



The Solidarity Fund Update | 22 June 2020

The Solidarity Fund has approved more than R1,4bn to fund initiatives to prevent, support, detect and care for those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Of the total amount disbursed, 75% has been provisionally allocated towards the health response, including the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), testing kits and ventilators. A further 20% has been allocated to the humanitarian effort such as the provision of food relief and support for survivors of gender-based violence. The balance has been allocated towards general education and awareness campaigns to help curb the spread of Covid-19.

So far, The Solidarity Fund has approved R1,2bn towards health interventions, R137m towards humanitarian relief efforts and R36m towards education and awareness programmes.

Health intervention:

- More than 35 million pieces of Personal Protective Equipment have been procured. This includes items such as surgical masks, gowns, bootcovers and gloves.
- 200 ICU ventilators costing R19.5 million have been funded, for delivery towards the end of July.
- The Fund has approved R11.3m to support the development of locally-manufactured non-invasive ventilator prototypes.
- In addition, R250 million has been approved to support the National Health Laboratory Service to increase testing capacity as lockdown eases on a risk-adjusted basis.
- The Solidarity Fund has approved an additional R20m towards tests for non-medical aid members and vulnerable citizens in under-served areas. This project is being supported by Dis-Chem, who are carrying the testing station and overhead costs of the project.
- The Fund has also approved R88m towards the capacitation of the university academic labs, including historically disadvantaged institutions, to support the NHLS testing program.

Humanitarian Relief

- The Fund has provided food relief to 280 000 families to date.
- The Fund will reach an additional 23 500 households through its food voucher initiative.
- The Fund approved R17m in funding for initiatives that support victims of gender-based violence as part of its efforts to assist those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Education and Awareness

- An education and awareness programme has been flighted probono across social media, national television and radio with various media owners and corporates donating airtime they had booked.
- The Fund approved funding of R7m for hygiene and safety content radio aimed at rural areas to help curb the spread of the virus.
- Last week, the Fund launched its Citizens in Solidarity campaign to help drive positive and healthy behaviour as a key tool in South Africa’s fight against the spread of the Coronavirus. The campaign, which is in South Africa’s 11 official languages consists of messaging across various media, including radio, television, billboards and digital media. In addition, the campaign will be driven through social partners such as civil society organisations, traditional leaders and faith-based organizations to amplify the message.

The Solidarity Fund has received R2,9bn in pledges as at 18 June 2020, with more than R2,6bn already deposited. More than 265 000 donations from 1 800 corporates and trusts and nearly 264 000 individual donations have been received.

Interim CEO of The Solidarity Fund, Nomkhita Nqweni said: “We continue to make steady progress on our aim to support the national health response, contribute to humanitarian relief efforts and mobilise South Africans to drive a united response to the Covid-19. Thank you to all our generous donors who continue to make this work possible as we unite in action to make a positive difference.”

The Solidarity Fund is committed to transparency around all of our activities. You can find detailed information and reporting around donations received, how we allocate resources as well as the impact we are having by visiting www.solidarityfund.co.za.