

## The PepsiCo Foundation announces R6m investment to bring water access and sanitation projects to South Africa

**CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA, NOVEMBER 25, 2020** – The PepsiCo Foundation today announced programs that will bring much-needed access to water and sanitation for thousands of people in South Africa. Currently, over three million people do not have access to a basic water supply service, and 14.1 million people do not have access to safe sanitation\*. This holistic programme marks the inaugural investment of the Foundation into Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Foundation, the philanthropic arm of leading food and beverage company PepsiCo, will invest a total of R6 million in access to water initiatives ranging from affordable washing units in homes, handwashing stations in high density areas and water saving flush toilets; to the rehabilitation of natural springs.

As part of its sustainability agenda, The PepsiCo Foundation has been working since 2006 to deliver safe water access to people around the world, and in 2016 set a goal to reach 25 million people by 2025. This goal has already been surpassed with The PepsiCo Foundation now having helped more than 44 million people gain access to safe water through distribution, purification, and conservation programmes. That's why PepsiCo has set a new goal to reach 100 million people with safe water access by 2030 and will be focusing near-term efforts on water distribution, sanitation, and hygiene.

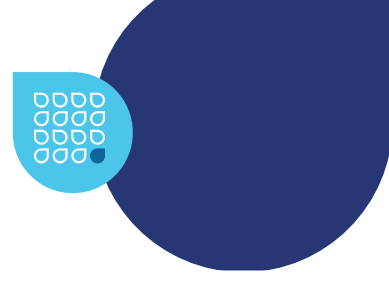
“PepsiCo is deeply committed to supporting the Foundation’s social development efforts and being a positive force in all the communities in which we operate,” says PepsiCo Sub-Saharan Africa CEO, Tertius Carstens. “PepsiCo is a leader when it comes to advancing a sustainable and equitable food system, with a key focus on water access, infrastructure and hygiene, and we’re excited to contribute to some excellent South African initiatives as we close in on that 100 million goal”.

This year, the most pressing needs in our communities have been exacerbated by the devastation caused by COVID-19—maintaining a supply of clean water and building infrastructure is critical to slowing the spread of the disease. The PepsiCo Foundation’s safe water access work focuses on distribution, purification and conservation programs in support of Sustainable Development Goal #6 to ensure the availability and sustainable management of clean water and sanitation for all. In light of the pandemic, efforts will focus on water distribution, sanitation, and hygiene programs.

Sustainability experts from PepsiCo Sub-Saharan Africa will be overseeing the day-to-day rollout and management of the programmes.

- The first of the four projects, in partnership with the **National Business Initiative (NBI)**, is the rollout of foot operated communal standpipes and hand-washing stations in the Eastern Cape. These units will be placed in areas such as schools, taxi ranks, clinics, pension pay points, informal settlements and other busy hotspot areas. The stations are





connected to a raised water tank or municipal supply and use biodegradable soap. Each unit includes a tamper proof system developed to prevent vandalism and theft.

- The second of the four projects is in partnership with the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-SA)** and focuses on improved water access and hygiene practices for rural villages in Matatiele in the Northern Part of the Eastern Cape. A key component is the rehabilitation of natural springs. The funding allocated to this project by the Foundation will enable an additional 12 villages access to clean water, environmental education and awareness, as well as creating jobs.
- The third project, run by Cape Town-based water and education-focussed non-profit **Save our Schools (SOS)**, will deliver and install hand washing stations to the Bloekombos and Wallacedene informal community with over 100,000 residents. Where these stations have been installed previously at high traffic areas like taxi ranks, schools, pension points and portable toilets facilities, they have enjoyed excellent community buy-in and ownership.

The Foundation's funding of this project includes the unit, installation, a three-month stipend for the ambassador as well as covering three months of operating and maintenance costs.

- The fourth project, in partnership with the **Water Research Commission (WRC)**, involves the installation of low pour flush toilets. This provides the sanitary benefits of flush toilets while using just one to two litres of water per flush. Each toilet provides a more dignified experience for an individual and offer a safer, more hygienic alternative to pit latrines.

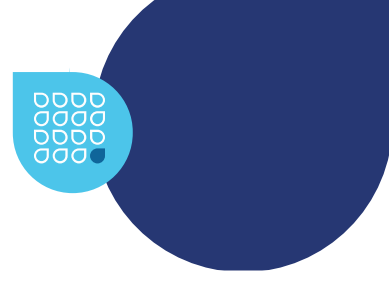
Carstens says: "The Foundation's backing for these four projects, each carefully selected for its impact and sustainability, signals its enthusiastic support for this crucial national priority, one we hope to build on in years to come."

Working together with key partners on important projects such as these will allow PepsiCo to meet its new target – of delivering safe water access to 100 million people by 2030.

- Ends

\*Source: SA Department of Water and Sanitation, National Water and Sanitation masterplan.





### **About PepsiCo**

PepsiCo products are enjoyed by consumers more than one billion times a day in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. PepsiCo generated more than \$67 billion in net revenue in 2019, driven by a complementary food and beverage portfolio that includes Frito-Lay, Gatorade, Pepsi-Cola, Quaker and Tropicana. PepsiCo's product portfolio includes a wide range of enjoyable foods and beverages, including 23 brands that generate more than \$1 billion each in estimated annual retail sales. In South Africa the company's brands include Weet-Bix, Simba, Liqui Fruit, Lay's, SASKO and White Star.

Guiding PepsiCo is our vision to Be the Global Leader in Convenient Foods and Beverages by Winning with Purpose. "Winning with Purpose" reflects our ambition to win sustainably in the marketplace and embed purpose into all aspects of the business. For more information, visit [www.pepsico.com](http://www.pepsico.com)

### **About The PepsiCo Foundation**

Established in 1962, The PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo, invests in the essential elements of a sustainable food system with a mission to support thriving communities. Working with non-profits and experts around the globe, we're focused on helping alleviate hunger, managing water and waste responsibly and supporting women as champions of nutrition from farm to family. We strive for tangible impact in the places where we live and work—collaborating with industry peers, local and international organizations, and our employees to affect large-scale change on the issues that matter to us and are of global importance. Learn more at <http://www.pepsico.com/sustainability/philanthropy>.

### **About The NBI**

Formed in 1995, the National Business Initiative (NBI) is a voluntary coalition of South African and multinational companies, working towards sustainable growth and development in South Africa and the shaping of a sustainable future through responsible business action. <https://www.nbi.org.za/>

### **About WWF**

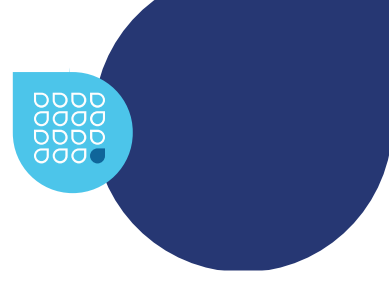
WWF is an independent conservation organization, with over 30 million followers and a global network active in nearly 100 countries. WWF South Africa is a national office that is part of the WWF network. We are a local NGO that for more than 50 years has been working to ensure a sustainable and equitable future in which humans and nature thrive. For Nature. For You. [www.wwf.org.za](http://www.wwf.org.za)

WWF stands for the World Wide Fund for Nature

### **About SOS**

Save our Schools' mission is to improve water equity within communities, primarily focusing on sanitation and hygiene in schools, by providing sustainable water solutions through partnerships with businesses and other organizations. <https://soscpt.org>





### **About WRC**

The Water Research Council aims to be South Africa's premiere water knowledge hub active across the innovation value chain that: Informs policy and decision making; creates new products innovation and services for socio-economic development; develops human capital in the water science sector; empower communities and reduces poverty; supports national transformation and redress project and develops sustainable solutions and deepens water research and development in South Africa, Africa and the developing world. [www.wrc.org.za](http://www.wrc.org.za)

For more information on the above, or to speak to any one of the partners directly, please reach out to:

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