



“iQhaza Lethu”
*An informal settlement upgrading partnership
initiative co-funded by the European Union*

IQHAZA LETHU INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING REPORT FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

By Nana Ndlovu

In light of COVID -19 spread in the Republic of South Africa the President announced the national lockdown commencing from the midnight of the 26th March 2020 for 21 days. The announcement further declare coronavirus as pandemic. Only essential services were permitted, and other businesses were closed. The entire South African citizen, business sectors, civil society formation responded differently to the announcements others arranged workers to perform their duties from home, others suspend operations. Most people were left confused unable to perform their duties which provide some livelihoods. People working in informal sector street vendors, household assistance, those who do days’ work were unable to perform their work.

As Iqhaza Lethu team we continue engaging with our communities remotely from operating from home and supported our target communities to collect data through Community Development Coordinator (CDC) locally employed people. Constant feedback from our CDCs was that people are worried about lack of income and food to feed their families. While some were complaining about not having food to feed their families. People felt hopeless not knowing when the next meal will come. Our primary messages was to create hope that it’s for time-being.

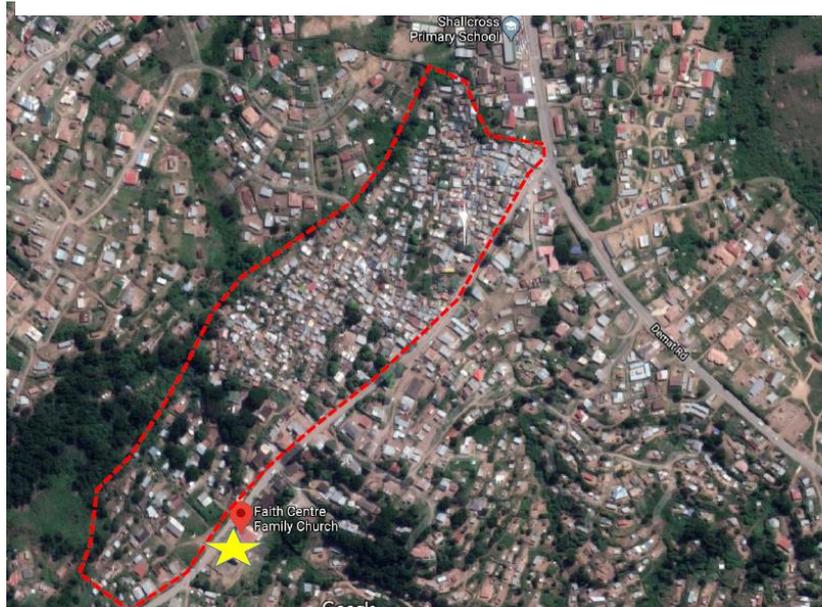
Target areas were 10 informal settlement under Iqhaza Lethu and Banana City being part of University of KwaZulu Natal and Malaica after part of the settlement burned down by fire. Our target groups within the settlements were people with food in-security but a special focus on women, children, people living with disability and elderly. Beyond the vulnerable groups more people were exposed to food insecurity due to lockdown and unable to perform their economic activities. People working in informal businesses like vegetable vendors and casual workers and those relying on piece meal jobs.

The outcry about food shortage required Iqhaza Lethu to reconsider its mandate. The main objective was to work with communities to plan for provision of basic services. It was difficult to discuss any development issues with people facing immediate need of livelihoods and food scarcity. Realising the challenge Iqhaza Lethu embarked on nationwide search for funding opportunities for food provision. Available funding opportunities for food provision were designed for schools and Early Childhood Development (ECD) nutrition programmes. Part of the criteria was having a secure address for delivery points. A main challenge for informal settlements was to produce fix addresses to serve as delivery points.

Conceptual plan for food distribution to informal settlements focused on providing fix addresses for all 12 settlements. In most cases informal settlements are named after the road names for example Parkington road, Havelock road, etc. Therefore, the conceptual plan demonstrated the following point. a) physical addresses closer to central point of the settlement was used as fix delivery points, b) a link with a Geographical Information System (GIS) pointing to a delivery point for each settlement was used to link delivery point, c) local CDCs were the main personnel responsible for coordination of food distribution representing local development committees, d)

Local development committees took responsibility for food distribution once delivered, and e) PPT took the overall responsibility to coordinate and support CDC and undertaking logistical plans.

Figure 1: Progress Place layout (drop-off was Faith Centre)



Our conceptual plan persuaded potential funders to reconsider their position not funding to people from informal settlements. The Lunch Box was willing to consider our concept plan and they requested a project proposal detailing our concrete plan. Project proposal to fund the provision of food in the informal settlements was approved for the first time. It was a great victory for people from informal settlements and created a precedent. HCI Foundation also came on board and funded additional 500 boxes. For the first batch we secured 1000 boxes for eleven settlements and 500 boxes for the second batch distributed in 12 settlements.

Organising local logistics was also essential step of the process. During the lockdown there were several sponsorship in each settlement (but in small quantities) and list of people in need were developed. Preparation of local logistics included registering households in need of food support, but it required a cautious approach not to create expectation. It was also important to register needy households while not creating expectations. Once we were notified about the delivery dates which was 24 hour's notice we invited registered beneficiaries to central point.

Distribution of food went very smoothly. On distribution day only enrolled households were invited to the venue. People were handed over the of boxes (12 kilograms with 17 items) of food and required to sign the register. Those boxes cost around R400 and could last for a month have one meal a day. That might be seen small but it assisted provided some relief for a lot of people.

Some images for food distribution:



Waiting to distribute food boxes in Bhambayi



Household who benefitted.

Settlement names	Total households	1 st Batch	2 nd Batch	Ward	Name of CDC in settlement	Contact number	Street address	PPT/IL team leader	Contact number
Palmiet Road	1 200	175	39	23	Siviwe Mbombo	073 194 5642	85 Palmiet road Clare'estate 4091	Sizwe Mxobo	083 353 8464
Progress Place - Demat	1 000	146	39	72	Nomvuselelo Z. Dlathu	068 5181 060	327 Progress Place Road, Damet , 4092	Nana Ndlovu	082 700 7253
Uganda T-Umlazi	1 130	41	39	90	Mancane Nokwazi Buthelezi	072 627 5415	80 Pady Road Isipingo Hills	Sizwe Mxobo	083 353 8464
Ezimbileni (KwaShembe)	650	95	39	22	Andile Tafeni	078 412 9603	2616 34th avenue clermont ezimbileni	Nana Ndlovu	082 700 7253
Bhambayi Phase 3 (Inanda)	2 000	275	39	57	Zimasa Mrwetyana	060 343 6296	21 Nohohwana street Bhambayi Inanda	Nana Ndlovu	082 700 7253
Quarry Road	1 100	106	39	23	Nomandla Nqanula	067 038 8039/	1208 Quarry Road West Clare estate	Sizwe Mxobo	083 353 8464
Parkington	487	47	39	36	Thembelihle Nzuza	079 975 1664	17 Parkington Road Greenwood Park	Sizwe Mxobo	083 353 8464
Hololo City (Ntuzuma C)	406	59	39	45	Nonhlanhla Mhlongo	071 318 2036	C 3009 Sihle Drive, Ntuzuma,4369	Sizwe Mxobo	833 538 464
Havelock	250	20	39	36	Zinhle Masondo	074 207 7547	165 Havelock Road, Greenwood Park, Durban 4051	Sizwe Mxobo / Cathy Sutherland	083 353 8464 / 083 382 7274
Malaika	70	0	65	110	Thabsile Mhlongo	0738308065	135 Mallaca road, Redhill, 4051	Nana Ndlovu	827007253
Bhambayi ward 52	2 000	0	45	52	Blessing Nyuswa	0605780197	1825 Ntombi Mbiko Rd, Bhambayi Inanda	Nomtha Sikhosana	717386554
Banana City	750	36	0						
Dakota Beach	729	0	39	90	Busiswa Khundla	073 432 9657	19 Ernest Clokei road, isipingo Beach ,	Sizwe Mxobo	083 353 8464
Total	8 293	1000	500						