

SNAC PODCAST S1

The Student Hunger Subgroup is looking at designing and implementing approaches to address student hunger that are student-centered, sustainable, and humanising. One such effort was hosting a week-long indaba in 2023 with lunch-time workshops to address the question: "*How can Mandela University develop its own unique approach to student hunger?*"

At the end of the week, participants were asked, 'what next?' One of the primary responses was to continue the conversation with students across geographical spaces and virtual platforms, disciplines, and campuses.

This podcast is our effort to do exactly that.

The name - Student Nutrition Advocacy and Communication (SNAC) - was an initiative started in 2020 by a group of students alarmed at the rising hunger amongst their peers. One of these students became part of the student hunger subgroup, linking our efforts with the original initiative. By using the name they developed we honour the work they did and our commitment to build on it going forward.

We invite comments and critical thoughts, and encourage you to continue the conversation wherever you are.

The SNAC podcast is an initiative of the Student Hunger Subgroup, located in the Mandela University Food Systems programme. For more information, contact foodsystems@mandela.ac.za

This podcast was recorded in collaboration with the Transformation Office's Equality, Promotion and Social Inclusion project.

See the Hluma Indaba Report [here](#).

EP6: Bulk Buying

By Ms Nomthandazo Pukwana and Ms Khanyisa Zibe

Ms Nomthandazo Pukwana is a qualified social worker, currently pursuing her Master's degree in Social Work Research at Mandela University. Her research is focusing on food bulk-buying groups as a potential coping strategy for student hunger. She is passionate about serving God and others and loves being active and involved in activities that shape and develop others.

Ms Khanyisa Zibe is a qualified and registered social worker. Her guiding philosophy is rooted in the belief that every individual's existence holds a purpose that extends beyond oneself. Previously, she served as a Junior Residence Manager at Premier Student Accommodation. Currently, she serves at Emthonjeni Student Wellness and Student Health Services at Mandela University, where she tackles a broad spectrum of psychosocial issues affecting students. From addressing housing and food insecurities to promoting holistic well-being, Khanyisa is committed to fostering a supportive environment where every student can thrive.

Nomthandazo and Khanyisa chat about what bulk-buying is, the potential it holds as an avenue of addressing student hunger, and some of the challenges that come with it. They highlight the importance of building relationships, building trust, and demonstrating what ubuntu can truly look like, from a social work perspective.