



**June 2021
Child Protection Week
Covid Lockdown continues....**

Dear friends and supporters of Masazane Soup Kitchen,

As many as 10 million adults and nearly **three million children** experienced hunger in the past week in South Africa, and 2.5 million adults and 600,000 children were experiencing perpetual hunger, hunger every day or almost every day (Daily Maverick, 28th May 2021)

Mark Heywood penned an excellent article on the effects of Covid-19 (loss of employment, reduced household incomes and growing food insecurity) on children (see box, right).

And in this **Child Protection Week** (starting 29th May), his voice is alone.

The University of Cape Town's Children's Institute in their press release at the start of Child Protection Week, expressed their extreme concern at the announced reduction of the value of the national Child Support Grant (CSG). *"The CSG was already below the food poverty line - it couldn't provide a child with adequate nutrition... In relative terms, this is the first time since its introduction that the value of the CSG will fall relative to food price inflation."* The bottom line is that the grant now buys even less food this year than it did last year. (UCT's Children's Institute Press Release: <https://icts.everlytic.net/public/messages/view-online/hBj8PnB2rfmiLLQN/tAySWePoFsCzs64l/17ce8f8700e794af>)

"As I write, millions of South Africa's children are having their futures determined by the hunger they experience today and tomorrow. Their brains and digestive systems are being shaped by nutritional deprivation that, for many, will eventually manifest in poor school outcomes, non-communicable diseases and a life on the economic margins". (Mark Heywood, Daily Maverick) (<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-05-29-the-hunger-games-the-structural-violence-of-the-food-system-against-the-poor>)

Some more stark facts (PMB Household Affordability Index):

- 1 in 7 households reported that a child went to bed hungry.
- 17% of adults said that their households experienced hunger.
- Food prices increased by 9.8% for the period Feb 2020 to Feb 2021, nearly double pre-pandemic levels.
- 40% said that their households ran out of money for food.

We need **your help to help the children of Mbekweni**

The need for the incredible work done by the gogos of Masazane Soup Kitchen and Child Protection Project just doesn't go away.

Each school day, an average of 400 children in Mbekweni Township outside Paarl continue to receive adequate nutrition, thanks to **YOUR** support.

Donations to the project this year have dropped. This is understandable, given the global pandemic. Our faithful treasurer, Brian Davison keeps us on track and ensures that every cent we receive is spent appropriately (we would be happy to send you our financial reports). But he has also gently reminded us that we can only plan for the future of our project if we get adequate funding.

We are so grateful for what you have done for this project thus far, and look forward to a continued partnership with you as we try to ensure that some of the most vulnerable children receive the protection and nutrition that they need at this time of great need in South Africa.



Please FIND and FOLLOW us on Facebook

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

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Donations to:

Masazane Soup Kitchen and Child Protection Project

First National Bank

Rondebosch

Account number: 62783960894

Swift code: FIRNZAJJ

NPO: 207-414

Please request a tax receipt from us should this be helpful.

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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