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| MEMORANDUM FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE |

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 3348**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23/09/2022**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 36 OF 2022**

**Ms C V King (DA) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

(a) Which universities have hunger alleviation projects and (b) what number of students are catered for in the projects?

**NW4153E**

**REPLY:**

**Below is a response to Parliamentary Question 1910 of 20 August 2021**

(a) Which institutions of higher learning have food banks, (b) what total number of students are assisted on a monthly basis and (c) how are the institutions funded for their food bank projects?

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| **No.** | **Institution/University** | **a) Food Bank** | **b) Number of students assisted** | **c) Funding for the projects** |
| 1 | Cape Peninsula University of Technology | The university has an interim food support programme wherein students are supported with food parcels and vouchers. This is an interim measure and usually once-off depending on the student’s individual case. | To date 226 students have been supported. The university has issued 129 food vouchers to the value of R300 per voucher and 97 food parcels to the value of R450. | CPUT has established a Task Team to investigate a campus wide sustainable food support programme. |
| 2 | University of Cape Town | UCT provides care packs with non-perishable food items and toiletries from donated goods and donated vouchers.  The university is in a process of developing additional food security measures to support students in need. | A total of 540 students are frequently assisted.  90 students in unfunded study programmes which were previously funded by NSFAS receive vouchers fortnightly.  450 unfunded or underfunded undergraduate and postgraduate students assisted with donated goods and vouchers on an ad-hoc basis when donated goods are available. | Funding is through more than one source and includes the University, fund-raising initiatives and partnerships with donors. |
| 3 | Central University of Technology | Thusanang project is a poverty alleviation project aimed at assisting all students who are financially challenged and academically deserving, particularly those without any form of financial support such as loans or bursaries during the period of their studies.  The programme seeks to support registered students by offering once-off type of assistance with food, clothes, and transport (depending on identified need/s). | The university has provided financial support to 157 students in 2019, 86 in 2020 and 74 in 2021 to date. These are students from both campuses in Bloemfontein and Welkom.  The University has an agreement with the University cafeteria (Feedem Pitseng) to supply food to students who are referred to by the Student Affairs through Wellness Centre. 2407 vouchers were disbursed in 2019 and 316 in 2020 respectively.  Qualifying students are allocated funds into their student cards which entirely depends on the availability of funds. The amounts normally range from R1000 to R2000 disbursed monthly per student. | The amount available for the Poverty Alleviation Project/Thusanang is sourced mainly from an income generated through the Annual CUT Golf Tournament held annually for both Bloemfontein and Welkom Campuses and some donations from the Wellness Centre partners such as ER24 and any available volunteer/s. |
| 4 | Durban University of Technology | Phakimpilo (serve life) program commenced in 2020 during the lockdown period. The program provided Spar vouchers to mostly postgraduate students. | The program provided Spar vouchers to 119 students (to date). | Contribution from Alumni office and DUT staff members.  Glenwood Spar donates non-perishable food items on monthly basis. |
| 5 | University of Fort Hare | The university has a food programme aimed to assist students identified, assessed and approved to receive assistance. | There are about 850 students who expressed a need to receive food parcels. However, 30 students have thus far been assisted. | The project is funded by various external donors approached by the University. The SRC also donates to the project when funds allow. |
| 6 | University of the Free State. | UFS has food banks on all three campuses that provide nutritious food packages to students on a weekly basis.  The content of food parcels is meant to last a student for two weeks. During 2020, 5567 parcels were distributed and 1 759 in 2021 (to date)  UFS launched a vegetable garden initiative that provides fresh vegetables that are distributed in addition to the standard items included in the food parcels.  No student hungry programme aims to provide one nutritious meal per day to non NSFAS funded students. | In 2020 31 students benefitted from the programme and 60 in 2021 to date. | Food banks:Tiger brands donates food parcel items for the Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa campuses.  Gift of the Givers: donates food parcel items for the Qwaqwa campus.  Vegetable gardens:Tiger Brands provided funding for the tunnel and vegetable boxes.  Sakata Seeds and Kwaggafontein Nursery: sponsor seeds and seedlings on continuous basis.  UFS Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, the Institute for Groundwater Studies & University Estates also contributed in various ways.  No Student Hungry Programme: Funded from the interest received from an investment, annual corporate sponsorships and donations by individual donors. |
| 7 | University of Johannesburg. | UJ has a Student Meal Assistance Programme which currently provides meal packs to qualifying students. | 3522 students in total are assisted. 3022 students receive monthly meal packs funded by the University budget, and 500 students receive meal packs supplied by Tiger Brands. | The University’s annual budget and through Tiger Brands. |
| 8 | University of KwaZulu-Natal | UKZN has established a Food Security Task Team to develop a strategy and action plan that will realise the vision of ‘one meal a day for every student’ going forward.  Currently, limited food parcels/meal vouchers, are available to food insecure students, on referral/request.  Day students with lab/prac requirements are invited onto campus on a needs basis and needy students are assisted. | Statistics not available as only a certain percentage of residence-based students have returned to campus. | The projects are funded through donations and sponsorships, with cash donations / sponsorship being managed via the UKZN Foundation. |
| 9 | University of Limpopo | The University has the following projects to assist students:  Assist and eat – students receive stipends – 15 students assisted  Hands of compassion – donations to needy students  Soup kitchen or a meal a day offered during exams period.  Food parcels – non funded students  Rise Against Hunger on campus project assist with non-perishable food items to needy students. | 127 students assisted to date. | Student cafeterias  Donations from university staff members, Student Representative Council and the Professionals Provident Fund |
| 10 | Mangosuthu University of Technology | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 11 | University of Mpumalanga | The University has been approached by a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO), Kago Yabana Foundation (KYF) to provide free meals to needy students for a period of a month. | 50 students will be assisted. | N/A |
| 12 | Nelson Mandela University | Nelson Mandela University has a MOU with Tiger Brands who provide contents to make up nutrition packs for indigent students. This MOU has been in place since 2003.  A food garden, sponsored by Tiger Brands was developed. In addition, an organic food garden was also developed. However, both food gardens are currently not operational as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. | 1100 students are supported per month. | Ad hoc donations are received from university departments, staff members and the SRC to increase the content of the nutrition packs. |
| 13 | North-West University | Yes, food hampers are provided to students | Approximately 330 students across campuses benefit from food hampers per month. | Since 2016, the University has been receiving donations from corporate sponsors and fund-raising campaigns hosted to solicit food donations from North-West University staff. |
| 14 | University of Pretoria | The University of Pretoria Student Nutrition and Progress has been in practice since 1990. The aim of the programme is to foster higher quality education by:  a) Alleviating needy students’ short term hunger while giving them nutrition to enhance their learning capacity to enable them to complete their studies;  b) Equip students with knowledge and skills to develop and sustain themselves and  c) Display a high level of commitment towards the wellbeing of student on all levels. | 250 students are assisted through this programme on a monthly basis | The programme is primarily funded internally through the institutional budget which is further supplemented by ad hoc donations done through fundraising and a student food drive. |
| 15 | Rhodes University | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 16 | Sefako Makgatho University | Yes, SMU has a vibrant food security project called hands of Compassion, established in 2016 to assist students who are not beneficiaries of any financial support. | To date 354 students are enrolled in the project and each one receives a monthly food voucher of R800. However, the number of students assisted differs from month to month. Students are excluded from the project as soon they receive funding from NSFAS or any other sponsor. | The project is funded through the annual budget allocated to the Department of Student Affairs and Residences, as well as contributions from Student Representative Council and staff members.  The University is in a process of securing additional funding for the project. |
| 17 | Sol Plaatje University | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 18 | University of South Africa | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 19 | Stellenbosch University | The University has a main food project called #Move4food which is focused on assisting in emergency situations and is usually a once-off financial assistance. | Since March 2021 students are provided with digital food vouchers that allow students to purchase food items of choice at either Shoprite, Usave or Checkers local supermarkets.  Between Jan 2021 – 20 August 2021, a total number of 383 students have been assisted. | The university also receives support from three different food catering companies that are situated in Tygerberg and Stellenbosch campuses, who are sponsoring meals for students. |
| 20 | Tshwane University of Technology | TUT has the following programs, which address the needs of needy unfunded students.  The Food Hamper Crisis intervention program which is an emergency relief intervention addressing the basic psychosocial need that is adversely affecting students’ physical and mental health. The program provides immediate, short-term crisis relief when there is imminent threat to a student’s physical health and or hygiene care by providing a basic food and hygiene hamper that deserving needy students receive once a month.  The Assist A Student program addresses the basic needs of needy unfunded students. After rigorous screening the students are given a monthly meal allowance of R500 paid through Fundi card for the academic year or until they get funding from either NSFAS or any other sponsor. The recipients of the meal allowance are assisted for one academic year only, should they still need the meal allowance in the following year they have to go through the application process. | Applications are open throughout the year, by the end of July 2021 a cumulative number of three hundred and forty-one (341) received meal allowances from the Assist A Student program. Recipients are based across all nine campuses | The Gift of The Givers Foundation, is sponsoring the TUT Food Hamper Crisis intervention program. The foundation supplies the University with 250 food hampers monthly and 250 hygiene packs which consist of personal hygiene products and household detergents on an ad-hoc basis as this depends on the availability of resources.  The Assist A Student program was established from a ‘seed fund’ which was granted by the then University’s Executive Management Committee. The Student Affairs Executive Committee then resolved to allocate a share to the Assist A Student program from the Student Extracurricular levy which is mandatory from each registered student. Currently R17 of this levy goes toward the Assist A Student funding. |
| 21 | Vaal University of Technology | **No response received** |  |  |
| 22 | University of Venda | The University provides food parcels through its project Thohoyanzie. It also has a Social Responsibility Fund which is intended to assist needy students, coordinated by the Convocation and Alumni Office. Students are assisted as and when they approach the university for assistance.  During the second semester in 2020, the University received food parcels donated by Professional Provident Society (PPS) Foundation and handed same to indigent students. There was also a period when the Service Provider for Student Bar on Campus provided free meals to a group of needy students on a daily basis. | No specific number provided | The projects are funded through donations from companies/organisations, alumni and individuals, including UNIVEN staff and students as well as SRC. |
| 23 | Walter Sisulu University | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 24 | University of the Western Cape | UWC provides ad-hoc food support programmes for residence students, sports athletes and for emergency relief especially during the exam period. | To date 1200 students have been supported. | The main support comes from Tiger Brands. Occasionally, Shoprite and Checkers and Pick ‘n Pay provide support to deserving students. |
| 25 | University of the Witwatersrand | The University provides monthly food packs, food gardens and a daily meal programme | +/- 2000 students | The University receives funding from corporate sponsors, although Council funds are set aside for the programme in the event of funding not being sourced. |
| 26 | University of Zululand | N/A | N/A | N/A |