



MEDIA RELEASE

THE SOLIDARITY FUND Q2 2022 UPDATE | 21 JUNE 2022

Johannesburg, 21 June 2022 – In March this year, the Solidarity Fund, whose mandate was intently focused on rapid-response to the COVID-19 pandemic – announced that it would wrap up its operations with complete closure coming into effect at the end of September 2022 following a resolution taken by the Board in February. It was also announced that the Fund will continue to exist in a state of dormancy, with the expectation that it can remobilise rapidly and effectively should another national crisis happen again.

As the wrapping up processes were being set into motion, devastating floods struck Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Eastern Cape. The Fund responded by creating the Solidarity Fund Floods Response pillar and put into action plans to establish the need and determine what impactful humanitarian support could be provided. The Floods Response and the everyday operations of the Fund continue as we complete existing interventions and continue the formal process to close the Fund. The targeted date of end of September 2022 remains in focus.

A look at the numbers.

Since inception, **R3.47 billion in COVID relief funding** has been raised. Of the funds, **R3,14 billion** has been disbursed to date as follows:

In the Health Response Pillar - **R2,2bn**

In the Humanitarian Pillar - **R430m; and**

In the Behavioural Change Pillar - **R505m**

Further, the **Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF)**, established as a direct response to the challenges resulting from the unrest in July 2021, has raised **R598m**, including R100m redirected within the Solidarity Fund. This amount has been fully disbursed.

The newly established **Solidarity Fund Floods Response** has raised **R30,8m**, including **R5,5m** redirected within the Solidarity Fund.

The numbers quoted above are accurate as at 10/06/2022

Solidarity Fund Floods Response.

After the devastating floods in April 2022 that impacted Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Eastern Cape, the Solidarity Fund resolved to support and augment the National Government response to the floods and the resultant after-effects on both infrastructure and broader society in these areas.

The **Solidarity Fund Floods Response pillar** was established to manage the floods response activities and is managed separately from the Fund's other pillars. To date, approximately R30 million in funding has been received in donations. With these funds in hand, Solidarity Fund Floods Response has already completed a situation analysis and project plan and contracting with selected partners has been finalised.

The R30 million in funding available comprises donations received from a number of corporates, foundations and individuals. All funds have been allocated to organisations that are already providing on-the-ground relief in KZN or have disaster relief experience in the Eastern Cape. A closed funding call to several organisations providing critical activities and services related to the KZN/EC flood relief efforts was done and proposals were assessed according to a matrix including criteria such as: understanding and response to the need; potential for rapid mobilisation and operationalisation; potential for sizeable impact and improved outcomes. Meeting the Solidarity Fund's stringent eligibility and due diligence criteria was also a requirement. The areas that the Fund will provide assistance in delivering impactful relief to are:

- Provision of food through daily meals to approximately 5 000 people in 31 community halls for three months, as well as food parcels to 5 764 families.
- Provision of boreholes, as well as repairs to approximately 10 schools and 50 homes.
- Provision of hygiene packs to 65 community halls and 2 000 individual homes.
- Provision of trauma counselling for 1 350 families.
- Provision of Jojo tanks, mobile toilets, mattresses and blankets in KZN.
- The provision of building supplies and cash vouchers to approximately 100 families in rural Eastern Cape.

"The floods that impacted Kwa-Zulu Natal and Eastern Cape were a humanitarian crisis that few could have anticipated. As an organisation designed to respond rapidly to deliver assistance to those in the greatest need, stepping in to assist these affected areas is consistent with our mandate. Our partner organisations are already working around the clock to offer immediate and longer-term relief. They have the networks and experience to reach the people and places that need help the most, with the backing of the funds so generously donated, they will be able to do even more. South Africa watched in horror as the homes, schools and infrastructure were destroyed. Now, they are showing their solidarity by assisting those who are assisting others," notes Martin Kingston.

Health Pillar

The Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) reopened the doors to its Accident and Emergency Unit on Monday, 9th of May 2022.

When the hospital suffered extensive damage due to a fire in April 2021, the COVID-19 health response of the Gauteng Province was severely impacted, putting additional stress on surrounding hospitals. The Solidarity Fund assisted in facilitating the refurbishment, enabling the rapid reopening of the hospital. An amount of R68 million was approved for the refurbishment of Block One, which contains all trauma and emergency admissions departments on Level 6. R33 million was applied in this first phase of the reopening of Block One.

The Fund worked closely with all partners to ensure the timeous and successful conclusion of the refurbishment, in line with the highest possible standards. The Fund is grateful for the commitment and resolve of all involved, including the National and Gauteng Provincial Departments of Health, the Office of the CMJAH CEO, the Gauteng Office of the Premier and Department of Infrastructure Development, as well as SPIRE and all service providers.

In May 2021, ***the Cecilia Makiwane modular COVID-19 100-bed hospital***, built in partnership with Siemens, was handed over to the Eastern Cape Department of Health. Subsequently, the Solidarity Fund together with Siemens in March 2022 supplied fire safety equipment to the facility to ensure that it is fire-safe and protected against the risk of fire-related accidents that are endemic countrywide.

A major consideration for the ***rapid roll-out of vaccinations*** across our vast country has always been accessibility, especially to the most vulnerable. To mitigate this challenge, the Fund, in partnership with the National Department of Health, instigated the surge capacity outreach vaccination sites programme with the intention of making the vaccine easily available, and reaching those living in outlying and rural areas.

The programme has cumulatively activated 320 sites across all 9 provinces since it was initiated in August 2021, with 159 sites currently still operational. It has administered 1,344,926 vaccinations as of the 12th of June 2022, which have been delivered by 23 Clinical Operators contracted by the Solidarity Fund. This has been achieved through the approval of R171 million in funding. The programme will continue until the end of June 2022.

Humanitarian Relief Pillar

The third phase of the Farming Inputs Voucher programme is closed. The programme aimed at providing support to farmers who did not benefit from the first two phases of the programme, by issuing those in need with vouchers to the value of R2 000 each. A total of 18 350 vouchers to the value R36,7m were redeemed over the two-month period of the programme, reflecting a 73% redemption rate overall, and helping to facilitate self-employment, improve livelihoods and increase food access and production. It is noteworthy that of the total vouchers redeemed, 68% were redeemed by women.

The Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund

The civil unrest that swept across parts of Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng in July last year continues to make an impact on businesses and traders in the area who are still struggling to get back on their feet. ***The Fund's partnership with the National Economic Fund (NEF)***, continues to help affected small businesses re-establish trade, save jobs and support local supply lines.

To date, the partnership with the NEF has saved more than 4 988 jobs through R273 million grant funding, cutting across various sectors in both KZN and Gauteng provinces. More than 170 enterprises received support. Within this R273m grant funding, R20m was earmarked for pharmacies and other entities in medical support services and, through this, the Fund's interventions supported 20 businesses, saving more than 140 jobs and re-establishing certain health-related services in the communities affected.

The Cash Voucher programme, aimed at supporting employees from small businesses within damaged malls across KZN and Gauteng, as well as informal traders that were operating within the mall environments, has reached 19 409 individuals, providing each with a cash remittance of R3 000 for a total value of some R60 million. An impressive total of 98% (R58,2m) of the vouchers issued were redeemed, delivering much needed and far-reaching support to the impacted communities.

The partnership with Afrika Tikkun FNB targeted smaller SMME businesses with a turnover of under R3 million. Through this partnership, the HCRF has enabled 756 SMMEs, saving 2 544 jobs. The businesses were supported by a total of R65 million in funding. Of the beneficiaries, 478 SMMEs were based in KZN and received an average of R85 401.67 each, saving 1523 jobs. 278 SMMEs were Gauteng based and received an average of R64 861.51, saving 1021 jobs.

The HCRF also undertook to support civil society organisations and the communities that incurred losses and damage during the unrest. As of the 31st of May 2022, ***the Civil Society Grants Programme*** has disbursed R87m to 38 organisations, impacting 83 381 beneficiaries across 84 projects.

The road to wrapping up

The plan to close the Fund by September continues as scheduled. Almost all the interventions undertaken under the COVID-19 response pillars, as well as the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund, are either complete or in the process of being completed. The Solidarity Fund Floods Response is a rapid response intervention that is intended to provide immediate aid and will be wrapped by September.

Tandi Nzimande, CEO of the Solidarity Fund, states “The recent flooding in Kwa-Zulu Natal and the Eastern Cape, and the Fund’s response to it, demonstrates that the platform that the Fund has been built upon is sound, allowing for agility while maintaining the highest levels of accountability and governance. It is my sincere hope that it will act as a blueprint which other organisations can follow.”

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

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