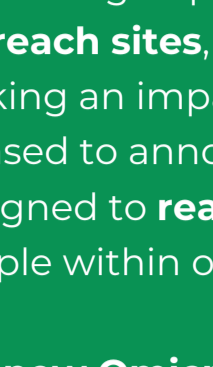
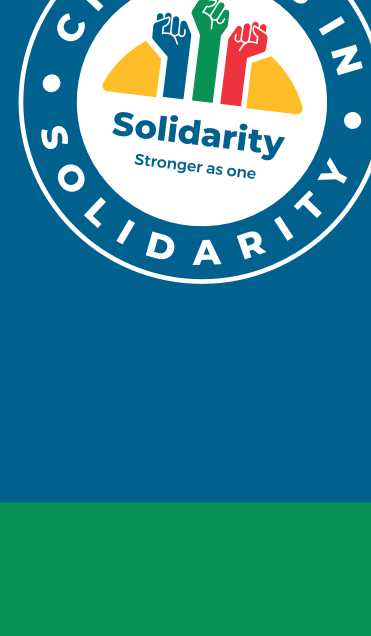


# SOLIDARITY FUND STAKEHOLDERS BULLETIN November 2021



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

On **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> of November**, President Cyril Ramaphosa convened another **COVID "family meeting"**. This followed a sharp increase in virus infections, particularly in **Gauteng**, as well as **2 days** of what can only be described as global panic around the heavily mutated **Omicron virus** that was identified and sequenced here in **South Africa**. The **President** worked to calm us and put the facts in perspective. A key part of his message was to emphasise the importance of vaccination to fight current and future strains of the **COVID-19 virus**. To date, **40% of South African adults** have had at least one vaccine dose, with **34% of adults** being **fully vaccinated**. Unfortunately, the **18-34 age group** is **lagging** behind with **26%** of this **population vaccinated**. Over **200 000 children (12-17)** have received their **first dose**. Under any other circumstances, these numbers would be impressive, but we need so much more if we are to get ahead of this **ever-evolving virus**. There seems to be vaccine-hesitancy that has taken hold in the country, and it is urgent that this be reversed. The **Solidarity Fund** is continuing to prioritise its support of the national drive to **vaccinate** through **outreach sites, communication campaigns** and **other initiatives** aimed at making an impact. Currently, we have **177 outreach sites** in **9 provinces** and are pleased to announce our partnership with **Transnet's Transvaco programme** designed to **reach** and **provide vaccination services** to a greater number of people within our outreach programme.

The **new Omicron variant** took the world by surprise. It proves, once again, that the **COVID-19 virus** is both unpredictable and relentless. I cannot emphasise this enough - **"Get vaccinated, South Africa. Roll up your sleeves and do your part."** We don't have to be scientists or doctors to make a difference, we just have to be responsible, caring citizens.

Tandi Nzimande

## COVID RELIEF FUND A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS



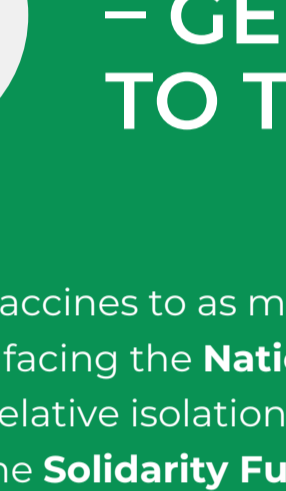
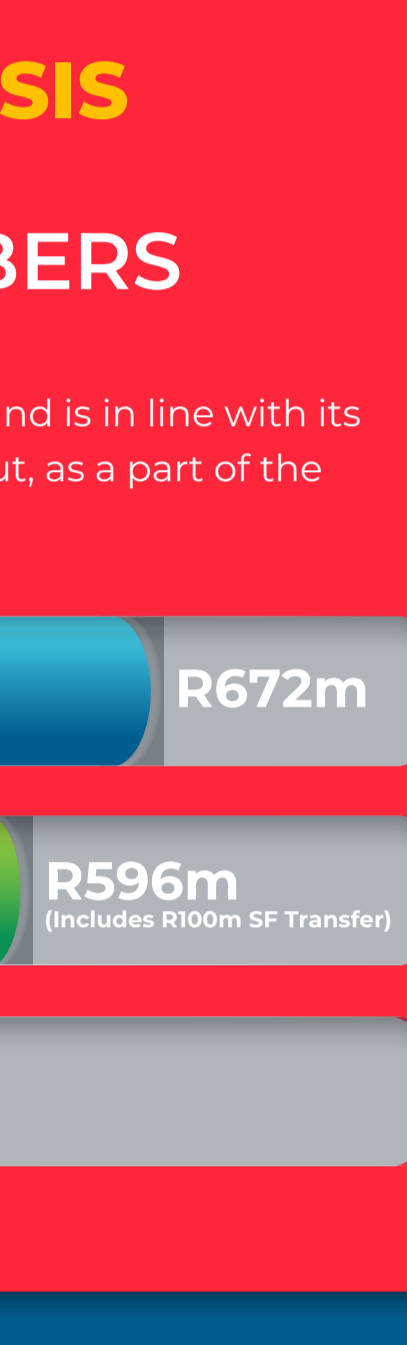
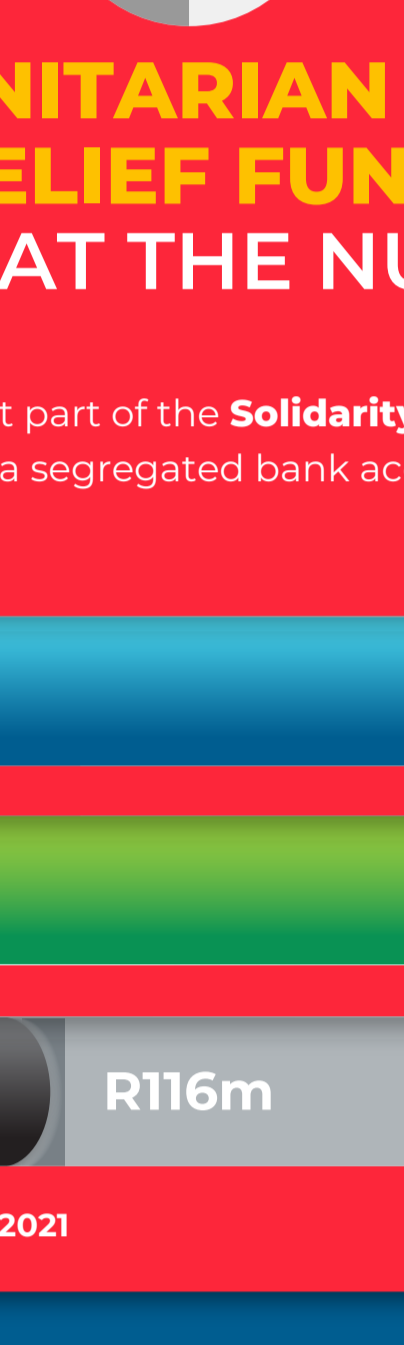
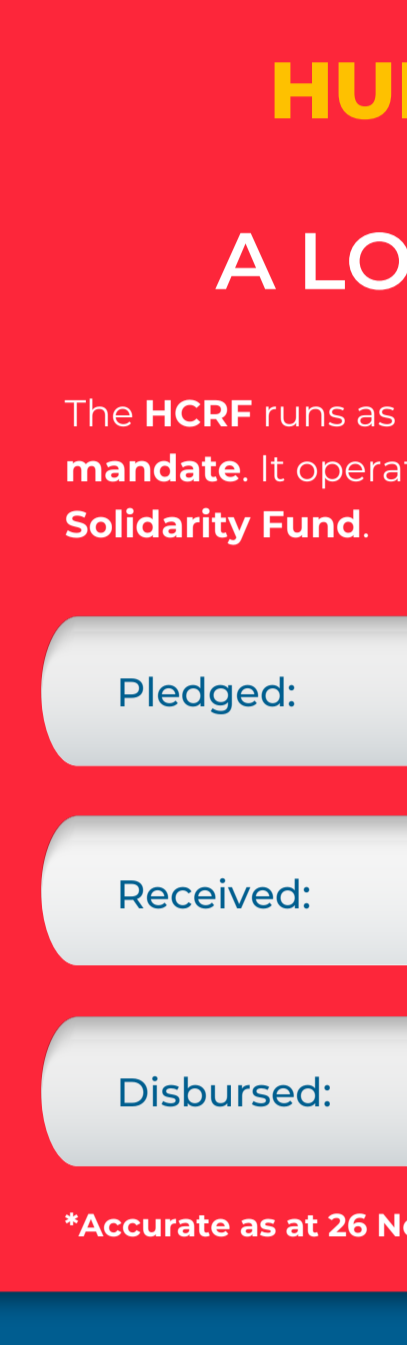
**PLEGGED**  
**R3,46\* billion**

**RECEIVED**  
**R3,44\* billion**

**DISBURSED**  
**R2,83\* billion**

\* Accurate as at 26 November 2021

## PROJECTS UNDERWAY



## AT A GLANCE

Pillars
Health
Humanitarian
Behavioural
<b>Total</b>

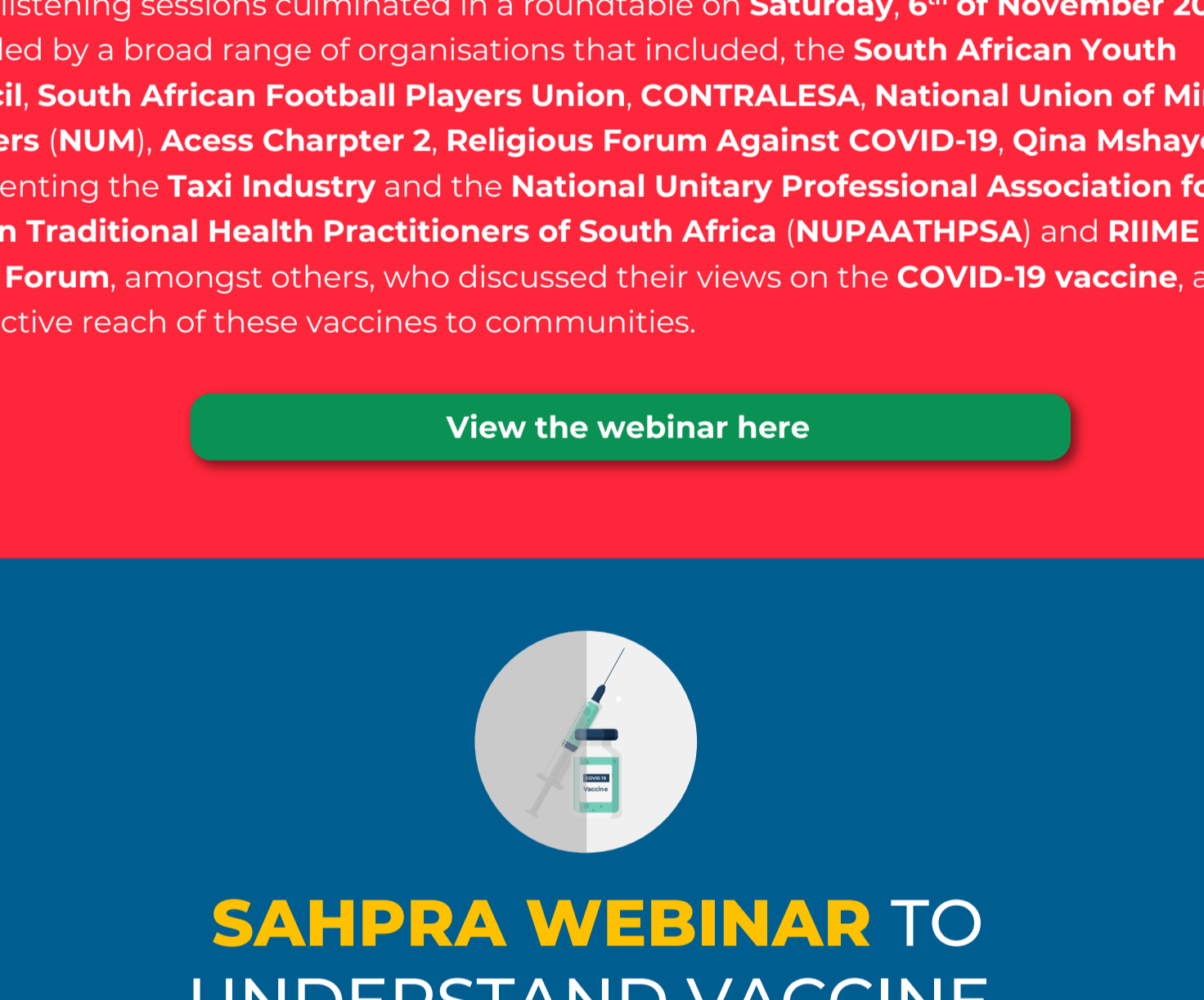
Disbursed
R2,073bn
R389m
R371m
<b>R2,83bn</b>

\* Accurate as at 26 November 2021



## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS RELIEF FUND A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

The **HCRF** runs as a distinct part of the **Solidarity Fund** and is in line with its **mandate**. It operates with a segregated bank account but, as a part of the **Solidarity Fund**.



\* Accurate as at 26 November 2021



## ALL ABOARD – GETTING THE VACCINE TO THE PEOPLE

The need to get vaccines to as many people as possible grows more crucial every day. One of the challenges facing the **National Vaccine roll out programme** is the vastness of our country and the relative isolation that many people, especially rural dwellers, live in. To support access, the **Solidarity Fund** is funding **Outreach Sites** to administer vaccines through **Clinical Operators** across **9 provinces**. To date, the **Fund** has stood up **177 sites** with **over 360 000 jabs** administered in **3 months**.

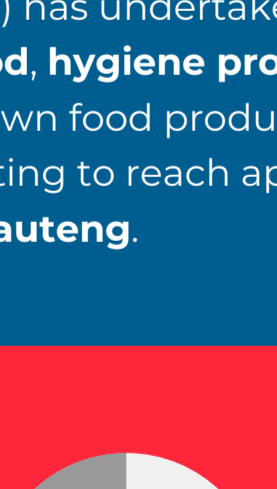
In addition, and in line with the **NDoH's** ambition to accelerate vaccinations by the **end of the year** and ahead of the predicted **4<sup>th</sup> wave**, we are partnering with the **Transnet Transvaco Vaccine Train Operations** to ensure we reach even more **South Africans**, wherever they may be.

**Transnet** is already providing quality healthcare services across the country through its two globally acclaimed **Phelophepa Healthcare Trains**, and now they are providing vaccines through these trains. Additionally, they have designed a **state-of-the-art train, Transvaco**, specifically suitable to **store and distribute vaccines**, and to provide mobile outreach vaccination services to communities that use their trains. **Earlier this year, Transnet** ran a pilot scheme in **Gauteng** to test the feasibility of this idea, and it was a success, warranting further implementation nationally. To support this, the **Solidarity Fund** has allocated **R15 million** from its approved **Outreach Sites programme** allocation of **R171 million**. The **Fund** is co-funding the proposal which starts in **December 2021** and aims to cover all **9 provinces** over a period of **4 months**.

The benefits of partnering with **Transnet** include:

- The train's clinical and support teams engaged in demand creation, outreach and awareness to ensure communication is localised and they increase their reach and impact.
- The trains have dedicated security and cold chain equipment.
- Trains set up outreach sites up to **70km** from where the train stops.
- The train is another way of taking vaccines to where people are, thus removing the access barrier.

The need to get **South Africa** vaccinated ahead of the **festive season** is urgent and the **Fund** is committed to finding new and resourceful ways to make this happen.



## CCF VACCINATION 4 MEN LAUNCH EVENT (MEDIA ROUND TABLE)

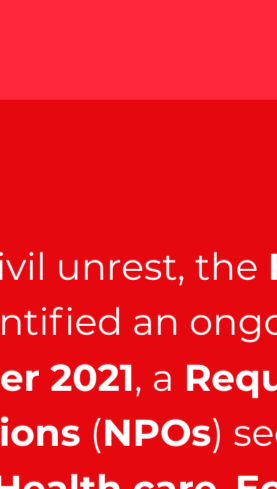
Why are **South African men** not getting vaccinated? This is a question that has been giving officials and civic society anxiety as the country pushes to attain herd immunity, with men currently making less than **40% of 12,7 million South Africans** who have been fully vaccinated.

This concern has brought together various civil society organisations, under the umbrella of the **Community Constituency Front for COVID-19**, to launch a **new campaign, #vaccINATION4MEN**, which aims to put men firmly at the centre of efforts to get more people vaccinated. The campaign was supported by **The Solidarity Fund**, and the **National Department of Health**, through its vaccine **Demand Acceleration Task Team (DATT)**.

The **Community Constituency Front for COVID-19 (CCF)**, convened by **Mr Mabalane Mfundisi** has in recent weeks, held a series of discussions and listening sessions with men from various communities to understand the reasons behind their hesitance to be vaccinated.

These listening sessions culminated in a roundtable on **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2021**, attended by a broad range of organisations that included, the **South African Youth Council**, **South African Football Players Union**, **CONTRALESA**, **National Union of Mine Workers (NUM)**, **Access Chapter 2, Religious Forum Against COVID-19**, **Qina Mshayeli** representing the **Taxi Industry** and the **National Unitary Professional Association for African Traditional Health Practitioners of South Africa (NUPATHPSA)** and **RIIME Men's Forum**, amongst others, who discussed their views on the **COVID-19 vaccine**, as well as effective reach of these vaccines to communities.

[View the webinar here](#)



## SAHPRA WEBINAR TO UNDERSTAND VACCINE HESITANCY

On the **10<sup>th</sup> of November 2021**, the **South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA)**, in partnership with the **South African Health Technologies Advocacy Coalition (SAHTAC)** and supported by the **Solidarity Fund**, hosted a virtual webinar titled: **Mitigating COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in South Africa**.

The webinar was attended by **over 300 participants** including **South African and regional public, policy makers, research institutions, development partners, civil society, public health experts and media**.

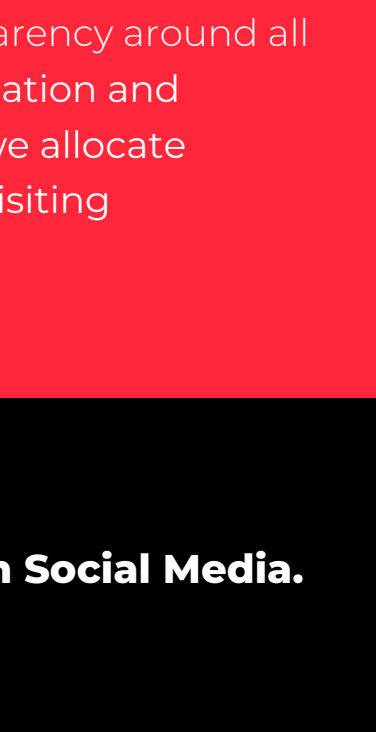
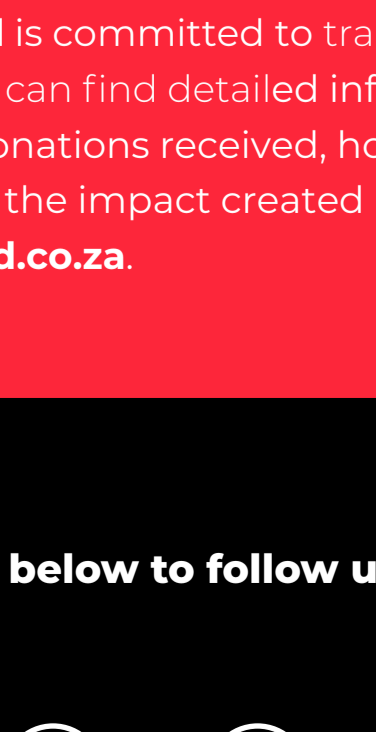
The webinar provided a platform for dialogue and information sharing on vaccine hesitancy in **South Africa** and increasing the uptake of vaccines.

A recording of the webinar is available here:

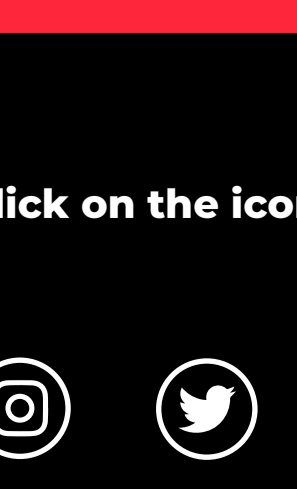
[view webinar](#)



## COMMUNITY MOBILISERS ARE WORKING HARD TO PROMOTE VACCINATION



Some of the biggest barriers to vaccination are **misinformation** and **fear**. In order to counter these, in a way that is persuasive and personal, the **Solidarity Fund** activations team has deployed over **700 community mobilisers** across all **nine provinces** in **South Africa**. Their mission is to create conversation with people and, in doing so, address vaccination concerns, debunk myths and provide credible information as to the safety and necessity of vaccines, as well as address any concerns around potential side effects. These **face-to-face engagements** allow mobilisers to respond immediately to concerns while showing understanding and empathy. The team works closely with the **NDoH, NHLE, Engen, SACC** and the **DGMT** to ensure that there are **mobilisers in key regions**. The hard-working teams also support the promotion of **outreach vaccination sites** and efforts such as the **Voorna Vaccination weekends**.



## A HELPING HAND FOR INFORMAL TRADERS AND EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY CIVIL UNREST

Although the **KZN** and **Gauteng** civil unrest that shook **South Africa** in **July** has passed, the consequences are still being felt. The **civil unrest** resulted in the **looting, vandalism** or **burning of more than 200 shopping centres, 100 malls, 1,400 ATMs and 300 banks and post offices**. These damages will impact the economy and the **GDP** of not just **KwaZulu-Natal** and **Gauteng** but the rest of the country too. It is estimated that the infrastructure needed for the mall owners to resume business could take up to **18 months** to rebuild. In the meantime, business owners within those malls have had to cease their business operations. Already, job losses have occurred, affecting employees and their families. While there are several programmes that are in place to support business recovery, there remains a need to support their affected employees and informal traders.

To assist vulnerable informal traders and workers, the **Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF)** has undertaken to provide a once-off **R3,000 digital voucher** which can be used for **food, hygiene products, essentials such as electricity and gardening tools** to assist in their own food production. **R62 million** has been allocated for this intervention and we are expecting to reach approximately **20 000 former employees and informal traders** in **KZN** and **Gauteng**.



## HCRF UPDATES FROM OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

In our previous newsletters, we announced a number of initiatives that the **HCRF** was embarking on. Due to the urgent need of this response, things are moving forward quickly and we offer up an update here.

### CIVIL SOCIETY GRANTS

As part of its response to the **July** civil unrest, the **HCRF** undertook extensive mapping of the civil society sector, which identified an ongoing need for funding within civil society and communities. In **October 2021**, a **Request for Proposals (RFP)** was published for **non-profit organisations (NPOs)** seeking support in implementing activities related to **Food security, Health care, Economic recovery, Peace building, and Direct NPO support**. The **RFP** closed on **5<sup>th</sup> November 2021**. A total of **108 proposals** were received and **65 passed** the initial screening process where compliance documentation (eg **AfS** and **Tax**) was considered. Our implementation partner, **Tshikululu**, started the assessment process on **Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November**, and this will be finalised on **Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. A second screening process will follow which sees applicants being scored by an expert panel. The total amount of funding requested by applicants that passed initial screening is **R550m**. A total of **R50m** has been approved for the programme. Funds are expected to start reaching recipients with effect from **January 2022**.

### NEF PROGRAMME

In **September**, the **HCRF** announced a **partnership** with **The National Empowerment Fund (NEF)** aimed at establishing a **R450m SMME Support Programme** targeting **small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs)** negatively impacted by the unrest in both provinces. In response to a call for applications, **NEF** has received **238 applications** valued at over **R900 million**. Of these, a total of **70 beneficiaries** valued at **R544.6 million** have been approved. The **NEF** loan contribution is **R410 million**, while the **Solidarity Fund** total grant contribution is **R134.6 million** of which **R10.9 million** is remaining.



## UPDATE ON REPORTS

The **Solidarity Fund** is committed to reporting responsibly and accurately to the **public** and **our stakeholders**. As such, the **Fund** publishes reports on a regular basis with updates on projects and initiatives undertaken. These are an essential part of demonstrating transparency and impact. The **Fund** is currently in the process of finalising additional reports for projects that have closed out.

To view reports on currently completed projects, please visit

[view reports](#)



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).

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