

No 10 - 2025] SECOND SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

**PARLIAMENT OF THE  
PROVINCE OF THE  
WESTERN CAPE**

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**QUESTION PAPER**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

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Note: \* Indicates translated version.

**FRIDAY, 13 JUNE 2025**

**43. Mr F Kamfer to ask Mr J J Londt Minister of Social Development:**

In respect of food insecurity:

- (1) (a) What is the number of (i) child-headed households and (ii) those run by elderly dependents that are experiencing food insecurity in the province, (b)(i) what percentage of food-insecure households include children under the age of five and (ii) what interventions by his Department target them specifically;
- (2) (a) what is the prevalence of food insecurity per municipality, (b)(i) what is the detailed municipal breakdown of food insecurity rates, highlighting the five municipalities with the highest food insecurity rates; and (ii) where are they located;
- (3) whether there are municipalities where food insecurity has worsened significantly in the past two years; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what are the contributing factors;
- (4) (a) what provincial government programmes are currently in place to address food insecurity and (b) what is their reach and impact;
- (5) (a) how many NGOs and community kitchens are operational in the province, and (b) which municipalities rely most on these services;
- (6) whether there are areas where government programmes and NGO efforts are insufficient, leading to persistent hunger; if so, what are the relevant details?

**Minister of Social Development to respond in a written reply:**

**(1)(a) What is the number of:**

**(i) child-headed households**

A child-headed household is defined in the Children's Act, 2005 as a household where a child takes on the role of head of the household. This typically occurs when the child's parents or guardians are absent due to death, abandonment, or other circumstances.

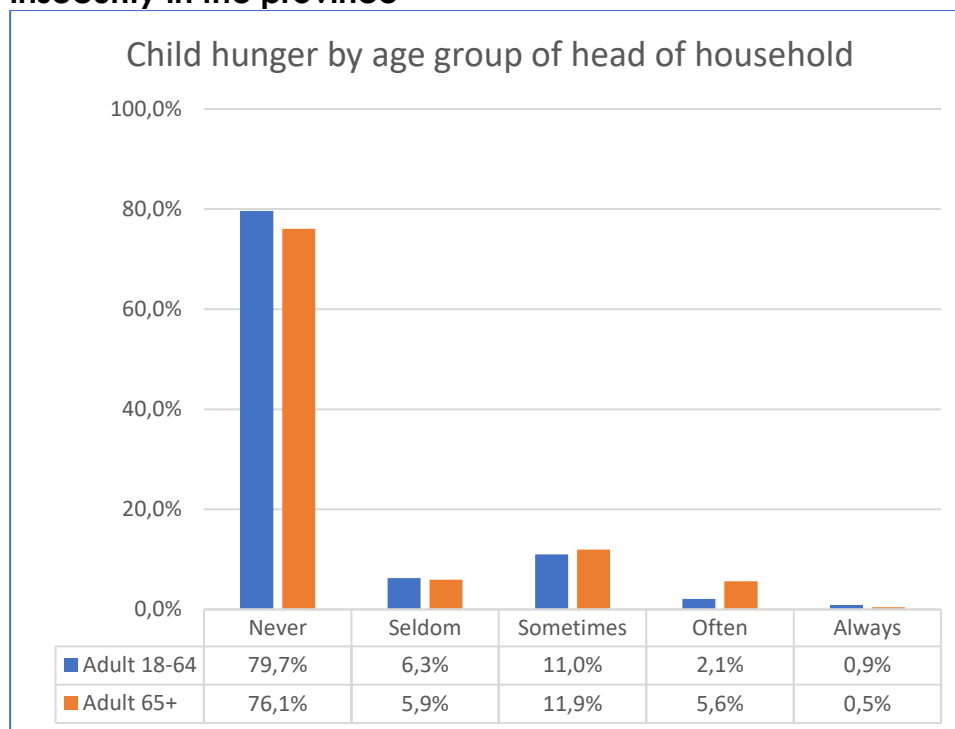
The Act provides specific provisions for child-headed households:

1. Placement in Care: A children's court may place a child in a child-headed household under the care of the child heading the household, with supervision by an adult designated by the court (Section 46(1)(b)).
2. Support Services: The Act emphasizes the need for support services to assist children in such households, including counseling, mediation, and family reconstruction (Section 150(3)).
3. Investigation: If a child in a child-headed household is suspected to be in need of care and protection, the matter must be referred to a designated social worker for investigation (Section 150(2)(b)).

These provisions aim to ensure the safety, well-being, and support of children in child-headed households. Currently the Province has 28 child headed households that have been declared in need of care and support by the Department.

Not all child headed households are in need of care and support from the Department of Social Development. Using a demographic definition and data from Census 2022, the province has 6 400 households (0,26% of the 2,47 million households in the Province) that have a person under the age of 18 as head of household. Only 547 of these households have all members under the age of 17.

**(ii) those run by elderly dependents that are experiencing food insecurity in the province**



Stats SA GHS 2024

(299)

**b)(i) what percentage of food-insecure households include children under the age of five**

104 046 households with children under 5 years old reported child hunger. This constitutes 4,7% of all households in the Province.

**(2)(a) what is the prevalence of food insecurity per municipality,**

Census 2022 is the only dataset that the Department has access to to measure food insecurity at municipal level. The GHS only provided data at Provincial level. However, Census data is only available at ten-year intervals. The latest Census was held in 2022.

**(2) (b)(i) what is the detailed municipal breakdown of food insecurity rates, highlighting the five municipalities with the highest food insecurity rates; and (ii) where are they located;**

See Annexure A below

(A) The five Municipalities reporting the highest absolute numbers of Adult hunger are:

- (1) City of Cape Town
- (2) Drakenstein
- (3) George
- (4) Stellenbosch

- (5) Breede Valley
- (B) The five Municipalities reporting the highest percentage of Adult hunger are:
- (1) Bitou
  - (2) Drakenstein
  - (3) City of Cape Town
  - (4) Knysna
  - (5) George
- (C) The five Municipalities reporting the highest absolute numbers of Child hunger are:
- (1) City of Cape Town
  - (2) Drakenstein
  - (3) George
  - (4) Overstrand
  - (5) Theewaterskloof
- (D) The seven Municipalities reporting the highest percentage of Child hunger are:
- (1) Bitou
  - (2) City of Cape Town
  - (3) Drakenstein
  - (4) Knysna
  - (5) Stellenbosch
  - (6) Breede Valley
  - (7) Theewaterskloof

Households reporting Adult hunger (Census 2022)								Total
	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	Not applicable	Unspecified	
City of Cape Town Municipality	866 123	46 506	194 770	23 785	26 232	21 356	411 089	1 589 861
Matzikama Local Municipality	13 588	1 068	959	406	64	95	3 931	20 111
Cederberg Local Municipality	11 988	408	662	113	67	204	2 774	16 216
Berggrivier Local Municipality	15 674	460	831	64	62	252	3 627	20 970
Saldanha Bay Local Municipality	31 642	1 786	4 137	663	375	607	14 898	54 108
Swartland Local Municipality	31 798	1 155	2 043	237	280	353	11 403	47 269
Witzenberg Local Municipality	21 719	250	2 021	286	221	345	4 793	29 635
Drakenstein Local Municipality	47 266	2 628	10 310	1 232	1 565	1 149	19 596	83 746

Stellenbosch Local Municipality	37 048	1 227	5 956	613	329	1 064	21 387	67 624
Breede Valley Local Municipality	38 632	1 965	4 774	642	281	563	14 040	60 897
Langeberg Local Municipality	19 069	834	1 936	626	316	879	3 984	27 644
Theewaterskloof Local Municipality	31 305	1 189	3 841	855	480	426	9 305	47 401
Overstrand Local Municipality	36 260	990	4 332	520	787	1 332	22 555	66 776
Cape Agulhas Local Municipality	10 461	255	564	31	17	114	5 560	17 002
Swellendam Local Municipality	10 107	221	1 266	249	62	205	3 869	15 979
Kannaland Local Municipality	6 912	161	302	78	16	16	1 366	8 851
Hessequa Local Municipality	16 628	517	787	126	0	156	4 799	23 013
Mossel Bay Local Municipality	33 085	1 653	3 458	672	623	748	16 890	57 129
George Local Municipality	55 606	3 656	8 328	1 105	1 113	874	21 988	92 670
Oudtshoorn Local Municipality	25 007	846	2 270	467	79	176	4 567	33 412
Bitou Local Municipality	13 122	395	3 104	360	547	78	5 544	23 150
Knysna Local Municipality	19 253	892	3 893	687	406	344	8 636	34 111
Laingsburg Local Municipality	2 578	31	64	46	0	139	556	3 414
Prince Albert Local Municipality	3 502	203	143	33	16	16	957	4 870
Beaufort West Local Municipality	14 243	1 316	1 139	282	94	109	2 143	19 326
Total	1 412 616	70 612	261 890	34 178	34 032	31 600	620 257	2 465 185

Census 2022

Households reporting <b>Child</b> hunger (Census 2022)							
	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	Not applicable	Unspecified
City of Cape Town	801 613	34 576	156 530	17 983	21 400	146 669	411 089
							1 589 860

Metropolitan Municipality								
Matzikama Local Municipality	12 933	553	676	156	48	1 815	3 931	20 112
Cederberg Local Municipality	11 233	234	322	33	81	1 539	2 774	16 216
Bergrivier Local Municipality	13 359	321	595	47	31	2 990	3 627	20 970
Saldanha Bay Local Municipality	28 532	1 359	2 845	393	360	5 721	14 898	54 108
Swartland Local Municipality	29 792	1 014	1 689	159	249	2 964	11 403	47 270
Witzenberg Local Municipality	20 029	157	1 141	191	174	3 150	4 793	29 635
Drakenstein Local Municipality	44 594	1 928	7 934	1 079	1 219	7 396	19 596	83 746
Stellenbosch Local Municipality	33 866	694	4 926	458	313	5 980	21 387	67 624
Breede Valley Local Municipality	36 090	1 808	4 341	482	187	3 949	14 040	60 897
Langeberg Local Municipality	18 442	726	1 310	359	160	2 663	3 984	27 644
Theewaterskloof Local Municipality	29 129	944	3 300	842	414	3 466	9 305	47 400
Overstrand Local Municipality	32 327	687	3 459	420	706	6 623	22 555	66 777
Cape Agulhas Local Municipality	9 096	223	414	16	0	1 695	5 560	17 004
Swellendam Local Municipality	9 098	79	720	140	47	2 026	3 869	15 979
Kannaland Local Municipality	6 554	145	238	47	16	484	1 366	8 850
Hessequa Local Municipality	15 094	438	553	95	0	2 034	4 799	23 013
Mossel Bay Local Municipality	29 789	1 217	2 929	545	608	5 152	16 890	57 130
George Local Municipality	49 636	3 061	6 250	609	941	10 185	21 988	92 670
Oudtshoorn Local Municipality	23 266	674	1 897	420	31	2 558	4 567	33 413
Bitou Local Municipality	11 965	343	2 425	298	452	2 123	5 544	23 150

Knysna Local Municipality	16 137	547	2 915	468	264	5 144	8 636	34 111
Laingsburg Local Municipality	2 353	15	62	15	0	412	556	3 413
Prince Albert Local Municipality	3 345	110	95	16	16	331	957	4 870
Beaufort West Local Municipality	13 285	1 141	874	203	94	1 587	2 143	19 327
Total	1 301 557	52 994	208 440	25 474	27 811	228 656	620 257	2 465 189

Census 2022

Proportion of Households reporting <b>Adult</b> hunger (Census 2022)							
	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	Not applicable	Unspecified
City of Cape Town Municipality	54.5%	2.9%	12.3%	1.5%	1.6%	1.3%	25.9%
Matzikama Local Municipality	67.6%	5.3%	4.8%	2.0%	0.3%	0.5%	19.5%
Cederberg Local Municipality	73.9%	2.5%	4.1%	0.7%	0.4%	1.3%	17.1%
Bergervier Local Municipality	74.7%	2.2%	4.0%	0.3%	0.3%	1.2%	17.3%
Saldanha Bay Local Municipality	58.5%	3.3%	7.6%	1.2%	0.7%	1.1%	27.5%
Swartland Local Municipality	67.3%	2.4%	4.3%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	24.1%
Witzenberg Local Municipality	73.3%	0.8%	6.8%	1.0%	0.7%	1.2%	16.2%
Drakenstein Local Municipality	56.4%	3.1%	12.3%	1.5%	1.9%	1.4%	23.4%
Stellenbosch Local Municipality	54.8%	1.8%	8.8%	0.9%	0.5%	1.6%	31.6%
Breede Valley Local Municipality	63.4%	3.2%	7.8%	1.1%	0.5%	0.9%	23.1%
Langeberg Local Municipality	69.0%	3.0%	7.0%	2.3%	1.1%	3.2%	14.4%

Theewaterskloof Local Municipality	66.0%	2.5%	8.1%	1.8%	1.0%	0.9%	19.6%
Overstrand Local Municipality	54.3%	1.5%	6.5%	0.8%	1.2%	2.0%	33.8%
Cape Agulhas Local Municipality	61.5%	1.5%	3.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.7%	32.7%
Swellendam Local Municipality	63.3%	1.4%	7.9%	1.6%	0.4%	1.3%	24.2%
Kannaland Local Municipality	78.1%	1.8%	3.4%	0.9%	0.2%	0.2%	15.4%
Hessequa Local Municipality	72.3%	2.2%	3.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%	20.9%
Mossel Bay Local Municipality	57.9%	2.9%	6.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%	29.6%
George Local Municipality	60.0%	3.9%	9.0%	1.2%	1.2%	0.9%	23.7%
Oudtshoorn Local Municipality	74.8%	2.5%	6.8%	1.4%	0.2%	0.5%	13.7%
Bitou Local Municipality	56.7%	1.7%	13.4%	1.6%	2.4%	0.3%	23.9%
Knysna Local Municipality	56.4%	2.6%	11.4%	2.0%	1.2%	1.0%	25.3%
Laingsburg Local Municipality	75.5%	0.9%	1.9%	1.3%	0.0%	4.1%	16.3%
Prince Albert Local Municipality	71.9%	4.2%	2.9%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	19.7%
Beaufort West Local Municipality	73.7%	6.8%	5.9%	1.5%	0.5%	0.6%	11.1%
Total	57.3%	2.9%	10.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%	25.2%

Census 2022

Proportion of Households reporting Child hunger (Census 2022)							
	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always	Not applicable	Unspecified



City of Cape Town Municipality	50.4%	2.2%	9.8%	1.1%	1.3%	9.2%	25.9%
Matzikama Local Municipality	64.3%	2.7%	3.4%	0.8%	0.2%	9.0%	19.5%
Cederberg Local Municipality	69.3%	1.4%	2.0%	0.2%	0.5%	9.5%	17.1%
Bergrivier Local Municipality	63.7%	1.5%	2.8%	0.2%	0.1%	14.3%	17.3%
Saldanha Bay Local Municipality	52.7%	2.5%	5.3%	0.7%	0.7%	10.6%	27.5%
Swartland Local Municipality	63.0%	2.1%	3.6%	0.3%	0.5%	6.3%	24.1%
Witzenberg Local Municipality	67.6%	0.5%	3.9%	0.6%	0.6%	10.6%	16.2%
Drakenstein Local Municipality	53.2%	2.3%	9.5%	1.3%	1.5%	8.8%	23.4%
Stellenbosch Local Municipality	50.1%	1.0%	7.3%	0.7%	0.5%	8.8%	31.6%
Breede Valley Local Municipality	59.3%	3.0%	7.1%	0.8%	0.3%	6.5%	23.1%
Langeberg Local Municipality	66.7%	2.6%	4.7%	1.3%	0.6%	9.6%	14.4%
Theewaterskloof Local Municipality	61.5%	2.0%	7.0%	1.8%	0.9%	7.3%	19.6%
Overstrand Local Municipality	48.4%	1.0%	5.2%	0.6%	1.1%	9.9%	33.8%
Cape Agulhas Local Municipality	53.5%	1.3%	2.4%	0.1%	0.0%	10.0%	32.7%
Swellendam Local Municipality	56.9%	0.5%	4.5%	0.9%	0.3%	12.7%	24.2%
Kannaland Local Municipality	74.1%	1.6%	2.7%	0.5%	0.2%	5.5%	15.4%
Hessequa Local Municipality	65.6%	1.9%	2.4%	0.4%	0.0%	8.8%	20.9%

Mossel Bay Local Municipality	52.1 %	2.1%	5.1%	1.0%	1.1%	9.0%	29.6%
George Local Municipality	53.6 %	3.3%	6.7%	0.7%	1.0%	11.0%	23.7%
Oudtshoorn Local Municipality	69.6 %	2.0%	5.7%	1.3%	0.1%	7.7%	13.7%
Bitou Local Municipality	51.7 %	1.5%	10.5%	1.3%	2.0%	9.2%	23.9%
Knysna Local Municipality	47.3 %	1.6%	8.5%	1.4%	0.8%	15.1%	25.3%
Laingsburg Local Municipality	68.9 %	0.4%	1.8%	0.4%	0.0%	12.1%	16.3%
Prince Albert Local Municipality	68.7 %	2.3%	2.0%	0.3%	0.3%	6.8%	19.7%
Beaufort West Local Municipality	68.7 %	5.9%	4.5%	1.1%	0.5%	8.2%	11.1%
Total	52.8 %	2.1%	8.5%	1.0%	1.1%	9.3%	25.2%

Census 2022

**(3) whether there are municipalities where food insecurity has worsened significantly in the past two years; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what are the contributing factors;**

The DSD does not have access to annual data at municipal level to answer this question.

**(4) (a) what provincial government programmes are currently in place to address food insecurity and (b) what is their reach and impact;**

(a) The Western Cape Department of Social Development has implemented the following targeted measures to address the growing levels of food insecurity among vulnerable households:

- Cooked meals 5 days a week provided at Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDCs);
  - Cooked meals provided by community-based kitchens from two (2) to four (4) days a week;
  - In addition, the challenges and impact of hunger and malnutrition are too big to be addressed by a single department like DSD. The challenges require collaboration and partnership amongst stakeholders to give effect to this objective. As such DSD collaborates with other departments/ stakeholders as follows:
- ✓ The Department participates in an interministerial task team on food security established by the Western Cape Cabinet.

- ✓ The Department works with the South African Social Security Agency, which, inter alia, provides social relief grants to assist in reducing extreme poverty and food insecurity among beneficiaries;
  - ✓ Western Cape Education Department (WCED) that provides school nutrition services to school children in targeted public schools and ECDs;
  - ✓ NPOs that provide food (cooked or dry ingredients) in communities funded by non-government donors;
  - ✓ Humanitarian relief organisations that provide food in vulnerable communities; and;
  - ✓ Municipalities, faith-based organisations and private sector donors distributing food in communities.
- The Department of Social Development implements and supports several other centre-based feeding programmes that provide daily nutritious meals to vulnerable individuals. These programmes form part of the Department's broader mandate to address food insecurity, improve nutrition, and promote dignity, especially among high-risk groups. The key programmes include:
    - ✓ Residential Facilities for Older Persons offer full-time residential care to older persons, including daily meals and health services. The target group is older persons, particularly those who are frail, indigent, or without family support.
    - ✓ Residential Facilities for Persons with Disabilities provide 24-hour care, including meals, accommodation, and therapy services with the goal of enhancing the quality of life and health outcomes for persons with disabilities.
    - ✓ Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs) provide alternative care for children in need of protection, including meals, schooling, and therapeutic support.
    - ✓ Shelters for Victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) provide safe accommodation and support services to victims of abuse. The programme offers temporary shelter including meals and basic necessities.
    - ✓ Homeless Shelters and Drop-in Centres provide basic services including food to homeless individuals or vulnerable persons not accessing formal care. The target group is homeless individuals, street children, and other at-risk populations.
  - Food parcels for emergency food relief to beneficiaries who are unable to access other forms of food relief;
  - Funded humanitarian relief organisations for first response food relief to persons rendered food insecure by disasters;
  - Encouragement of household-based food garden services to provide households with own vegetables.

(b) Please see above for the list of programmes and interventions. The reach is in all municipal districts, all municipalities and in most towns where the department is providing food relief to households and individuals who might have nothing to eat without government support. These are the areas as listed below:

No.	Geographic area	DSD reach
1.	Eden Karoo	Refer to <b><u>Annexure A</u></b>
2.	Metro South	
3.	Cape Winelands/ Overberg	

No.	Geographic area	DSD reach
4.	West Coast	
5.	Metro East	
6.	Metro North	

**(5)** (a) Please refer to the **Annexure A** provided.

(b) The regional spread/ breakdown in terms of the municipalities that rely most on these services are, in terms of the funding allocation for 2025/26 are both in the Metropolitan and rural municipalities, to the extent that 44% (Metro South; -East; and -North) whilst Eden Karoo; Cape Winelands/ Overberg; and West Coast District Municipalities each a total of 26%; 16% and 14% respectively. Please see **Annexure A**.

**(6)** Yes, there are other areas DSD is unable to reach, and we currently do not have their databases as there are so many.

**PLEASE NOTE: The replies to the questions in this Question Paper are due on 30 June 2025. Should the replies not be submitted before or on the deadline, the Members have the right to have the questions transferred to the Question Paper for oral reply in accordance with Rule 206.**