

# PROGRESS FROM THE FIELD

SOUTH AFRICA EDITION

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## SAWUBONA! SIYANAMKELA! WELCOME!

I am writing to you while on board a flight back to Chicago following my sixth trip to South Africa over the last four months. Including last year's visits, Chris Rebstock and I each have approximately 200,000 air miles (322,000 kilometers). Just thinking about those numbers can make you a little tired. The great news is, each trip has produced more progress than the last and we are excited about the dramatic acceleration in our work. Happily, we now have four, full-time project team members living in South Africa: Toby Ives and Sally Broughton who have 20-plus years of foodbanking experience and Tony Kitchen from London and Bart Sorensen from Minnesota, both pro bono members from Accenture. Additionally, Maurice Weaver is heading up our work with the South Africa Federal Government. All of these team players and the growing support in each of the four cities will dramatically expand our capacity. You will find more information about our growth and work in this newsletter and subsequent issues.

We are already identifying new sources of food and support. For example, Woolworths' donation in Cape Town (see page 3) provided nutritional assistance to victims of a devastating fire. Many thanks to all who make this work possible and successful.

The Community Forums in Cape Town and Durban are moving quickly as well. During the coming weeks and months, our work will continue to accelerate and both Jo'Burg and Port Elizabeth will come on-line (more details in the next issue). The Co-Chairs of the South Africa Forum for Food Security have held two meetings to define Vision, Mission and Values. I believe you will like their outcomes on each and other larger issues that will frame the structure and programs of the National Food Bank system.

Perhaps even more exciting is the number of interested and supporting organizations. In the last 30 days, businesses, faith organizations and agencies have joined our work. Lastly, at the recent meeting of the members of the National Forum for Food Security, I explained how we would like to complete our project field work and asked for volunteers for each of six sub tasks. As a result, we formed six sub-committees that will work closely with our team. We have all had experience asking for volunteers but on few occasions have we experienced this level of acceptance and support. In a matter of a few minutes, we had the six sub-committees well staffed.

We are looking forward to continued progress. Let us hear from you and share your advice about how we can continue the success of this project.

Nginyabonga  
Bob Forney  
President & CEO  
The Global FoodBanking Network



Primary school children in Soweto enjoy an after-school treat at Sizanani Givers & Orphans Care.

## SIZANANI GIVERS & ORPHANS CARE

Elizabeth Rapuleng is a grandmother and two-time Community Builder of the Year at Sizanani's Givers and Orphans Care in Soweto. She was recognized for her selfless dedication and commitment to uplifting the community and contributing to the nation building process.

To paraphrase Nelson Mandela, a nation should be judged by how it treats its children. Mrs. Rapuleng faces an uphill battle for the necessary resources for the breakfast and supper boxes she provides to 300 children during the school week. Although government funding provides for 300 additional children, the rising cost of bread and vegetables has exceeded her budget. "I scrape for money. It costs 9,000 Rand a day. I am now forced to buy brown bread at 6 Rand a loaf," said Rapuleng, who added that when school is out of the holidays, it cost 4,000 Rand a day to feed the hungry children.

The beautiful aroma of pap cooking on the stove wafts into the office where staff is wrapping individual packets of toiletries for orphaned girls. Mrs. Rapuleng walks into the kitchen, lifts the lid, and laments that

## Organizations committed to ending hunger in South Africa



The Global FoodBanking Network is dedicated to reaching a goal of **600** organizations committed to building a food bank network in South Africa.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NATIONAL FORUM...

11h00 to 14h30 Thursday 29 May Consumer Goods Council of South Africa, Block B, Hurlingham Office Park, Wooldlands Drive, just off Republic Road, CNR William Nichol, Sandtown.

## **SOUTH AFRICA FORUM FOR FOOD SECURITY HOLDS FIRST MEETING**

The South Africa Forum for Food Security (National Forum) held its first official meeting on Tuesday, 22 April. In all, 21 people representing 19 organizations, businesses, and the Department of Social Development participated in the meeting and committed to their roles in helping to shape the design and the services of the South African National Food Bank Network.

This first meeting focused on the purpose of the National Forum and its relationship to the Project Co-Chairs and the Community Forums in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, and Port Elizabeth. Participants also discussed the objectives of the forum and the timeline for accomplishing those objectives. Ultimately, the Forum is charged with designing the national network and the services it will provide to the various community food banks in the four target cities and then eventually to those additional food banks that develop throughout the country.

The group reviewed a number of actions taken by the Co-Chairs which provide some context and focus for the work of the National Forum. Among these are the adoption of Vision, Mission, and Values statements, a commitment to rural service, an encouragement that the system promote self-sufficiency, a commitment to transparency and integrity, acknowledgement that the system be designed in such a way as to protect the commercial marketplace from interruption, and that government be involved all levels.

GFN in-country staff led a discussion on the community forums progress and the issues they are addressing as they move forward with the design of the food banks in their respective communities. Staff also provided an overview of the meetings and discussions they have had with various representatives of the NGO community, the food industry, and government. Progress is being made in all three sectors in line with the project commitment to engage the three sectors equally.

The energy and commitment of those participating in the National Forum is high – an indication that the group's work will move forward with positive results!

Finally, the participants reviewed the roles of several sub-committees which help advance the work of the Forum. After discussing the committees, participants volunteered to serve. The next National Forum meeting is scheduled for: 11h00 to 14h30 on Thursday 29 May at the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa, Block B, Hurlingham Office Park, Woodlands Avenue, Hurlingham Manor.

## **CONSUMER GOODS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA OPENS DOORS FOR GFN**

The Consumer Goods Council South Africa (CGCSA) recently hosted a round of meetings in Durban, Cape Town, and Johannesburg to present the research from Logistics Foresight 2008. At each of the meetings, CGCSA gave GFN 15-20 minutes to present the food banking concept and provide an overview of how the project is being pursued in South Africa. In all three cities, contacts were made with new companies that have not yet been involved in the project. We are following up with these contacts to expand our base of support and to broaden the voice of those interested in developing a viable system to channel available food resources to those who need them. We appreciate the invitation from Nick Tselentis at CGCSA to participate in these forums!!!

## **CO-CHAIR MEETING REPORT**

The Co-Chairs met for the second time on 17 April hosted by Venkat Venkatachalam at Kellogg's House. There was lively discussion about finalizing the Vision, Mission, and Values statements realizing that it is those statements which give guidance to all future decisions and actions. These are found in the highlighted box below.

Reports from Co-Chairs and staff about work done since the last meeting were very positive and prompted discussion about the next steps.

Educating all sectors, business, government, NGO, and the general public, about the issues of hunger was endorsed with the proviso that the organization avoid divisive political advocacy. It was agreed that progress in the alleviation of hunger will best be achieved by working together.

The Co-Chairs were encouraged by the positive results of their work to date. The work of Global FoodBanking staff, the Accenture Development Partners, and the various local forums was also cited as productive and positive. All present at the meeting expressed their ongoing commitment to moving the effort forward.

We are pleased to announce that Theo Mxakwe, an executive of Nestlé South Africa, is a new Co-Chair. The next meeting is scheduled at 9 a.m. on Friday 23 May at Accenture headquarters in Woodmead.

### **VISION:**

Feeding South Africa – Creating Hope-  
Building Self-Sufficiency

### **MISSION:**

To align all available resources in building a  
food-secure South Africa.

### **VALUES:**

Inclusivity, Collaboration and Mutual  
Respect; Dignity; Transparency and Honesty;  
Sense of Urgency; Universal Service – Urban,  
Rural, and Special Populations; Commitment  
to giving voice to Constituencies; Non-  
religious, Non-partisan, Non-Political.)



Daphne runs the self help project that provides meals to local primary schools in Soweto.

## DIEPKLOOF SELF HELP PROGRAM MOTIVATES YOUTH AND WOMEN

Daphne is the project coordinator for this program in Soweto. They run primarily two programs out of her home. They train and use volunteers to visit aging people in their homes. Their area is divided into 5 zones and 14 volunteers visit 100 people - they try to see 7 people per day. The volunteers visit people who are in their zone so there's not so much travel. Some elders are visited more often than others according to their level of need. The organization prepares a cooked meal which is placed into plastic containers for transport and also provide some prepared foods to deliver. Volunteers provide personal care for the elders in addition to delivering food..

The other program is for vulnerable children. They prepare food and take it in big tubs to 3 schools; Ikaneng Primary, Bopanang Primary and Sedibeng SATHuto. Each school might have 100-300 children in need. It is intended to be an after school meal for the children, but sometimes it gets eaten right away because the children haven't had enough to eat. Diepkloof SHP uses the school data base to tell them which children are in need.

What motivates you, Maurice asked Daphne. "I grew up here: look around, you can identify the need. There's so much to do. Food prices.... we're crying.

The youth need us too. We're organizing speakers to go to the high schools to tell the youth - don't give up hope. We need to uplift them encourage and inspire them."

## IN THE FIELD: REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST 30 DAYS

### FOOD SOURCING

**Lessons Learned:** In all sectors we encountered, there is great interest and enthusiasm about the food banking project. The general consensus is that if done properly it could be very valuable in South Africa. We have learnt that not only are companies willing to help a good cause but disposing of unsaleable items is challenging. They see food banks as a potential solution to this, but insist that any system is tightly managed to protect their brand and prevent products from appearing on the black market.

**Help Needed:** We need to talk to more companies. We need people with existing contacts to make introductions for us. It takes little time and once the initial connection is made, we proceed from there.

### AGENCIES

**Lessons Learned:** There is a wealth of knowledge in organizations which are, and have been, providing food to people in need. Some organizations choose to join the Community Forums, some to participate in focus groups, others want to stay informed and give input by attendance at general quarterly meetings.

**Help Needed:** We need to continue broadening involvement and building community ownership of a South African food bank system by reaching more people.

## WOOLWORTHS TOUR AND DONATION APRIL 9, 2008

As we plan for food bank warehouses in South Africa it is important to know the high standards that potential food donors expect. In that regard Woolworths invited Sally and Toby of GFN, and Patrick Andries of Feedback, the national non profit, to tour their Cape Town warehouse. While we were there we learned that a semi load of 20,000 kilos of dairy product was to be turned down as the temperature was one degree below allowable specs. This did not affect the quality or safety of the produce but would shorten the shelf life.

The tour resulted into possibly the largest donation Feedback has had in their Cape Town operation. By working overtime, pressing all five small refrigerated trucks into service, and working in partnership with agencies and with the Lions Club all the food got to people in need over the next two days.

Food banks in South Africa will be able to handle loads like this as a normal business activity. Pick up from the donor, cold storage at the Food Bank, and distribution to the agencies will all be handled in a timely and efficient manner.



Woolworths in Cape Town donated 20,000 kilos of dairy products to local charities.

## GFN MEETS WITH ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

On 15 April the mayor welcomed us into his office for a meeting arranged by the Durban forum's Muzi Nkala, which included the manager of the mayor's office, Roy Mkumla as well as Councillor N. Shabalala.

The mayor clearly had getting food to people more abundantly on his mind. He said: "We are faced with the challenge of many communities in which many people go without a meal all day. No doubt we will work with you."

"When we talk about food, it's a sad situation," he continued. "In some cases, children get all their meals at the school. Because of their vulnerability they are protected and fed at school and only go home to sleep."

He indicated that every square meter of South Africa is under a municipality (is within a municipal government). He felt, furthermore, that "back of every urban area there's a farm." He would like to see a sort of agreement where the farms can directly supply urban communities, such as catering lunch in schools.

He referred to an upcoming meeting in Midrand with the agricultural department. "They have funds, but no plan. We're asking, how can KZN be increasing production of food. Now all of that is in the hands of entrepreneurs. We need to work also with the minister of finance as well, so communities can produce more food.

Councillor Shabalala added, "Foodbanking is a good idea. It must be managed properly. Our ward councillor's can assist. They know the needs and the legitimate providers in the communities."

Muzi Nkala spoke of his experience at the GFN institute. He said he finally came to understand, which he did not at first, that a food bank is a community owned asset. He learned that the business world recognizes food banks, that grocery retailers can partner with food banks, and that food banks work in partnership with government as well. Food banks can be entrusted by government to deliver food, to be well organized and accountable. "We, the Durban food bank forum, want to invite organizations to the table - can you (mayor, councillor) help us with this?"

Chris asked the mayor if someone from his office could participate in the forum and he indicated that he thought that Mrs. Shabalala would be very good in that role. Cllr. Shabalala said she'd like to formalize meetings with her committee on Health and Social Services. "Also, meetings with Muzi can be a vehicle for helping to develop foodbanking". Ms. Shabalala said she can connect us with 100 ward councillors/100 wards..



Roy Mkumla - mgr of mayor's office; Toby, Muzi Nkala, Chris with Cllr. Nomvuzo F. Shabalala (executive committee member; chairperson: health, Safety and Social Services).

[Sizanani Givers & Orphans Care continued from page 1...](#)

she doesn't have the peanut butter or all the ingredients she needs for the day. "I told my managers that I'm sick and tired of fighting. I need to deliver for these kids today. When I ask government for money, it's always in the pipeline," she said.

Outside, dozens of children line up patiently for their after-school meal.

A social worker on staff speaks to a small cluster of boys. Suddenly, they swarm a visitor when he displays his digital camera.

Never one to give up hope or turn her back on an orphan, Mrs. Rapuleng has opened her home to several children who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. Out of her own pockets, she pays for school fees, uniforms and transport. Recently, she intervened on behalf of a brother and sister whose parents died. They

arrived at her house with only 200 Rand.

"The girl was in her last days of high school. I struggled to keep her in high school and pay for transport. We asked God for help. Now, this brilliant girl is working and back in school," said Mrs. Rapuleng proudly.



Students hone their computer skills after-school at Sizanani.



The Global FoodBanking Network is a private, 501(c)3 charitable organization headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. For additional information, visit [www.foodbanking.org](http://www.foodbanking.org), e-mail [info@foodbanking.org](mailto:info@foodbanking.org), call (312) 782-4560 or mail us at: The Global FoodBanking Network; 203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1900; Chicago, Illinois 60601.

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