



CITY OF CAPE TOWN | ISIXEKO SASEKAPA | STAD KAAPSTAD

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# FOOD GARDENS POLICY IN SUPPORT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND REDUCTION (POLICY NUMBER 12399C)

REVISED AND APPROVED : 04 DECEMBER 2013  
C24/12/13

(Previous Policy: C45/05/13 of 29 May 2013)



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**FOOD GARDENS IN SUPPORT OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
AND REDUCTION POLICY  
THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

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## Reference Codes

Policy Number 12399C

## Document control

**Version:** Final

**Status:** Approved 29 May 2013 C45/05/13

**Review date:** November 2013

**Manager Responsible:** Nomfundo Mdingi

**Contact details:** T: 021 0800 872201: [Nomfundo.Mdingi@capetown.gov.za](mailto:Nomfundo.Mdingi@capetown.gov.za)

## Abbreviations

CBO	Community Based Organisations
CDS	City Development Strategy
CSI	Corporate Social Investment
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EPWP	Extended Public Works Programme
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
NDP	National Development Plan
NEPF	National Evaluation Policy Framework
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
SDECD	Social Development and Early Childhood Development Directorate
SDS	Social Development Strategy
VPUU	Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading

## Definitions

<b>Children</b>	In terms of the Children's Act 38 of 2005, children are persons under the age of 18 years.
<b>Community</b>	Refers to a social unit larger than a small village that shares common values.
<b>Corporate Social Investment</b>	Refers to the voluntary involvement of businesses in social projects that help to improve the community in which they operate
<b>Food Security</b>	According to the Integrated Food Security Strategy-South Africa (National Department of Agriculture), food security is defined as physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food by all South African at all times to meet their dietary and food preferences for an active and healthy life.
<b>Poverty</b>	According to the Urbanisation and Poverty in Cape Town, poverty can be defined as the inability of a person to meet their own basic needs and the needs of their dependents.
<b>Poverty Reduction</b>	Any process which seeks to reduce the level of poverty in a community or amongst group of people
<b>Vulnerable Group/s:</b>	A person whose survival, care, protection or development may be compromised, due to a particular condition, situation or circumstance and which prevents the fulfilment of his or her rights

## **1. Problem Statement**

- 1.1 The City of Cape Town, like any other cities in South Africa, faces high rates of poverty and inequality. Poverty remains a real and alarming problem. It is estimated that 22.1% of residents live in poverty.
- 1.2 Poverty is multi-dimensional and manifests in many ways. One of the key manifestations for people who are poor is a lack of access to basic services such as, food, water, electricity and sanitation which improves quality of life. Access to basic services significantly affects the lives of women and girls who are often tasked with household chores. Although, the 2011 Census reports that 87.28% of people living in Cape Town have access to piped water, 90.20% to a toilet facility, 93.98% to electricity and 94.94% to refuse removal services, challenges exist in providing quality services that are sufficient, efficient, affordable and appropriate to meet the needs of communities.
- 1.3 Poverty is both a cause and result of marginalisation. Many vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities are overrepresented amongst the poor and they face a range of complex social, economic, cultural and physical barriers in getting out of poverty.
- 1.4 Food security is generally viewed as closely related to poverty. Research in Khayelitsha, Philippi and Ocean View<sup>1</sup> indicated that four out of ten households in Cape Town's poor areas go without food at least once a week because they cannot afford to buy it. Poverty disproportionately affects female-headed households and makes them especially vulnerable to food insecurity.
- 1.5 Poverty and food insecurity are linked to poor health and it also severely affects the healthy development of children. Food insecurity may result in malnutrition which has long term physical and developmental effects.
- 1.6 The City of Cape Town is committed to addressing poverty and improving the quality of life of all people living in the city, particularly people who are poor, vulnerable or marginalised. The Social Development Strategy sets out how the City plans to do this. However, there is a need to articulate the interventions aimed at meeting the needs of the poor who may be helped through food garden initiatives amongst other interventions
- 1.7 The City needs to coordinate its efforts aimed at alleviating the plight of the most vulnerable with the work that is done at a national and provincial level. Provincial Government fund and implements a number of programmes aimed at addressing poverty through sustainable livelihood programmes or projects. There is a need to ensure that the work done by all spheres of government in the city is strategic and has the maximum impact.

## **2. Desired Outcomes**

- 2.1. The overarching outcome of this policy is to direct the work of the Social Development and Early Childhood Directorate (SDECD) in addressing the plight of the people who are poor through programmes and projects in order to improve the quality of life.
- 2.2. The policy sets out the criteria and procedures to be followed to establish sustainable food gardens which may act as to aid in addressing food insecurity in low income areas
- 2.3. The poverty alleviation program to be linked with food gardens at ECDs to provide nutritional meals.

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<sup>1</sup> The State of Urban Food Insecurity in Cape Town, Jane Ballerby (2011 – Urban Food Security Series No.2. Queens University and African Food Security Urban Network: Kingston and Cape Town)

- 2.4. The policy sets out the mechanism that will facilitate this collaboration and coordination of external and internal stakeholders.
- 2.5. The policy also aims to better direct resources in the organisation of the CCT towards the development of food gardens.

### **3. Strategic Intent**

#### **3.1. Integrated Development Plan**

- 3.1.1. This policy is aligned with the IDP's Strategic Focus Area of the Caring City, particularly Objective 3.1. Provide access to social services for those who need it.  
The IDP notes that "Being a caring city requires a targeted effort to care for the marginalised and vulnerable in Cape Town. Given the current economic environment of ever higher unemployment and the increasing number of residents living below the poverty line, indigent programmes and other economic enabling measures require urgent attention". In addressing this focus area, establishing food gardens is one mechanism to help people who are poor.
- 3.1.2. This IDP also notes the importance of collaboration with businesses and individuals for poverty alleviation: Corporate social investment (CSI) as well as social entrepreneurship initiatives help to create and support sustainable opportunities and promote independence over time.

#### **3.2. National Development Plan**

- 3.2.1. The National Development Plan (NDP) aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. According to the NDP, South Africa has the potential and capacity to eliminate and reduce inequality over the next two decades. In order for this to happen, a new approach is needed. One which means that one moves from a passive community receiving services from the state to one that systematically includes the socially and economically excluded, so people are more active champions of their own development and government works successfully to develop people's capabilities to lead the lives they want.
- 3.2.2. The Food Gardens in support of Poverty Alleviation and Reduction Policy is aligned with the following aspects of the NDP:
  - The active efforts and participation of all South Africans in their own development
  - Redressing the injustices of the past effectively
  - Collaboration between the private and public sectors
  - Leadership from all sectors in society

#### **3.3. City Development Strategy and OneCape 2040 Agenda**

- 3.3.1. The City Development Strategy (CDS) is the 30 year strategy for the City. It is informed by the six transitions identified in the OneCape2040 Strategy articulating the vision for the Western Cape region. The Policy is aligned with the "Settlement Transition" which aims to build healthy, accessible, liveable multi-opportunity communities.

#### **3.4. Social Development Strategy**

- 3.4.1. The SDS defines social development broadly as the overall improvement and enhancement in the quality of life of all people, especially people who are poor or marginalised. At its core is a focus on addressing poverty, inequality and social ills while providing for the participation of people in their own development.

3.4.2. The food gardens policy is in line with the following Social Development Strategic high-level objectives:

- Support the most vulnerable through enhancing access to infrastructure and services.
- Promote and foster social integration.
- Mobilise resources for social development.

#### **4. Policy parameters**

- 4.1. The policy focuses on a limited set of interventions that can assist poor people to become more food secure through food gardens as well as the mobilisation of resources and efforts towards this goal.
- 4.2. Projects are confined to the geographical limits of the City of Cape Town which includes funding from wards and sub councils.
- 4.3. The policy has some transversal implications as it demands collaboration between internal role-players involved in food security and all directorates implementing programmes or projects.
- 4.4. This policy also guides the collaboration and cooperation with other spheres of government and businesses and civil society in respect of food gardens.

#### **5. Role players and stakeholders**

The following role players and stakeholders are identified:

##### **5.1. Social Development and Early Childhood Development Directorate**

- 5.1.1. The Poverty Alleviation Programme in SDECD is the main implementer this policy.
- 5.1.2. The Poverty Alleviation Programme will work with the ECD Programme, the Street people Programme, the Vulnerable Group Programme, the Youth Programme and Substance Abuse Programme on collaborative projects that facilitate the realisation of the policy outcomes.

##### **5.2. Community Services Directorate-**

- 5.2.1. City Parks shall facilitate access to land and controls the permits required for food gardens.

##### **5.3. Economic, Environmental & Spatial Planning Directorate**

- 5.3.1. The Department of Economic Development is responsible for the development of urban agriculture policy for the City.

##### **5.4. Deputy City Manager**

- 5.4.1. The Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU-Sustainable Communities Unit) is responsible for urban upgrades in various identified areas in the City. SDECD shall work with VPUU in facilitating the development of food gardens in these areas.

##### **5.5. Finance Directorate**

- 5.5.1. Property Management Department facilitates the release of land for food gardens.

##### **5.6. Solid Waste-Utilities Directorate**

- 5.6.1. Solid Waste promotes recycling and composting for food gardening.

## **5.7. The Provincial Department of Agriculture**

5.7.1. The Provincial Department of Agriculture supports food gardens through grants.

## **5.8. Provincial Department of Social Development**

5.8.1. The Provincial Department of Social Development provides support to identified food security programmes.

## **5.9. National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform**

5.9.1. The National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform provides supports identified food gardens projects.

## **5.10. National Department of Social Development**

5.10.1. The National Department of Social Development provides support food security programmes.

## **5.11. Stakeholders that may be consulted on matters pertaining to food gardens and food security include but not limited to:**

5.11.1. NGOs

5.11.2. CBOs

5.11.3. FBOs

5.11.4. Businesses

5.11.5. Research organisations

## **6. Regulatory context**

This section provides an overview of the relevant legislation and policies that have a bearing on this Policy:

### **6.1. Constitution of the Republic of South Africa**

6.1.1. Section 27(1) (b) states that everyone has the right to sufficient food and water.

### **6.2. Implementation Protocol Agreement**

6.2.1. In terms of Section 35 (1) of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act 13 of 2005), the City of Cape Town and the Provincial Government of the Western Cape via its Department of Social Development entered into an implementation protocol for purposes of executing projects and initiatives in support of addressing the developmental needs of communities and individuals either in collaboration with each other or their own. The Implementation Protocol Agreement indicates that City of Cape Town and the Provincial Department of Social Development will collaborate on the specific programmes which are ECD, Street People, Substance Abuse, Youth, Poverty and Vulnerable Groups programmes.

### **6.3. Local Government: Municipal Systems Act**

6.3.1. Section 4(2)(j) states that the Council of a municipality, within the municipality's financial and administrative capacity and having regard to practical considerations, has the duty to contribute, together with other organs of state, to the progressive realisation of the fundamental rights contained in section 27 of the Constitution.

#### **6.4. Urban Agriculture Policy for the City of Cape Town 2007**

6.4.1. The Urban Agriculture policy sets out the role of urban agriculture in poverty alleviation. Urban agriculture helps to improve household food security and nutritional status of people.

6.4.2 It also guides activities where a group of people come together to produce food collectively. This includes individuals or groups of people that are involved in urban agriculture activities such as vegetable gardening.

#### **7. Policy Directive Details**

##### **7.1. Supporting food security of the poor through facilitating food gardens.**

7.1.1. SDECD will create and maintain a database of existing food gardens in identified wards.

7.1.2. SDECD will facilitate food gardening training and capacity building for individuals or groups to start and maintain a food garden.

7.1.3. A service provider or community based organisation will be contracted through a service level agreement or memorandum in order to mentor and support the projects.

7.1.4. SDECD will provide food gardening infrastructure which will include tools and seeds to identified organisations or groups.

##### **7.2. Mobilising resources to support the organisation working with community members will include the following:**

###### **7.2.1. CSI initiatives to support the programs**

7.2.1.1. The SDECD will facilitate establishment of viable collaborations with a view of developing and implementing initiatives contributing to food gardens.

###### **7.2.2. Volunteer and EPWP**

7.2.2.1. SDECD shall use EPWP funding to create job opportunities at community level by implementing food gardens projects. Volunteers will assist in supporting the implementation of food gardens.

7.2.2.2 Volunteers will be encouraged to assist in supporting the implementation of food gardens

###### **7.2.3 Coordinating of collaboration with internal and external stakeholders**

7.2.3.1. Internal and external stakeholders shall be consulted to coordinate food gardens.

#### **8. Implementation Programme**

8.1. This policy will apply with immediate effect.

8.2. The SDECD Directorate will compile annual implementation plans linked to the desired outcomes of the policy.

#### **9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

9.1. The food gardens policy will be reviewed every two years or in light of evidence that indicates that this policy is not meeting the outcomes set out in section two.

- 9.2. NGO, CBO, networks, structures and other affected parties may consult with the Poverty Programme on the efficacy of this policy and the extent to which it achieves its aims. This will be relayed directly to the Head of SDECD through the appropriate channels.
- 9.3. The compilation of annual implementation plans will specify details of targets to be reached in the short, medium and long term, and evaluation tools will specify quantitative and qualitative indicators with time frames which will assist in tracking progress on the achievement of policy objectives. The implementing role players will use these tools in their internal M&E process by providing regular reports on policy and programme performance.
- 9.4. The poverty programme will be evaluated on an annual basis, and be informed by research on best practices.
- 9.5. The monitoring, evaluation and review system shall ensure accountability of management and use of resources with tangible results being realised.
- 9.6. Community food gardens members as primary stakeholders and beneficiaries of this policy shall be encouraged to play an active role in the M&E process. Their views will be attained through research such as impact assessments and customer satisfaction surveys