Walmart Foundation is committed to fighting HUNGER AROUND THE WORLD

As part of Walmart’s mission to create opportunities so people can live better, the company has committed to making positive impacts in the communities they serve around the world. Two areas Walmart is particularly focused on are education and hunger relief and nutrition.

Walmart’s commitments globally and in America

In 2011, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave $958.9 million (approximately R 7.7 billion) in cash and in-kind contributions to community initiatives around the world. In 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation launched “Fighting Hunger Together” – a $2 billion (approximately R16 billion) cash and in-kind commitment. From 2010 through to 2015 Walmart has committed to help end hunger in America. This initiative leverages Walmart’s size and resources to provide nutritious food and the Walmart Foundation’s ability to grant funding to nonprofits that help alleviate the issue.

One example of where the Walmart Foundation has already made a meaningful impact is in Prince George’s County, Maryland, at the Port Towns Elementary School. Eighty percent of students here live on or below the poverty line. But with Walmart’s help, every student begins their day with breakfast in the classroom – giving them a good start to a full life.

Walmart also believes education provides an opportunity for a better life and so the Walmart Foundation is helping to fund people so that they can gain access to an education that will help them achieve more than they may have thought possible.

Walmart Foundation is feeding bodies and minds in South Africa

Education is a powerful tool, an essential factor for changing the future of poorer communities in South Africa. But before a child can learn, before they can make the best of the educational opportunities afforded them – they need to eat.

Currently more than half of South Africa’s children live below the poverty line, a United Nations report revealed in May this year (United Nations World Youth Report, 2012). The UNICEF report found that 1.4 million children live in homes that rely on often dirty streams for drinking water, 1.5 million have no flushing toilets and 1.7 million live in shacks, with no proper bedding, cooking or washing facilities. Four in 10 live in homes where no one is employed. At Massmart-Walmart, we consider it our responsibility to make a positive impact on the communities we serve. Through our corporate social initiatives, we aim to make a measurable difference in South African communities by addressing the root causes of some of their greatest challenges.

As such, the Walmart Foundation announced in April 2012 that it would donate 100 mobile kitchens to the 94+ Schools Project for Nelson Mandela, in partnership with the Department of Basic Education and the Nelson Mandela Foundation. This most recent contribution of $1 million (roughly R8 million) from Walmart, means that 100 container kitchens will be installed in schools across South Africa. Don Frieson, Massmart-Walmart’s Chief Integration Officer, says: “Walmart has consistently said that its entry into South Africa would deliver benefits that go beyond consumer benefits. This contribution of 100 mobile kitchens, in schools identified by the Department of Basic Education, is one example of this commitment.”

On 18 July 2012, Nelson Mandela’s 94th birthday, the Walmart Foundation delivered its first container kitchen. The receiving school was Clarkebury Senior Secondary School, a well-regarded school that Nelson Mandela himself attended in his youth, only a few miles from where he resides in Qunu, in the Eastern Cape Province. “Madiba Day” is celebrated by South Africans every year.
on the 18 July and many people give 67 minutes of their time, during the course of the day, towards improving the lives of others less fortunate. These 67 minutes represent the 67 years Nelson Mandela gave selflessly in service to his country and people.

Massmart-Walmart and the Walmart Foundation proudly joined this South African tradition with the official handover of a brand new container kitchen to the students of Clarkebury Senior Secondary School.

**Container kitchens to be installed in all provinces**

Since the first handover of a kitchen in the Eastern Cape, rollout has begun in the rest of South Africa. The first school to benefit in Gauteng, Orange Farm Primary School, is an underfunded school with few facilities and over 1,300 students, based in one of Gauteng’s poorer communities, Orange Farm. As with all installations, this one was welcomed with joy and gratitude from all the students and staff at the school. Ephraim Nedima, the principal of Orange Farm Primary School, reiterates: “Orange Farm is a poverty-stricken area and this is impacting seriously on our daily business which is learning and teaching. Having a hygienic kitchen like this addresses one of our biggest challenges – poverty.”

To-date the Walmart Foundation container kitchen deliveries have been completed in both the Eastern Cape and Gauteng provinces. Twenty Eastern Cape schools and 10 Gauteng schools will be able to prepare hot meals, hygienically, for their students. At the beginning of September, rollout in the KwaZulu-Natal province began and thus far three schools have received the facilities. Once KwaZulu-Natal deliveries are completed then deliveries to the Limpopo province will begin. By the end of this year we hope to have completed rollout in at least four provinces.

Each kitchen is fitted with a gas burner, a double bowl sink, cupboards, stainless steel counters, shelving, cooking pots, cooking utensils and enough mugs, plates, knives, forks and spoons for every child.

By working hand-in-hand with the South African government to augment the existing National School Nutrition Programme, Massmart-Walmart is helping feed tens of thousands of learners every year. Once the Walmart Foundation’s 100 container kitchens have been installed, more than double the amount of children will benefit from this initiative at schools around South Africa.

To read more about Massmart’s schools’ feeding schemes please refer to Massmart’s other Corporate Social Investment Group Updates.