



**Solidarity
Fund**

Unity in action

MEDIA RELEASE

THE SOLIDARITY FUND ISSUES SIX-MONTH INTERIM IMPACT REPORT | 10 DECEMBER 2020

Johannesburg, 10 December 2020 – The Solidarity Fund has issued an interim Impact Report, reporting back on the impact attained by the Fund, including how donations were allocated and disbursed since inception of the Fund to the end of September 2020.

When the first Solidarity Fund War Room meeting was held on 24 March 2020, the members faced a daunting task. They had to build a new institution from scratch, whilst mobilising the largest fundraising campaign in our country's history, and deploying those funds with urgency and utmost care to have the greatest possible impact as the crisis rapidly unfolded.

The interim Impact Report describes how the Fund discharged this assignment during the six-month "Crisis Phase" of the Fund – drawing on generously donated funds of over R3.1bn and leveraging the skills and experience of a passionate pro bono workforce of 200 people to deliver tangible impact.

Right from the outset, the Fund understood that reliable partnerships would be essential to delivering on our mandate. As such, the Fund partnered with organisations, community and faith leaders, NPOs and Government departments across the country – to ensure that it reached as many people as possible.

The Fund's work is defined by three pillars:

Health Response: to support urgent aspects of the health system response, and support and protect front-line health workers.

Humanitarian Relief: to provide humanitarian support to the most vulnerable households and communities.

Behavioural Change: The Solidarity campaign aims to unite the nation in action against COVID-19 and encourage behavioural change.

During the early “Crisis Phase” of the pandemic, emphasis was on supporting and bolstering the healthcare system so that front-line health workers could effectively and safely respond to the predicted influx of patients. For that reason, our Health Response received the greater share of the funding at this time.

Health Response

Through its Health Response, the Solidarity Fund’s efforts were designed – and remain designed – to support increased testing capacity, as well as augment the health system’s capacity to provide adequate care now, and in the event of future surges in the infection rate.

In respect of **testing**, the Solidarity Fund allocated R409m to bolster national testing capacity. To meet the urgent need for **PPE** in March and April, the Fund approved R884m to be allocated for the emergency procurement of PPE.

In response to the anticipated high influx of patients, hotspot provinces were identified and funding for **essential equipment** was allocated; namely, the Western Cape (allocated R120m), Eastern Cape (R76m) and Gauteng (R209m); R249.7m was also allocated for locally produced **non-invasive ventilators**.

Although this is a report back on the first six months, the Fund would also like to convey that it is proud to support Government’s efforts to accelerate the roll-out of **vaccines** in South Africa, with a donation of R327m to secure the country’s position in the COVAX programme. This donation is earmarked for the upfront payment required for South Africa to join the programme and represents 15% of the total cost of securing access to vaccines for 10% (roughly six-million) of the population.

Humanitarian Relief

From its earliest days, the Fund identified that the health crisis would quickly progress to becoming a humanitarian crisis. With this recognition, the Fund prioritised two immediate areas of focus: food relief and combating gender-based violence (GBV).

In phase 1 of the **Food Relief** programme, an allocation of R120m was made for emergency food relief. A further two allocations were made: R100m for food vouchers and R100m for input vouchers.

In the first phase of the Fund, R92m was allocated the GBV Initiative to provide assistance to established organisations on the front-line in the fight against this national scourge.

The Solidarity Campaign – Behavioural Change

Behavioural change is key to managing the spread of the virus, now and in the future. Safe practices such as handwashing, proper mask-wearing and social distancing need to be entrenched in our culture, along with simple empathy and respect.

The Solidarity Campaign was allocated R61m, and aims to unite all who live in South Africa against the COVID-19 pandemic and to encourage behaviour change. By working closely with civil society, traditional leaders and faith-based organisations, the Solidarity Fund works to ensure that essential messaging and information is delivered by trusted sources.

“Six months is not a long time. When faced with a pandemic that grew at a frighteningly rapid pace, however, the Fund’s response had to match that pace step for step, and achieve the seemingly impossible in a short timeframe,” says Tandi Nzimande, CEO of the Fund.

“Although there is much work still to do, the journey of the Solidarity Fund thus far has been one of common purpose and unity, challenges, humility, pride, and hope.”

Download the interim Impact Report [here](#).

For detailed information and reporting about donations received, projects and approvals, as well as the impact the Fund is having, visit www.solidarityfund.co.za

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