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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 649**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 24 APRIL 2020**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER: 12 - 2020**

**649. Mrs A Steyn (DA) to ask the Minister of Social Development:**

(1) What (a) criteria does her department use to determine which persons qualify to receive food parcels from the Government, (b) number of persons have received food parcels from the Government each day since 1 February 2020, (c) food and other goods does a standard food parcel contain and (d) is the cost of each food parcel;

(2) what is the name(s) of the service provider(s) that was contracted to provide food parcels in each province;

(3) whether her department collaborates with nongovernmental organisations to identify needy persons and distribute food parcels; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;

(4) what are the details of the plans her department has put in place to ensure that more needy persons receive food parcels, especially in light of the national lockdown to combat the COVID-19 pandemic;

(5) Whether her department took any steps to liaise with and mobilise civil society and businesses to assist the Government with hunger-relief initiatives; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW851E

**National Assembly written Reply: 649 of 2020**

**REPLY:**

1. (a) The regulation 9 of the Social Assistance Act 2004 indicates the following: A person in need of immediate temporary assistance qualifies for SRD if he or she:
2. has insufficient means;
3. Is a South African citizen or permanent resident or a refugee

And complies with any of the following conditions-

(i) is awaiting payment of an approved social grant; or

The breadwinner -

1. has been assessed to be disabled for a period of less than six months
2. of that household has died and an application is made within 12 months following the death of the breadwinner; or
3. that household has been admitted to a public or private institution for at least one month

In addition to the above, Regulation 9(5) makes provision for social relief of distress to provide to persons where the households have been affected by a disaster (declared or undeclared). The above provisions are what informs the provision of any social relief of distress, including food parcels, by SASSA.

On the COVID-19 food parcels issued by DSD the following is considered:

* Households that have no source of income to buy food
* Households that were serviced by DSD centre based feeding programmes such as Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDCs), Drop-in Centres, Home Community Based Care Centres (HCBCC), Luncheon Clubs and etc that are closed due to lock-down,
* Households of orphans and vulnerable children needing support due to closure of the Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)
* Child-headed households

(b) The number of persons have received food parcels from the Government each month since 1 February 2020 (please note that information is not available for daily statistics) is indicated below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month** | **No of food parcels (SASSA)** |
| February 2020 | 2,485 |
| March 2020 | 5,378 |
| April to 11May 2020 | 116 206 |

The Department started distributing food parcels specifically for COVID-19 through the Provinces on the 30th March 2020. Not all the provinces started on the same day due to procurement delays. The number of persons that have received food parcels from the Government each day since 1 February 2020 is as reflected on the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATES** | **EC** | **FS** | **GP** | **KZN** | **Limp** | **Mp** | **NC** | **NW** | **WC** | **TOTAL**  |
| 30-Mar | 0 | 0 | 514 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 514 |
| 31-Mar | 0 | 0 | 293 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 293 |
| 01-Apr | 0 | 0 | 451 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 451 |
| 02-Apr | 0 | 0 | 936 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 936 |
| 03-Apr | 0 | 0 | 1 385 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 105 | 0 | 0 | 1 490 |
| 04-Apr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| 05-Apr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 06-Apr | 0 | 0 | 2 379 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 693 | 0 | 0 | 8 072 |
| 07-Apr | 0 | 0 | 2 438 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 056 | 0 | 0 | 3 494 |
| 08-Apr | 0 | 0 | 2 790 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 011 | 0 | 0 | 4 801 |
| 09-Apr | 0 | 0 | 2 303 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 570 | 0 | 0 | 3 873 |
| 10-Apr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 141 | 164 | 1 050 | 1 355 |
| 11-Apr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 751 | 495 | 1 121 | 164 | 2 000 | 5 531 |
| 12-Apr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 833 | 1 506 | 0 | 164 | 2 500 | 5 003 |
| 13-Apr | 0 | 0 | 1 843 | 0 | 2 000 | 351 | 0 | 1 310 | 1 500 | 7 004 |
| 14-Apr | 0 | 0 | 1 963 | 0 | 8 847 | 131 | 705 | 164 | 490 | 12 300 |
| 15-Apr | 0 | 0 | 2 952 | 0 | 1 500 | 0 | 1 018 | 164 | 2 020 | 7 654 |
| 16-Apr | 0 | 0 | 3 151 | 0 | 1 990 | 0 | 3 258 | 164 | 1 655 | 10 218 |
| 17-Apr | 354 | 0 | 3 126 | 0 | 1 990 | 2 627 | 1 161 | 0 | 750 | 10 008 |
| 18-Apr | 546 | 0 | 814 | 0 | 500 | 2 375 | 188 | 164 | 2 750 | 7 337 |
| 19-Apr | 890 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 990 | 2 627 | 0 | 164 | 486 | 6 157 |
| 20-Apr | 666 | 0 | 3 224 | 540 | 1 819 | 1 805 | 1 223 | 164 | 4 575 | 14 016 |
| 21-Apr | 400 | 0 | 2 680 | 1750 | 1 819 | 432 | 1225 | 164 | 1 080 | 9 550 |
| 22-Apr | 575 | 0 | 2 159 | 3 000 | 473 | 1 831 | 1 644 | 5 082 | 2 010 | 16 774 |
| 23-Apr | 1 010 | 0 | 2 440 | 2 000 | 3 277 | 82 | 1 523 | 0 | 576 | 10 908 |
| 24-Apr | 380 | 525 | 1 467 | 1 250 | 1 983 | 131 | 1 528 | 0 | 666 | 7 930 |
| 25-Apr | 875 | 782 | 617 | 2 500 | 1 000 | 4 352 | 364 | 856 | 3 400 | 14 746 |
| 26-Apr | 275 | 394 | 54 | 2 000 | 233 | 4 192 | 0 | 6 296 | 2 010 | 15 454 |
| 27-Apr | 369 | 434 | 855 | 2 500 | 1 500 | 1 943 | 0 | 1 206 | 5 200 | 14 007 |
| 28-Apr | 384 | 414 | 2 146 | 2 441 | 1 500 | 2 538 | 0 | 206 | 1 450 | 11 079 |
| 29-Apr | 1 000 | 443 | 12 058 | 1 300 | 267 | 83 | 0 | 1 338 | 4 700 | 21 189 |
| 30-Apr | 330 | 454 | 4 713 | 875 | 1 500 | 316 | 0 | 462 | 3 650 | 12 300 |
| 01-May | 530 | 309 | 5 163 | 335 | 1 000 | 0 | 0 | 412 | 2 355 | 10 104 |
| 02-May | 0 | 466 | 234 | 200 | 500 | 0 | 450 | 0 | 3 030 | 4 880 |
| 03-May | 141 | 503 | 3 936 | 450 | 1 322 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 2 015 | 8 467 |
| 04-May | 675 | 0 | 2 421 | 750 | 350 | 0 | 1 682 | 668 | 3 000 | 9 546 |
| 05-May | 2 289 | 918 | 2 983 | 2 300 | 1 300 | 138 | 2 502 | 1 030 | 342 | 13 802 |
| 06-May | 1 074 | 271 | 6 140 | 2 400 | 2 000 | 186 | 1 704 | 412 | 478 | 14 665 |
| 07-May | 2 400 | 148 | 3 729 | 575 | 1 200 | 133 | 1 786 | 618 | 450 | 11 039 |
| 08-May | 1 059 | 570 | 2 552 | 800 | 780 | 0 | 2 645 | 998 | 2 000 | 11 404 |
| 09-May | 2 300 | 875 | 2 081 | 875 | 650 | 0 | 913 | 750 | 1 950 | 10 394 |
| 10-May | 754 | 300 | 5 527 | 985 | 1 200 | 0 | 0 | 800 | 1 900 | 11 466 |
| 11-May | 898 | 243 | 4 965 | 1 075 | 1 000 | 0 | 2 421 | 650 | 2 700 | 13 952 |
| 12-May | 154 | 566 | 4 518 | 586 | 570 | 0 | 2 639 | 1 300 | 1 060 | 11 393 |
| 13-May | 0 | 639 | 3 634 | 789 | 380 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 500 | 6 942 |
| **TOTAL** | **20 328** | **9 254** | **107 634** | **32 276** | **49 024** | **28 274** | **42 396** | **26 034** | **67 298** | **382 518** |

(c) The food parcels contains the following food and other goods/ none food items:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Food Group** | **Items** | **Unit** | **Qty** | **Indicative cost per unit** | **Monthly cost (Rands)** |
| **Starch** | Maize meal | KG | 10  | 6 | R60 | R226 |
| Rice | KG | 8 | 12 | R96 |
| Potatoes | KG | 7  | 10 | R70 |
|  |
| **Protein** | Pilchards | 400g TIN | 6 | 20 | R120 | R350 |
| Baked Beans | 410g TIN | 6 | 10 | R60 |
| Lentils | KG | 2 | 20 | R40 |
| Milk Powder | KG/Litres | 1 / 6 | 130 | R130 |
|  |
| **Veg** | Butternut | KG | 10 | 6 | R60 | R60 |
|  |
| **Seasoning** | Onions | KG | 2 | 6 | R12 | R52 |
| Oil | LIT | 2 | 20 | R40 |
|  |
| **Other** | Soap | Bar | 2 | 8 | R16 | R16 |
|  |
| **Total monthly cost for food per month** | **R704** | **R704** |

Please also see food parcel content attached as Annexure A for normal SASSA SRD food parcel

See Annexure B for an amended food parcel being provided as a response to the current disaster.

(d) The cost of the food parcel was determined through the tender process. The cost of a food parcel varies by supplier, but cannot exceed R1 500. However, the food parcels provided by SASSA, with the reduced content is R1 200.

The DSD cost of each food parcel is R700.00 per food parcel. This was done to create uniformity and reduce the levels of disparities between the SASSA SRD and the DSD Food Relief food parcels. This amount excludes the sourcing, handling & distribution costs and the SASSA amount is inclusive.

(2) The name(s) of the service provider(s) that was contracted to provide food parcels in each province are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Name of service provider** |
| Eastern Cape | Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)  |
| Free State | Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)  |
| Gauteng | Kagisano  |
| Believers Care Society |
| Entokozweni Development |
| Siyabonga Development |
| Carol Shaw |
| Bokamoso Development |
| Rorisang PTY LTD |
| Barath Chemicals & Engineering |
| Mohlodi 247 Business Solutions |
| Schutz Trading and Enterprise |
| Chobokwane PTY LTD |
| KwaZulu Natal | Action Development Agency (ADA) |
| Limpopo | Makotse Womens Club  |
| Mpumalanga | Kago Yabana Foundation  |
| Northern Cape | Motswedi Wa Sechaba |
| Islamic Relief South Africa |
| Lunchbox |
| North West | Motswedi Wa Sechaba  |
| Wolrd Focus Projects |
| Mekgwe Mobile Shop (PTY) LTD |
| RXD Logistics 9 |
| Re Thusa Botlhe Catering & Cleaning Services |
| Mabogo Dinku Enterprise & Projects |
| DM Mega Enterprise |
| Mojero Trading |
| Blink Of Africa Group of Companies |
| Matshota Trading Enterprise |
| Owabo Bonke Trading Projects |
| Pefect Girlz |
| Western Cape | Ilitha Labantu  |
| Islamic Relief South Africa |
| Mustadafin Foundation |
| The South Africa Red Cross Society |
| SANZAF |

The name(s) of the service provider(s) that have been contracted by SASSA to provide food parcels in each province are attached as Annexure C.

(3) The majority of the applicants for social relief are also self-referrals by citizens experiencing undue hardship. However, SASSA does work with a range of stakeholders in administering this programme. These stakeholders include the Department of Health and Department of Education for the zero hunger programme which supports nutritionally challenged children.

With regards to social relief in the form of food parcels provided as a response to the current disaster, SASSA is a member of the provincial coordinating structures (Provjocs) in all provinces where the provision of social relief of distress is jointly coordinated by different key stakeholders (Municipalities and Government departments). In addition, SASSA has received lists of citizens who have been unable to contact SASSA directly from various NGOs and civil society organisations. The citizens off these lists have been contacted and an application form completed for each one. Those applications which have been approved are then issued with food parcels.

The Departmental officials profile households to identity people in need of food assistance and refer those in need to various social development centres that provide social development services including food assistance.

A community member is then serviced by one of the following DSD centre based programmes depending on the age and other social needs of the individual: Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD), a Community Nutrition and Development Centre (CNDC), Drop-in Centre (DIC), Home Community Based Care Centre (HCBCC), or the Luncheon Club.

The Department collaborates with non-profit organisations to then service the identified persons in need of social services. All DSD centres are operated by non-profit organisations and food parcels were 1st provided to DSD centres with already profiled beneficiaries that were receiving food assistance even prior to lock-down.

During lock-down these beneficiaries would have been more vulnerable. The food parcels intervention targeted them through the DSD centre based programmes. Refer to the attached - list of CNDCs from the provinces operated by NPOs.

Another mechanism is the call centre, which was established in most provinces during COVID-19 lock-down for receiving more people in need of assistance beyond DSD centres and self-referrals.

**Call-centres in Provinces:**

The Provinces received requests for food relief through the Call Centre or provided email. The information is shared with Provincial DSD Team, which then cluster requests by District and service area. Teams are then allocated to respond to the requests. On assessment, the team on the ground makes the determination based on set assessment criteria. Food parcels then get delivered to the households by the officials.

(4) The demand for food parcels has definitely increased since the lock-down was announced. In trying to ensure the Department was able to respond to the increased demand, the application form for SRD was reduced, to capture only essential information and Ministerial Directions signed on 30 March 2020 enabling SASSA to take telephonic applications, so that the need for face to face interviews could be dispensed with.

 The content of the relief parcel and price was reduced as a strategy to stretch the budget and provide assistance to as many deserving beneficiaries as possible. The fresh produce, samp (which requires a long time to cook which means increased energy costs for those already struggling) were excluded and each parcel was issued at a standardised price of R1 200 per food parcel in all provinces.

The qualifying criteria for SASSA applications was limited to include specific categories only, in an effort to prevent duplication with other organisations also providing food relief. The following categories of clients were identified for assistance by SASSA:

* People who did not receive grants in April 2020 because their grants were suspended: temporary disability grants;
* Children who turned 18 after lockdown
* Grant beneficiaries who experienced challenges in April to access the grants (card lost or faulty; failed bank verification; fraud; etc)
* People who should have applied but could not do so as a result of the lockdown (people who turn 60 years old; new born babies whose care givers would have applied for CSG)
* Persons experiencing undue hardship but do not fall into one of the above categories.

A number of the above categories of clients have been addressed through the latest Directions signed on 9 May – these include the reinstatement of temporary disability grants and care dependency grants and care dependency grants where the care dependent children turn 18 years of age in February, March and April 2020. The grant amounts have also been increased as from May 2020 has also been implemented to try and ensure that social grant beneficiaries are cushioned from the impact of the disaster.

The introduction of the special relief grant of R350 per month as from May has also addressed the last category – that is persons experiencing undue hardship.

 (5) The Department and SASSA has, as indicated above, cooperated with various civil society organisations in receiving information about citizens who could potentially qualify for food relief. However, distribution was done by Departmental (SASSA & DSD) staff only to ensure accountability.

**National Assembly written Reply: 649 of 2020**