



## The South African Council of Churches Gauteng Province



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### **Report on Relief efforts in the Gauteng Province**

The purpose of this report is to give an update based on the South African Council of Churches' Pastoral Care concept, which encourages church and community leaders to join forces in order to identify the indigent and vulnerable in communities in order to link them with aid and Pastoral care during and beyond the National Covid-19 Lockdown.

The Gauteng Council of Churches began the formation of the Local Ecumenical Action Networks (LEANS) which were made up of fraternal, church leaders, community leaders and partners to accelerate the response to the above concept. Those in need were identified and captured on a database (list).

The challenge emerged when the response time to the lists that were submitted (to contacts provided by Government) was undefined. This caused a lot of pressure on those who were administering the process as people grew impatient. However, as the third week of the National Lockdown came to an end, the following aid became available:

#### **Rise Against Hunger**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020, communication was made with who had received dehydrated food packs (soy) from the Rise Against Hunger organisation. The Gauteng Council of Churches received 5 boxes of food packs which were a total of 180 packs.

One packet which would be equivalent to one meal, when cooked, would feed about 4 people.

These packs were distributed in Melville, Naledi Soweto, Mofolo and Dube areas. The food packs, which were distributed in quantities of between 2-4 packs per family depending on the size of the family served as a means of relief for families who had been waiting in distress for response from Government relief.

#### **Muslim Association of South Africa- Covid 19 Relief**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> April, we received a response from Provincial Government that the Muslim Association of South Africa- Covid 19 Relief would assist with food parcels according to our request. On Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 600 food parcels were delivered at the Apostolic Faith Mission of SA, Naledi Assembly in Soweto.

#### **Safety and Security**

The Muslim Association of South Africa, arrived with their own security vehicles and food supply truck. The South African Police Service were notified and escorted the vehicles of the volunteers as deliveries were made within the area. The Station Commander of the Naledi SAPS lead the team.



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## Distribution

Church Leaders and Community Development Workers who had submitted lists were called in order to collect the parcels to distribute in designated areas according to the lists that were provided prior to the delivery. When leaders arrived for collection, they signed a register next to their names and quantity accordingly. This was to ensure that correct administration was in place to avoid mismanagement of parcels.

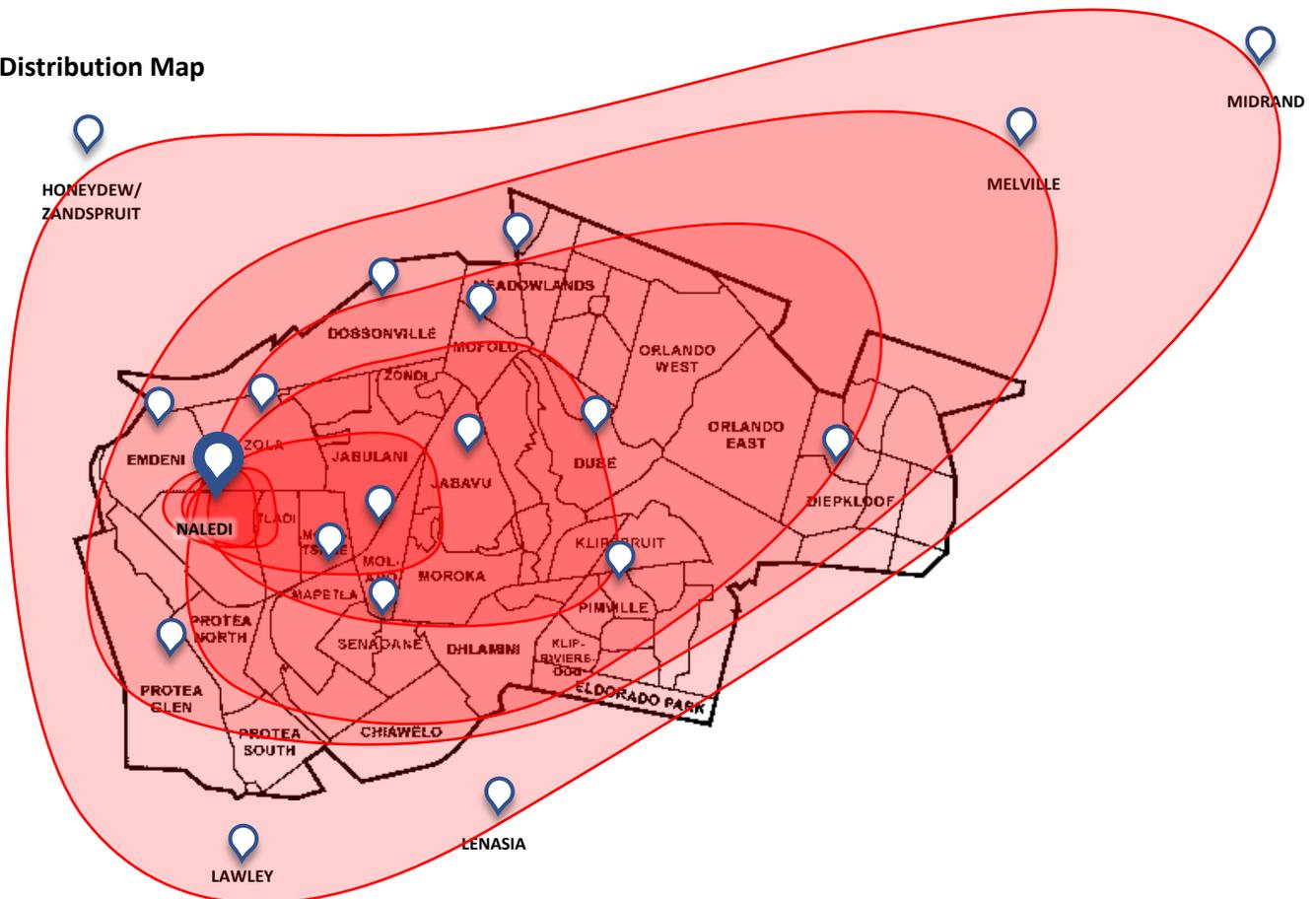
## Personal Protective Equipment

The Muslim Association provided 2 boxes of gloves, and masks which were distributed to the leaders who arrived to collect the parcels, to insure careful handling of the parcels for collection and distribution.

## Permits

Accordingly, permits were provided which detailed the exact movements of the leaders from one area to another. This special attention to detail controlled the movements of the leaders in order to limit the use of the permits to necessary locations only.

## Distribution Map





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### **The Local Ecumenical Action Networks:**

1. GP Council of Churches Partners
2. Soweto Minister's Fraternal Lean
3. AFM Soweto
4. Midrand
5. Ekurhuleni
6. Broader Dutch Reformed – North of GP
7. Region D1
8. West Rand (Alex, Coronationville, Krugersdorp, Kagiso)
9. Central Jabavu and Surrounds

### **Consolidation of Lists**

60 lists have been received thus far from all over the province which contain, 4184+ names of those in need. Additional lists from various NGO's, inclusive of outside of Gauteng, who have been referred to the LEAN strategy have also submitted their lists.

### **Conclusion**

The need on the ground is enormous. It is only through partnership and collaboration that those in need can be assisted. The number of families living below the poverty line in South Africa, continues to rise and it is our prayer that all stakeholders play their part to eradicate and alleviate this footprint in on our land.

May God bless South Africa as we continue to pray for the healing of the nation and world.