



## MEDIA RELEASE

### THE SOLIDARITY FUND UPDATE

**Johannesburg, 21 October 2020** - Just over a month ago, South Africa moved into Level 1 lockdown. Although, in many ways, our lives had already begun a slow return to some form of normality, this change in level marked a growing feeling that we were finally getting control of the pandemic and that it was time to start rebuilding our country, industries and lives. While it is clear that there will be a time when the work that the Fund does is no longer needed, that time hasn't come yet and, until it does, the Fund will continue to work with partners and stakeholders as an additive to government's actions and a support to the people in our country.

In the almost 7 months of existence, the Fund has received over R3,12 billion of the R3,16 billion pledged by businesses, governments and individuals, has allocated R2,26 billion, and has disbursed over R1,36 billion, with the remaining allocated to ongoing projects or earmarked for future initiatives. In many ways, 7 months is no time at all but, when you consider the work that has been done by our many partners around South Africa, it's been a remarkable period filled with challenges and successes.

#### **An update on the numbers\*.**

***Pledged – R3,16 billion***

***Received – R3,12 billion***

***Allocated – R2,26 billion***

***Disbursed- R1,36 billion***

\*Accurate as of 15 Oct 2020

#### ***Projects underway***

- *Health Interventions:* 11 active projects, 2 completed
- *Humanitarian Relief Efforts:* 4 active projects, 2 completed
- *Behavioural Change:* 4 active projects, one in the pipeline, 2 completed

To date, The Solidarity Fund has approved R1.771bn towards health interventions, R412m towards humanitarian relief efforts and R75,9m towards behavioural change programmes.

### **Health response**

*1,2m Reagent and extraction kits to enable testing*

*106 000 Tests provided by increasing testing capacity*

*R45m to assist with the Seroprevalence study*

*41m Units of PPE procured. ±38 million units have landed in SA and continue to be distributed*

*52 000 Critical health care equipment for hotspot provinces*

*20 000 Non-invasive ventilators manufactured which has activated local manufacturing capacity (6 918 distributed across the country)*

*200 Ventilators purchased internationally have arrived to be distributed*

*1,1m Units of PPE procured for medical students*

### **The Humanitarian response**

*Supported 280 000 families with food parcels:*

*47 000 Household/subsistence farmers to receive farming input vouchers in rural areas – 66% of which will be women*

*135 000 Households targeted to receive food vouchers*

*133 Shelters and care centres provided with PPE and critical medical services to assist women and children affected by GBV*

*R75m approved for 2<sup>nd</sup> GBV intervention*

### **Our behavioural campaign**

*33,9m Adults reached through the Solidarity and behavioural campaign*

*Over 100,000 unique users are using the return to work website.*

*882 traditional leaders are using loudhailers donated by the Fund to spread messages around keeping safe.*

### **Upcoming call for funding applications.**

On Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the Solidarity Fund will open a call for funding applications from community-based organisations (CBOs) in the GBV sector who stand to benefit from a once-off grant from the Fund ranging from R50 000 to R250 000. This call marks the beginning of the second phase of the Fund's GBV intervention, which falls under the Humanitarian Response pillar. This phase has been allocated R75m to be disbursed across approximately 360 organisations, with 75% going towards community-based support and 25% targeting programmes achieving systemic change.

Applicants should be CBOs that perform or support critical activities and services related to addressing gender-based violence (GBV) across the country. A call for organisations targeting programmes achieving systemic change in GBV will be open on 4 November. More information will be made available for this first call in the next media release going out on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **The reports are coming in.**

The Fund was started as a COVID-19 rapid response vehicle to immediate and urgent needs of the country. As such, the majority of our projects are designed to have limited duration. A number of our projects have already closed, which means that figures on impact and reach, along with the final disbursements made are starting to come in. In our commitment to ongoing transparency and accountability, the Fund has pledged to issue reports as and when the

necessary information becomes available. In the last month, the Fund has issued 6 new reports and a number are in the process of being compiled. The 6 new reports can be found on the website at <https://solidarityfund.co.za/reports/>

The reports include:

- The Creation and the Impact of the Citizens in Solidarity Campaign
- Solidarity Fund Humanitarian Response | The Food Voucher Relief Programme Interim Report
- Solidarity Fund Health Response Report | PPE for frontline Community Care Workers
- Solidarity Fund Humanitarian Response | The Food Voucher Relief Programme Interim Report
- Solidarity Fund Health Response Report | National Ventilator Production (Locally Manufactured ventilators) Interim Report
- Solidarity Fund Health Response Report | Testing Efforts Interim Report
- Solidarity Behavioural Response Report |Red Cross Children's Hospital (Rx Radio) Campaign

Four more reports are scheduled to come out before the end of October – 3 focusing on the Fund's Citizens in Solidarity campaign, which falls under the Behavioural Change pillar, and one that falls under the Humanitarian Pillar.

To find out detailed information and reporting about donations received, projects and approvals, as well as the impact the Fund is having, visit [www.solidarityfund.co.za](http://www.solidarityfund.co.za).

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