



UMASIPALA **MTHONJANENI** MUNICIPALITY  
MUNISIPALITEIT

---

## **SOCIAL RELIEF POLICY**

### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT , FIRE and RESCUE SERVICES**



# **MTHONJANENI MUNICIPALITY SOCIAL RELIEF POLICY**

## **Foreword**

**The Disaster Management Act of No.57 of 2002** seeks to provide for an integrated and co-ordinated disaster management policy that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating the severity of disasters, emergency preparedness, rapid and effective response to disasters and post-disaster recovery. Natural and human-induced disaster incidents continue to cause devastating loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. This Social Relief Policy outlines the measures that will be implemented by the Mthonjaneni Local Municipality to undertake social relief activities in the aftermath of disaster incidents.

The Policy identifies relief acquisition, beneficiary identification, distribution and the overall strategy for achieving these objectives. The need to develop a Social Relief Policy for Mthonjaneni Local Municipality was identified as an urgent need by the Management of the Municipality to guide the municipal response to the reported incidents of disaster.

## **Definitions**

In this Policy, unless the context indicates otherwise:

**Department:** means the department of state

**Disaster:** means a progressive or sudden, widespread or localized, natural or human-caused occurrence which causes or threatens to cause death, injuries or disease, damage to property, infrastructure or the environment, disruption of the life of a community and is of a magnitude that exceeds the ability of those affected by the disaster to cope with its effects using only their own resources;

**Disaster Management:** means a continuous and integrated multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary process of planning and implementation of measures aimed at:

- Preventing or reducing the risk of disasters;
- Mitigating the severity or consequences of disasters;

- Emergency preparedness;
- Rapid and effective response to disasters and
- Post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation

**Social relief:** means a temporary provision of assistance intended for persons in such dire material need that they are unable to meet their or their families' most basic needs within their own available resources.

**Emergency preparedness:** means a state of readiness which enables organs of state and other institutions involved in disaster management, the private sector, communities and individuals to mobilize, organize, and provide relief measures to deal with an impending or current disaster or the effects of a disaster

## **1. Introduction**

The ability of a municipality to provide relief after the impact of a disaster incidents depend on its capacity for implementing an integrated multi-sectoral approach to the management of relief, through the stages acquisition, storage, distribution and accounting. A high percentage of Mthonjaneni's population lives in areas, which are vulnerable to disasters of all types. These include heavy rains, run away fires, house fires and other man-made hazards.

The major intention is therefore to provide emergency relief to the affected people within time span of 24-72 hours of impact based on the level of the event.

## **2 Background and Rationale**

Social Relief Policy (SRP) is the temporary provision of assistance by Mthonjaneni Local Municipality, intended for people who are in dire need and are unable to meet their family's most basic needs. It's an immediate response to a crisis situation where citizens are without the means to provide for themselves the basic necessities. The Policy seeks to facilitate an integrated approach to relief management within the boundaries of the municipality. It advocates standards for implementing the rapid delivery of relief supplies to address the needs of the affected communities in the aftermath of disaster incidents. Through this policy the municipality will be able to provide temporary and short term assistance to the victims of the disastrous incidents within the capacity means of the municipality.

## **3 Policy Goal**

To undertake fast and effective relief responses to persons adversely impacted by a disaster incidents.

## **4 Policy Objectives**

The objectives of the social relief policy are:

- 4.1 to ensure that those most in need are the first to receive;
- 4.2 to encourage the rehabilitation of those affected so that they can return to a state of normal as soon as possible;
- 4.3 to ensure that interventions in the form of food parcel vouchers, mattresses , blankets, school uniforms and temporal shelters are systematically provided by the appointed service providers within the stipulated response time.
- 4.4 to ensure that social relief distribution is based on the completion and submission of Initial Damage Assessment reports;

## **5. Policy Strategy**

The policy is developed on the basis that a severe disaster can greatly undermine the capacity of the local communities to cope utilizing their own resources. Under such circumstances the municipality is committed to ensuring that all the necessary social relief materials are in place and distributed in an impartial manner.

The Policy as articulated therefore relies on an integrated approach to be successfully executed and will require the support of all departments within the municipality and stakeholders to undertake their assigned tasks in guiding its implementation.

## **6 Criteria**

- 6.1 A person or family must be in an immediate dire need.
- 6.2 The inhabitants of the household must comply with the income requirements of Council's indigence Policy.
- 6.3 The breadwinner of the family has died and there is no any other means of support available for that family.
- 6.4 The breadwinner of that person's family has been admitted to an institution funded by the state and not receiving income during their admission and/or stay in that institution.
- 6.5 A person or family has been affected by a disaster as defined in the Disaster Management Act, (Act No 57 of 2002).
- 6.6 Orphans, and any other vulnerable children without means of any support
- 6.7 A person is in the process of applying for any social grant and is experiencing undue hardship.

6.8 Other instances where assistance is considered like:

- Fire
- Heavy Rains and Floods
- Xenophobic attacks
- Gale force wind and thunder storms
- Earthquake

## **7. Forms of Social Relief Interventions**

7.1 Food parcels (containing basic food necessities)

7.2 Blankets and Mattresses

7.3 Temporal Shelters and tents

7.4 School Uniforms

7.5 The Social Relief shall not be converted into cash

## **8 Stakeholders**

The Local Municipality has the primary responsibility within its jurisdiction and will coordinate incidents through the following stakeholders:

- Councilors
- CDW's
- Members of the community
- Ward Committees
- NGO's
- Church leaders and Traditional Leaders etc
- Government Departments
- King Cetshwayo District Municipality

## **9. Process**

9.1 Request must be made through a Ward Councilor

9.2 All requests with regard to Social Relief should be submitted by the Ward Councilor in writing to the relevant personnel.

9.3 The request should be motivated in terms of the criteria in clause 6 of this policy

- 9.4 The Disaster Management Team to compile a Damage Assessment Reports after an assessment has been conducted to determine the severity of the incidents.
- 9.5 The Disaster Management Section keeps proper records of the recipients of Social Relief and forwards that to the Directorate of the Community Services on a monthly basis.
- 9.6 This list will be available for scrutiny at all times.

## **10. Referral**

If the individual's situation exceeds the ability and capacity of the local municipality to cope or manage the incident effectively, a referral to the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Department of Social Development, Department of Human Settlement and SASSA should be undertaken.

## **11. Budget**

The Social Relief should be funded under Fire and Disaster Vote. The provision of Social Relief to affected victims as per the criteria in clause 6 is subject to the availability of funds within the Mthonjaneni Local Municipality





