



MEDIA RELEASE

SOLIDARITY FUND FUNDING TO BENEFIT 332 ORGANISATIONS IN THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SECTOR | 16 FEBRUARY 2021

Johannesburg, 16 February 2021 – In November 2020, the Solidarity Fund put a call out for applications from potential beneficiary organisations in the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sector who would benefit from a once-off grant from the Fund. This call formed part of the Solidarity Fund's second GBV intervention programme in support of the national effort to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdowns. Today, the Fund is happy to announce that the GBV Selection and Evaluation Panel of the Solidarity Fund, after meeting on the 5th of February 2021, has approved 321 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and 11 large Public Benefit Organisations (PBOs) with systemic impact to receive funding. The value of the funding is R61.25 million and R9.99 million respectively and will impact approximately four million individuals through organisations providing services across the country.

The Fund originally allocated R50 million to this second intervention. The allocation was bolstered when the UK, through the British High Commission, issued a grant of R50 million, R25 million of which was allocated to the Fund's GBV initiative – bringing the total to R75 million. Approximately 5% of the funding was allocated to the administration costs of the project. The funds are to be disbursed in the form of once-off grants, ranging from R50 000 to R250 000 for CBOs and R250 000 to R1m for larger programmes working to combat GBV at a systemic level. This funding will allow these organisations to increase their capacity to deliver GBV related services in response to the GBV epidemic.

The need for this kind of large-scale funding is illustrated by the number of applications that poured into Tshikululu Social Investments, the organisation assisting the Fund to manage the process. Once the calls were closed, it was confirmed that 1,020 CBO and 129 large PBO applications were received. This is the largest number of grant applications that Tshikululu has managed in its 20-year existence.

The applications that were eventually approved come from all nine provinces. In response to the large PBOs with systemic impact, a total of 11 organisations will receive just under R10 million in funding to implement systemic change programmes and initiatives across the country. This is estimated to directly benefit around 89,000 people and catalyse change that will benefit many more. The largest distribution of funding will go to the following provinces: Gauteng - 25%, Western Cape - 16%, Kwa-Zulu Natal – 14%, and North West - 11%. Relatively equal distribution has been achieved across rural, urban, and informal settlements.

The successful CBO applicants total 321 providers of critical GBV services who will receive funding of over R61 Million to ensure that continued and improved services are provided. This is estimated to benefit over 3,9 million individuals, and the communities they live in, who are dependent on these services. The provinces receiving the highest portion of funding are: Gauteng (20%), Western Cape (18%), Eastern Cape (15%), and Kwa-Zulu Natal (14%).

Among other criteria, CBO organisations were judged on their ability to offer services and support in the three key pillars related to GBV. As such, 46% of funding goes towards Prevention, 35% to Response and 19% to Access to Justice.

The successful applicants should be issued with grant agreements this week, while unsuccessful applicants will be notified by the end of February, via email.

“There can be no doubt that there are thousands of organisations doing important and impactful work in this field.” says Wendy Tlou, Executive Head of the Fund’s Humanitarian Pillar, “Ultimately, however, many did not meet the criteria as set out or make it through the screening process. All along the way, tough decisions had to be made to ensure that the limited funds could be applied as effectively as possible in areas that they could make the biggest impact.”

To ensure the quality and impact of the beneficiaries, the Solidarity Fund appointed a seven-person Selection and Evaluation Panel (SEP) to make all final funding decisions. The Panel, chaired by Dr Nwabisa Shai, Specialist Scientist in the Gender and Health Research Unit at the South African Medical Research Council, was made up of civil society, academic and corporate representatives, all of whom have deep expertise in the GBV sector. The SEP met over the course of five days to review, deliberate and discuss the shortlisted organisations.

“What the Fund is doing is unprecedented.” Says Dr Shai. “It is truly unique to have an organisation that is able to provide funding to a mix of organisations in an inclusive way across provinces and different focus areas. Instead of only focusing on one response, the Fund has chosen to focus on the various elements that are crucial to a strong GBV response. This includes access to justice, prevention, policing, referrals and care as well as others”.

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

//ENDS

FOR MEDIA QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Didi Masoetsa

Didi.Masoetsa@solidarityfund.co.za

Media@solidarityfund.co.za

081 828 7660

Editors' Notes

SEP members:

Dr Nwabisa Shai (Chairperson) - Specialist Scientist in the Gender and Health Research Unit at the South African Medical Research Council

Dr Anne Letsebe - Chairperson: Zenzele Development Programme, Women's Development Bank Trust (WDB)

Joan Moeketsi - Component Manager: Partnerships for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls in Southern Africa (PfP) at the German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

Nomvula Nxumalo - Senior Transformation Manager: Telesure Holdings – First For Women GBV Portfolio

Adv Brenda Madumise-Pajibo - Director: Wise4Africa Advocacy Organisation & Social Enterprise

Thoko Mpumlwana - Board Director: Gender Links (GL) Southern African Women's Rights Organisation

Elizabeth Dartnall - Executive Director: Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)