ANOTHER YEAR OF CREATING A SOUTH AFRICA WITHOUT HUNGER

ANNUAL REPORT 2018
When I sat down to write this report last year I was deeply mindful of the fact that South Africans were preoccupied with the perilous state of our politics and the South African economy at the time.

At FoodForward SA we seek to provide food and basic nutrition to the most vulnerable and marginalized in our country. In 2018 we have been able to expand our reach to all the major metropolitan areas and to service some peri-urban areas from these centres. We serve people through accredited Beneficiary Organisations, whom we identify, assess and accredit. We partner with them to reach deeper into communities and support networks to feed people.

Regrettably, in 2018 we see the same challenging environmental characteristics as the one prevalent when I wrote my last report in 2017. Although the volume of food secured has grown, the demand for basic, reliable nutrition grows even greater and our assessment is that the economic circumstances for many South Africans has not improved and remains dangerous for the stability of our country. More South Africans are turning to organisations like FoodForward SA out of desperation for assistance with their basic nutritional needs.
FoodForward SA remains of the view that food is the basis of building hope and security for a nation. NGO’s who help to build skills and capacity and those who fight disease and illness, will struggle if the basics of Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs is not attended to. Basic food security is core to the first rung on the ladder of needs.

Over the past 9 years we have also been able to match surplus with need, build awareness around the need, and mobilize more and more South Africans to do something about the needs of others. Our annual FoodForward SA Mandela Day Food Drive initiative is a good example of this.

The Food Drive has helped us raise awareness of the plight of South Africans who live each day without knowing where their next meal will come from. We have done this by mobilizing businesses who allow their staff time off to pack meals at our various packing events around the country, retailers who donate food and encourage customers to buy and donate food and we have created a platform for ordinary South Africans to do something about the hunger of others.

It remains the vision of FoodForward SA to realize a South Africa without hunger. However, for now this vision still remains an aspiration which will require a great deal from many more. We have continued to grow our reach to more than 250,000 people we touch and serve a day across SA, through our network of 600 Beneficiary Organisations. In 2018 we have been able to do this at the cost of R0,79 per 250g meal provided.

We remain deeply committed to extending our reach and can only do this sustainably and effectively with the help of partners in government, business, religious institutions and our broader society. While we fulfil our vision inch by inch, meal by meal, we remain grateful to the spirit of generosity we have experienced in the food industry from producers, retailers and logistics companies. I would also like to again, thank our board members who give of their time, knowledge, insights and own resources to ensure that FoodForward SA is able to serve the most vulnerable members of our South African community. I also wish to thank our staff who work tirelessly to find new and innovative ways to recover surplus food in the supply chain and find the most effective ways to get it to people who need it most. To our donors, we have seen and thanked you individually and I wish to publically thank you for partnering with us in taking on the goal of a South Africa without hunger, which we believe is in our power to achieve.

With best wishes and gratitude,

CRISPIN SONN | Chairperson
FoodForward South Africa
There is an African proverb that resonates well when it comes to our approach to addressing complex problems - “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”. Partnership produces better results overall and the possibilities are infinite.

South Africa remains one of the most unequal societies in the world. We have 14 million people that are hungry every day, and a further 14 million people are at risk of hunger. Food insecurity cripples the economic viability of a country. Therefore, addressing short-term hunger is not only a moral and economic imperative, it is also a necessary intervention in the growing tide of malnutrition, sickness, disease and the feeling of hopelessness among the poor.

With the generous support of our caring food and financial donor partners, we were able to increase the number of meals provided by more than 20% to 17,600,000 meals. Furthermore, we were able to reduce the cost per meal by 8% to R0,79.
Our food recovery model is now even more cost effective, allowing for each rand donated to unlock even more value for money for our Beneficiary Organisations.

We are very pleased to have concluded phase 1 of FoodShare. It took two years of development, but the result is nothing short of amazing. FoodShare, a first of its kind for Africa, is our very own digital technology platform that houses our entire beneficiary data base, monitoring and assessment information, member applications auto queue and it manages Virtual Foodbanking (VFB), which is the largest and most exciting feature of FoodShare. VFB connects our Beneficiary Organisations with a retail store or food outlet, for the daily collection of surplus food. The tonnage information is sent by Beneficiary Organisations to FoodShare via USSD cell phone technology, with reverse billing, so there are no costs to the clients/users.

We currently have 140 Beneficiary Organisations linked to 150 Pick n Pay and Vida e Café’s nationally. Several more retailers and food outlets have expressed interest in joining FoodShare and we are planning a large-scale roll-out in the coming 2 to 3 years. We would like to thank the DG Murray Trust and the Saville Foundation for the seed funding of FoodShare.

Another exciting initiative, thanks to partnership, is called Second Harvest, a specific food sourcing outreach programme to the agricultural sector. Our retail partners have kindly connected Foodforward SA directly with their farmers/growers and we collect their post-harvest fresh produce surplus of tomatoes, carrots, butternut, gem squash, cauliflower, cabbage and mushrooms.

This partnership allows us to substantially increase the nutritional value of the food basket that we provide to beneficiary organisations. We are very grateful to PepsiCo and the Global Foodbanking Network (GFN), for providing a grant of R1 million to purchase a refrigerated 8-ton truck and cover operating costs for the first year to kick-start the project. Because of its huge success, we are planning to implement Second Harvest in Johannesburg and Durban next, with the view to expand nationally.

**FOODSHARE, A FIRST OF ITS KIND FOR AFRICA, IS OUR VERY OWN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM THAT HOUSES OUR ENTIRE BENEFICIARY DATABASE.**
PARTNERSHIP PRODUCES BETTER RESULTS OVERALL & THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE
The FoodForward SA Mandela Day Food Drive in partnership with Pick n Pay was an overwhelming success. We collected 150 tons of food, attracted more than 5,000 volunteers nationally and it was great fun to see everyone working together.

Thank you Pick n Pay for your long-standing partnership and for your commitment to addressing hunger and malnutrition. Special thanks to the Century City Conference Centre in Cape Town and Gallagher Estate in Johannesburg for donating the venues for the packing events.

Our continued partnership with Food Lover’s Market is also ensuring that the nutritional component of our food basket constantly improves, thanks to their monthly donation of R50,000 worth of procured quality fruit and vegetables, in addition to their surplus fresh produce donations.

We are extremely proud to have caring individuals and corporates that are working with FoodForward SA and making a difference. Looking to the future, we are exploring an accredited warehousing and logistics internship for unemployed youth, as well as other social enterprise initiatives within the surplus food environment in order to create income opportunities, skills development and jobs, resulting in even more meaningful impact.

Thank you to all our valued partners and stakeholders, including our dedicated staff and board members, for being part of this exciting food recovery revolution.

ANDY DU PLESSIS  
Managing Director

OVER 4,400 TONNES WERE COLLECTED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
One third of all food produced in South Africa is wasted, while more than 14 million people go hungry each day.

Established in 2009 to address widespread hunger in South Africa, FoodForward SA recovers surplus food from the consumer goods supply chain by connecting a world of excess to a world of need. In partnership with various stakeholders, we implement an ecosystem that uses surplus food as a catalyst for social change.

At least 75% of our Beneficiary Organisations are involved in education, youth development, women’s empowerment and skills training, in addition to their feeding programmes.

**VISION**
A South Africa without hunger.

**MISSION**
To reduce hunger in South Africa by safely and cost-effectively securing quality food and making it available to those who need it.
OUR PROGRAMMES

WAREHOUSING/FOODBANKING
Sourcing, collecting, sorting and storing edible surplus food for distribution to Beneficiary Organisations (BOs) in a responsible manner, ensuring that surplus donated food reaches the intended beneficiaries.

FOODSHARE
Connecting Beneficiary Organisations to retail stores and food outlets for the collection of food via virtual technology.

SECOND HARVEST
Recovering post-harvest surplus from the agricultural sector to improve the nutritious basket to BOs.

DEVELOPMENT
More than 75% of our Beneficiary Organisations’ focus is on education, skills development, women’s empowerment and upliftment. We also implement a national school breakfast programme for 30,000 students daily, on behalf of the Kellogg’s Foundation.
One of the Beneficiary Organisations supported by FoodForward SA is REALISTIC (Rebuilding and Life Skills Training Centre). REALISTIC, based in Gugulethu, started in 2004 with the view to rehabilitate and re-integrate ex-offenders. The idea for starting REALISTIC came about when founder, Solomon Mandikane noted how many young, former inmates from his community would return to correctional facilities soon after their release because they were unable to re-integrate with their families or community.

REALISTIC offers ex-prisoners a six-month intervention programme which combines therapeutic activities with life skills training, gender and HIV/AIDS awareness, vocational training and career counselling.

About 18.3% of the Western Cape population is made up of youth between the ages of 15-24, of which 1 in 3 are born into single parent families. Western Province levels of youth crime and violence are the highest in the country and it is organisations like REALISTIC that are needed to help curb recurring crime levels from rising. REALISTIC remains one of only a few community-based organisations providing this kind of service in the Western Cape. Finding lasting solutions to the challenges faced by communities is one of FoodForward SA’s objectives.

Solomon says “Thanks to the monthly food donations from FoodForward SA, we save thousands of rands each month, which we invest into our skills programme. The food is of such a good quality and very nutritious”.

SURPLUS FOOD IS USED AS A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE IN GUGULETHU, WHERE THE FUTURE OF YOUNG WOMEN AND MEN IS DEFINITELY IN GREAT HANDS!
HOPE AND PURPOSE RESTORED TO CHILDREN

Youth for Christ (YFC) started in 1946, is based in Durban and Pietermaritzburg and has been a member of FoodForward SA since 31 May 2014. The Christian-based organisation believes that every child is precious, made by God and deserves to live a life filled with hope and purpose, despite their socio-economic circumstances. Youth for Christ offers holistic training to children, youth and their families, and are working hard to restore dignity and hope in the communities they serve.

There are YFC centres in five provinces in South Africa and in more than one hundred nations worldwide. The work of YFC in KwaZulu-Natal began in the early 1980s and has grown as they address the needs and problems of young people, focusing specifically on the underprivileged.

On an annual basis, YFC supports 15 children who live on the premises of the shelter. They also however, support a number of youth and families around communities in Durban and Pietermaritzburg where they are bringing about lasting social change.

“Before we joined FoodForward SA, our grocery bill was unaffordable and food prices increase all the time,” says Sally Mann, the Managing Director of Youth for Christ. “Now that we receive regular support from FoodForward SA, we can use these savings to improve our programmes on offer and assist more children and youth,” she adds.

In partnership with FoodForward SA, Youth for Christ is able to effectively bring about change in communities, restore hope and give our children and youth in KwaZulu-Natal the tools they need to succeed.
FINDING LASTING SOLUTIONS
OUR STRATEGY
INTO 2021

Finding lasting solutions to the challenges we face as a nation requires innovation, strategic partnerships, skills development and job creation. In partnership with stakeholders, we are addressing food insecurity, along with other social problems in a manner that restores dignity and promotes human development.

Our strategy aims to achieve the following:

• Maximise the amount of edible surplus food we can collect to address short-term hunger

• Use surplus food as a catalyst for social change by acting as a conduit for social enterprise initiatives, income generating opportunities and job creation

• Identify key partnerships, synergies and collaborative opportunities with stakeholders so that we achieve a real, amplified, measurable and lasting impact

• Pilot innovative concepts and programmes using surplus food

WE ARE ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY IN AN INNOVATIVE AND SCALED MANNER
FOODSHARE

A first of its kind in Africa, FoodShare is a digital technology platform dedicated to the recovery of food which would otherwise end up in landfills. FoodShare optimises operational efficiency and harnesses every opportunity to increase FoodForward SA’s reach through a transparent, communication friendly platform.

FoodShare has several unique capabilities that makes it seamless for FoodForward SA’s Beneficiary Organisations to use.

Three functions that make FoodShare unique:

1. **Virtual FoodBanking (VFB)**
   The VFB platform links FoodForward SA Beneficiary Organisations (BOs) with retail outlets for collection of surplus food on a daily basis. Date stamped authorisation codes are sent as a means of transparency and SA18 tax certificates are awarded to donors who are a part of the FoodBanking process.

2. **Database Management**
   The FoodShare platform optimises communication and efficiency through the ease of access to information for both BOs and Food Donors. Personal dashboards allow for information to be updated as well as access to a live reporting system which shows exactly how much food has been collected and donated by the various parties.

3. **Applications, Assessments and Monitoring**
   We understand that our BOs and donors do not always have access to the internet. The FoodShare technology only requires an internet connection for the online BO application process. Pre-approval assessments, monitoring and evaluation are all done offline and uploaded once internet access is gained, this means that our database is constantly updated.

IN LINE WITH THIS STRATEGY,
WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:
SECOND HARVEST

In South Africa, nearly 50% of all post-harvest produce is being lost due to it not meeting the desired specifications or not having a route to market. To increase our food recovery efforts, while boosting the nutrient levels of our food, FoodForward SA implemented Second Harvest. Second Harvest is a specific outreach programme directed at farmers, where we source and collect surplus fruit and vegetables from farms and then distribute this fresh produce to our member organisations.

Our growing network of farmers allows us to tap into the agriculturally rich areas of the Western Cape and improve the nutritional value of the food basket that we provide to our Beneficiary Organisations. The meaningful increase in the volume of food acquired and distributed will allow us to significantly increase the number of people that we are able to serve.

We believe that Second Harvest will grow significantly, not only in the Western Cape, but also to other provinces where agriculture is a large component of GDP.

Thanks to financial support from The Global Foodbanking Network made possible by a grant from PepsiCo.
EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

MANDELA DAY 2017

Our very first FoodForward SA Mandela Day Food Drive in partnership with Pick n Pay was a resounding success. Combining the power of big business with ‘doing good’ always achieves great results.

With the goal to unite a nation around Mandela Day and raise enough food to stock FoodForward SA’s warehouses across the country with staple foods during winter, we set out to explore how best to partner on this exciting campaign.

The food drive weekend received widespread support from Pick n Pay shoppers who opened their hearts and their wallets. “Together we collected 150 tonnes of food from Pick n Pay stores and over 5,000 volunteers sorted and packed the food across the country during their 67 minutes.

“The true spirit of nation building and unity was in action and this action will translate into good quality food reaching those who desperately need it. Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign and made it an overwhelming success” says Andy Du Plessis, FoodForward SA’s Managing Director.

Through this initiative we hope that the people who participated were inspired to continue to make a difference and be an ambassador for good across South Africa. Thank you Pick n Pay for your continued generosity and caring enough to make a real difference.
WORLD HUNGER DAY 2017
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
FOOD LOVER’S MARKET

Food Lover’s Market is a proudly South African company that focuses on investing in local organisations through their Corporate Social Investment programme. Through sponsorships and supporting of local and national charitable organisations, they have created a meaningful and sustainable social impact, primarily in food and health. In an effort to alleviate the problem of hunger in South Africa, Food Lover’s Market raises awareness during the month of May in aid of World Hunger Day.

Food Lover’s Market found it necessary to partner with FoodForward SA as they strongly correlate with our vision of ‘a South Africa without hunger’. They became a part of the movement and helped in the redistribution of surplus food to non-profit organisations. The campaign initially ran in the Western Cape and has now been extended to KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. Future goals are to provide at least 1 million meals a year once it rolls out in Gauteng.

Last year, in the month of May, Food Lover’s Market together with Tru-Cape Apples partnered with FoodForward SA to raise awareness around World Hunger Day. Every time a customer bought a bag of Tru-Cape Apples in a Food Lover’s Market nationwide, a donation of R0.86 cents was made which totalled R243,937. This allowed for the provision of 283,647 meals to people in need.

CONTINUED PARTNERSHIPS

We partner with different corporates to ensure that poverty is alleviated in South Africa. Some of the partnerships include; Glencore – to address the growing hunger problem in Rustenburg. They continue to show their unwavering support by fully covering the FoodForward SA Rustenburg branch costs for the past five years.

Unitrans has shown their commitment to the fight against hunger by donating a 14-ton truck to assist our Johannesburg branch. They also cover the cost of maintenance and repair for three of our vehicles, ensuring we stay on the road and help serve the neediest in our country. Bank of America Merrill Lynch provided funding to FoodForward SA towards the purchase of a 8-ton refrigerated truck. This is assisting with the collection and preservation of food, in order to retain the cold chain where needed.

WE PARTNER WITH VARIOUS CORPORATES TO ENSURE THAT POVERTY IS ALLEVIATED IN SOUTH AFRICA
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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

TOP FOOD DONORS

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CONTACT US
foodforwardsa.org
info@foodforwardsa.org
021 531 5670

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
@FoodForwardSA

NPO Number: 025-709
PBO Number: 130003715
Section 21 Company Registration: 2000/014314/08