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PRESS RELEASE

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New tech FoodShare Platform debuts in South Africa to combat food insecurity

- *FoodForward SA recovers edible surplus food in the supply chain*
- *17.6 million meals served in South Africa at 79c per meal in 2018*
- *4.4 million tonnes of surplus food recovered in 2018*
- *Over R200 million in food and non food grocery products distributed to 600 Beneficiary Organisations*
- *250 000 people fed daily through a network of 600 beneficiary organisations*
- *FoodForward SA is the organiser of the FoodForward SA Mandela Day Food Drive in partnership with Pick n Pay*

[FoodForward SA](#) has introduced the FoodShare Digital Platform, a technological answer to the logistical demands of an organisation that recovers surplus food in the supply chain for redistribution to registered non-profit organisations.

Usually, FoodForward SA requires a major logistical operation to collect, sort, and warehouse surplus food from donors and to distribute the products to beneficiary organisations.

- FoodShare uses virtual technology to harness more surplus food by connecting retail stores and food outlets with local Beneficiary Organisations for the daily collection of surplus food.
- FoodShare can be applied nationally, including distant rural areas, as long as there is a retail store or food outlet, allowing for greater access to food for the poor.
- Beneficiary Organisations collect surplus food, and send the tonnage information via USSD, so ordinary cell phones can be used, and there are no costs to the beneficiary organisation.

“A third of all food produced in South Africa is wasted, while more than 14 million people go hungry each day, additionally, 75% of toddlers are fed an inadequate diet.”

“By using surplus food in the food chain, we can facilitate the provision of a meal at only 79c a day or R300 a year. But there is huge scope to increase reach by using FoodShare. The scale of the need is vast and technology is key to unleashing the real potential of foodbanking,” says Andy Du Plessis, FoodForward SA Managing Director. “

FoodShare is also able to track inventory, measure tonnage distribution, and allows for real time data by creating donor or client dashboards. FoodShare also allows beneficiary

organisations to apply online, and monitoring and evaluation is done by using offline forms. FoodShare hosts a myriad of data that is able to inform decision-making, provide real time demographics, and reporting.

“FoodShare is a game changer for addressing food insecurity in South Africa because it allows us to address the problem at scale, allowing for food to be used to feed people nationally, and increases variety of the food.

“Since FoodShare went live at the beginning of 2017, 1074,81 tonnes of food has been distributed and 138 Beneficiary Organisations are actively interacting daily with the web interface across 152 retail stores / food outlets. We are in discussions with several retailers and food outlets which will potentially increase food recovery by an additional 13 million meals in the next year,” says Du Plessis.

FoodShare has been designed to accommodate future add-ins such as restaurants and hotels, deli-type food, as well as ad-hoc surplus from the agri sector.

Ends

Technical about the FoodForward SA Platform

- PHP scripting language
- My SQL data base
- Google Maps API integration
- Ubuntu Linux server
- Reverse billing USSD
- Integrate email and SMS Notification
- Offline workflow module for vetting and assessments on tablets

About FoodForward SA

FoodForward SA (formerly FoodBank SA) is the catalyst that connects a world of waste to a world of need by recovering edible surplus food in the supply chain to address the problem of food insecurity. In partnership with all the major wholesalers, retailers and manufacturers, our mandate is to collect edible surplus food and non-food groceries, for redistribution to registered beneficiary organisations that offer daily feeding programmes. At least 85% of our beneficiary organisations are involved in education, youth development, women’s empowerment, skills training in addition to their feeding programmes.

<https://foodforwardsa.org>

info@foodforwardsa.org

021 531 5670

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Contact: Candace.Gawler@fticonsulting.com

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For enquiries contact

Zimasa Jam Jam
zimasa@foodforwardsa.org

OR

Candace Gawler

Candace.Gawler@fticonsulting.com