



Care in a time of CORONA

Providing food security to people in need



The Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone in South Africa. Many people have lost their jobs or earnings during the extended lockdown. Covid-19 has highlighted the inequality in our society.

Churches have a spiritual responsibility to do whatever they can to relieve the suffering around them

Here are practical actions that you and your church can carry out. If each church plays its part, an enormous amount of good can be done.



1. Get churches to work together

Reach out to one another and develop combined strategies for your community and other nearby impoverished communities.

Some churches can provide resources. Others are in contact with people in dire need.

Work together with churches from different denominations and church groupings. Pool your resources, manpower, leadership, and contacts.



2. Form a Local Ecumenical Action Network (LEAN)

Ensure that the network represents people from different denominations and fraternals.

Try to include social workers from the community to help refer people to different available services. People with leadership and management skills should be put in charge of different aspects of the project.

Do a budget. Include costs for meetings, coordinating and delivery.

Register your LEAN at: support@sacc.org.za



Develop strategies that includes the following:

a. Find out where you can obtain food sources

Some churches can get their own people to donate food and warm clothing). Others cannot afford to. Find out about other government and business programmes who want to distribute food to, people in need.

Some people will want to donate money. Set up bank accounts, policies, and procedures so that money can be controlled properly.

b. Find out where the needs are

Research where the need is greatest, so you make sure you reach the most needy communities.

c. Develop a strategy to distribute the food

Decide how the food is going to be distributed:

When? Who? How?



The SACC also strongly suggests using food vouchers rather than food parcels as a means of providing support.

d. Do responsible reporting

Get people to record what you are doing. Send reports to participating churches, the media, and donors

e. Think long term

The need for food and support is not going away anytime soon. Consider registering your church as a Non-Profit.

How to register as a non-profit

Register with the Department of Social Development.



More information is available at:

- <https://www.gov.za/services/register-nonprofit-organisation>.
- Valuable insights are shared about NGOs and NPOs at: <https://briefly.co.za/28351-how-register-ngo-south-africa-2020.html>

Find an application form at:

https://www.westerncape.gov.za/other/2004/6/npo_application_form.pdf

Safety, security, and Covid-19 compliance

Health and Safety Guidelines for volunteers are very important. of the utmost importance. Please consult <http://www.sacoronavirus.co.za> for updated information.



Health Guidelines

1. Hands to be always sanitised before and after handling goods.
2. Where possible, maintain social distancing even while packing goods.
3. Every volunteer must have their own personal re-washable cloth mask.
4. Masks must always be worn when dropping off goods.

Safety Guidelines

1. Place individual food parcels in black bags to be less obvious.
2. Package food parcels a safe distance away from the area you will be serving, preferably in another safer suburb.
3. Use a garage or venue that is not visible to outsiders.
4. Avoid the gathering of people at one drop-off point.
5. Ideally, door to door drop-offs are safer.
6. Use local people to do the drop-offs.
7. Make sure that every team going out has a charged cell phone with airtime and data.
8. There should be a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3 people per drop-off vehicle.
9. Only 1 person is to do a drop-off. They should leave the parcel at the door.
10. The leader must ask for immediate feedback after every drop-off to improve and evaluate how things went.



Adhere to Government Regulations

- **The Department of Health must inspect your food bank premises** (where food will be collected and stored)
Contact the Health Department for certification.
- **Travel Permit**



You also need a permit to travel to do this relief work. The permit must be issued by the senior pastor of the church, or the chairperson of the church board or the nearest police station. The permit must include the name, surname, address, and ID no of the person working on the project. You also need the address of the venue and the time you will be at the premises.



Information was gleaned from MANUAL FOR COORDINATED ACTION AGAINST HUNGER produced by TCN in Port Elizabeth