



**MASAZANE**  
SOUP KITCHEN & CHILD  
PROTECTION PROJECT

**April 2020**  
**Covid-19 update**

Dear friends and supporters of Masazane Soup Kitchen

There can be no-one who has not been impacted in some way by the covid-19 pandemic, and here in South Africa, we are feeling it acutely. Our government took swift action to impose a strict 'lockdown' in the last week of March that appears to have kept to a minimum the death rate from the disease, but the storm is likely to still be ahead of us.

The lockdown has put an enormous strain on our economy, and in our townships, **hunger is everywhere**. One of our journalists stated this week:

*While we are at a level of serious crisis now, South Africa has been in a series of interlocking economic crises for at least a decade. When more than 50% of your young people are not in work and not studying, you are in a crisis. When people lose hope of ever working, you are in a crisis of hope. When people who are already poor, are getting poorer, you are in a crisis of fighting for survival (Steven Grootes).*

Imagine the distress that our gogos felt at being surrounded by such need, yet unable to help the hungry, because the school in which our kitchen is located, was closed under lockdown!

When the government announced that it would open up school feeding schemes on two days per week, there was great relief. And when Mbekweni School asked if the gogos could supplement the very basic meal that would be supplied, they were eager to be involved. They promptly rolled up their sleeves and started cooking two days per week, on alternating days with the school. This means that the children in Mbekweni are fortunate in comparison with other areas, in receiving food four days per week through this partnership.

Shireen Willemse, our Project Manager and Board Member who lives in Paarl, not far from Mbekweni, immediately swung into action, and procured the fresh vegetables and other provisions needed, as well as Personal Protection Equipment for the gogos.

School staff control access by children to the school grounds. They line up and wash their hands under supervision, and then practice social distancing while they wait for their food.

We are deeply thankful to have been able to participate in some small way to alleviate desperate hunger amongst the Mbekweni children during the lockdown. **Thank you** to all who have already contributed towards our efforts.



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<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  
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**Account number: 62783960894**

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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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