



## MEDIA RELEASE

### THE SOLIDARITY FUND UPDATE

**Johannesburg, 16 September 2020** - It's been almost 6 months since President Cyril Ramaphosa first announced the shutdown and the country will feel the effects for many months to come. In that six months, the Solidarity Fund has approved R2,448 billion to be spent on interventions and projects across three key pillars – Health, Humanitarian Relief and Behavioural Change. This breaks down as R1.980m towards health interventions, R411m towards humanitarian relief efforts and R56m towards education and awareness programmes.

The remaining allocated funds will go towards 23 existing projects and 31 sub-projects. These are divided as such: *Health Interventions*: 13 projects; *Humanitarian Relief Efforts*: 5 Projects, 11 sub-projects; *Behavioural Change*: 5 Projects, 20 sub-projects.

A quick look at the numbers across all three of our pillars shows that, in support of our health initiatives, we have procured 41 million units of PPE and have commissioned 20 000 non-invasive locally manufactured ventilators of which 4 000 have been delivered to date. In expanding the country's testing capability, we supported NHLS with 1.2 Million Reagent and extraction kits. This supported the capacity of the NHLS to perform up to 45 000 tests a day at the peak of the pandemic. At the last briefing we committed to supporting the hotspot provinces of Gauteng, Western Cape and Eastern Cape with the procurement of critical medical equipment. This equipment is in the process of being deployed.

Our humanitarian interventions have seen us disburse food parcels to 280 thousand vulnerable households, with the second phase involving the disbursement of food vouchers to a further 135 thousand households including unemployed young people, expectant mothers, women, and foreign nationals.

The fund always seeks to balance immediate relief efforts with long-term, sustainable interventions. To this end, the Fund has also allocated R100 million for a once-off Farming Input Voucher of R2 000, to be disbursed to 47 000 rural households, 66% of which will be women-led. These farming input vouchers are a mechanism to assist subsistence-focused smallholder and household farmers who have lost income from a combination of sources during COVID-19 restrictions.

## Continuing to give gender-based violence organisations the support they need to make a difference.

As a country, we are not only facing the pandemic of COVID-19, but we are also seeing a tragic escalation in our second pandemic – gender-based violence.

Given the reported upsurge in cases of gender-based violence in South Africa as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, GBV has been identified as one of the areas of urgent attention under the Solidarity Fund's Humanitarian workstream.

Already, the Fund has disbursed R17 million in PPE, support and aid to organisations that assist the victims of gender-based violence. Further, we announce the second intervention of R75million which will go towards assisting approximately 360 local community organisations that offer critical services to women and children affected by Gender-Based Violence.

The beneficiary organisations will be selected across the eco-system of GBV organisations and include those working in prevention, response and the judicial system.

In all our interventions and projects, transparency, accountability and compliance are of utmost importance. Every project follows strict processes and is the result of extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders, organisations and communities. Says Nomkhita Nqweni, interim CEO, "At the Solidarity Fund we are all too aware of the responsibility we have to the South African people, as well as of the importance of supporting and initiating meaningful initiatives that make a sustainable impact. The structures that we have in place, and that we continue to monitor, help to ensure compliance and accountability throughout every step of what is often a complex and detailed process."

To find out detailed information and reporting around donations received, projects and approvals, as well as the impact the Fund is having, visit [www.solidarityfund.co.za](http://www.solidarityfund.co.za) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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