

Shoprite Group donates R53 million in surplus food since start of lockdown

Since the start of the national lockdown, the Shoprite Group has donated more than R53 million in surplus food - over R300 000 per day for the past 185 days - to various organisations tasked with feeding the hungry.

South Africa faces a mass hunger crisis brought on by Covid-19. During the peak of the country's national lockdown, two out of every five adults said their household had lost its primary income source - and almost half had run out of money to buy food during April.

With this potentially devastating scenario playing out across the country, the Shoprite Group has worked hard to increase food security for the country's most vulnerable.

It actively vets grassroots beneficiary organisations around the country, including old age homes and orphanages, and then builds direct relationships between them and nearby stores. Since the start of lockdown, 327 organisations have received surplus food donations from Shoprite and Checkers supermarkets, which include fresh fruit, vegetables, and general groceries.

Given the national hunger crisis, Shoprite took the decision to increase its fleet of Mobile Soup Kitchens from 19 to 26. By mid-September 2020 the Shoprite Mobile Soup Kitchens had served more than 2 million since the start of lockdown. These meals, which include soup and bread, have supported 2 613 organisations.

In partnership with its customers, the Group also continues to raise money via its Act For Change Fund till-point donation facility. This fund allows shoppers to donate in any Shoprite, Checkers or Usave nationally and the money collected goes to vetted beneficiary organisations involved in Covid-19 relief efforts in the province where the donation was made.

Since March 2020, customers have donated over R2 million to the Act For Change Fund, and Shoprite contributed a further R2 million. By taking hands with its customers, the Group has raised more than R4 million in six months via this Fund.

"The looming hunger crisis is greatly concerning, and we will continue to work hard to share surplus food and to ensure that those most in need in South Africa are able to access healthy and nutritious meals," says the Group's CSI Manager, Lunga Schoeman.

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Editor's Note:

- The Shoprite Group is a co-signatory of [South Africa's first Food Waste Voluntary Agreement](#), and it is committed to effectively manage food waste and loss across the business.