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**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**Minister**

**National Assembly question for written reply: 596**

**Ms M D Hlengwa (IFP) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities:**

Whether, with regard to COVID-19 that left nearly half of the Republic’s mothers and children going hungry last year, as revealed in the 2020 *South African Child Gauge* report, presented by the Children’s Institute at the University of Cape Town (details furnished), her Office has conducted a study of its own; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings of the study? NW652E

**Reply compiled by: ADDG: PSCKM**

**Recommended /Not recommended**

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**Advocate MJ Maluleke**

**Director-General**

**Date:**

**Supported /Not supported**

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**Prof H Mkhize, MP**

**Deputy Minister**

**Date:**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 596**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 FEBRUARY 2021**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER 2021: 04 OF 2021**

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**Reply:**

The Department conducted an electronic survey during April/May 2020, to determine the initial impact of the lockdown on the lives and livelihoods of women. This survey was not able to reach a sufficiently large enough number of respondents across the country to make any conclusive findings. It was further limited to access to some women’s organisations only who responded but they too were unable to reach women in the community level because of level 5 lockdown restrictions. However the survey findings enabled the DWYPD to facilitate that GBVF and the services thereof, be included in the regulations as essential service.

The DWYPD also collaborated with UN Women on the various surveys through CATI (use of cellular mobile technology) approach to reach a few thousands of respondents. The findings indicate that hunger by women and children was a growing problem at the start of the lockdown but eased somewhat with the provisions of the food parcels to indigent households and the social protection relief measures put in place by Government.

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**Approved by Minister**

**Ms M Nkoana-Mashabane, MP**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**