

**Les Amis ne se separent pas même  
pendant le temps difficile.**



**Friends don 't part aven in trouble times**

Reg. No: 085-501-NPO

[www.amisbk.org](http://www.amisbk.org)

## **Help Amis BK combat hunger in COVID-19 crisis**

On the 15th April 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a national lockdown to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic which emerged from China late last year before spreading across the rest of the globe. In South Africa, the Covid-19 caught most by surprise but like elsewhere, some people are more affected than others. All depended on people's income and the sector in which they were employed. While those in government sectors, for example, were guaranteed to have their usual salaries throughout the lockdown, the contracted workers in tourism and hospitality sectors or self-employed, for example, saw their source of income cut off altogether as also these businesses were classified "not essential". The most affected of all people in South Africa remain those who make a living through informal sectors and small businesses such as hairdressers in open markets, as well as street vendors. These are mostly the means through which many immigrants, mostly refugees and asylum seekers, earn a living in South Africa. Amis BK members are among them and this was the major reason the organization had to intervene to assist, not just its regular members, but the Congolese refugee community of Cape Town (as well as locals referred by its members) with the basics, mainly food.

Amis BK began by raising awareness about the COVID-19 through its social media platforms where texts and videos about COVID-19, what it is, how it can be prevented and contained, were shared to educate the members. This was combined with a campaign for fundraising for food parcels to be distributed to the most affected members of its network. As a self-financed organization, however, Amis BK first and foremost relied on its traditional voluntary contribution

of its regular members and network. Amis BK's decision to take action to help refugees and asylum seekers came after observing that in South Africa, most reliefs for COVID-19 had put South African nationals first. In fact, numerous attempts with the Department of Social Development for food relief for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants failed. Finally, under the pressure from other structures dedicated to refugees and asylum seekers' causes in South Africa, the Department of Social Development provided some support. In Cape Town, these structures include Adonis Musati Project which provided support in cash payments to assist Amis BK in its effort to provide food parcels to Congolese refugees and asylum seekers. Amis BK is also grateful for the assistance it received from the UNHCR.

As one of the community-based organizations selected in the Western Cape, Amis BK participated in the distribution of food parcels from e-Media COVID-19 Relief Fund by HCI Foundation, and from LunchBox Fund through the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town. Amis Bk distributed 121 parcels to areas of the Cape Flats, Southern Suburbs, Northern Suburbs and to various refugee and asylum seekers from Zimbabwe, Malawi, Rwanda, DR Congo, Kenya, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, to name but a few. The committee members of Amis BK had volunteered not just with their availability but also by availing their resources such as motor vehicles in the food distribution. In total, Amis BK, with the help of the organizations stated in the above, distributed food parcels to 162 most needy families.

There are still hundreds on the list of people waiting for food in addition to the rising needs from the previously assisted whom until now, have not resumed their income-generating activities because of the extension of the national lockdown. Hence, Amis BK continues to raise funds for food relief for refugees and asylum seekers in Cape Town.

This being, Amis Bk expands its hands to donor funding to support this initiative in any form.

Our banking details or support mode is below:

Acc.No.: 9297036021

Bank: ABSA, Saving Acc.

Ref# your Name or NGO

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Thanks for your help