

Food Security and the Environment

Hunger and poverty were a phenomenon of pre- Covid-19, and the pandemic highlighted and exacerbated these plights in our communities. Food security through the implementation of food gardens, to ensure sustainability, became the order of the day. Community kitchens were not able to keep up with the demands for fresh ingredients. Noteworthy, our partners, Greenlight Food Gardens, Jacobs Gardens, and the Children's Resource Centre, became beacons of hope in this trying times.

Greenlight Gardens started windowsill garden in their Ottery community, encouraging old and young to start planting their own food in their flats. They also assisted at the Oasis Centre in Schaapkraal to set up a food garden, teaching the homeless people gardening as well as food security skills. The garden looked impeccable, and it was great to see the light and hope on the faces of the people that gained new skills and pride when the veggies they planted was put on show at their monthly market.

The Children's Resource Centre set up a model food garden/nursery at the home of their Coordinator in Bontheuwel. This space has become a learning centre for the children and youth to learn about gardening, but also to see where their food comes from. They also have 11 community food gardens across the province. The CRC has excellent Climate Change programme and teaches the children about recycling, keeping their areas clean and manufacturing reusable sanitary towels, to minimise the landfill of the ordinary sanitary towels.

Jacobs Garden continued with their herbs and composting. They also assisted students that was on an agricultural learnership with their practical skills and collaborations with other organisations and schools.