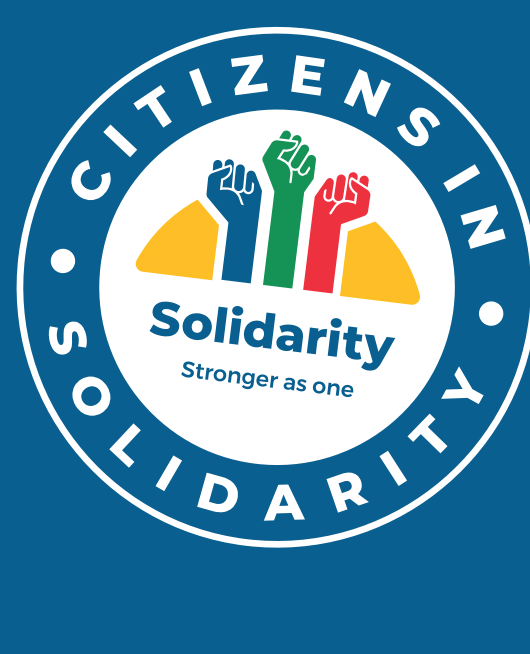


SOLIDARITY FUND STAKEHOLDERS BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

On the 23rd of March, just over 6 months ago, the Solidarity Fund was created by our President, Cyril Ramaphosa. We were formed under unique and extreme conditions and in response to immediate concerns. As quickly as we were formed, that's how quickly we had to operate – responding to needs that were escalating and changing with every passing day.

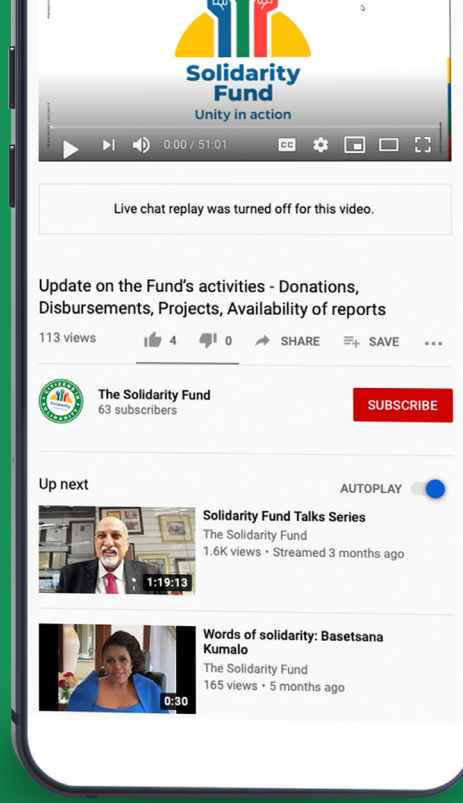
At every challenge, however, we rose up to meet it. At every hurdle, we helped one another climb it. To say that the work we have managed to do in half a year is incredible, would be an understatement. And to say that we owe it all to the hard work of talented and committed colleagues, past and present, would hardly begin to express my gratitude. Thank you to everyone, it's a pleasure working with you all. This journey has been as rewarding as it's been tough; as inspiring as it's been heartbreaking. While our path has not ended, we are wiser, more resilient and savvy than we were 6 months ago and, together, we can see this through to the end.

Nomkhitha Nqweni

A QUICK UPDATE FROM OUR MEDIA BRIEFING

On Wednesday, 16 September, the Solidarity Fund held an online press briefing that was broadcast live on Newzroom Afrika and YouTube. As part of our commitment to transparency, our CEO Nomkhitha Nqweni, supported by our Chairperson and pillar heads, laid out the progress made so far by the Fund, as well as our plans going forward. Because the previous media briefing had addressed, in detail, progress made under the Health Pillar, this briefing focused primarily on the Humanitarian and Behavioural Change campaigns.

To watch the full briefing, [click here](#).



A NOD FROM THE PRESIDENT

On the **same day** that the Fund had our media briefing, **our President, Cyril Ramaphosa**, announced that South Africa would **move into Level 1 restrictions**. After 6 months of severe restrictions, this move is, no doubt, welcomed by all. The President also gave a brief update on the work that we have been doing. Since inception, we have received some **300 000 donations** from **15 000 individuals** and **nearly 2 500 companies**, amounting to over **R3.11 billion**.

It is a remarkable testament to our nation's solidarity and commitment to fighting this disease together. **To quote the President** "We have a mammoth task ahead of us. It will take the combined effort of each and every South African to restore our nation to prosperity and development. This is now the task of our generation and our work starts today... We have shown what South Africans are capable of when we join forces. Let us hold on to that spirit of unity and solidarity."

REPORTING BACK = TRUE TRANSPARENCY



In line with our ongoing commitment to transparency, we have committed to releasing regular reports outlining the outcome and impact of our projects. In the next week, we will be releasing two of these – on Testing and our Ventilators project.

Report on Testing

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, testing has been an important component in managing, understanding and ultimately beating the virus. Early testing leads to quick identification of cases, treatment and isolation to prevent spread. Testing is also important in the bigger public health picture, helping investigators characterise the prevalence, spread and contagiousness of the disease. To date, the Solidarity Fund has worked together with the NHLS, the South African Research Council and a consortium of pharmacies and health practitioners to increase South Africa's national testing capacity, committing **R363,3 million** to that cause. The full report is out today, 25th of September, and will be available on our website www.solidarityfund.co.za

Report on locally manufactured ventilators

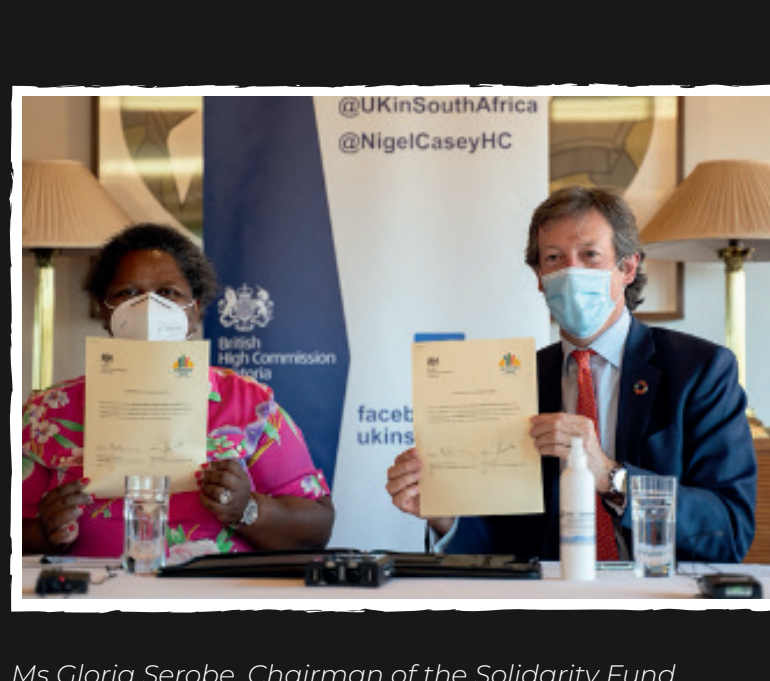
Locally and globally, medical institutions have struggled to supply the necessary equipment to treat COVID-19 patients, and ventilators have been high on their list of critical equipment. The Solidarity Fund has worked closely with the National Ventilation Project to ensure that South Africa doesn't face the same shortages as other countries, while treating COVID-19. The full report will come out on the 30th of September and will be available on our website www.solidarityfund.co.za



Locally Manufactured CPAP Ventilators

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

In early September, Solidarity Fund received a R50m grant from the United Kingdom government aimed at supporting the Solidarity Fund's ongoing efforts to counter the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa – focusing specifically on women-related projects. The sum amounts to a **£2.15m (R50m)** donation that will be deployed to support two existing Humanitarian Pillar projects, Gender-Based Violence support and Farming Input Vouchers, with each project receiving R25m.



Ms Gloria Serobe, Chairman of the Solidarity Fund and Mr Nigel Casey, British High Commissioner

Gender-Based Violence Support

The Solidarity Fund has already disbursed R17m in the first Gender-Based Violence intervention; this additional funding will go towards our 2nd intervention to ensure that the approximately 360 existing local and community organisations that provide critical services for women and children affected by GBV, can continue to do so. With this grant, funding has increased from **R50m to R75m**.

Farming Input Vouchers

In our last newsletter, we spoke about the need for our Farming Input Voucher programme aimed at subsistence-focused and household farmers (66% of whom will be female), who have been impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions. The donation will increase funding for the farming input voucher project to R100m.

GIFT OF THE GIVERS DELIVER



As part of our first Gender-Based Violence intervention, equipment was delivered to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) head office on 21 September. The masks, gloves, visors and sanitisers will be disbursed via the NPA to Thuthuzela Care Centres around the country. These centres offer a forensic and medical service available to rape survivors and are based at 54 hospitals across South Africa. The equipment was procured and delivered by Gift of the Givers, who were selected as our execution partner for this project.



Gift of the Givers delivers PPE to the NPA

SOLIDARITY FUND HITS AIRWAVES

On the 7th of September, the Solidarity Fund was featured on the **Sikhaba iCOVID-19** radio series. According to research conducted by Ask Afrika, over a third of respondents have listened to or heard of the Sikhaba iCOVID-19 programme and most found the content very informative.



They also found that 87% agreed that the information on the programme was informative. The Sikhaba initiative was part of our Behavioural Change programme and it is gratifying to see such a positive response, especially as the sharing of accurate information is as important now as it has ever been.

The Fund also made (air)waves when it partnered with the Red Cross Children's Hospital's radio station where children get to run the station. **RX Radio**, a radio station "by and for children" based at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town recently won a global award contested by 140 entities from around the world. The South African entry was titled, "Children's Voices on COVID-19", one of two winners of the Reboot Health and Wellness Innovation Challenge organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, WFP, UNAIDS, and the UN.

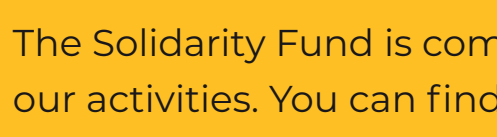


Furthermore, a webinar was held where the young presenters were provided an opportunity to interview Professor Gray, President and CEO of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) on matters related to COVID-19. The partnership with the radio station forms part of the Fund's Behavioural Change Campaign pillar.

STAYING IN THE LOOP.

Keeping our stakeholders, donors and the public informed is crucial to ensure trust and confidence in the Fund. With that in mind, we will start publishing detailed reports on our website from the middle of September. We are also committed to growing and improving our social media presence to ensure that everyone has easy access to accurate, relevant information.

Click on the icons below to follow us on Social Media.



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

