



# The 1000 Survival Gardens Project



## The Challenge: Water and Food Supply

The **COVID-19 pandemic** has challenged communities around the world. In Africa, lockdowns have had the impact of **making remote villages even more isolated**, affecting access to the most basic necessities, including water and food. Food relief packages have provided immediate relief but the benefit is short-term and creates a **cycle of dependency**.



In many of the rural communities of South Africa **women are the frontline workers**. Gathering water is a core need carried out by women and young girls who use buckets to carry water on their heads.

The task is extremely labour-intensive and, over time, results in debilitating physical problems. It also often involves walking great distances to a water source, disrupting girls from attending **school** and robbing time that women could better spend on **family-building activities**.

## The Response for Water

The **hippo roller** is a device that carries up to **five times** the water of a typical bucket, and is capable of transferring water safely and easily over most types of terrain. Although invented in 1991, this device is still relatively unknown.

The benefits of the Hippo Roller are many, including **saving enormous amounts of time** for women, being physically easier to manage, and allowing girls to regularly attend school.



## The Response for Food

In recent years **community gardens** have taken hold as an independent means of growing and supplying food, especially in remote areas susceptible to supply disruptions. The leadership for this type of initiative has been taken by retired women, locally known as “Gogos” (Grandmothers).



The activity of growing community gardens is **rewarding and empowering**, and promises short and long-term benefits. In the short term it provides an immediate food supply for remote communities. In the long term, it is a self-sustaining activity that can create **food security for the future**.

### **The Solution: Survival Garden Kits**

To rise to the challenge of water and food supply in remote South African communities, **survival garden kits** assemble the necessary items that allow women the ability to safely access water and grow their own gardens for their families.

The largest component in the kit is the **hippo roller**, which is accompanied by all of the required **gardening tools, seeds, fertilizer** and instructions to produce a reliable food supply.

#### **A Survival Garden Kit includes:**

- Hippo water roller - Moves 5x more water with ease.
- A shovel, rake and hoe
- Watering can
- Seeds and seedlings
- Compost, fertilizer
- How to Grow a Garden Guide
- Soap and sanitizer
- Face masks

### **The Role of Rotary International**

Through the network of Rotary International, the **Rotary Clubs of Hillcrest** (near Durban, South Africa), **Gibsons, BC** and **Winnipeg** partnered to launch the **1000 Survival Gardens Project** in 2020. This ambitious project aims to deliver 1000 survival garden kits to 1000 women in communities that are identified as having the potential to realize the greatest benefit.



Each kit costs approximately **\$250** each and funding is **entirely dependent on direct fundraising campaigns** from the Rotary Clubs overseeing the project. To date, this project has delivered **483 kits** to households within four provinces of Eastern South Africa, where they have been received with great joy and gratitude. By the end

of 2021 **almost half of our goal** will be reached, and over **250 additional requests** have been received.

---

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP THE ROTARY CLUB OF WINNIPEG**

*Donations of **\$20 and greater** are entitled to a **tax-deductible receipt** from RC Winnipeg; **your full mailing address is required**, although receipts may be sent by e-mail upon request*

### **Please consider donating by way of one of these options:**

- 1) **Credit Card:** contribute via our club website "Rotary Club of Winnipeg – Home Page" at the "DONATE" link near the top right hand side of the page (<https://winnipegrotary.org>) and select "South Africa Projects" as the charity you wish to support
- 2) **E-transfer:** send funds directly to the South Africa Support Projects Committee by e-mail to [saesp@mymts.net](mailto:saesp@mymts.net)
- 3) **Cheque:** make payable to **RC Winnipeg Community Services Fund** (memo: **Survival Gardens**) and mail to Gary Dawyduk at 129 Bartlet Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3L 0Z2

For more information, please contact **Gary Dawyduk** ([garyd@mymts.net](mailto:garyd@mymts.net))

