

## Script: Solidarity Fund 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update 2022

Tandi Nzimande – CEO

17 March 2022

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TANDI NZIMANDE • 6 Months in review (10 MINS)

- Good morning everyone. As Nozipho expressed in her presentation, the “business as usual” running and implementation of our remaining interventions remains a priority. We are acutely aware of the importance of every one of our interventions to the individuals and communities that they are designed to serve. They are why we are here.
- In the last 6 months, we have focussed on existing programmes, with a limited number of new programmes having started. Many of our existing interventions have come to fruition or have been extended, receiving additional funding. I will talk in more detail on those shortly.
- As of the 16th of March 2022, just under R3,8 billion in COVID relief funding has been received by the Fund, including VAT and interest, and just under R3,3 billion disbursed. All amounts received have been allocated, bar approximately R100 million which is just under 3% of total funds received. The proposed use thereof is in the process of being defined, allocated and aligned to the closure timeline of the Fund. The funds disbursed are made up of R2,3 billion disbursed under the Health Response Pillar, R429 million under the Humanitarian Support pillar, R458 million under the Behaviour Change and Communications pillar and R100 million transferred to the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF).
- Following the July 2021 unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and parts of Gauteng last year, a further **R497 million** was donated to the Fund for use in our fourth pillar, the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund, bringing the total funding for this pillar to **R597 million**. Of this amount, **R573 million** has been disbursed to date. The balance of the funds have been allocated to programmes, leaving a mere **R1 million** unallocated.
- Supporting the **National Government Vaccination Roll-out Programme** is a priority of the Fund, and in the last six months we have continued this support, enabling access to vaccination in both urban and rural areas.
- The Solidarity Fund has funded over 200 Government-run public Outreach Sites across the 9 provinces, allocating R171 million to this programme. To date, over 850 000 vaccinations have been administered across all 9 provinces as a result of these outreach activities.

- Our national **Essential Equipment programme** has had a total allocation of R436 million. This equipment will outlast the pandemic and is part of the legacy of the Solidarity Fund.
- The **Eastern Cape Nurses Project** was targeted as support for the Eastern Cape's Vaccine Roll-Out Outreach programme. A total of R39 million was allocated to this programme, and this has subsequently been increased to R51 million.
- The **Gauteng Nurses project**, to which R23,5 million was allocated, provided much needed support to hospitals in the run-up to the peak of the 3rd wave and is available for subsequent waves and additional vaccination capacity.
- Underpinning the support provided to the National Response to the pandemic, has been the **ongoing Technical Assistance provided to the NDoH** through a co-funding contribution of R69m to DG Murray Trust. This programme has capacitated the national, provincial and district departments of health to implement an effective nationwide COVID-19 vaccination programme to the general population. Of the total approved budget, R20 million was re-allocated to the Demand Acceleration Task Team in the NDoH in support of their behavioural change programme.
- Key to fighting this pandemic is universal and easy access to accurate and timely information. Which is why, under the Behaviour Change and Communication pillar, the Fund chose to fund the **NDOH Covid-19 Vaccination Contact Centre**. This has proven to be a valuable tool, and I am proud to say that the Contact Centre achieved the milestone of 1 million calls on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, and approximately 1,3 million calls to date.
- Also under the Behaviour Change and Communication Pillar, we launched our **demand creation campaign** titled “#RollUpYourSleevesSA – get vaccinated so that we can get back to living” in September 2021. This multi-faceted campaign aimed to move South Africa closer to the national goal of vaccinating 41 million by the end of the year. An original media budget of R78 million was bolstered by R210 million in added value, resulting in a campaign valued at R288 million that reached over 23 million people on television, over 25 million on radio and 25 million via digital media. 950 community mobilisers, and community partners such as Covid Comms, Covid-19 Community Constituency Front (CCF) and the South African Council of churches all extended the reach of the campaign
- We also supported the NDoH's Vooma Vaccination Weekends.
- Under the Humanitarian Pillar, the Solidarity Fund's **Farming Inputs Voucher Programme** has been a resounding success. Mindful that many South Africans remain vulnerable to food insecurity as a result of the COVID fall out, the Fund approved a further R52,8 million for a third phase of the programme. R2 000 vouchers are currently being issued to benefit an anticipated 25 000 subsistence

farmers and contribute towards the food security of approximately 125 000 individuals.

- Since our last media update, the **Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund** has utilised almost 94% of its funds and made a meaningful impact in the lives of those affected by the July 2021 unrest in KZN and parts of Gauteng. After initial urgent food relief, the HCRF partnered with the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) and Afrika Tikkun to help rebuild local economic activity by supporting affected SMME's. The Solidarity Fund and the NEF created a joint fund of just over R633 million, with the Fund contributing approximately 40% of that amount for grant funding, and the NEF contributing the balance in the form of soft loans that SMMEs and co-operatives would not have been otherwise able to afford. Grant funding was also made available for pharmacies in partnership with both the Independent Chemists and Pharmacists Association (ICPA) and the NEF.
- Afrika Tikkun received R65m in grant funding, targeting smaller business, with a turnover of under R3 million. Through these initiatives the HCRF has saved approximately 4 000 jobs to date. Together with support for an additional 60 SMMEs and cooperatives, the total funding allocated to SMME support within the HCRF amounts to R273 million.
- The HCRF also undertook to support civil society organisations and the communities that incurred losses and damage during the unrest through grant funding of R87million. 39 Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) were selected to receive funding in support of activities related to Food security, Health care, Economic recovery and Peace building.
- Further, the HCRF is providing a once-off R3,000 Digital Cash Voucher to approximately 20 000 former employees and informal traders affected by malls and businesses being temporarily shut down. R62 million has been allocated toward this programme.
- Across all our pillars, the interventions that the Solidarity Fund team and our partners have implemented are either concluded or nearing conclusion, and there will be no further fund raising, in anticipation of the Fund's closure as mentioned. And while the decision had been made and this chapter of the Fund is coming to an end, there remains a door open for rapid and effective remobilisation in the future should the country ever face an all-encompassing calamity similar to what we witnessed in the last two years.
- I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the sentiments expressed by our Chair earlier. Although the Solidarity Fund is closing, COVID-19 has not ceased to be a threat. This virus has evolved and changed in ways that have taken us all by surprise. I urge everyone to stay vigilant, to vaccinate and get boosted and not threaten the incredible progress that has been made.

**(Conclusion)**

- In the last week of January, just before the SONA, we met with President Cyril Ramaphosa to consult and share our plans. He was amazed by the impact that this organisation has had. He reminded us how this entity is unique in the world – bringing government, business and civil society together in a unified battle against a great threat. And how our work has built trust and respect on a global scale, with foreign governments, and local and international organisations providing financial and in-kind support, using the Fund as a conduit to help the country. He expressed awe and gratitude to all who had given up their time to make the Fund a success.
- I share his sentiments.
- I know I speak for the entire Solidarity Fund team when I say that, although the circumstances have been catastrophic and heart-breaking, it has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve our country in this manner, and to work with incredible colleagues and generous, passionate partners to create an organisation that shines as a global example for solidarity and impact delivery in a time of crisis.
- Thank You