



21197 people received CoCare vouchers across the 8 areas.

92% of teachers supported with CoCare Vouchers are female.

619 people with disabilities were supported.

7250 young girls in ECD's supported with vouchers.

193 gardeners supported are female (58.13%).

A Gender-Equal and Socially Inclusive project: framework

The project focuses on the most vulnerable groups, those who are excluded in our society, and the project is tailored around their needs.

The project is designed to benefit children under the age of seven, including unborn babies, pregnant women, people with disabilities, older people involved in community gardens, and spaza shop owners, often owned by migrants.

Many of the most vulnerable in our society are women. Recognising this, the beneficiaries of the project are approximately 92% women. The majority of the project's fieldworkers and community organisation volunteers (soup kitchens and community gardens) are women.

A gender and social inclusion framework with three categories has been adopted to determine social impact.

Minimum standard, whereby the programmes address practical needs and vulnerabilities of women and

marginalised groups.

Empowerment, whereby the programmes build assets, capabilities and opportunities for women and marginalised groups.

Transformative change, whereby programmes address unequal power relations and seek institutional and societal changes.

Below examples illustrate how the project has been practicing gender and social inclusiveness, as per the three levels:

Minimum standard

Providing immediate food relief is the minimum standard for gender and social inclusion in response to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. In this project, supporting food kitchens were considered the minimum standard, to provide an immediate response to meet vulnerable households' basic nutritional needs.

The Community Care vouchers, a key component of the project, offer choice to voucher recipients to choose what they would like to spend the digital voucher on.

On a macro-level, this is an opportunity to pioneer a different form of agency-centred relief, founded on a culture of choice, peace and freedom. This is the minimum standard, and underpins the project's broader goals of empowerment and transformative changes elements.

Empowerment

Assets

The project provides Early Childhood Development businesses and voluntary

community organisations such as food kitchens and community gardens, all predominantly female-led and staffed, with infrastructural support, equipment and small scale upgrading.

V-NET provides internet access and a shared server primarily for ECD centres and their immediate surroundings, as an asset for learning and educational materials. It further provides a certain amount of free bandwidth to those who cannot afford mobile data, providing access to information and for community organising on a neighbourhood level.

Opportunities

The project strengthens the local economy by providing business for spaza and house shops, which are predominantly owned by migrants, who are often marginalised.

We intentionally focus on using local, socially inclusive suppliers for procurement for project inputs such as Township.co.za, a company with operations in Manenberg and Khayelitsha who are supplying masks and bags.

Further, the project provides a platform for area-based collaboration and connection amongst partner organisations at project meetings and through connecting ECD Forums and Gardening Networks with local leadership groups.

Capabilities

Beneficiaries' capabilities are enhanced by offering training to women, such as Embrace and Grow Great training registration officers and ELRU training fieldworkers to use the Kobo Toolbox.

Capacity building takes place for community gardeners, the majority of whom are women, by setting up peer learning networks amongst the gardens and communities based on good practice, with additional resources. These include the Urban GAPS Good Agricultural Practices manual. This gardening manual has been designed for the Cape Flats and is available in Afrikaans and Xhosa. Agriplanner, a tailor-made training course, teaches production planning, business development, soil enhancement techniques and provides mentorship for key individuals from each gardening group.