



**MASAZANE**  
SOUP KITCHEN & CHILD  
PROTECTION PROJECT

**March 2021  
Covid Lockdown  
Regulations continue....**

Dear friends and supporters of Masazane Soup Kitchen,

South African schools reopened for 2021 in mid-February, and our faithful gogos were back cooking in the MSK container as soon as government Covid regulations allowed.

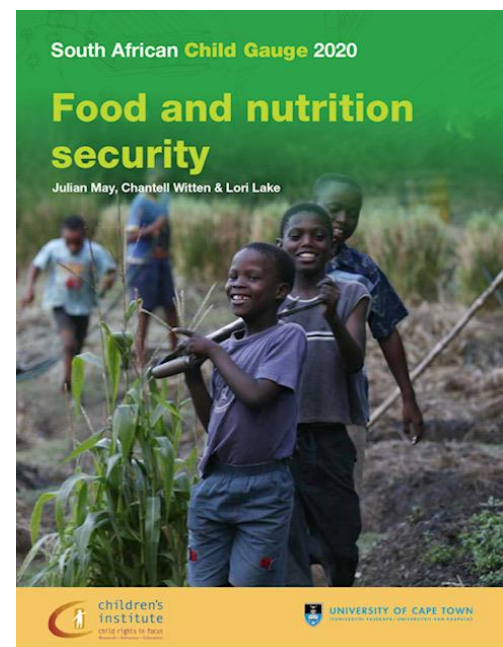
We are so thankful that all six of our volunteers have come through the pandemic thus far unscathed, despite their age (they are all between 60-82) and potential co-morbidities. We had a brief discussion this week about vaccinations and they were all determined to get theirs as soon as possible.

After the long school break since December, many children are now glad to be receiving a solid meal at school again. In their first week, the gogos recorded serving up to 380 children each day. For too many, food shortages have been their experience of the Covid pandemic.

Indeed, one of our newspapers, Daily Maverick, stated in an article on 15<sup>th</sup> February that “Children bore the brunt of Covid-19. Most do not get the nourishment they need”. The annual South African Child Gauge, launched in February, confirmed this stark reality.

In his foreword, the Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, describes malnutrition in children as ‘slow violence’. *“That may seem like an exaggeration, but it is exactly right. It would take a powerful malevolent force to inflict havoc on a child in the way that malnutrition does... Malnutrition systematically destroys a child: it damages their chances of survival, their cognitive development, their immune system, their bone and muscle structure and their livelihood prospects. But the wrecking ball that is early childhood malnutrition can be prevented. We know what to do.”*

Our SA constitution provides the right to basic nutrition for every child and the right of access to sufficient food for every person in the country – rights which our government has a constitutional obligation to respect, protect, promote and fulfil. But the 2020 Child Gauge paints a worrying picture of the state’s failure to discharge its obligations to our children.



This is why we are passionate about the work being done at MSK. In our small way – thanks to the support we get from you – we are trying stop the wrecking ball of malnutrition affecting the children of Mbekweni.

**Thank you for helping us in our efforts!**

Please FIND and FOLLOW us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Masazane-Soup-Kitchen-and-Child-Protection-Project-1408662505907226/>

**Our special thanks go to our supporters and donors:**

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We are thankful for the support from Rondebosch United Church, Cape Town, through their Samaritan Partners Trust, contributions from church services, and ongoing prayer support.

**Masazane Soup Kitchen**

c/o Rondebosch United Church

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[www.rondeboschunited.org](http://www.rondeboschunited.org)