

Community-based research during Covid-19: a tale of two surveys

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Agenda

1. Background to the surveys
2. Methodology
3. Challenges
4. Key takeaways

Background to the surveys

- FHR's long-standing relationship with CAOs as local centres of democracy
- May 2020: the National Food Crisis Forum was inaugurated by SAFSC
 - Strategy to identify and mitigate the inequalities exacerbated by Covid-19
 1. **Food Commons, Food Sovereignty pathways and Hub Building:** tasked with opening up the food commons (gardens and small farms)
 2. **Food Relief & Engagements:** this committee is concerned with mapping food relief efforts across the country
 3. **Basic Income Grant (BIG):** focused on continuing the campaign for a universal, basic income grant (#UBIGNOW)

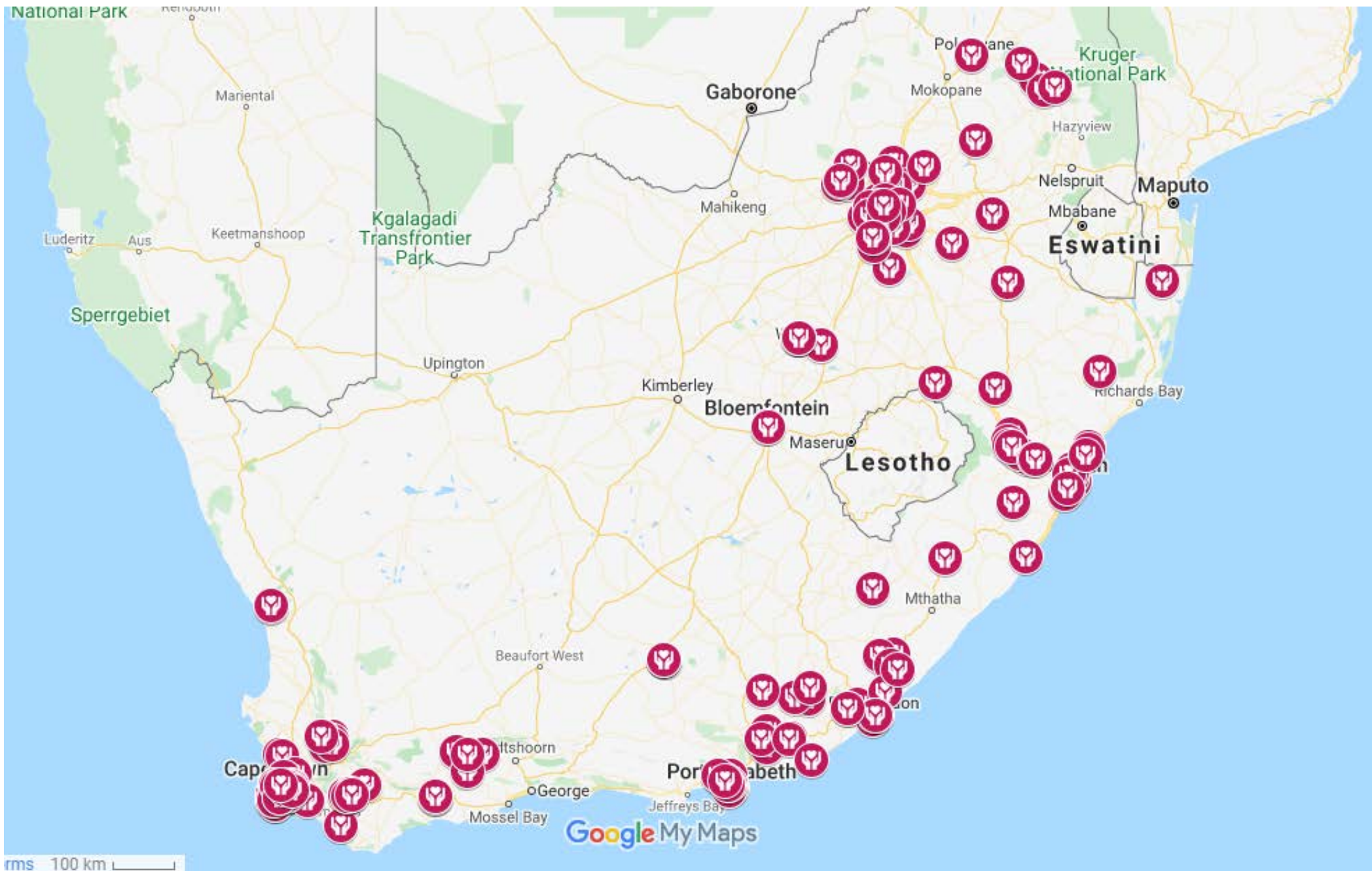
Methodology

FHR Survey

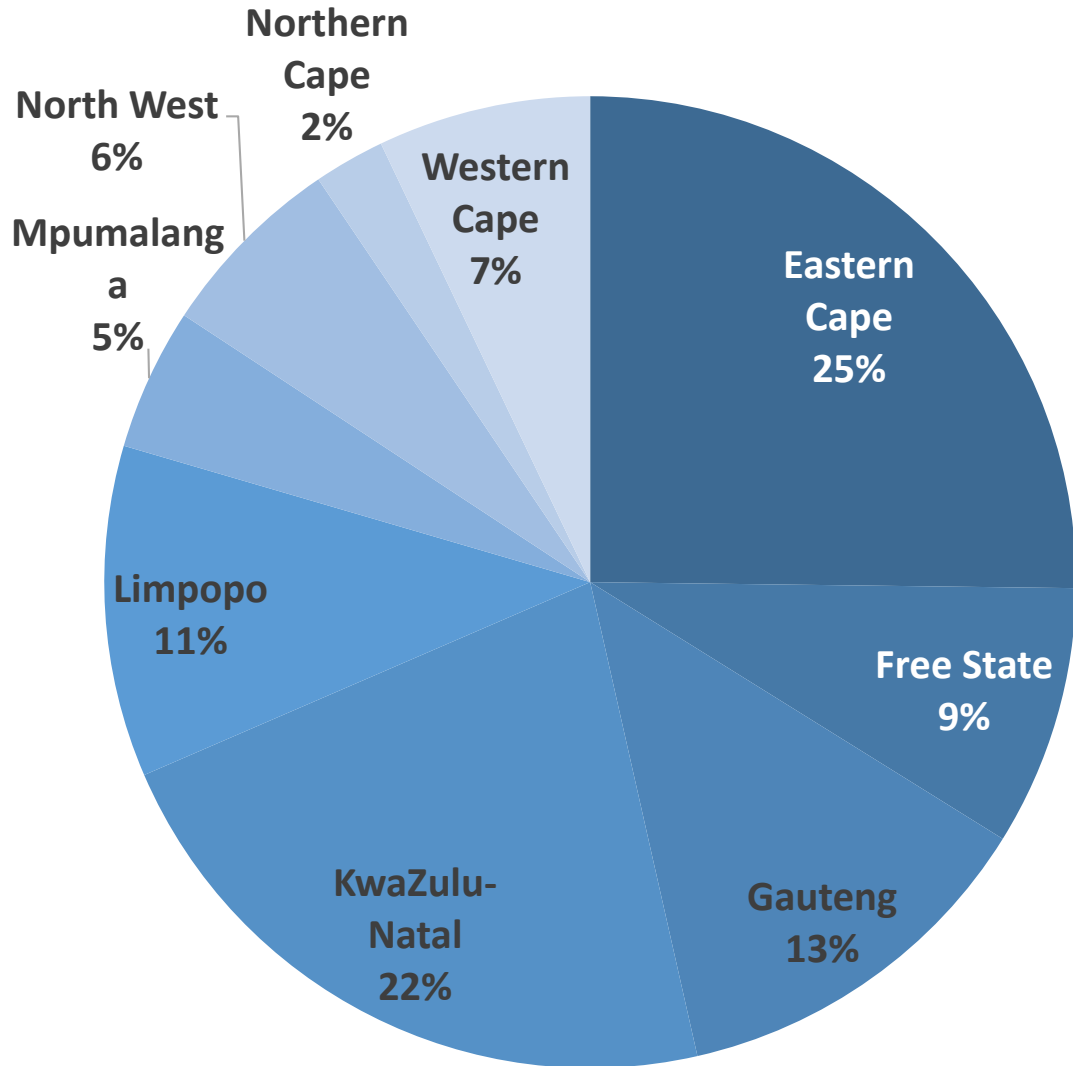
- Collaborative creation of survey on Microsoft Forms
- Shared via local network of CAOs
- Data is protected and not shared
- Limitations:
 - Small sample size (127)
 - Only completed by those who have internet and device access

NFCF Survey

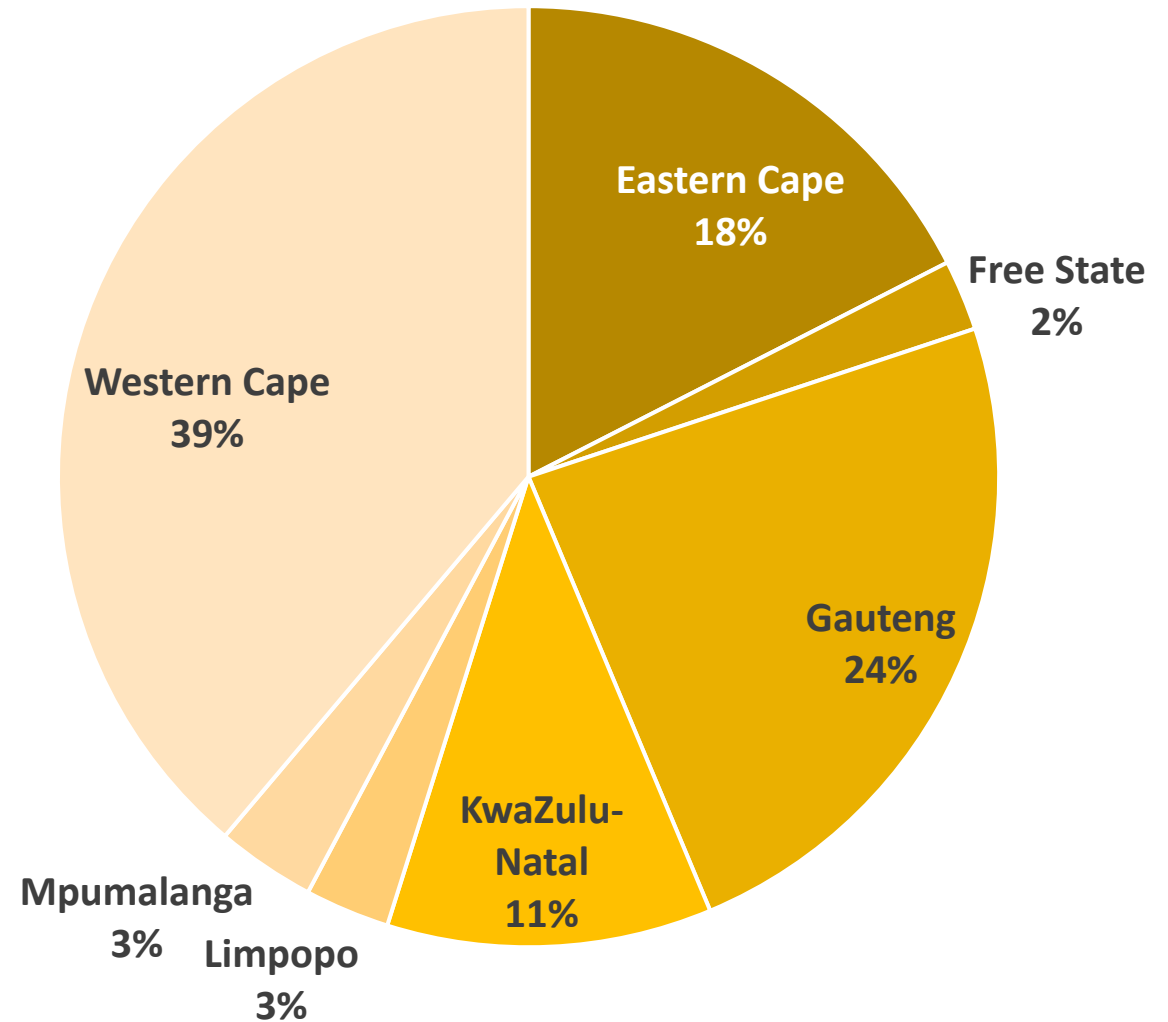
- Collaborative creation of survey on Google Forms
- Shared via local networks and organisations
- Data is protected and not shared
- Limitations:
 - Small sample size (206)
 - Only completed by those who have internet and device access
 - Concentrations in urban centres
 - Two provinces not represented



FHR: Respondents by province (N = 127)



NFCF: Respondents with a food relief initiative by province (N = 206)



Challenges

- Data coverage and costs – excludes many from participating
- Limited technological know-how
- Relatively low and slow response rate, especially for FHR
- Duplicate responses
- Responses mostly from certain areas

Key takeaways: FHR survey

1. Violence is on the rise during lockdown, especially for women
2. A leadership vacuum and issues with grants have exacerbated the negative effects of lockdown
3. The hunger crisis has worsened during lockdown, despite measures to mitigate it
4. CAOs have been under-utilised by government and other stakeholders during the pandemic

Key takeaways: NFCF survey

1. Food relief efforts are predominantly in the Western Cape and Gauteng (most affected by Covid-19, most populated, most urbanised)
2. Most food relief efforts began during the lockdown
3. Short-term food relief is prioritised by initiatives, which is unsustainable
4. Vulnerable groups who rely on food relief will grow, which is dangerous
5. Food relief efforts rely on donations, which undermine its longevity

Questions

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