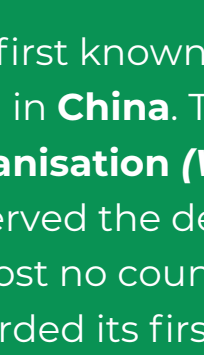
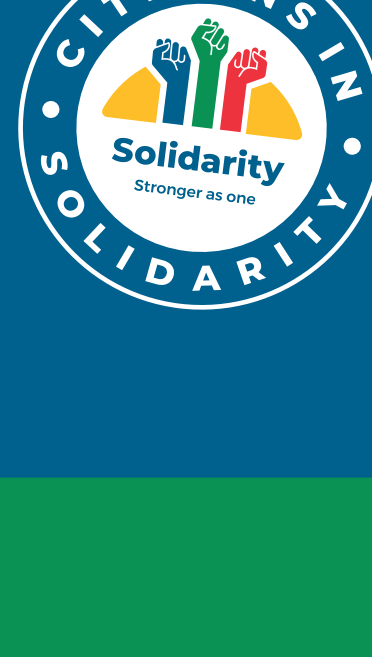


# SOLIDARITY FUND STAKEHOLDERS BULLETIN March 2021



## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

On the **23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2020**, **President Ramaphosa** formally announced the establishment of the **Solidarity Fund**. This decisive response from the **South African Government** to the **COVID-19** threat was nothing short of amazing and applauded by the **WHO**. As an independent rapid response vehicle created to respond to the **COVID-19** epidemic in **South Africa**, the **Solidarity Fund** became the platform where South Africans from all walks of life, and our international allies, could express their support to fight the pandemic. The main focus of the Fund was, and is, to be additive to Government's response as it takes urgent and drastic measures to curtail the effects of the local **COVID-19** epidemic to protect the people of **South Africa**. The first year of the Fund's existence has been one of heartbreak and hope, uncertainty and optimism and, above all else, action and determination.

The first known case of **COVID-19** reported in the world was on **17 November 2019** in **China**. Three months later, on **11 March 2020**, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** declared the **COVID-19** outbreak a global pandemic, having observed the devastating effects all over the world, especially in **Spain** and **Italy**. Almost no country was spared. A week prior, on **5 March 2020**, **South Africa** recorded its first case of **COVID-19**, on **15 March 2020**, **President Cyril Ramaphosa** declared a **National State of Disaster**, and on **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**, **President Ramaphosa** declared the first lockdown of the country effective **27<sup>th</sup> March 2020**.

The experience of the last year is unparalleled. Despite monumental effort and global cooperation, **COVID-19** remains a daily reality and continued threat. Through the struggles of all those in **South Africa**, it is easy to lose sight of the beacons of hope that reveal themselves every so often. From my perspective, one of the most gratifying sights has been watching government, businesses, donors and partners working in unison to ensure that programmes and initiatives are well-conceived and implemented to allow maximum impact. It is solidarity in action, and it makes the hard work of the last 12 months that much easier. As we head into our second year, we take the lessons we have learnt and our unwavering commitment with us. We will continue to be independent and transparent. We will continue to ensure that all donations received are put to maximum use for the benefit of all who live in **South Africa**. And we will continue to uphold the Fund's principles and collaborate with partners, Government, business and civil society to work towards an end to this pandemic.

**Tandvi Nzimande**

## A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS



**PLEDGED**  
**R3,22\* billion**

**RECEIVED**  
**R3,22\* billion**

**ALLOCATED**  
**R2,62\* billion**

**DISBURSED**  
**R2,19\* billion**

**Disbursed- R2,19\* billion** (the difference between allocated and disbursed is as a result of a number of projects which are in execution but have not been fully closed off).

\* Accurate as of 14 March 2021

## PROJECTS UNDERWAY



**Health Interventions:**

15 Projects



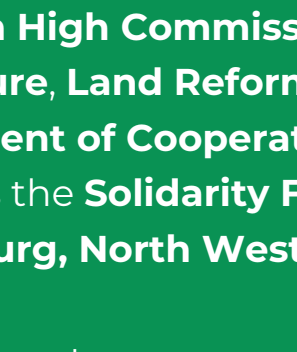
**Humanitarian Relief Efforts:**

5 Projects  
(11 sub-projects)



**Behavioural Change:**

10 Projects  
(20 sub-projects)



## AT A GLANCE

Pillars	Allocated	Disbursed
Health	R2,235bn	R1,797bn
Humanitarian	R415m	R279m
Behavioural	R175m	R121m
<b>Total</b>	<b>R2,826bn</b>	<b>R2,192bn</b>

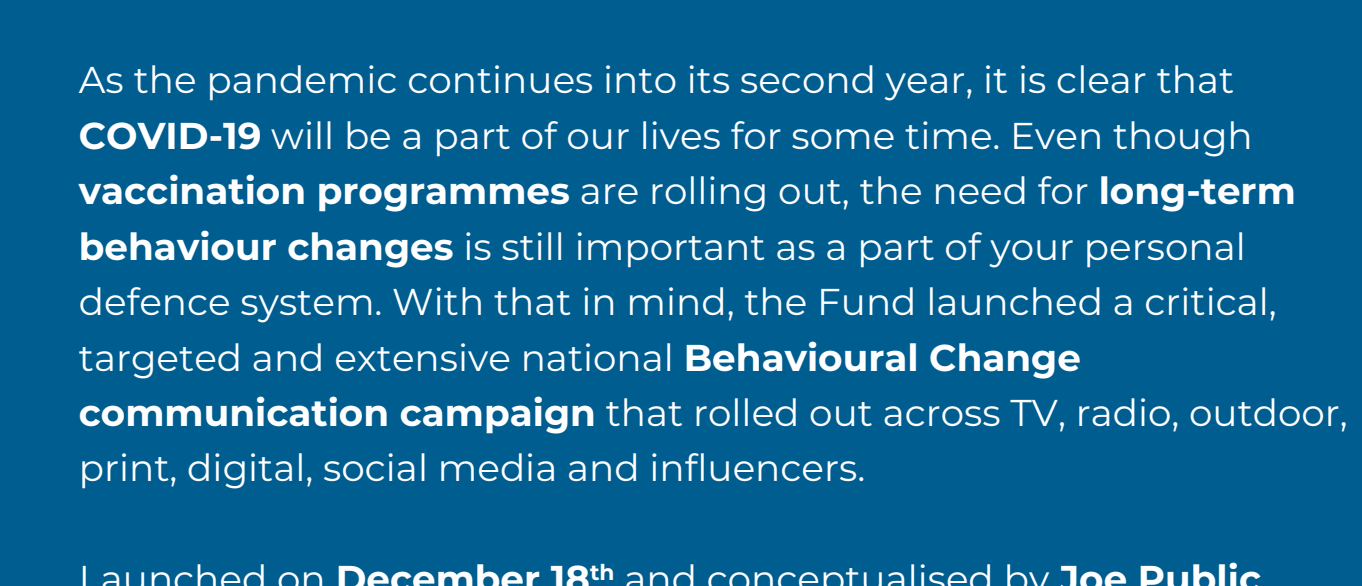


## UK HIGH COMMISSION AND SA GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES JOIN SOLIDARITY FUND ON VISIT TO FARMING INPUT BENEFICIARIES

On the **18<sup>th</sup> of March**, representatives from the **Office of the United Kingdom High Commissioner to South Africa**, the **Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)** and the **Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)**, as well as the **Solidarity Fund** paid a visit to the **Bojanala District** in **Rustenburg, North West Province**.

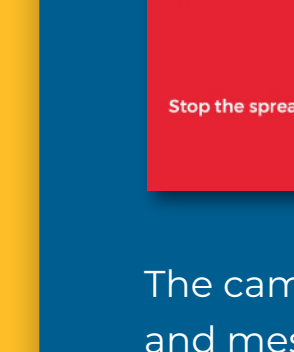
The aim was to engage with the input suppliers and beneficiaries of the Fund's **Farming Input programme** in the village of **Mogwase** and assess the effectiveness of this initiative in achieving its stated objectives.

The field visit began at a local input supplier where representatives witnessed first-hand the redemption process and engaged with farmers and suppliers. They then visited beneficiaries to assess the impact of the initiative and get feedback from those directly affected by the programme.

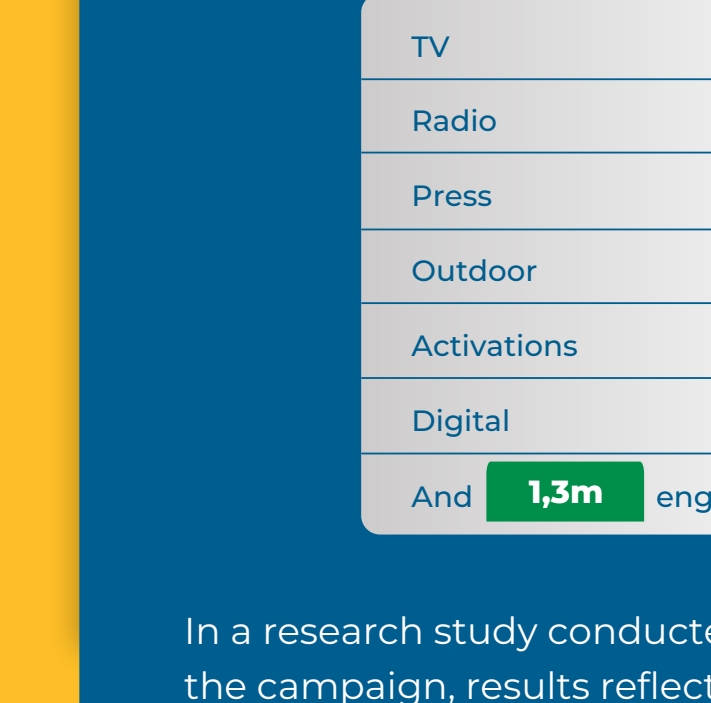


Farming inputs - Mogwase Hardware, Farming Input Supplier, staff and Nkomo, Mogwase Hardware, Deputy Chairperson MHT.

Ernest Rodhe, Farming Input Recipient, and Chris Austin, Development Director of the British High Commission.



## UPDATE ON FARMING INPUT VOUCHERS



Farming input voucher visit delegation

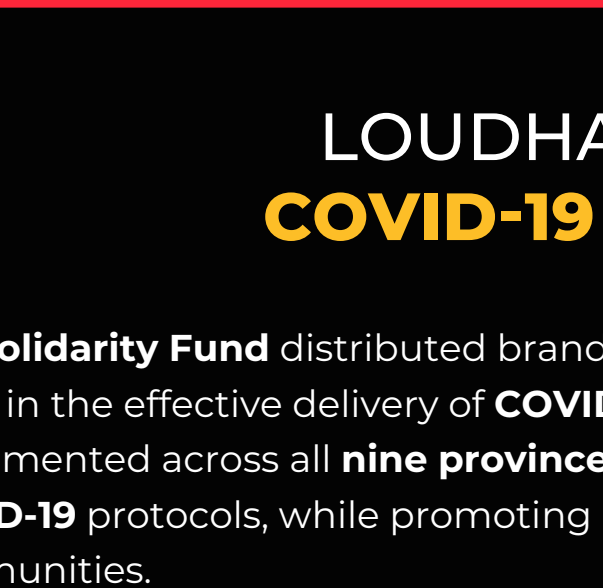
Farmer registration has been concluded with **46,362 farmers registered** to date from a targeted **47,935**. A total of **43,161 vouchers**, valued at over **R86m** have been issued as at **14<sup>th</sup> March**. Redemption of the vouchers is currently underway with total redemption levels at this time of **60%**. It is anticipated that the programme will be completed at the end of March.



## SOLIDARITY FUND COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN - A RALLYING CRY FOR BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

As the pandemic continues into its second year, it is clear that **COVID-19** will be a part of our lives for some time. Even though **vaccination programmes** are rolling out, the need for **long-term behaviour changes** is still important as a part of your personal defence system. With that in mind, the Fund launched a critical, targeted and extensive national **Behavioural Change communication campaign** that rolled out across TV, radio, outdoor, print, digital, social media and influencers.

Launched on **December 18<sup>th</sup>** and conceptualised by **Joe Public United**, the **"Don't be a ...."** campaign focused on entrenching three basic behaviours that are essential to stop the spread of Coronavirus: wear a mask properly; avoid large indoor gatherings and; practice social distancing.



The campaign was a resounding success in terms of visibility, reach and message delivery. Total citizens (18+) reached by the campaign included:

TV	<b>23m</b>
Radio	<b>30m</b>
Press	<b>5,7m</b>
Outdoor	<b>19m</b>
Activations	<b>1,8m</b>
Digital	<b>14m</b>
And	<b>1,3m</b> engagements via social media influencers

In a research study conducted by **Ask Afrika** to assess the impact of the campaign, results reflected that **66%** of respondents were aware of the campaign, **98%** understood the campaign messaging and an incredible **87%** claim to have altered their behaviour after having been exposed to the messaging.

The second phase of the campaign focusing on strengthening behaviour change attitudes launched using opinion editorial in the **Sunday Times** and **City Press** on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March** and will continue on **60** community and commercial radio stations on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**, while social media will kick off toward the end of the launch week. Focusing on the **Easter holiday** period initially, and calling for continued adherence to preventative behaviours, the broader campaign will be in full effect across TV, radio, digital and activations by late **April/early May** and will include an even more focused door-to-door education campaign.



## SOLIDARITY FUND MEDIA AND STAKEHOLDER UPDATE BRIEFING

On **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March**, the **Solidarity Fund** will hold its first **quarterly media and stakeholder update briefing** of the year. The key focus of the update will centre around the Fund's role in preparing for the mass vaccine rollout programme as it celebrates its first anniversary of supporting the national health response, contributing to humanitarian relief efforts and mobilising South Africans to unite in limiting the spread of **COVID-19**.

The virtual briefing will be held from **11h00-12h30** and all Fund contributors and partners are invited to attend.

To join the briefing on the **25<sup>th</sup> March**, please follow this link:

<https://bit.ly/2NwKROe>



## UPDATE ON REPORTS

Since the publication of our **Interim Impact Report**, published in **December**, we have, to date, published a further **18 reports** on our website. In total, we have almost **300 pages** of reporting on our website. On top of that, we also have the list of all the approved projects on our website.

This is part of our responsibility to the **public** and our **stakeholders** to be **transparent** and **accountable**. The reports also serve, however, as an insight into the need that is out there, and the work that our partners are doing with the support of the Fund. Please take a few moments to **visit our site** and view the latest reports uploaded since our last update.

## LOUDHAILERS FOR COVID-19 MESSAGING

The **Solidarity Fund** distributed branded loudhailers to **traditional leaders** to assist in the effective delivery of **COVID-19** messaging. The campaign was implemented across all **nine provinces** assisting in educating citizens on **COVID-19** protocols, while promoting positive behaviour change within rural communities.

The full report can be downloaded here.



<https://bit.ly/30ZVXd1>

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION 1

With its first **Gender-Based Violence** intervention programme, the Fund embarked on an initiative that was designed to be a rapid, targeted response to the increase in **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**, a scourge that has been exacerbated by the **COVID-19** lockdown. This response was designed to provide support and aid to existing organisations with proven reach and the ability to have **impact**, which were struggling to deal with the rise in **GBV** cases.

The full report can be downloaded here.



<https://bit.ly/3IAmE1b>

## CREATING AWARENESS THROUGH SPAZA SHOPS

The **Solidarity Fund** partnered with **Premier Foods** in a campaign to raise awareness of **COVID-19** among **spaza shop customers** across the country. The **Premier Foods** distribution network was used to distribute **37 000 COVID-19 spaza packs**. The packs were distributed in **seven provinces** and **20 citites** across the country during **January 2021**.

The full report can be downloaded here.



<https://bit.ly/38ZXMuS>

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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 created by visiting [www.solidarityfund.co.za](http://www.solidarityfund.co.za)

