**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 1806**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 20 AUGUST 2021**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER: 17 - 2021**

**1806. Ms L H Arries (EFF) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

What (a) number of persons (i) were food insecure before COVID-19 and (ii) are currently food insecure in the Republic and (b) measures are in place to address the overall food insecurity in the Republic?

NW2028E

**REPLY:**

1. The number of persons that (i) were food insecure (inadequate or severe inadequate access to food) before COVID-19 was about (20% of households) in the country (Stats SA, 2019) and

(ii) The number of people that are currently food insecure as in April/May 2021 was approximately 10-million people and 3-million were children (NIDS-CRAM, 2021).

According to the NIDS-CRAM Wave 5 estimates and StatsSA’s 2020 mid-year population estimates, approximately 2,8-million households (with 10,6-million residents) were affected by hunger in April/May 2021.

1. The measures in place to address the overall food insecurity include the provision of safety nets – such as food relief through nutrition support centres, food parcels and various types of social grants, including the recently re-introduced Social Relief of Distress Grant of R350 per person. Social Relief of Distress is also provided in the form of cash and vouchers on a temporary basis to support households in distress.