

CORONAVIRUS STRESS IN RUSTENBURG

Life in Mfidikoe, Rustenburg has become very stressful for the family of a waste picker. After being denied the right to work during lockdown, the waste picker told a story of hunger and stress.

“Before this pandemic breakdown me and my family were not facing financial crisis but it went deeper when Level 5 started. To survive as a waste picker collecting waste, I have to collect until I have at least 100 tonnes of waste (a month).”

“When level 4 was granted I thought things will be back to the normal ways of life, but we still were not allowed to collect waste. I nearly fainted as the stress came down on me. I saw my family starving and since I’m not a member of the ruling party, the councillor wouldn’t give me food parcels to feed my family.”

“COVID-19 brought a huge change in my house. We are so stressed to an extent that even if a child does something wrong we become aggressive and start shouting. This pandemic has left us fighting hunger and drunkenness, and jealousy has grown.”

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