IOL, 23 May, 2022

6. Next food forum, Thursday 30 June 2022