



SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN

Covid-19, Climate Crisis and Food Sovereignty Responses

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I. EDITORIAL

Covid-19 and the Case for a citizens' basic income grant in South Africa

Vishwas Satgar

With Covid-19 and the lockdown there is no room for denial of how large parts of South African society suffer. High-income earners have gone online, fridges are stocked and uncertainty is mitigated by healthy bank balances. Low-income households are writhing with anxiety at job losses, are pushed into hunger by the suspension of income-generation opportunities, even in the informal economy, and informal settlements do not have stocked fridges.

We are a society marked by a racialised and gendered social class divide; a cruel society, even 26 years into post-apartheid democracy.

However, the irony of our situation is that we have had black rule in post-apartheid South Africa. The African National Congress (ANC) has led the post-apartheid order and it has nothing short of a strange commitment to black lives.

On the eve of lockdown, the Minister of Education, Angie Motshekga, on national television, trumpeted that “our people have coping mechanisms” thus implying all will be well. This “we know best” attitude gave South Africa a glimpse of the disconnect between the ruling party and lived realities. The reams of economic data on racialised and gendered inequality in South Africa speaks for itself as a counter to ruling party arrogance.

A few years ago we were told ANC cadres did not struggle to be poor. Due to their mythic role in a complex struggle, involving sacrifices by people from all walks of life, they deserved a post-apartheid dividend; we owed our liberators. And of course, they cashed in on this with rampant looting. It is time the mangled, hypocritical and tortured soul of the ANC-led alliance, which is there for all to see, gets a speedy send-off.

However, before then and just maybe somewhere in the Kafkaesque world of the ANC, driven by jostling self-serving factions, there is a residue of genuine concern for black lives and South Africa in general. Just maybe, in the decisive leadership being provided on Covid-19 and ostensibly out of concern for us all, it is capable of understanding that now is the time to give concrete expression to the living hope of the many. This of course does not mean authoritarian populism Malema-style, but rather there still might be an intellectual capacity to grasp the opportunities for strategic transformative change.

Covid-19 and the space for transformative change

While South Africa has been busy coming to terms with the shock of lockdown, two important developments have taken place.

First, the shift towards systemic state intervention to enhance the societal response to Covid-19. Despite the silo approach to governance and competition between Cabinet ministers to shine, and with strategy being about what your ministry can bring to the challenge, some important shifts in state practice are happening in the midst of incoherence and uneven capability.

[Announcements](#) by state armaments parastatals, Denel and Armscor, that they would be repurposing production for ventilators, sanitisers and even converting military vehicles into ambulances is a welcome shift from arms production in a time of crisis.

Such a breakthrough confirms the potential of repositioning these enterprises to also play a part in producing renewable energy technologies and public transport systems for the just transition to avert a 2°C increase in planetary temperature and bring down South Africa's carbon emissions.

Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu, [announced](#) she would be commandeering all water resources in the country under the control of water boards, water associations and other mechanisms. Through ministerial control she effectively ensured water as a public good was now nationalised in terms of government control.

Minister Sisulu was also at pains to clarify that water used by the government would be compensated. In a water-constrained country, in which 62% of water resources are controlled by commercial farmers, this is a crucial move to ensure the water needs of citizens are met during Covid 19. Her rollout of 41,000 water tanks (only [17,631](#) had been delivered by 9 April) and commitment to use schools as sources of clean water for communities is a crucial crisis management intervention, but has to be tracked and monitored by communities. Many of these communities have been denied water due to mismanagement, corruption and failed ANC government leadership, including during South Africa's drought.

Similar potential exists with integrating public and private health into a functional, affordable and citizen-driven system. But the leadership provided by the minister of health will determine the fate of our post-Covid-19 health care system.

Reframing the role of the state

Nonetheless, all these systemic shifts, actual or potential, are crucial to reframe the role of the state to allocate structural capacities and resources to meet societal needs. More can be done in post-Covid-19 conditions, given the struggles from below, to also ensure these changes bring workers and society into these processes. In other words, we shift from state provisioning to democratic provisioning including democratic public utilities.

But will these shifts endure as we confront the dramatic impacts of Covid-19, economic recession and climate crisis? Or will South Africa merely revert to a financialised market-centred script that has benefited a few corporations and a few wealthy individuals? The battle lines are being drawn right now as we grapple with our post-Covid-19 future. Despite

the outcome, what is clear is that the arguments for climate emergency measures have just been strengthened in the midst of the pandemic.

Finance capital is not standing back and is trying to shape a post-Covid 19 world. This relates to the second important development in this conjuncture.

On Friday 27 March, Moody's followed two other credit rating agencies and downgraded South Africa's sovereign debt rating to junk. This means the cost of borrowing for South Africa is on its way up and will increase financial stress. These credit-rating agencies are part of a globalised disciplinary complex protecting the interests of globalised finance and the Dollar-Wall Street regime. They do not care what the needs of countries are except to ensure return on capital. They are also dubious and certainly not the bastions of creditworthiness integrity, given they were giving triple-A ratings to Wall Street finance houses before the crash of 2008-2009.

South Africa has been in the grip of global finance for too long and has had to forego its democratic commitments to its people, to ensure the "sovereign interests" of global finance come first. Moody's and credit rating agency downgrades have laid the basis for austerity macro-economic policy; cutbacks in state social spending and a further squeeze on the precariat coming out of Covid 19.

This will be disastrous. We have to break the grip of global finance on the South African economy now.

In the midst of the global pandemic there is space to break with a one-size-fits-all approach in economic thinking so we can innovate, be bold and heterodox in how we deal with economic and climate challenges. Liberal globalised capitalism and its finance-centred economic orthodoxy has been suspended in this crisis. Credit rating agencies, creditors and multi-lateral institutions and neoliberals in the state will want to bring it back from the dead after the pandemic. This is not going to be easy given the state of the world economy and the challenges facing the three main economic centres that drive global capitalism.

China, US and the Germany-led European Union

China is not going to lead the bounce-back of the global economy any time soon. It went into the Covid-19 crisis with high levels of debt in its financial system, property bubbles, declining trade with the US and even if it uses its surplus (\$3-trillion) to launch an expansionary stimulus there is no external demand for Chinese manufacturing, at least for the next few months and possibly for the duration of the pandemic.

China will have to rethink its role as a globalised economy in this context. Also, dependencies built on China for essential medical goods, inputs and other critical manufactured goods are certainly going to be rethought by importing countries, given the prospects of more pandemics and climate shocks. It would be naïve to think a China-centred low-wage manufacturing world is returning after Covid-19.

The US is currently in turmoil and will be the worst impacted Western country by current trends. Trump will realise his wish of making the US great in everything, including Covid-19. On 7 April, the US had more infections (367,650) and already had more deaths (10,943) than 9/11 (about 3,000 at the Twin Towers).

The US spent trillions on the war on terror ([according to Brown University's](#) Costs of War project almost \$6.4-trillion), one of the longest wars in the modern world. Yet Trump and the ruling class are playing partisan games with the Covid-19 response and are merely willing to make modest concessions.

The trillion-dollar stimulus plan, while providing for \$1,000 cash transfers to adults and \$500 to children is an immediate relief measure, merely about \$500 billion. A lot more will go to small business and mainly big business like airlines and shipping for bailouts.

Like 2007-2009, business is going to win again in terms of state support, affirming a neoliberal truism: the people are not too big to fail.

However, the US is still in the upswing of Covid-19 infections, unemployment is skyrocketing, a global recession has kicked in and climate shocks like wildfires in California are coming soon in the summer.

The US has already incurred massive costs due to climate crisis-induced tornadoes (including over Easter weekend in Louisiana) and hurricanes (Harvey cost \$125-billion). A few more of these extreme weather events will certainly induce fiscal limits and also challenge the capacities of the US state, in the midst of dealing with Covid-19 or its aftermath.

Quantitative easing, the favourite monetary policy tool of the US state, from printing money to the Federal Reserve purchasing financial securities, is going to face limits with synchronised systemic crisis tendencies hitting at once. Moreover, Trump's divisive politics also makes the US dollar and US government bonds risky as a safe haven. China might also, given worsening domestic economic constraints, cash in on US bonds to re-adjust its own economy.

Germany, the strongest economy in Europe, is also facing serious challenges. Already in 2019, it was experiencing a slump in economic growth. The steep drop in car exports has placed major stress on one of its leading manufacturing sectors. Massive layoffs of metal workers were instituted and have continued in the context of Covid-19. Retail and commercial industries are also facing massive contractions, bankruptcies and retrenchments.

The stimulus package of the Merkel government is inadequate and still heavily credit-driven, providing a debt-based lifeline to stressed enterprises. The European Union is facing closed borders and an ineffectual European Commission in terms of co-ordinated and effective fiscal policy. Unconventional economic tools, measures and responses are coming to the fore.

South Africa's Covid-19 state managers have thrown existing fiscal resources, within key institutions, such as the IDC, Department of Agriculture and small business relief funds towards failing businesses. Tax relief and unemployment benefits (a temporary employee relief scheme) have also kicked in with the UIF making R30-billion available. Just before lockdown the [Climate Justice Charter process](#) called for stronger mitigation measures such as a substantive basic income grant, together with the trade union federation Saftu. This has also been echoed by the C-19 People's Coalition.

[Many economists and academics](#) have questioned the lack of stronger mitigation measures and have also called for a citizens basic income grant (BIG) to be considered in the context of lockdown.

What will South Africa be like if a substantive BIG is implemented now?

If South Africa implements a substantive basic income grant during the pandemic, a cash transfer to all citizens of R4,500 per person, per month, and subject to progressive taxation if your income exceeds R20,000 per month (currently South Africa has about 7.6 million taxpayers), these are its implications.

- *Providing a means to address hunger* – about 14 million people went to bed hungry in South Africa in 2019 and we can assume this increased with the suspension of livelihoods when lockdown kicked in. In rural areas, 80% of 700,000 farm workers (plus their families — about 2.5 million people) experience hunger, given the exploitative wages earned (the minimum wage is R18.68 per hour). About nine million children receive a nutritious meal during school, but under lockdown this has been compromised in various parts of the country.
- *Provide a cushion for unemployment* – before South Africa's lockdown, and based on the narrow definition of unemployment, 5.9 million were unemployed. It is estimated that between 900,000 and three million more workers will lose their jobs due to the lockdown. According to the International Labour Organisation, due to digital technologies, global value chains and other structural factors, unemployment is very likely to go up on a global scale in the foreseeable future. For South Africa, the much-vaunted Fourth Industrial Revolution is certainly a strategy to displace labour.
- *Handwashing and sanitation will be enabled* – about 1.4 million people living in informal settlements do not have access to water in their homes or yards. Almost three million (of 19 million) in rural areas lack access to a reliable supply of water.
- *End precarity* — 2.6 million in the informal sector (and about 60,000-90,000 waste reclaimers, who save municipalities about R750-million a year in landfill costs) and an additional one million domestic workers, are all precarious without benefits including unemployment benefits.
- *Increase the redistributive bargaining power of labour* – by ending dependence on low-wage work. The fragmentation of labour unions has weakened their institutional

power to ensure higher wages and non-wage benefits. This was reflected in the minimum wage secured of (R20.76 per hour) R3,653. Other categories without powerful union densities or unions earn less, such as domestic workers (R15.57 per hour) and public works programmes (R11.42 per hour). A higher wage floor based on a BIG of R4,500 and with workers having pooled household income, gives labour greater bargaining power.

- *Increase household income and fiscal stimulus* — South Africa has 18 million very poor households (about nine million in rural areas) that have five members with a total monthly income of R2,600. Many of these households are highly indebted. Social grants mitigate this situation for 17.6 million beneficiaries but not all these households have grant recipients. Moreover, the child-support grant (R445 per month covers 12.5 million children), old-age grant (R1,860, or older than 75, R1,870, covers 3.5 million people) and the disability grant (R1,860 covers just more than one million people) are just not keeping pace with increasing living costs. A family of four needs at least R2,500 per month just to cover food staples. Competing needs for transport and now sanitisers and soaps place immense pressure on such limited resources. More income in households will also have impacts on aggregate demand and kick-start the economy.
- *Fiscal consolidation* – currently the state spends R162.9-billion (2018/2019) on social grants. This is meant to go up to R202.9-billion in 2021/22. The Unemployment Insurance Fund, even after allocating its R30-billion for Covid-19, has R160-billion in investments. A BIG can also be funded through a wealth tax based on income, inheritance and land, as well as a progressive carbon tax on wealthy consumers and carbon-intensive industries. All of these resources can be consolidated together with all grants into one consolidated BIG budget, effectively laying the basis for a “post-work” society.
- *Institutional rollout* — to all South Africans through consolidating biometric information contained in Sassa, SARS, the Home Affairs department (based on identity document data) and from banks. In this regard, either Sassa and/or the Post Office could be crucial mechanisms to achieve the disbursement, including digitally.

Time has come to build an emancipatory future

South Africa cannot continue a lockdown and confront this pandemic without stronger mitigation measures like a BIG. In the midst of Covid-19, [Spain is the first country](#) to commit to rolling out a BIG as a response to the crisis and this will be a democratic systemic reform that will persist beyond the pandemic.

The BIG has a history that goes back to the Enlightenment. In the 20th century, many experiments and forms of BIG interventions have been tried since the 1970s in the US, Canada, Kenya, Namibia and Finland. Each of these trials were based on specific parameters: target groups, social objectives and levels of income.

All the research shows positive outcomes when assessing the social efficacy for the BIG. This has ranged from more investments in human development, less stress, lower health costs, greater labour market leverage for workers and less food vulnerability. In the context of the climate crisis and deep just transition the BIG is an absolutely necessary democratic system reform to enable the ecological restructuring of our society without harming those least responsible for the problem.

If South Africa does not embrace the BIG in the context of Covid-19, together with other public goods, this will be a serious historical mistake and a missed opportunity for a more emancipated future.

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II. NATIONAL NEWS

2.1 Launch of National Food Crisis Forum and partnerships

On 22 May the National Food Crisis Forum was launched. The following document, endorsed by 110 organisations outlines the objectives guiding the Forum.

Since its inauguration, the Forum has also put out a number of press releases, calling on the Solidarity Fund, and various government departments to dialogue. Press releases can be found at this link: <https://www.safsc.org.za/category/media2/>

Covid-19 and the Hunger Crisis Towards a Food Sovereignty and Community Driven Solidarity Partnership Government, Solidarity Fund and Grassroots Organisations

1. Introduction

Although the South African government has taken decisive action towards control of the Covid-19 pandemic, South Africa's response will fail due to the worsening hunger crisis and loss of income amongst large parts of the population. 'Death by hunger rather than the pandemic' is being expressed by many. The hunger crisis is not new and has been worsened with the lockdown. Government's risk management approach to the lock down strategy, while well intentioned, has been top down and has not had adequate grassroots input. It is also not clear what kind of scientific assessments have informed the opening up of some parts of the economy. Our challenges will also not be solved merely by re-opening an economy that produces joblessness, inequality and hunger. How South Africa acts now will shape its future. The Covid-19 pandemic provides an opportunity to end hunger, build a new people-centered food system that can handle worsening climate shocks and which is democratised. We call this food sovereignty. President Ramaphosa has consistently called for solidarity, partnership and unity. In this spirit we are presenting this proposal to the government and the Solidarity Fund.

2. The Worsening Hunger Crisis

Large parts of South Africa's corporate-controlled food system collapsed during the drought, now in its sixth year. Maize, livestock, fruit and even vegetable production was compromised in many parts of the country. Food prices went up and this intensified food inequality. If Covid-19 had hit during the peak of the drought, South Africa would have had to import food aid. In the context of climate change, climate science has confirmed the country will be getting hotter and drier and experiencing more drought-like conditions. A new food system that is not externalised and which can handle multiple shocks has to be established. South Africa must ensure urgent systemic transformation of its food system now.

Before Covid-19, 30.4 million people (out of a population of 58.8 million) lived under the upper-bounded poverty line of R1227 per month. At least 14 million people were going to bed hungry. Health data highlights 1 in 4 children under 5 years were malnourished. Moreover, stunting of boy children under 5 years is 30% and girl children under 5 years is 25%. Due to low incomes and poverty, 27% of adults are obese and 51.9% are overweight. The lock down has now suspended the livelihoods of a further 4 million people in the informal sector (including 1 million domestic workers, 2.6 million informal traders and thousands of waste reclaimers, car guards, small scale fishers and more). Unemployment was at 10.4 million (38.7%) before Covid-19 and has gone up during the lockdown. In this context the hunger crisis is huge and one estimate suggests at least 30 million people have been experiencing food stress in South Africa during the Covid-19 lock down. This painful reality is widespread in many communities, in both urban and rural settings.

By 14 May 2020, the Department of Social Development had delivered about 525 000 food parcels and the Solidarity Fund about 250 000. With the assumption of four people per household, only 3.1 million have been reached to date. This seems to be the first round of food parcel delivery for recipient households and it is not clear how long these food parcels will last. There are also concerns about the nutritional balance of such food parcels.

Currently, the price of an essential basket of goods (38 food items) has gone up from R3221 to R3470.92 (an increase of 7.8% or R249.42). These increases cancel gains made in the older persons and child grants. In grant-recipient-households there is also more than one mouth to feed which places a lot of stress on resources. The median wage in South Africa is R3500 which puts immense pressure on households, given competing needs. The current cost of a domestic and personal household hygiene products basket is R694.74. Food in poor households, capable of buying an essential basket of goods, now lasts just two weeks rather than three weeks. The Covid-19 relief grant is simply insufficient and represents a missed opportunity to break with a welfare approach that 'disciplines the desperation of the poor'.

The high rate of unemployment also puts pressure on those who are employed, as they have to provide for family members who are unemployed, and this has led to uncontrollable debts and depression.

Pre-existing food relief efforts in a number of communities have been scaled up in many communities. Many emergency relief efforts have also come to the fore including attempts to utilise food vouchers that support local spaza shops and community food suppliers. However, many of these community-led initiatives are now facing severe constraints. Financial and regulatory challenges loom large. Under level 4 restrictions there have been attempts to prohibit and over-regulate community feeding schemes, soup kitchens and other relief efforts. This is a mistake and will worsen the hunger crisis.

Hunger flashpoints such as food truck hijackings, attacks on supermarkets and street protests have also come to the fore during lockdown due to the hunger crisis. Social discontent and desperation are on the increase, reflecting the limits of the current food relief effort.

3. A Food Sovereignty Vision to End Hunger

Hunger will not be eradicated by food corporations in South Africa. In a deeply unequal society with high levels of unemployment, commodified food merely reinforces food inequality. Those with income eat, and those without remain hungry.

Food sovereignty recognises that food is produced by our ecosystems – birds, bees, worms, biodiversity, human labour and people's choices. This means all these socio-ecological forces must be given the power to prevail over our food system. Food for need rather than food for profit means everybody eats. We eat what our ecosystem provides for us.

A democratically organised food system controlled by small-scale food producers, consumers and society means we can co-govern the soil, land, water, biodiversity and knowledge commons. It affirms our constitutional right to food, water and a healthy environment. Moreover, these commons-based resources are managed in a life-giving manner rather than being exploited, polluted and destroyed. Agro-ecology as a people's science is central to such a practice. It places an ethics of care, the building blocks of nature and small scale producers' knowledge at the centre of food production practices. Food produced for need benefits from local indigenous knowledge as people learn to eat to live, while affirming nutritious choices and their cultural appreciation of food.

Food sovereignty for all envisages every community, village, town and city feeding themselves through sharing, democratically managing and protecting the commons. Such pathways need to be scaled up now and have been in the making at the grassroots (see <https://www.safsc.org.za/peoples-food-sovereignty-act/>)

4. Principles for a Solidarity Partnership

To address the scale of the hunger crisis in a transformative manner, a food sovereignty and community-driven partnership has to be locked into place now with the government and the Solidarity Fund. The following principles should guide this partnership:

- Solidarity – by supporting, working with and embracing all who live in South Africa that are in need;
- Community led – informed by the needs, concerns and leadership within communities;
- Dialogue – to enable learning, listening, sharing and joint problem solving;
- Advance and protect the commons – land, water, biodiversity, the biosphere, human effort and knowledge must be supported as the basis for food provisioning.

5. Food Sovereignty and Community Driven Food Crisis Strategy

There are four key strategic elements for this food sovereignty and community-driven partnership with government and the Solidarity Fund:

5.1 Widening Food Relief Efforts through State and Community Networks

The Department of Social Development has used its own food banks, beneficiary lists and logistics capacities to tackle immediate food relief. The Solidarity Fund has also partnered

with certain humanitarian organisations and food NGOs. These are reactive mechanisms, or 'supply side', which are crucial. However, a needs based approach that is community driven, has to be added to the national effort. Community organisations, community action networks, faith based organisations, community supply chains, local movements and various other grassroots relief efforts which have been triggered, have to be connected into the national effort.

5.2 Unlocking the Food Commons and Scaling Up Food Sovereignty Pathways

In poor communities, 70% of poor households source their food locally. Household gardening, community gardeners, small scale farmers, subsistence fishers, informal traders and community feeding schemes are all part of the food commons in South Africa. Lock down regulations (level 5 and 4) have shut down most of the food commons, contributing to the hunger crisis. Unlocking the food commons is crucial for all levels of lockdown and as we go forward. Moreover, food sovereignty pathways and hubs that advance agro-ecological practice, commoning, demonstrate socially owned renewable energy, zero waste and solidarity economy practices are crucial. This would ensure eco-centric production and consumption are connected for localised, people centered food sovereignty systems.

5.3 Ethical Pricing, Solidarity Buying and Peoples Pantries in Supermarkets

The cost of essential goods is increasing, particularly amid the Covid-19 pandemic. This has to be stopped and if necessary regulated in the corporate controlled food value chain. Food corporations have to be engaged to support the national effort to meet food needs including ending 'food waste' in the value chain. Ethical pricing of essential goods, provision of ethically priced solidarity buying packages and peoples pantries, even online must be introduced. Consumers can donate to these initiatives and this can be distributed through the military, police, and other essential government services, but monitored by local community and faith leaders. The needs of rural communities have to be taken into account through such initiatives.

5.4 Advancing a Substantive Basic Income Grant

Social grants in South Africa, including the Covid-19 relief grant, are inadequate to meet household needs. We need a transformative approach that ensures we tackle hunger, unemployment, transition challenges related to the worsening climate crisis and provide security to all. Currently there are campaigns in 95 countries to ensure a basic income grant is locked into place – a #BIGNOW is secured. The Pope has supported such a call and the UN General Secretary has also been asked to come out in support of the #BIGNOW. The South African Food Sovereignty Campaign is leading the #BIGNOW initiative supported by trade unions, unemployed people's organisations, informal traders, faith based organisations and NGOs. In October when the Minister of Finance suspends the Covid-19 Relief grant and all social grant top-ups, South Africa will continue to muddle through with high inequality and desperation. The #BIGNOW can consolidate our welfare system, ensure aggregate demand comes to the fore to stimulate the economy and we have a people-led recovery that does not leave anyone behind.

6. **A Solidarity Partnership – Towards a National Food Crisis Forum**

The South African Food Sovereignty Campaign will be convening a National Food Crisis Forum of rooted movements, NGOs and humanitarian organisations and will invite the

government and the Solidarity Fund to participate in this forum. The primary objectives of this forum include:

- Advancing the key elements of the food sovereignty and community driven food crisis strategy;
- Coordinating with government and the Solidarity Fund;
- Sharing information with the public and media;
- Monitoring and tracking hunger flashpoints to enable effective responses.

7. Phases of Implementation

There are three phases to implementing the food sovereignty and community driven partnership with government and the solidarity fund. These phases will overlap at the level of practice and implementation.

- Phase 1 – establishing the National Food Crisis Forum, operationalise the widening of food relief efforts, map and make visible the food commons using the SAFSC online tool (<https://www.safsc.org.za/food-commons-map/>), build a directory of grassroots food relief efforts, also engage supermarkets on their role and engage government on opening up the food commons within the national lock down strategy;
- Phase 2 – establish 1000 food sovereignty hubs, a minimum of 100 per province as the backbone capacity for coordinating food sovereignty pathway building in communities, villages, towns and cities. Such hubs to be anchored by grassroots organisations for commoning, as learning spaces and coordination spaces for local food sovereignty alliances. Such hubs are already taking root and include: seedling nurseries, seed banks, agro-ecology training spaces, zero waste and collective composting systems, water harvesting, socially owned renewable energy, equipment banks, training resource libraries, communal kitchens, demonstration gardens and convene local food markets. They are spaces to train households, community gardeners, small scale farmers and promote ethical care for forests, oceans and veld based commons, that might be available to communities.
- Phase 3 – engage government and society on the #BIGNOW for South Africa

8. Challenges

This process faces three challenges:

- The reluctance by some in government to engage in a partnership with progressive civil society to address the worsening hunger crisis;
- The lack of a shared strategic understanding of the moment and the systemic approach needed to address the food crisis and a crisis ridden food system;
- Divisions, petty differences and ‘territorial politics’ in civil society.

9. Conclusion

Hunger is not new to South Africa. It is a serious social challenge and has been worsened by Covid-19. Together with the loss of income, South Africa is facing a very volatile and dangerous situation over the next few months. We have to confront these challenges in a manner that eradicates hunger, builds a new food system now and ensures a people led economic recovery through a #BIGNOW. We believe the time has come for a food sovereignty and community driven solidarity partnership with government and the Solidarity Fund to make this happen.

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III. LOCAL CAMPAIGNING NEWS: BUILDING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

3.1. Food Commons Map

Earlier this year, we put out a call for people to list their food commons initiatives. These include initiatives such as household gardens, community gardens, communal kitchens, food relief initiatives and so forth. We have had a number of people/communities list their initiatives, and the map is growing. These initiatives show that there is indeed an alternative food system. The map can be viewed at this link. Have a look, and be inspired by what is happening in South Africa: <https://www.safsc.org.za/food-commons-map/>

If you have a food commons initiative, please consider listing it on our map at this link: <https://www.safsc.org.za/add-your-food-commons-project>

The screenshot displays the SAFSC Food Commons Map website. At the top, the SAFSC logo is visible, along with navigation links for Home, About, Food to Sovereignty, Media Releases, Climate Justice Charter, Campaign Resources, and News & Events. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation, the page title 'Food Commons Map' is prominently displayed, accompanied by a red button labeled 'Add Your Food Commons Project'. The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, there are search filters for various types of food commons projects, including Communal Kitchens, Community Gardens, Home Gardens, Informal Trade Organisations, Non-Governmental Community Feeding Schemes, Paucity Gardens, School Gardens, and Small Scale Farms in Communities. Below these filters are two search input fields. On the right, a map of South Africa is shown with numerous red location pins indicating the locations of food commons projects across the country. Two featured project cards are visible on the left side of the map. The first card is for 'Wits Food Sovereignty Centre', located at the Food Sovereignty Centre, Wits, Jan Dorcas Avenue, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. The second card is for 'Soul on Indigenous life', located at Shifaneke Drive, O'Randia East, Soweto, South Africa, Gauteng, South Africa, 1862.

3.2 Online Agroecology Education

During July and August, COPAC and SAFSC rolled out an online education series on agroecology. The first phase consisted of four online workshops to guide people as they set up their household or community food gardens. These workshops were all facilitated by expert permaculturalist, John Nzira and covered topics from soil health to indigenous knowledge and indigenous seed. Each workshop was recorded and is available online for viewing:

The following topics were covered at the workshops:



1. Workshop #1: Setting up your household food garden: <https://youtu.be/8mx8XBivkEY>
2. Workshop #2: What to plant, including an introduction to food sovereignty: <https://youtu.be/-Wu3DnZjZ9E>
3. Workshop #3: Indigenous knowledge, seed and the commons, with input from Method Gundidza on indigenous knowledge, and Vishwas Satgar, on the commons: <https://youtu.be/iuFZm-xkrrl>
4. Workshop #4: Maintaining your food garden, and an introduction to agroecology by Vanessa Black: https://youtu.be/TXyV4lYU_zl

IV. SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLES

4.1 Solidarity with Water-Stressed Communities

South Africa has serious water inequalities. The drought made this worse and the ANC government did not respond effectively. In the midst of Covid 19, Minister Sisulu committed to rolling out 41 000 water tanks and to prioritising the needs of water stressed communities during the lock down. With input from communities we have developed a map and directory of where water stress exists. As a result of this mapping we have started working with water stressed communities and the Legal Resource Centre to make demands on the minister to provide immediate relief to these communities. South Africa will get hotter and drier with climate change. Now is the time to win our constitutional rights to water, which have been denied for too long. #WaterForAll. View press releases and the demand to the minister at this link. <https://www.safsc.org.za/category/media2/>

View the water stressed community map at this link: <https://www.safsc.org.za/water-stressed-communities-map/>

The screenshot displays the SAFSC website's interface for water-stressed communities. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for HOME, ABOUT, COVID-19 SOLIDARITY, MEDIA RELEASES, CLIMATE JUSTICE CHARTER, CAMPAIGN RESOURCES, and NEWS & EVENTS. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar labeled 'SEARCH LOCATION' with a 'Category' dropdown menu. The main content area features a map of South Africa with numbered markers (1-25) indicating water stress levels in various locations. The left sidebar shows search results for 'ALEXANDRIA - TOWNSHIP' and 'ALICEDALE', both marked as 'NO IMAGE'. The map data is attributed to ©2020 AfrigiS (Pty) Ltd.

V. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

5.1 Earth Day Message: One Planet, One Health – Making Peace with the Earth

EARTH
22 ND APRIL 2020

**ONE PLANET, ONE HEALTH
MAKING PEACE WITH THE EARTH**

Vandana Shiva and the Rights of Nature Foundation invited environmental/climate justice activists from different parts of the world to read out a common message for Earth Day on 22 April. The message is a call for urgent action where the health and wellbeing of all peoples and the planet are at the centre of all government and institutional policy, community building and civic action.

Vishwas Satgar, from SAFSC, featured in this video, as one of the many voices calling for peace with the earth. Watch the video here https://youtu.be/XKD3nEkB_zU

TIERRA
22 ABRIL 2020
UN PLANETA, UNA SALUD

LIVE

BUENOS AIRES 17 HS | 18 HS KENIA
FRANCIA/ITALIA/SUDÁFRICA 22 HS | 16 HS USA ESTE
MÉXICO 15 HS | 13 HS USA OESTE

HOY 17 HS ARG
ESTRENO
AUDIOVISUAL
DESIVIO A LA RAIZ



"Mucha gente pequeña, en lugares pequeños,
haciendo cosas pequeñas, pueden cambiar el mundo"

Eduardo Galeano.

Navdanya
internacional



NATURALEZA DE DEBECHOS

5.2 Why the Covid-19 Crisis Tells Us that Food Sovereignty is an Idea Whose Time has Come

By Walden Bello

Cross posted from Focus on the Global South: <https://focusweb.org/why-the-covid-19-crisis-tells-us-that-food-sovereignty-is-an-idea-whose-time-has-come/>

The global food system has been very much front and center in the Covid 19 story.

Every one, of course, is aware that hunger is closely tracking the virus as it wreaks havoc in both the global North and global South. Indeed, one can say that, unlike in East Asia, Europe, and the US, in South Asia, the food calamity preceded the actual invasion by the virus, with relatively few infections registered in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh as of late

March of 2020, but with millions already displaced by the lockdowns and other draconian measures taken by the region's governments.

In India, for instance, internal migrants lost their jobs in just a few hours' notice, leaving them with little money for food and rent and forcing them to trek hundreds of kilometers home, with scores beaten up by police seeking to quarantine them as they crossed state lines. Estimated at to be as many as 139 million, these internal migrants, largely invisible in normal times, suddenly became visible as they tried to reach their home states, deprived of public transportation owing to the sudden national lockdown. With people dying along the way, a constant refrain in this vast human wave were the desperate words, "If coronavirus doesn't kill us, hunger will!"

But the food question has been a key dimension of the pandemic in two other ways. One is the connection of the virus with the destabilization of wildlife. The other is the way the measures to contain the spread of the virus have underlined the extreme vulnerability of the global food supply chain.

Covid 19 and Wildlife: The Virus and Ecological Destabilization

The story of how the Novel Coronavirus leaped from its animal host to humans in a wet market in Wuhan still has to be told in detail, and with the ruling Communist Party in China so sensitive to its bungling its first efforts to contain the disease, this may never come to pass. One hypothesis making the rounds is that the original host was a bat while the go-between between the bat and humans was a pangolin or scaly anteater. Bats were also the original hosts for the coronavirus that caused SARS, the disease that hit humans in the early 2000's, and MERS or "Middle East Respiratory Syndrome" that made its appearance nearly a decade later. The intermediate hosts, however, differed, with the masked civet serving as the intermediate host for SARS and the dromedary camel in the case of MERS.

Virologists and biologists still have to come to a definitive conclusion as to the intermediate host of the Novel Coronavirus that leaped to some humans at the Wuhan Wholesale Seafood Market. What interests us here is the likely backstory. That background is likely to have involved ecological destabilization caused by the expansion of large-scale commercial poaching, industrial agriculture, residential expansion, and other forms of human invasion of the natural habitat of wildlife.

It is not surprising that the passage from pangolins to humans occurred in China, both in the case of the Novel Coronavirus and that of SARS, which started in Foshan municipality in Guangdong Province, for China is the global center of the wildlife trade, much of it illegal. As food systems expert Mahendra Lama points out, China hosts "scores of both licensed and illegal commercial breeding centers supply tigers, porcupines, pangolins, bears, snakes and rats." A study by the Chinese Academy of Engineering stated that, in 2016, there were more than 14 million people working in the wildlife-related industry that fetched \$74 billion.

The Global Food Supply Chain: The Weak Link

The other food-related dimension of the Covid 19 pandemic of critical importance is the vulnerability of the global food supply chain.

With the Covid 19 pandemic poised to make its assault on South Asia and Africa, which health specialists thought to be the continent most vulnerable to the virus, the heads of the World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Administration made a joint declaration in late March that since “[millions of people around the world depend on international trade for their food security and livelihoods,” governments had to refrain from taking measures that would “disrupt the food supply chain.” Warned FAO chief Qu Yongdu, “Don’t let Covid-19 crisis become a hunger game.”

What the international agencies feared was a repeat of the 2007-2008 food price crisis when disruptions of the global food supply chain triggered by export restrictions by key grain supplying countries like China, Argentina, Vietnam, and Indonesia forced food prices to skyrocket and added 75 million people to the ranks of the hungry and drove an estimated 125 million people in developing countries into extreme poverty.

Indeed, the current threat to the global supply chain is not just a potential one: the chain *is already breaking down* at one of its most critical links: migrant labor. The pandemic has exposed the degree to which farming is dependent upon migrant workers, with more than 25 percent of the world’s farm work done by these itinerant laborers. In an excellent survey, Jean Shaoul tells us that some two-thirds of these 800,000 difficult and backbreaking jobs, whose main features are low pay and long hours, are filled in the harvest season in Europe by workers from north Africa and central and eastern Europe. But the Schengen area, comprising 26 European states, has banned external visitors for 30 days and closed many borders.

“Labor is going to be the biggest thing that can break,” Karen Girotra, a supply-chain expert at Cornell University told the *New York Times*. “If large numbers of people start getting sick in rural America, all bets are off.” Indeed, belonging to an essential industry, farm workers and workers in the downstream food processing and food retail sectors, are in the frontlines of the struggle to contain Covid 19, but many of them are deprived of the most basic protective gear like facemasks and work in crowded conditions that make a mockery of social distance rules.

But the global supply chain is not only threatened by problems at the production and processing ends, but by transportation bottlenecks, especially at key hubs. An FAO report vividly captures a developing problem in Rosario, Argentina, the world’s largest exporter of soymeal livestock feed:

Recently, dozens of municipal governments near Rosario have blocked grains trucks from entering and exiting their towns to slow the spread of the virus...Soybeans are therefore not being transported to crushing plants, affecting the country’s export of soybean meal for livestock. Similarly, in Brazil, another key exporter of staple commodities, there are reports of

logistical hurdles putting the food supply chains at risk. Internationally, if a major port like Santos in Brazil or Rosario in Argentina shuts down, it would spell disaster for global trade.

There is no doubt that making sure the global food chain is free of disruptions is a short-term priority to prevent starvation and food riots. What is disturbing though is that FAO and other multilateral agencies can't seem to get it into their heads that the global food supply chain is contributing to magnifying the Covid 19 fiasco, that its having displaced local and regional food production systems and making countries less self-sufficient in food has made many of them more vulnerable to pandemics and other emergencies. Indeed, ships and planes loaded with food supplies have themselves become some of the most effective transmitters of the disease over long distances.

Extending the Chain

The 2007-2008 food crisis and the 2008-2009 global financial crisis should have shown the multilateral agencies the fragility of global supply chains—of the food system in the case of the first and the industrial system in the case of the second, when the financial crisis led to a global recession that closed down many global industrial subcontractors in China. These developments should have triggered serious interrogation of the resiliency of the global supply chain paradigm that had become the “business model” of western transnational corporations.

Instead of being phased out, however, the food supply chain stretched farther and farther and local and regional food systems withered even more. The FAO estimates that global agricultural trade more than tripled in value to around US\$1.6 trillion from 2000 to 2016. More and more, local and regional food systems that used to provide most of domestic production and consumption of food have retreated, in the face of these chains, which are dominated by large processing firms and supermarkets, are capital-intensive, and have a relatively low labor input compared smallholder agriculture. These international and regional giants now constitute roughly 30%-50% of the food systems in China, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, and 20% of the food systems in Africa and South Asia.

Vertical integration and consolidation at the buyer end of export chains, says one influential study, “are strengthening the bargaining power of large agro-industrial firms and food multinationals, displacing decision-making authority from the farmers to these downstream companies, and expanding the capacity of these companies to extract rents from the chain to the disadvantage of contracted smallholder suppliers in the chains.”

What changes to the global food system does the Covid 19 debacle urge on us.

Destabilization of the Wildlife Habitat Must be Halted

First of all, China must stop destabilizing the wildlife habitat. It must be emphasized that China's exotic culinary practices involving the illegal commercial poaching of wildlife has now produced two pandemics in less than two decades, SARS and Covid 19. Thus Beijing has a responsibility to ensure that China does not become a source for a third. Acknowledging Wuhan's illicit wildlife connection, Mahendra Lama points out, China's top law-making body,

the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the Communist Party of China, has now banned wildlife trade. Also, Beijing is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and has imposed wildlife crime penalties of \$29,441 and life imprisonment.

However, as Lama, tells us, "wildlife trade continues unabated, and the use of more sophisticated e-commerce platforms with highly coded messaging keeps vigilance at bay." Serious enforcement, involving hi-tech methods, and not just legislation, must be Beijing's priority, "so that wildlife traders, supply chain managers, and global storehouses are treated akin to global terrorism actors, booked and dealt severely with when caught." China, he rightfully stresses, "must realize that its status as a global actor has now become inextricably intertwined with local culinary and commercial practices in the wet markets of many of its cities."

But there is an even bigger challenge that China has to meet, and that is, it must seriously rethink and possibly shelve its flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A massive trillion-dollar program of building roads and railways and constructing hydroelectric and coal power plants, and setting up mining ventures, BRI projects threaten over 1,700 critical biodiversity spots and 265 threatened species, according to the World Wildlife Federation, one of these being Sumatra's Batang Toru forest highlands, one of Indonesia's most biodiverse regions, where a \$1.6 billion hydroelectric power plant poses a danger to the rare Tanapuli orangutang and the critically endangered Sumatran tiger and Sunda pangolin. In the Philippines, the BRI-funded Kaliwa Dam in mountainous Eastern Luzon island is projected to displace some 20,000 indigenous peoples living in 230 hectares of dipterocarp forests well as pose a threat to rare species of flora and fauna in the area, including the white-winged flying fox, slender-tailed cloud rat, civet cats, wild boar, Philippine eagle, and Philippine deer.

Many of these wildlife are hosts to viruses, like those causing SARS and Covid 19, and they are strongly suspected of transmitting them from bats to humans. Thus many projects connected with the BRI will destabilize local ecologies, posing the threat of triggering future pandemics.

Viral transmission is not the only threat posed by the BRI. According to one study, BRI's network of roads, railways, and pipelines could introduce more than 800 alien invasive species – including 98 amphibians, 177 reptiles, 391 birds and 150 mammals – into several countries along its many routes and developments, destabilizing their ecosystems.

The Chinese government must seriously rethink the BRI and radically modify if not totally eliminate many of the projects connected with it for public health and ecological reasons.

Adopt Food Sovereignty as the Paradigm for Food Production

Probably the most important measure that we propose is to move food production away from the fragile corporate-controlled globalized food supply chain based on narrow considerations such as the reduction of unit cost to more sustainable smallholder-based localized systems. While, in the short term, global supply chains must be kept running to ensure people do not starve, the strategic goal must be to replace them, and some measures can already be taken

even as the pandemic is at its height. The local supply system can be reactivated, and farmers and fishers would only be eager to do this, provided of course that they have access to personal protective equipment.

There are solid reasons for reversing the trend towards the globalization of food production and moving towards more food self-sufficiency. *However, the rationale goes beyond just ensuring food self-sufficiency to fostering values and practices that enhance community, social solidarity, and democracy.* The movement towards an alternative food system has gained momentum over the last few decades owing to the growing realization that the way we produce our food is one of the keys to overcoming the alienation of human beings from one another and the alienation of the human community from the planet.

Led by peasants and smallholders, who still produce some 70 per cent of the world's food, this movement proposes the alternative paradigm of "food sovereignty," the cornerstone principles of which include the following:

>Local food production must be delinked from TNC-dominated global supply chains and country should strive for food self-sufficiency, meaning the country's farmers should produce most of the food consumed domestically, a condition that is subverted by the corporate concept of "food security" that says that a country can also meet a great part of its food needs through imports.

>The people should have the right to determine their patterns of food production and consumption, taking into consideration "rural and productive diversity," and not allow these to be subordinated to unregulated international trade.

> Localization of food production is good for the climate since the carbon emissions of localized production on a global scale are much less than that of agriculture based on global supply chains.

> Traditional peasant and indigenous agricultural technologies contain a great deal of wisdom and represent the evolution of a largely benign balance between the human community and the biosphere. Thus the evolution of agrotechnology to meet social needs must take traditional practices as a starting point rather than regarding them as obsolete.

To be sure, there are many questions related to the economics, politics, and technology of food sovereignty that remain unanswered or to which its proponents give varying and sometimes contradictory answers. But a new paradigm is not born perfect. What gives it its momentum are the irreversible crisis of the old paradigm and the conviction of a critical mass of people that it is the only way of surmounting the problems of the old system and opening up new possibilities for the fulfillment of values that people hold dear. As with any new form of organizing social relationships, the unanswered questions can only be answered and the ambiguities and contradictions can only be ironed out through practice, since practice has always been the mother of possibilities.

It has been said that one should never let a good crisis go to waste. The silver lining of the Covid 19 crisis is the opportunity it spells for food sovereignty.

5.3 COVID-19 – Small-scale food producers stand in solidarity and will fight to bring healthy food to all

International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) Statement

7 April 2020

The COVID19 crisis is rapidly expanding and deepening, highlighting and exacerbating existing inequalities including wealth, health, race and gender. In many countries it will develop into a deep social and economic crisis where the most vulnerable will again suffer the most – with no access to healthcare, losing their jobs and incomes, electricity and water being cut off as people cannot pay the bills anymore and many evictions where rent can no longer be paid. In many regions, a major food crisis is also looming as people will be no longer be able to pay for food.

Local markets are being closed and peasants, livestock keepers, animal breeders, shepherds and fisherfolk are often not allowed to get their products to consumers, even if community-supported agriculture and other direct selling methods seems to be an exception in some regions. Due to severe and sometimes brutally imposed lockdowns, fisherfolk may not be allowed to go out fishing and sell their catch, pastoralists cannot sell their products and farmers and farmworkers cannot do the crucially important work on their fields to secure products for consumption. In many countries, the migrant workers on which farmers often depend are not able to travel. Food will be left to rot in the fields in spite of the hugely increased demand for healthy local food.

We condemn the brutality on peasants, migrant and agricultural workers and on the poor and vulnerable that is taking place in certain countries. We demand governments to take greater care in dealing with this crisis and not impose brutal force on people.

In many countries, priority is being given to large scale corporate food enterprises who are demonstrating that their model of just in time delivery relying on low paid, insecure often migrant labour cannot keep food on the shelves in times of crisis.

This crisis is deepening and we will continue to stand in full solidarity with those that will be hit hard if we fail to act collectively: indigenous peoples, food and agricultural workers (many of whom are migrants), small-scale food producers including peasants, fisherfolk and mobile pastoralists, migrants, refugees, people living in areas of war and conflict, rural and urban poor, people without access to public health systems and especially people living without access to clean running water, food and sanitation and without possibilities to avoid infection.

Solidarity across movements and borders is key and we have to build our collective response to this crisis, organizing our communities, mobilizing our organizations to take initiative, give direction and demand that our governments channel resources to those that need them most. They also have to organize free access to water, food, housing and health services for all,

guarantee no evictions, and ensure small-scale food production and distribution to local consumers as a crucial and indispensable activity that needs to be prioritized to ensure the right to healthy, nutritious food.

As small-scale food producers and consumers and other social movements and NGOs, we are aware of the importance of stopping the transmission of the virus. In several countries, our organizations are disseminating recommendations on how to protect ourselves and avoid transmission. We will find appropriate ways to transfer healthy foods through open-air markets, direct sales and other channels for consumers, schoolchildren, hospitals and care homes. We are building local solidarity committees to ensure access to food for homeless people, unemployed workers and the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

[The High-Level Panel of Experts of Food Security and Nutrition of the UN Committee on World Food Security](#) has recently recommended that all governments have to “support local communities and citizens to increase local food production (including home and community gardens) through appropriate stimulus packages (in cash and kind) to enhance food resilience”. All governments should also ensure and support the functioning of local markets and direct sales with the new norms for protection for all persons involved, making sure that essential food supplies are not disrupted. Governments should also strengthen decentralized and mobile public procurement programs that can guarantee sales for small scale producers and make food available for those that need it. Existing public programs for children, for all those going hungry must be dramatically improved and expanded. New social protection programs must be implemented for millions who face hunger or loss of their livelihoods.

Governmental public support to address this crisis must go to the most vulnerable and marginalized in our societies, we have to ensure social security for the most vulnerable groups, including small scale producers that may face economic hardship because of this crisis. We demand stable and decent incomes for small-scale food producers, as well as salaries and proper conditions for rural workers and specific protection for seasonal and displaced migrant workers with documentation problems or residents in precarious situations.

We join the demands of trade unions and other social movements to stop evictions, to drop austerity policies and immediately expand public budgets for health and social security to ensure universal social protection and free access to healthcare. Likewise, we support the call for immediate debt relief that allows for resources already available in developing countries to be reallocated. Resources must go from interest payments and repayments to health, social protection and other immediate measures. We also demand appropriate economic incentives like subsidies and tax reduction for the small-scale producers and support transformative approaches like agroecology, that have a huge potential to transform food systems.

It is unacceptable that vulnerable sectors are not supported and that small-scale producers go bankrupt and food and agricultural workers (many of them are migrants) have no jobs and therefore no access to food, while the corporate sector absorbs key public resources. It is unacceptable for this crisis to reinforce the industrial food system that destroys the environment and has contributed the current health crisis, generates poverty and hunger and

imposes on us the junk food that has led to widespread diseases such as obesity and diabetes, which have made people extremely vulnerable to COVID19. Moreover, given the scientific evidence, it is clear the relation between the recurrent recent epidemics, new epizootics outbreaks and current agribusiness and extractivism (either via destruction of habitats and/or livestock farms intensification). We demand immediate measures to start a transition to agroecological food systems, and to move away from industrial animal farming towards circular mobile pastoralist systems, and extensive livestock production as part of mixed farming systems.

The current crisis cannot be allowed to extend the corporate neoliberal agenda with bailouts for mega corporations, increasing oligopolies and the destruction of resilient local food systems.

In times of crisis, human rights are more important than ever. There will be no effective response to the pandemic if governments misuse extraordinary measures to increase repression and protect the interests of the few.

This pandemic has unveiled and aggravate the conditions of brutal inequality and precarity that are leaving millions vulnerable to sudden loss of access to the means of survival: as small-scale food producer organizations together with the other sectors of society it is crucial to mobilize, build strong alliances and initiatives, exert pressure in the media and on our governments and advance our work on the ground.

We need to maintain and strengthen local, small-scale food production to increase access to healthy food for all, and simultaneously fight for improved public health and social protection systems for all.

Peoples food sovereignty now!

Article source: <https://viacampesina.org/en/covid-19-small-scale-food-producers-stand-in-solidarity-and-will-fight-to-bring-healthy-food-to-all/>

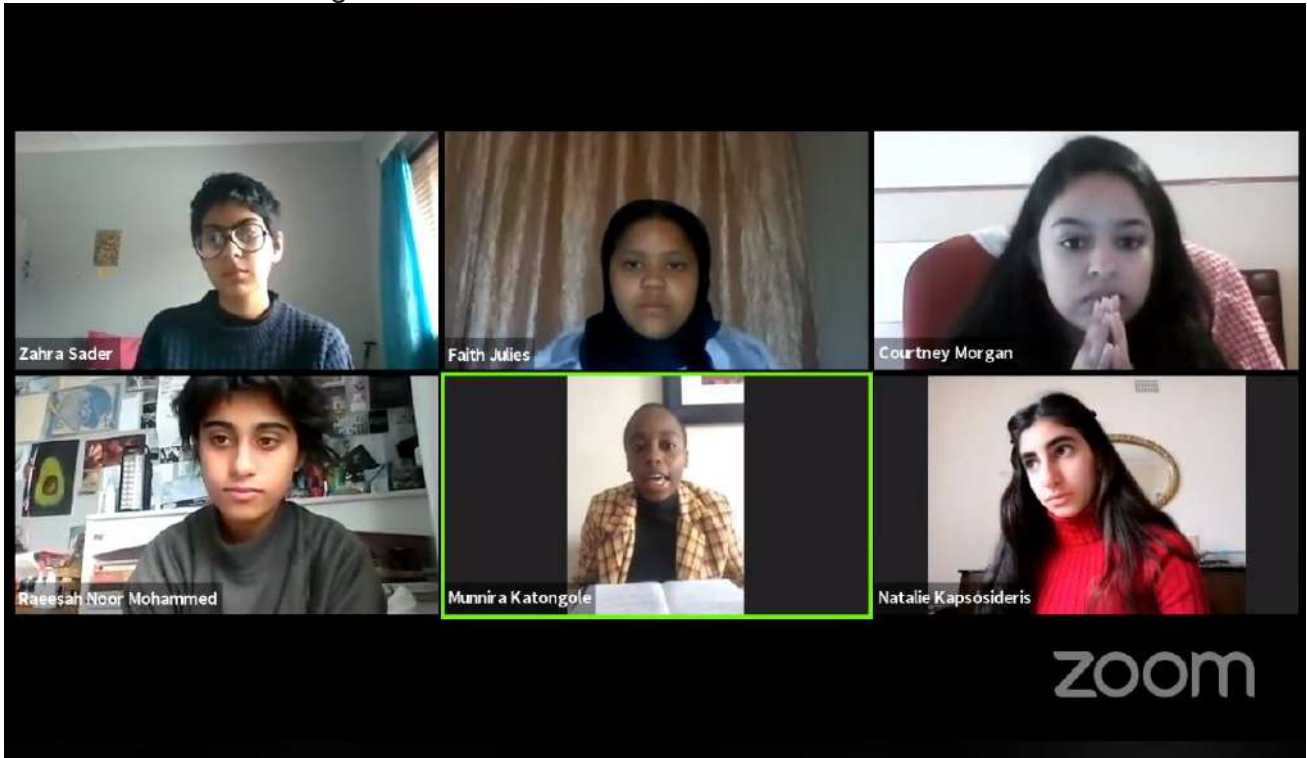
VI. CLIMATE JUSTICE NEWS/ STRUGGLES

6.1 Youth Day Climate Justice Assembly

June 16th is a very iconic day for youth resistance in South Africa. In 1976 the SOWETO youth uprising rocked the country. The youth day climate justice assembly was an attempt at connecting to this historical experience and reframing it as being about the next youth struggle which is for intergenerational climate justice.

This online assembly included inputs from leading youth activists, climate scientists, international climate activists and local movement leaders. All sessions were recorded and

are available for viewing:



Objectives and youth panel: Lessons from the '76 generation: <https://youtu.be/sV1eoi-3tpk>

Climate Science: <https://youtu.be/fBusyJo2dUQ>

International Panel: Lessons from Covid-19 for Climate Justice:

<https://youtu.be/zFXJrAlcePM>

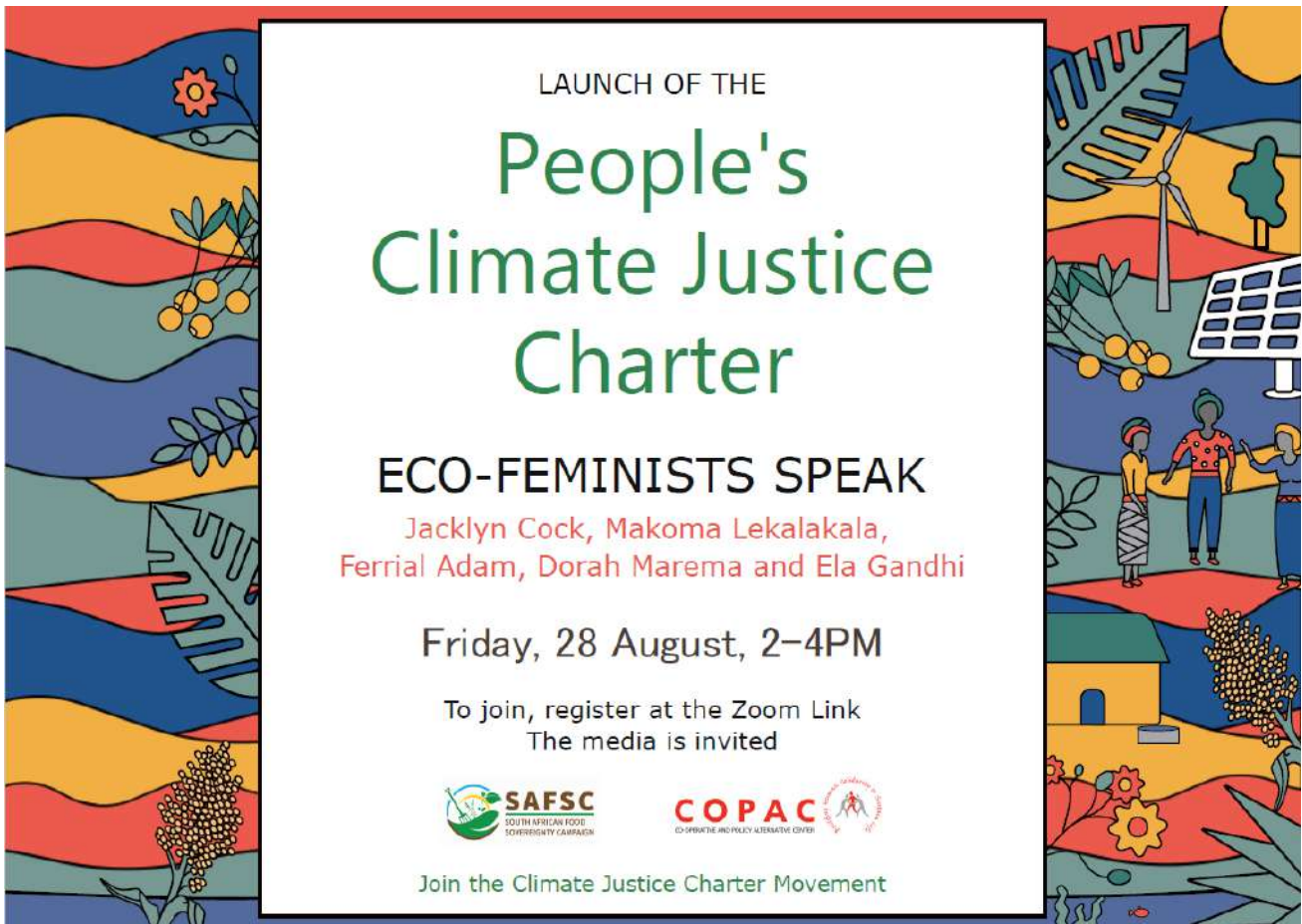
Finalising the charter: <https://youtu.be/IAQGvtGZeeQ>

6.2 UPCOMING EVENT: Climate Justice Charter Launch: Eco-Feminists speak

After 6 years of campaigning, dialogue and resistance, we are launching our **people's Climate Justice Charter**. This charter affirms people's alternatives to the climate crisis to advance the deep just transition. Join us for this historic launch. The launch will take place online, on **Friday, 28 August from 2-3:30**.

Register here to receive your link to join:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cRk11V8zQg6EQblk_cw0_Q.



VII. SAFSC IN THE MEDIA

List of SAFSC's Latest Media Engagements

18 March 2020, New Frame, 'Coronavirus a huge threat to water scarce Makhanda.' This article interviews Ayanda Kota and Vishwas Satgar about the threat of the coronavirus on water stressed communities. Available at: <https://www.newframe.com/coronavirus-a-huge-threat-to-water-scarce-makhanda/>

25 March 2020, Vishwas Satgar writes an opinion piece, published in Daily Maverick, on the Climate Crisis and lockdown <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-03-25-covid-19-the-climate-crisis-and-lockdown-an-opportunity-to-end-the-war-with-nature/>

7 April 2020, Vishwas Satgar was interviewed on SAFM's *The Focal Point* 'Importance of peoples' driven approach to food sovereignty during the national lockdown' <https://iono.fm/e/842928>.

8 April 2020, Daily Maverick, Food Sovereignty Campaign calls for peoples' pantries and solidarity buying. Available at: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-04-08-food-sovereignty-campaign-calls-for-peoples-pantries-and-solidarity-buying/>

15 April 2020, Vishwas Satgar's Opinion piece: Covid-19 and the case for a citizen's basic income grant in South Africa. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2020-04-15-covid-19-and-the-case-for-a-citizens-basic-income-grant-in-south-africa/>

15 April 2020, Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on Africa News about the food riots and SAFSC proposals.

18 April 2020, Saturday Star. This article mentions the webinar on Covid-19 and the food crisis and quotes panellists including Vishwas Satgar <https://www.iol.co.za/saturday-star/news/we-are-starving-lockdown-hunger-is-driving-vulnerable-people-to-desperation-46869180>

19 April 2020, Sunday Times article, 'Covid-19 lockdown: millions hungry as work dries up: Children go without school lunch and families eke out the last of their supplies.' This article mentions SAFSC and quotes Vishwas Satgar <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/news/2020-04-19-covid-19-lockdown-millions-hungry-as-work-dries-up/>

20 April 2020, Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on the John Pearlman Show about 'Food parcel chaos during lock-down', after the press release on hunger and covid-19 was released. Listen to the interview: <https://iono.fm/e/848627>

20 April 2020, Vishwas Satgar took part in the Khaya FM debate about a Basic Income grant.

21 April 2020, Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on ENCA about the Basic Income Grant.

21 April 2020, Vishwas is interviewed on the Voice of the Cape – Why south Africa is facing a food crisis <https://iono.fm/e/849745>

22 April 2020, Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on Voice of the Cape 'Analysis of President's speech on Covid-19'. This is after the press release on a basic income grant. Listen to the interview at: <https://iono.fm/e/849529>.

24 April 2020, Vishwas is interviewed on 702 about SAFSC and COPAC's Earth day message.

24 April 2020, Ferrial Adam is interviewed on Voice of the Cape about the Earth day message.

5 May 2020 - Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on Global Justice Now in their series, Southern Perspective on the coronavirus pandemic. Where he spoke about food crisis organising and alternatives from movements youtu.be/RnShjTUiVGc

9 May 2020, This article was written coming out of Stimulus package webinar and quotes some of the panellists. <https://ewn.co.za/2020/05/09/economists-warn-people-to-brace-for-salary-cuts-across-the-board>

13 May 2020, Vishwas was interviewed on SABC1 talk show, Daily Thetha, to discuss Fighting 'Hunger under lockdown: What are the possibilities of food shortages during and post the lockdown?'

13 May 2020 – The webinar on the worsening food crisis is aired live on SABC news channel.

14 May 2020, 'Hunger crisis getting food to the needy', Daily Maverick article profiles the Webinar hosted by SAFSC and COPAC on the food crisis: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-14-hunger-crisis-getting-food-to-the-needy/>

14 May 2020 TRU fm interviewed Vishwas Satgar on the food crisis internationally and in South Africa

14 May 2020, The Water stressed community map is profiled: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-14-eastern-cape-water-activists-free-after-lockdown-arrest-and-they-vow-to-continue-the-fight/>

15 May 2020, Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on SABC news about the water stressed community map.

24 May 2020, The National Food Crisis Forum mentioned in this Sunday times article: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/news/2020-05-24-solidarity-fund-changes-tack-on-food-aid/>

25 May Aselihle Media profiles Abanebhongo's soup kitchen and interviews SAFSC activist, Nosintu Kwepile, <https://aselihlemedia.wordpress.com/2020/05/25/covid-19-abanebhongo-soup-kitchen-in-a-destitute-village-responds-to-the-national-question-sitya-njani-how-do-we-eat/>

26 May 2020 – Vishwas interviewed on ENCA on the National food crisis forum, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jvst2ZE6k1s>

27 May 2020, East Coast radio reports on the water stressed map: <https://www.ecr.co.za/news/news/many-communities-still-without-access-clean-water-amid-covid-19-campaigners/>

28 May 2020 Vishwas was interviewed on 702 based on water stressed communities mapping.

29 May 2020, Newzroom Africa: Vishwas was interviewed about the 3rd water stressed communities press release <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYONbnH6c4I&fbclid=IwAR2yniwpDzcgdyqkIQXtQVlpgzt9-oL85hq37eNiEFATEMi-rJroBNjsXKQ>

17 June 2020: Cape Argus carried a paper about the Youth Day People’s Climate Justice assembly <https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/youth-discuss-climate-justice-charter-to-fight-climate-crisis-49488121>

6 July 2020, Vishwas was interviewed on Khaya FM on the economic debate

15 July 2020, Vishwas was interviewed on UBIG

26 July 2020. Vishwas is interviewed on ENCA about the Press statement: Water stressed community report no.4

13 August 2020, Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on ENCA on the food relief map.

VIII. ACTIVIST RESOURCES

8.1 Online webinar recordings

In addition to the webinars, training and assemblies listed above, we have had a number of other exciting webinars and public talks. All of these have been uploaded to YouTube and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/COPACSA/videos>

The image shows a screenshot of the COPAC SA YouTube channel page. The channel has 257 subscribers and features a navigation menu with options for HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, DISCUSSION, and ABOUT. The main content area displays a grid of video uploads, including:

- Learning from International UBIG experiences: 6 views • 3 days ago
- Agroecology Workshop #4 Maintaining your food garden: 112 views • 1 week ago
- Agroecology Workshop #3 Indigenous Knowledge, See...: 223 views • 2 weeks ago
- Labour and precariat perspectives; why do we...: 13 views • 3 weeks ago
- Public Talk: The Case for Basic Income in a Time of...: 187 views • 3 weeks ago
- Agroecology Workshop #2 What to plant: 315 views • 3 weeks ago
- Agroecology workshop#1: Setting up your household...: 738 views • 1 month ago
- Why does South Africa need a Basic Income Grant?...: 22 views • 1 month ago
- BRICS and the New American Imperialism: Global Rivalry...: 19 views • 1 month ago
- Peoples Climate Justice Assembly: Finalising the...: 27 views • 2 months ago
- Peoples Climate Justice Assembly: International...: 29 views • 2 months ago
- Peoples Climate Justice Assembly: Climate Science: 58 views • 2 months ago
- Peoples Climate Justice Assembly: Objectives and...: 47 views • 2 months ago
- Learning from Kerala's Covid-19 response: 174 views • 2 months ago
- Worsening Food Crisis: 570 views • 3 months ago
- Webinar: Unpacking the COVID-19 Stimulus Package: 131 views • 3 months ago
- Webinar: Advancing Food Sovereignty Pathways: 205 views • 3 months ago
- Where is our water, Minister Stsulu?: 28 views • 3 months ago