

SOLIDARITY FUND
INTEGRATED ANNUAL REPORT

March 2021 – February 2022

20
22

**BETTER
TOGETHER**



Rolling up our sleeves for a brighter future

2021 saw the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines. Finally, the world had hope and a path out of the pandemic and its devastating effects, to be able to come back together and regain those moments we've missed so much.

The pandemic has shown that our individual actions have a real impact on the lives of others. We've learnt anew that difficulty is best overcome by interdependence and cooperation.

This is the spirit that continues to drive us to keep on being there for those most in need of a helping hand, while putting our considerable resources towards getting the country vaccinated and back on the path to a brighter future.

We will continue to stand together, to protect each other, and to support each other, so that as a nation, we come out stronger.



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“It has been an honour to be part of the solution.”

FOREWORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Gloria Tomatoe Serobe, *Solidarity Fund Chairperson*

The second year has seen the Solidarity Fund move into a more stable phase with increased emphasis on legacy projects. The country began to better understand the dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the arrival of the COVID vaccine brought the prospect of bringing the pandemic under control.

The Fund's primary focus over the last year has been to support and augment the government's national vaccination programme. We have seen considerable success in our support to improving access to vaccinations. We brought an innovative approach to ensure vaccines reach people in rural areas, places with limited access and areas with limited uptake, by taking the vaccines to where people go in their day to day activities.

Through our programmes we noted concerning levels of apathy to getting vaccinated, so we put considerable efforts into creating demand and promoting uptake at national

and grass roots levels. Although the country still has a long way to go in reaching its vaccination targets, we have played a leading role in getting the country to where it is now.

Unfortunately, this past year saw the devastating civil unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng Provinces. Because of our sterling reputation to mobilise rapidly, the Government requested us to help support those whose businesses and livelihoods had been destroyed.

The nature of the damage meant we had to bring an agile response to not only help to resurrect businesses, but also support employees who found themselves without an income to support themselves and their families. Our focus was to ensure we helped businesses to rebuild in their existing communities, especially in the townships and rural areas, so these communities did not lose these services permanently.

The farming input voucher programme also continued into the second year and has been a resounding success. Through this programme we have been able to take people out of the food parcel lines to growing their own food in their own homes. We have received tremendously positive feedback from beneficiaries. Because the programme meant you can only redeem farming supplies, the phenomenal redemption rate of over 90% shows that people have actually started subsistence farming, relying on themselves to ensure that they, their families and communities have food to eat.

The second year saw the Fund enter a more stable phase. The first year of the pandemic was essentially like a war zone for the country and globally, with everyone trying to come to terms with the pandemic and its constant evolutions, and requiring a crisis response.

In the second year, collectively the world, South Africa, and the Fund began to better understand how the pandemic works and the best responses. Global solutions were developed that we could source from, with the vaccine especially, bringing hope that we could navigate our way out of the crisis.

Within the Fund we had more stability in terms of how to respond, turning our focus to ensuring that our interventions included long-term sustainable programmes including procuring vital medical equipment, hospital infrastructure refurbishment, and food security.

Our first audit also brought many lessons for us. While it showed that our due diligence and governance processes were robust, both the Fund and our audit partner learned that the unique nature of the Fund brought unique questions that we have learnt to better anticipate and address.

The Fund is unique in how it brings government, business, and civil society together. It has shown that not only is this partnership possible, but that you can respond to a crisis and act with speed, and can still adhere to best practice in governance. This is something we are very proud of.

Over this last year, our exceptional, highly skilled team, have continued to excel themselves, bringing their wide range of expertise and knowledge to help the Fund and its partners make a very real impact on the lives of thousands of South Africans. The mere size of the challenge we were trying to address required a lot of commitment and integrity. We could not afford to fail in any way. And we have stepped up to this challenge.

We believe that the Fund has now run its course. It was established as a rapid response mechanism to augment the health system, and support South Africans in desperate need from the impact of the pandemic. After more than two years, we believe we have achieved this.

The pandemic is at the stage where it no longer needs to be treated as an emergency, and the country is in a better position to cope with it. We have mobilised rapidly to assist with the flood response in KwaZulu-Natal, but beyond this will scale down the Fund with the hope that we will not be needed again at such a scale, but be available to respond rapidly if it is.

For me personally it has been an honour to be part of the solution and to lead this team to be able to support the government and the country through this truly unprecedented crisis.



"We really could not have done it without you."

FOREWORD FROM THE CEO

Tandi Nzimande, *Solidarity Fund CEO*

In this last year, the Solidarity Fund has focused its activities on supporting the national COVID-19 vaccination programme and helping to get as many people vaccinated with the objective of getting back to doing the normal things we had missed because of COVID.

Our support centred on protecting frontline healthcare workers and increasing vaccine uptake in South Africa, with a particular focus on increasing access to vaccination for vulnerable age groups, areas with lower uptake and in rural areas. These activities were supported by rolling mass communications to mobilise all eligible people to get vaccinated.

Our vaccination activities started in December 2020 when we provided the deposit to the COVAX facility. This was followed by partnering with other donors to fund the Sisonke research study to vaccinate frontline healthcare workers in early 2021. This support was in line with the running theme the Fund has had of supporting the protection of frontline healthcare workers who are the backbone of the fight against COVID. The initiative saw good uptake and we're really proud we could be a part of it.

Alongside other donors, we also provided 50% of the funding required for the capacitation of the Health Department for its vaccination efforts. This support was vital, as it significantly bolstered the Government's ability to roll out and co-ordinate its vaccination programme.

A key aspect of communication was the ability for individuals and healthcare professionals to ask questions and get sound advice to address uncertainties, we therefore supported the scale up and operations of the National Call Centre to do

precisely that. The call centre performed very well, handling almost two million calls.

Through the call centre, as well as social listening through various platforms and our community partners, we got a sense of what South Africans were saying. The community partnerships were particularly important in providing residents an opportunity to ask questions. The community partners also assisted in low vaccine penetration areas engaging on a one-on-one basis with those who were hesitant, addressing their concerns and increasing the numbers of people being vaccinated.

Core to improving access to vaccinations was our support of the clinical operators programme and the various mobilisation campaigns which were refreshed and redesigned for changing circumstances. The clinical operators programme resulted in 17 clinical operators operating in 168 sites, providing over a million jabs on behalf of the NDoH. Working with partners, the programmes of the Fund directly supported almost 1.5 million jabs in hard-to-reach areas and in areas with poor vaccine uptake.

Another big achievement has been our support for the provision of critical essential equipment to hospitals. While this support responded to the impact of the various COVID-19 waves on hospitals, the equipment will outlast the pandemic and be available for other illnesses, leaving a legacy of the Fund's support to the health system.

Likewise, our support to the refurbishment of Charlotte Maxeke hospital will have a lasting impact for the Gauteng health department. The Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital is the leading infectious diseases hospital



in the country, so played a pivotal role in the treatment of COVID-19. The fire at Charlotte Maxeke brought significant additional pressure to the Gauteng province's health system. As it became clear that support was required to get the COVID-19 facilities back into operation, there was no question that we had to step in to bolster the health system as it buckled under the added strain of the third wave.

Responding to waves also led to the Fund supporting the placement of nurses in Gauteng and Eastern Cape to strengthen these provincial health systems that were hard hit by the various waves.

Sadly, in July 2021 we saw the unfortunate unfolding of civil unrest in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. This had a devastating impact on many. The government saw us as a trusted partner to help with the response, we are pleased that we were able to respond in a meaningful way.

Together with our partners we focused our response on business and economic recovery in the areas that were hardest hit, supporting those whose intentions were to remain and rebuild. We particularly focused on smaller businesses that didn't have the resources to recover, and those who were not insured. Limited support was also provided by way of bridging facilities for those who were insured but needed the funds quickly to stay afloat as they awaited insurance pay outs.

We had the privilege of visiting some of the malls that were affected both before and after our support, seeing first-hand the terrible damage inflicted and then the tremendous turnaround we had facilitated. With the first visit we came to the realisation that providing cash voucher support was also essential to assist employees and informal vendors who were affected, particularly those unable to access unemployment benefits.

On the second site visit, speaking with an employee of an affected business, the trauma still clear in her voice, she spoke of her relief that she was able to work again. While the store was closed she could not find alternative employment, so getting her job back meant that she could once again, support her family.

The July Unrest also left people unable to access food, so we quickly responded to help get food parcels into the affected areas. Our partnership with the Department of Social Development and the Provincial House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders in KwaZulu-Natal was invaluable, as they were exceptional in making sure that affected people

everywhere, including rural areas, got access to food, assisting suppliers with the last mile where necessary.

We also continued with our humanitarian support over the last year, funding the second phase of the farming input voucher scheme to support small subsistence farmers and sustain food security in rural areas as people continued to struggle with the COVID fallout. Our gender-based violence response programme continued its important work, funding 281 community-based organisations to support and in some cases, expand support, in the communities in which they operate.

From an operational perspective, the demand on the Fund's staff continued to be significant, and our staff continued to show up for the people of South Africa in incredible ways, making great sacrifices to ensure impact across all our pillars. For this I am immensely grateful. Siyabonga, baaie dankie, realeboha! None of what has been done would have been possible without you.

Sometimes our governance processes were viewed by some as somewhat cumbersome, but in fact, they provided a strong foundation to ensure the success of our programmes and sound use of resources.

One of the things that characterised the last year was the fact that we had much more stability in our staff component. This stability brought a consistency of approach and understanding of what the issues were. This in turn allowed us to continuously improve and to move forward more quickly, bedding down our processes and improving turnaround times.

The Solidarity Fund has played a significant role in helping South Africa deal with the unprecedented upheaval and distress caused by the pandemic. Through the Solidarity Fund many people in South Africa, of all walks of life, as well as friends of South Africa, contributed immensely with the funds that enabled all the work done to be possible. To the partners that played a role across all of the pillars, from strategic input, implementation, project management, kicking the tyres, and taking the corners at high speed, a huge thank you.

The next 12 months will see the Solidarity Fund finalising and wrapping up its projects in line with the normalisation of the COVID response.

The Solidarity Fund has received incredible support in so many different ways, our heartfelt, deepest appreciation to everyone who made it possible. We really could not have done it without you.

WAY FORWARD



Adrian Enthoven

Deputy Chair of the Solidarity Fund

The Solidarity Fund's mandate was to provide an interim, yet impactful and significant mechanism to augment the Government's national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund has mobilised significant donations, galvanising and uniting South Africans, government, business, and civil society to the pandemic response. It has created a foundation for future action, empowering a significant number of national and community-level partners to continue doing their work and, in some cases, with more resources, infrastructure, skills and capacity.

With the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines, the world and South Africa is finding its way to a "new normal", focusing on opening up society and rebuilding. The challenges are still many, but the emergency has subsided. The Fund has fulfilled its mandate and will leave a blueprint for future rapid responses.

As such the Board has decided that the Fund will scale down its presence and activities, but will not be completely closed down. This will enable the Fund to rapidly respond in the event of any future emergency event. A cash reserve

of at least R15 million will be retained for maintenance and to enable immediate action should the Fund need to remobilise in the future. The final amount retained will be determined by amounts returned as unspent funds from projects as well as funds that were ear marked for retention.

The Fund is working towards curtailing its activities by no later than 31 December 2022 and is no longer undertaking any fundraising activities. We are currently in the process of appointing an administrator to fulfil all programme and financial management and compliance activities as we scale down.

The Solidarity Fund is extremely proud of what we have been able to achieve. So many South Africans from all corners and walks of our beautiful country, and our friends abroad, have given so generously of your money, your time, and your expertise. Through this support, we have helped each other to navigate the worst of the pandemic and move towards a brighter and more hopeful future.

For this we thank you!

ABOUT THE FUND

The Solidarity Fund is an **independently run public benefit organisation** that has **mobilised an unprecedented and united response to the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa**. Leveraging the resources and support of the public and private sectors, and working closely with government and civil society, the Fund is helping to mitigate the devastating impact of the pandemic in the country.

The Fund raised over R3.4 billion in generous donations for the COVID-19 response and has disbursed almost all these funds to the various public and private partners it works with across its three focus areas – the health response, humanitarian effort, and the communications and behaviour change response.

Through this COVID-19 support, the Fund and its partners have been able to **provide food relief and humanitarian assistance** to help those most deeply affected by the pandemic response measures. The Fund has focussed its support on **bolstering**

the public health system which was overwhelmed by the added burden of the pandemic, thus supporting the continuation of vital health services. With the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines, the Fund turned its enormous resources to **supporting the national vaccination programme**, while consistently **raising awareness** to help strengthen prevention and safety measures, and promote vaccine uptake, as the country was hit with new waves of the pandemic.

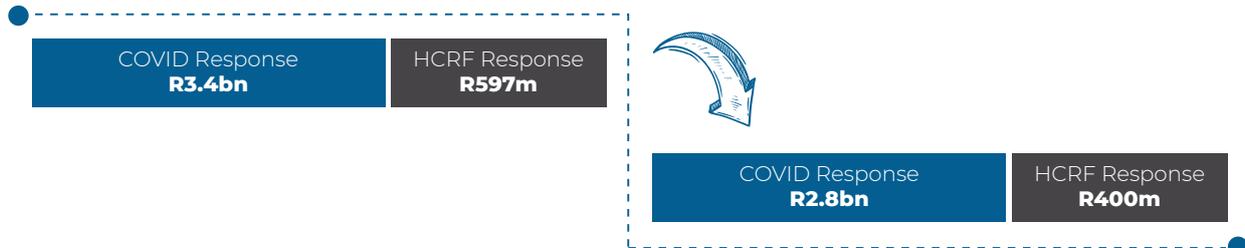
After the horrific devastation and personal loss caused by the **wave of civil unrest in July 2021** in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, the Fund responded to the call from government to join forces to support those businesses and individuals in need. With the consent of its major donors, the Fund redirected some of its funding to a distinct project – the **Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF)**, that **supported small and micro businesses and communities** to recover by providing support for business recovery, access to food, peace building, and healthcare.



FUNDING SUMMARY

(March 2020 - February 2022)

Total Raised: **R4 billion**



Total Disbursed: **R3.2 billion (80%)**

(March 2020 - February 2022)



Health Pillar

Amount disbursed as of 28 February 2022

(Rx) amount allocated as of 28 February 2022



Humanitarian Pillar

Amount disbursed as of 28 February 2022

(Rx) amount allocated as of 28 February 2022



Behaviour Change Pillar

Amount disbursed as of 28 February 2022

(Rx) amount allocated as of 28 February 2022



HCRF Response

Amount disbursed as of 28 February 2022

(Rx) amount allocated as of 28 February 2022

Health Systems Strengthening
R332m (R528m)
Essential equipment
R276m (R422m)
Hospital refurbishment
R43m (R82m)
Nursing support
R12m (R24m)

Vaccines programme support
R417m (R751m)

Testing and Research
R317m (R354m)

Ventilators
R236m (R285m)

PPE
R729m (R884m)

Food Relief
R328m (R372m)
Gender-based Violence Response
R98m (R105m)

Vaccine Demand Creation
R221m (R342m)
COVID-19 messaging
R172m (R185m)

Business Recovery
R265m (R338m)
Local economic recovery (R317)
Entities in the medical space (R20m)

Food Relief
R115m (R120m)

Humanitarian Support (cash vouchers)
R21m (R62m)

Civil Society Support
R0m (R87m)

PARTNER SUPPORT

At inception the Fund was fortunate to draw on an army of volunteers and individuals seconded from over 50 well-respected companies, without whose support, the Fund would never have been able to achieve the impact it has. The Fund now incurs costs for most of secondees with sponsorship funds having been fully utilised.

As the economy opened up and the tenure of the Fund extended from months to years, many companies had to turn to a cost-recovery, rather than a pro-bono, model for services rendered to the Fund. We are thankful to the organisations and individuals that continue to support the Fund pro-bono or at significantly discounted rates. These companies, organisations, and individuals provide invaluable support to the Fund, assisting with its administration, governance, and project management.



Types of support received

 Advisory support <i>Strategic and programme areas focus</i>	 Financial management <i>Audit, tax, accounting, risk and control management</i>	 Fundraising and donor management	 IT
 Behaviour Change and Communications	 Operational support <i>Administration, programme management, reporting and contracting</i>	 Legal	

Supporting partners

In-Kind Product Donations

SIEMENS



Supporting Organisations



Strategic Partnerships



IMPACT

The Fund does not implement projects on its own. It partners with organisations that either have the capacity to implement directly, or fund and manage other implementing partners. This approach enables the Fund to leverage the most appropriate skills, expertise, and reach for maximise impact. Through the hard work and dedication of its partners, the Fund has been able to achieve considerable success in all its focus areas.



*The financial information included in this section has been prepared on a cash basis as at 28 February 2022.

GOVERNANCE

The Fund was established to be completely independent while working closely with government, the private sector, and civil society to implement its programmes. It remains deeply committed to making sure the necessary systems and protocols are in place to protect and use the generous donations it receives in the most effective and impactful way possible.

Throughout its second year, the Fund has remained committed to robust governance and full transparency. Its independent and highly respected Board of Directors drawn from various sectors of society, has continued to provide strategic and operational support, ensuring that the Fund operates with full integrity.

The experienced and skilled executive management team (EXCO), led by our Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tandi Nzimande, continued to oversee the effective implementation of the Fund's projects in line with its broader mandate, encompassing the evolution of the pandemic and new national emergencies that arose.

Lessons learned from the Fund's first year has enabled it to strengthen its controls and identify and mitigate risks earlier and more easily. This, together with the ongoing assistance of many of our supporting partners in the areas of contracting, administration, auditing, and operations, has ensured that the Fund has been able to maintain the due diligence and good governance it has become noted for.

The Fund continues to abide by its governance principles:

- Operating with independence and applying the principles of good corporate governance with oversight from an independent board.
- Judging the effectiveness of our governance, risk, and compliance frameworks, policies and controls by how they support the ability of the Fund to fulfil its mandate responsibly and efficiently, and ensure targeted impact is achieved.
- Ensuring transparency, monitoring and reporting on the source and disbursement of funds, how these funds are being used, and the impact of the projects being funded.

Board of Directors



Gloria Serobe
Chair



Adrian Enthoven
Deputy Chair



Tandi Nzimande
CEO



Ayanda Ntsaluba
Chair of the Disbursement Committee



Tryphosa Ramano
Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee



Sizwe Nxasana
Chair of the Fundraising Committee



Michael Katz



Kgomotso Makhupola



Tito Mboweni
Resigned September 2021



Ebrahim Patel



Thulani Tshefuta

EXCO



Tandi Nzimande



Zanele Ngwepe



Nicola Galombik

Resigned January 2022



Wongakazi Majola



Martin Kingston

BUSA Vice President and Advisor to the Solidarity Fund



Gugu Ngubane



Rick Menell



Wendy Tlou



Jennisha Gappoo



Nozipho Sangweni

Resigned December 2021 Appointed January 2022

The Board and the EXCO remain committed to ensuring that the Fund operates with agility, integrity, and transparency. This includes ensuring that all donations are screened, recognised, accounted for and effectively managed; that disbursements are aligned with the Fund's mandate; and that its impact is measured and reported. The Fund's governance framework articulates the set of decision-making, approval, and oversight arrangements the Fund employs to discharge its mandate.

The board, chaired by Gloria Serobe, assisted by Adrian Enthoven as her Deputy Chairman, provides guidance and oversight over all other bodies within the Solidarity Fund, namely:

- The Executive Committee
- The Audit and Risk Board Committee
- The Fundraising Board Committee
- The Disbursements Board Committee

Audit and Risk Board Committee



Tryphosa Ramano
(Chair)



Michael Katz



Kgomotso Makhupola

Co-opted members:

- **Lulama Boo**
- **Antionette Davis**
- **Tumellano Lavhengwa**

The Audit and Risk Committee ("ARC") comprises three non-executive directors and three co-opted members. The ARC has met nine times during the year under review. The CEO, Chief Financial Officer, representatives from the external and internal auditors, as well as other invitees attended these meetings. The ARC operated in accordance with its adopted terms of reference to cover all relevant matters. Items discussed at these meetings were formally minuted and, where needed, appropriate action plans have been documented.

The mandate and responsibilities of the ARC encompass, amongst others, actions required to: oversee financial reporting, including the preparation of the financial statements; ensure that a combined assurance model is applied to provide a coordinated approach to all assurance activities; oversee the internal audit function performed by SekelaXabiso Protiviti; oversee the risk management process; oversee the external audit function; and receive and deal with complaints from stakeholders.

The ARC discharged its statutory and Board responsibilities during the year under review to consider, *inter alia*, the results of the Fund, as well as to consider regulatory compliance by the Fund and monitor the Fund's risks and internal controls.

The ARC has appointed PriceWaterhouseCoopers Inc. (PwC) to perform an independent and objective audit of the Fund in terms of the provisions of section 90 of the Companies Act. The ARC is satisfied that PwC is independent of the Fund, as contemplated in section 94(8) of the Companies Act.

The ARC, in consultation with executive management, agreed to the contents of the audit engagement letter terms and audit plan for the year ended 28 February 2022. PwC has agreed to provide their independent external audit services on a pro-bono basis for this year. The ARC has met with the designated auditor to consider matters of importance and relevant to the finalisation of the Fund's annual financial statements and to the affairs of the Fund generally.

No complaints relating either to the accounting practices and internal audit of the Fund or to the contents or auditing of its annual financial statements, or to any related matter were received by the ARC during the year under review up to the approval date of the annual financial statements.

Disbursements Board Committee



Ayanda Ntsaluba
(Chair)



Adrian Enthoven



Sizwe Nxasana

The Disbursement Committee oversees disbursement of the Fund's resources in accordance with the Fund's strategy and mandate. The Committee works with the executive to ensure the robust evaluation and prioritising of proposals where the Fund can play a truly catalytic role and achieve optimal value for money.

In its second year, the Committee continued to work closely with the Fund's pillars, testing projects for impact and ensuring that risks are identified upfront and mitigation strategies put into place. A core focus for the Fund was to provide substantial support to the national vaccine programme. After year end, in April 2022, the Fund responded positively to a request from the Presidency to support the national response to the floods that wreaked havoc in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

Building on its first year of operations, the Committee tightened its focus on impact and progress reporting, to ensure that the Fund's support is translated into action and saving lives on the ground, or in the case of the vaccination programmes, getting jabs into people's arms.

The Committee Chair recognizes and appreciates the time the members of the subcommittee dedicated in support of its objectives. He also extends his gratitude to the executive for their support and professionalism in assisting the Committee in discharging its fiduciary duties. The manner of working together over the last two years has been refined and strengthened, ensuring the due diligence processes flowed smoothly and the Committee and the Fund were able to execute rapidly and ensure the resources were available to make an impact quickly.

Fundraising Board Committee



Sizwe Nxasana
(Chair)



Adrian Enthoven



Thulani Tshefuta

Co-opted member:

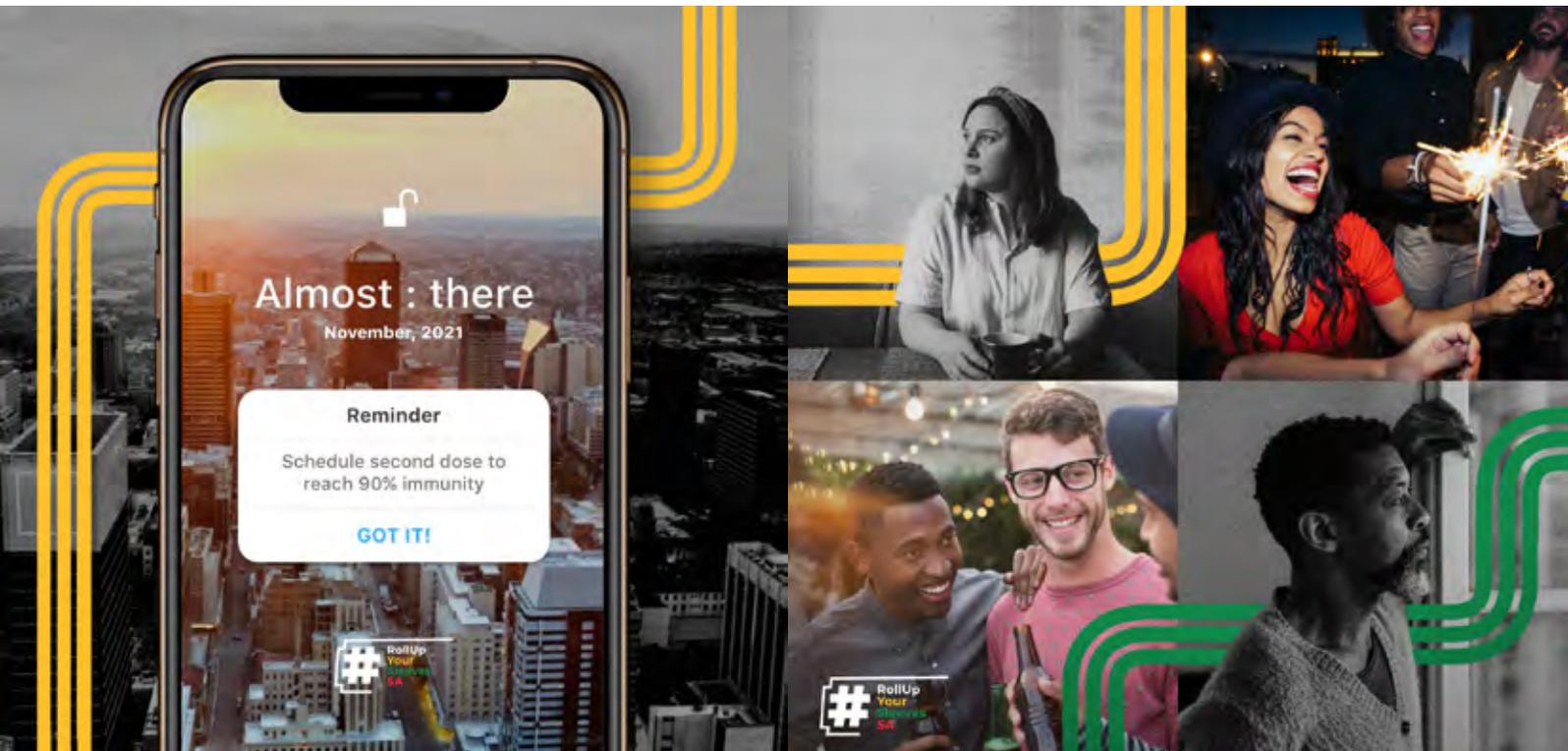
- **Leila Davids**

The Fundraising Committee was established to guide and support the fundraising team to maximise the capital raised for the Solidarity Fund, overseeing the fundraising strategy, and the channels through which fundraising activities are pursued.

The Fundraising Committee met three times in the year under review to consolidate and conclude its activities. As the financial year kicked off, the Committee and the Fund mobilised resources to bolster the vaccine response. Further fundraising took place during the year to respond to the

humanitarian and economic impact of the July 2021 civil unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, in partnership with the Presidency.

With the nature of the pandemic having stabilised, the Fund is now focusing on scaling down, with a focus on utilising its remaining resources to finalise activities in an impactful and responsible way. All while also documenting processes to enable being ready to mobilise rapidly should the need ever arise again.



FINANCIALS

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2022

These summarised financial statements are extracted from the audited financial statements, but are not themselves audited. The annual financial statements were audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc, who expressed a modified opinion thereon. The audited annual financial statements and the auditor's report thereon are available for inspection at our website www.solidarityfund.co.za. The directors take full responsibility for the preparation of the summary financial statements.

SOLIDARITY RESPONSE FUND NPC
(Registration number 2020/179561/08)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2022	2022 R'000	2021 R'000
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
<i>Inventories</i>	-	108 687
<i>Other receivables</i>	238 896	89 028
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>	772 380	1 246 732
Total Assets	1 011 276	1 444 447
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Funds		
<i>Accumulated funds</i>	923 331	1 373 964
Current Liabilities		
<i>Trade and Other Payables</i>	87 945	70 483
Total Funds and Liabilities	1 011 276	1 444 447

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	2022 R'000	2021* R'000
Revenue		
<i>Donations</i>	737 235	3 233 187
Operating expenditure	(1 223 393)	(1 905 780)
Operating (deficit)/ surplus	(486 158)	1 327 407
Administration cost	(6 804)	-
Interest Income	41 617	54 660
Bank charges	-	(4)
Foreign exchange gain/ (loss) on cash and cash equivalents	712	(8 099)
(Loss)/ profit and total comprehensive (loss)/ income for the year	(450 633)	1 373 964

*2021 information relates to the period 25 March 2020 to 28 February 2021

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	2022 R'000	2021 R'000
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Opening balance – 1 March 2021	1 373 964	-
Comprehensive (loss)/ income for the period	(450 633)	1 373 964
Closing Balance - 28 February 2022	923 331	1 373 964

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	2022 R'000	2021* R'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash receipts from donors	737 235	3 233 187
Cash paid to suppliers	(1 254 845)	(2 029 575)
Cash generated (used in)/ from operating activities	(517 610)	1 203 613
Bank interest income	42 546	51 222
Bank charges	-	(4)
Net cash (used in)/ from operating activities	(475 064)	1 254 831
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	1 246 732	-
Foreign exchange gain/ (loss) on cash and cash equivalents	712	(8 099)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	772 380	1 246 732

*2021 information relates to the period 25 March 2020 to 28 February 2021

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

General information

The Solidarity Response Fund NPC (the 'Fund') is a non-profit company incorporated in the Republic of South Africa. Registered office and postal address: ENSAFRICA The Marc – Tower 1, 129 Rivonia Road Sandton, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 2196.

The Fund is a Section 18A approved Public Benefit Organisation in terms of the South African Income Tax Act, (the Act) with a mandate to support the national health response, contribute to humanitarian relief efforts, and mobilise South Africans in the fight against COVID-19 as well as respond to other national disasters in accordance with the criteria defined by the Board.

In April 2022, the Presidency requested the Fund to augment the work of government with its interventions to assist communities affected by the floods in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. The Board considered this request and took a resolution on 16 April 2022 to accede to this request.

The Fund is a platform for the general public, civil society, and the public and private sector to contribute to the consolidated effort to fund various initiatives. The Fund works closely with both government and business. The Fund is responsible for, and controls, the funds donated to it, and is accountable to its donors.

Basis of preparation

The Funds financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and Interpretations as issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee (IFRIC), and comply with the Financial Reporting Guides as issued by the Accounting Practices Committee (APC), Financial Reporting Pronouncements as issued by the Financial Reporting Standards Council (FRSC), and the requirements of the South African Companies Act, No 71 of 2008 (the Companies Act). The company has adopted all new accounting standards and interpretations that became effective in the current reporting period.

PROJECTS AND IMPACT





HEALTH PILLAR

The Solidarity Fund was established as a temporary catalytic organisation to augment and strengthen the South African government's COVID-19 response. The Fund's Health Pillar works in partnership with the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to support the Department of Health (NDoH) to strengthen the capacity of the health system to respond to the burden of disease, and expand the coverage and reach of services to include vulnerable, uninsured, and hard-to-reach communities.

In its second year, the Fund's Health Pillar has focussed on supporting the national COVID-19 vaccine programme, as well as continuing its health system strengthening support. The Fund also continued to support key research projects vital to an effective pandemic response.

The high priority project this past year and into the new financial year is the Fund's support to the national vaccine programme. This project helps to strengthen vaccine access and awareness, adding mobile service points and improving overall vaccine coverage. This ensures that as many people as possible are vaccinated, reducing COVID-related deaths and very severe illness across the country.

The Health Pillar's work related to strengthening the health system includes increasing the availability of intensive care and high-care beds, isolation facilities, access to essential life-saving equipment, helping to repair Charlotte Maxeke hospital, as well as providing technical and human resources assistance to the NDoH.

This support is not only helping to increase healthcare resources that are available to provide care and treatment for COVID-19 patients, but will also assist the NDoH to manage future pandemics and medical emergencies more effectively.

The Solidarity Fund's health pillar support focuses on the following key areas

Supporting the national vaccine programme

- **1 million+** vaccines administered through J&J Sisonke study, vaccine outreach sites and ECDoH programme.
- **168** vaccine outreach sites opened across all nine provinces, operated by Clinical Operators and administering **707 176** vaccinations to end of February 2022.
- **R69m** allocated to human resource capacitation and technical assistance to the NDoH, provincial and district health management teams, structured as a **50%** co-funding of a donor collaboration initiative to strengthen planning and implementation coordination of the national vaccine rollout.
- **R9.8m** funding donated to support transport and logistics for **5.6m** Pfizer vaccines donated by the US government to SA through COVAX, and of **6m** 23G needles on behalf of NDOH.
- Over **417** nurses and technical staff added to national and provincial health departments to bolster human resource capacity for the national COVID response during the peak of the waves and for the vaccine programme.

Health system strengthening

- **R422m** allocated to procure essential equipment across all nine provinces
- **700+** COVID beds opened and **8000+** nurse shifts funded at **8** major hospitals across Gauteng, at the peak of third and fourth waves in the province
- Fire Safety refurbishments and building of COVID isolation wards for two major hospitals in Gauteng and Eastern Cape, respectively

Supporting vital COVID-19 research

- The Solidarity Fund supported the COVID-19 seroprevalence study, the first to provide national estimates of the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in South Africa based on a representative sample of the population.
- Supporting the wastewater COVID-19 surveillance study provides an early warning public health surveillance system for COVID-19.

SUPPORTING THE VACCINE PROGRAMME

Since the introduction of COVID-19 vaccinations by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a strategy to prevent severe disease, hospitalisation, and reduce deaths from COVID-19 infections, the Solidarity Fund added the vaccine roll out programme to its support toolkit in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa.

Vaccinations not only reduce the impact of COVID-19 infections on disease severity, but also its impact on the

health system. To realize this benefit, South Africa set a target of vaccinating at least 70% of the population, prioritising the elderly, immunocompromised, and those with co-morbidities who are at higher risk of having severe disease and dying from COVID-19. Vaccines are the tool to achieve this, and are therefore a priority in the fight against the pandemic.

The Solidarity Fund's support to the vaccination programme focused on:



Helping to ensure the timely and sufficient supply of vaccines and ancillary materials

In its first year, the Fund's first donation for the vaccine programme aimed at securing vaccine supply to South Africa through the COVAX facility. On behalf of the Government, the Fund made a down-payment of R283.3m to the COVAX facility, a 15% upfront fee, required from the South African government to procure vaccines from the facility.

In July and August 2021, at the peak of the vaccine roll out, around the third wave of the pandemic, the Fund provided urgent funding for logistical arrangements and transportation of 5,660,460 Pfizer vaccines donated by the US Government to South Africa through the COVAX facility.

The Fund further provided funding, in support to the NDoH, to transport 6 million 23G needles that are used to administer the vaccines, to ensure continuous availability in-country and avert a stock-out crisis as the vaccine programme began gaining momentum and expanding beyond health workers and over 50's to include those 18 years and older.



Key highlights

- Supported securing the supply of **2.6 million Pfizer vaccine doses** through the COVAX facility down-payment
- Supported **transportation of 5.6 million donated Pfizer vaccine doses** worth R2.1bn
- Supported the **import of 6 million 23G needles** worth R1.18m





Supporting vaccine rollout - 'taking the vaccines to the people'

Sisonke J&J implementation study

The Fund supported the first vaccine rollout - the Sisonke J&J implementation study that vaccinated 496,424 front line healthcare workers (HCWs) between February and May 2021. Working in collaboration with government and other donors, the study ensured that patient-facing healthcare workers were vaccinated ahead of the third wave of the pandemic.

The study made history by moving from conceptualisation of the roll out in a confined study environment to real life implementation in just 17 days. This usually takes years. This supported the rapid-rollout of the vaccine programme and has fundamentally changed the understanding of how research can be implemented more rapidly in future.

Valuable lessons learned from the study helped to **inform and improve implementation of the national vaccine programme. A call centre was set-up** that initially operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, **handling more than 31,400 inbound and 7,900 outbound calls** from the start of the study to the end of August 2021. The call centre helped to address administration and healthcare worker queries

Supporting vaccine outreach

The Fund collaborated with the NDoH, Business for South Africa (B4SA), the Department of Social Development (DSD), and the FirstRand SPIRE initiative through RMB (RMB/SPIRE) to **develop an outreach model to support provincial vaccine rollout** to hard-to-reach areas, areas with high numbers of unvaccinated people, and to make vaccination sites available in areas that people are already frequenting, such as shopping malls.

This initiative is **helping to bolster the capacity** of the national and provincial health departments, supporting them with additional human and clinical resource capacity **to open more outreach sites, expand vaccine coverage, and increase vaccine uptake.**

The aim of the vaccine outreach is:

- To rapidly mobilize the vaccine capacity required **to take vaccines to the most vulnerable** communities with a special focus on the NDoH's 22 high priority districts with very low vaccine uptake.
- To ensure every person has **equitable access** to vaccines to prevent and protect against COVID-19 by activating outreach vaccination sites.

and follow-up with people with side-effects. It was then repurposed to support the national vaccination programme.

The Sisonke study also **enabled the Health Department to test the implementation of the National Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS)**, learning many lessons, including how to manage numbers and expectations, and overall, it helped to inform the national vaccine rollout implementation approach.



Key highlights

- Enabled the rapid start-up of the **vaccination programme with the vaccination of 496,424 front line HCW**, ahead of the third wave of the pandemic.

Funding

- Allocated: R50m
- Spent: R48.3m

Project duration

- February to May 2021

- To **promote equitable distribution** by expanding coverage **to under serviced areas.**
- To **increase vaccination demand** through collaboration and partnerships between private and public sectors.
- To **eliminate barriers** to vaccination by engaging communities and key stakeholders.

A pilot of the vaccination outreach approach was implemented in August 2021 through the roll-out of 14 temporary vaccination sites at retail locations serving social security (SASSA) grant recipients. In September 2021 the pilot was expanded to a further 20 temporary vaccination sites at retail locations, each operating for one month (30-days), two of which were supported by the Fund. **The initial pilot administered over 3,000 vaccines to over 60-year-olds over the course of two days in August 2021.**

The pilot showed that bringing the vaccine to SASSA grant recipients at temporary vaccination sites in well frequented retail locations helped reduce many of the barriers to access that contribute to the vaccination rate gap in uninsured South Africans.

The lessons from this pilot determined the best outreach and costing reimbursement model to support a national vaccine outreach project.

Following the success of the pilot project, the Health Department decided to scale the initiative by setting up temporary outreach sites in retail and other locations frequented by high numbers of people. The Solidarity Fund supported this expansion by recruiting reputable clinical operators to provide the outreach vaccination services for the NDoH. R171m was allocated to fund temporary outreach sites across all provinces.

As of the end of February 2022, 168 active outreach sites are operating in 9 provinces. They have administered over 707 176 vaccinations between August 2021 and February 2022 through the Fund's 17 clinical operators.

This is a vital contribution by the Solidarity Fund to support the government to bring vaccines to the people. By targeting the population that is hard to reach and/or has limited access to vaccinations, this programme makes sure that no-one is left behind.



Supporting capacitation, planning, and coordination around the vaccine response

The targeted vaccination of almost the entire population, rapidly and at scale, in our lifetime is unprecedented. The Health system is not geared for dealing with heightened levels of emergency demand whilst ensuring that other healthcare needs and priorities are maintained. Collaboration with a variety of players was necessary to deal with the demand expected in line with the national vaccination targets of vaccinating all adults resident in South Africa.

Through a partnership with the DG Murray Trust (DGMT), the Fund matched other donor funds to co-fund support to the NDoH, PDoHs, and District Management Teams **to provide technical assistance and HR capacity to strengthen the supply and demand coordination management of the vaccine roll out nationally**. These additional resources went a long way in supporting planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting, and community mobilization for the national vaccine programme.

As of the end of February 2022, **204 out of 243 national, provincial and district candidates had been appointed**. Most of these technical assistance capacitation contracts come to an end on 31 March 2022, except for 74 roles extended to 30 June at the request of Provincial and National DoH.

DGMT is working with the health department to integrate and sustain this technical assistance and staffing support, and to identify ways to continue support in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Mpumalanga Provinces after the project ends.



Key highlights

- **168 active outreach sites** are operating in 9 provinces, **administering 707,176 vaccinations** between August 2021 and February 2022 through 17 clinical operators.
- **3,000 vaccines administered** to over 60-year-olds over the course of two days in August 2021, as part of the outreach pilot.

Funding

- Allocated: R171m
- Spent: R44m

Project duration

- August 2021 to June 2022



Key highlights

- **204 out of 243** national, provincial and district candidates appointed to strengthen technical assistance and HR capacity.

Funding

- Allocated: R69m
- Spent: R50m

Project duration

- August 2021 to June 2022



Supporting the strengthening of vaccination teams and rural outreach

Understanding the unique needs of the deep rural communities and hard-to-reach terrain, the Fund responded to a support request by the Eastern Cape health department (ECDoH) and adopted an operating model fashioned with these areas at the centre. The project included **supporting the recruitment of vaccinator nurses and district outreach teams, and the procurement of basic outreach medical equipment to support the vaccine programme in hard-to-reach rural areas.**

The support also included hiring of 4x4/SUV vehicles for healthcare and partners staff to be able to travel to rural areas, and partnering with taxis to transport people from rural areas to where the outreach sites are, thereby overcoming the access barrier of transport costs, and improving vaccination uptake. Four districts in the Eastern Cape Province were

supported, namely Joe Gqabi, OR Tambo, Alfred Nzo and Amathole, with special attention to the deep rural and hard-to-reach sub-districts within each district.

As of the end of February 2022, 213 nurses have been placed across the 3 districts. The Fund's support has been extended to supporting vaccine demand creation activities through Joe Public in the Amathole District.



Key highlights

- **213 HR for additional vaccination capacity** across the 3 districts

Funding

- Allocated: R47m

Project duration

- October 2021 to March 2022



STRENGTHENING THE HEALTH SYSTEM



Essential equipment

A key part of strengthening the health system is ensuring that facilities have the equipment they need to do their job in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. The COVID-19 pandemic has put an additional burden on the health system, stretching already thin resources to the max.

The Solidarity Fund partnered with the South African Pandemic Intervention and Relief Effort (SPIRE) as a procurement agent of the Fund. SPIRE is a public benefit fund, formed by the FirstRand Group (FRG). The Western Cape provincial DoH initially utilised the Health Foundation as their procurement agent. Through these partnerships, the Fund was able to procure much needed essential medical equipment to the value of R422m benefitting all provinces to strengthen health system capacity to respond to the pandemic burden in hospitals.

The Fund worked closely with provincial DoH specialists to determine their required equipment needs using epidemiological modelling of the COVID-19 infection rate and the subsequent burden on healthcare facilities in line with WHO guidelines. This list of requirements was then submitted to the Solidarity Fund, where an internal review panel, including the health pillar lead, hospital management staff, and members review the requests, approving and disallowing procurement of items based on a set of strict criteria, and ensuring alignment with the Fund's COVID-19 response mandate.

SPIRE, as the Fund's procurement agent, sources suppliers, performing desirability and due diligence reviews on them, validates pricing (best effort) against the National Treasury tender list for medical equipment, and, where possible, negotiates pricing. It considers pricing, quality and sustainability of equipment, delivery lead times, local manufacture, and BBBEE in its procurement process. Distribution is handled by the supplier or through an approved courier (provided through SPIRE) and is coordinated with the Fund, provincial DoHs and partners. Strict stipulations are made at a contractual level to effectively monitor the distribution of the medical equipment including ensuring signed proof of delivery

documentation on delivery by both the courier/supplier and the hospital recipient.

By end February 2022 essential equipment to the value of R419m (96%) had been ordered, with R324.1m (74%) worth of equipment delivered. The latest expected delivery for orders already placed is 30 June 2022.

To monitor the project effectively, SPIRE and the Health Foundation tracked and compiled weekly reports on all the provinces, detailing the movement of stock and payments per week. This allowed for strict monitoring of equipment being delivered, the hospitals that took receipt of these deliveries, and the spend per week and per province.

The Fund and SPIRE have received an overwhelming response from clinicians and doctors at various hospitals across the country, stating how this equipment has had a positive effect on helping to alleviate pressures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The type of the equipment purchased, which includes diagnostics, patient monitors, additional beds and other high care and intensive care units equipment, means that it will not only help to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but will also provide legacy equipment that will continue to benefit patients beyond the pandemic, to help to build resilience within the health system.



Key highlights

- Essential equipment to the **value of R419m (96%) ordered, with R324.1m (74%)** worth of equipment **delivered**
- **403 hospitals and health facilities benefitting** from the essential equipment

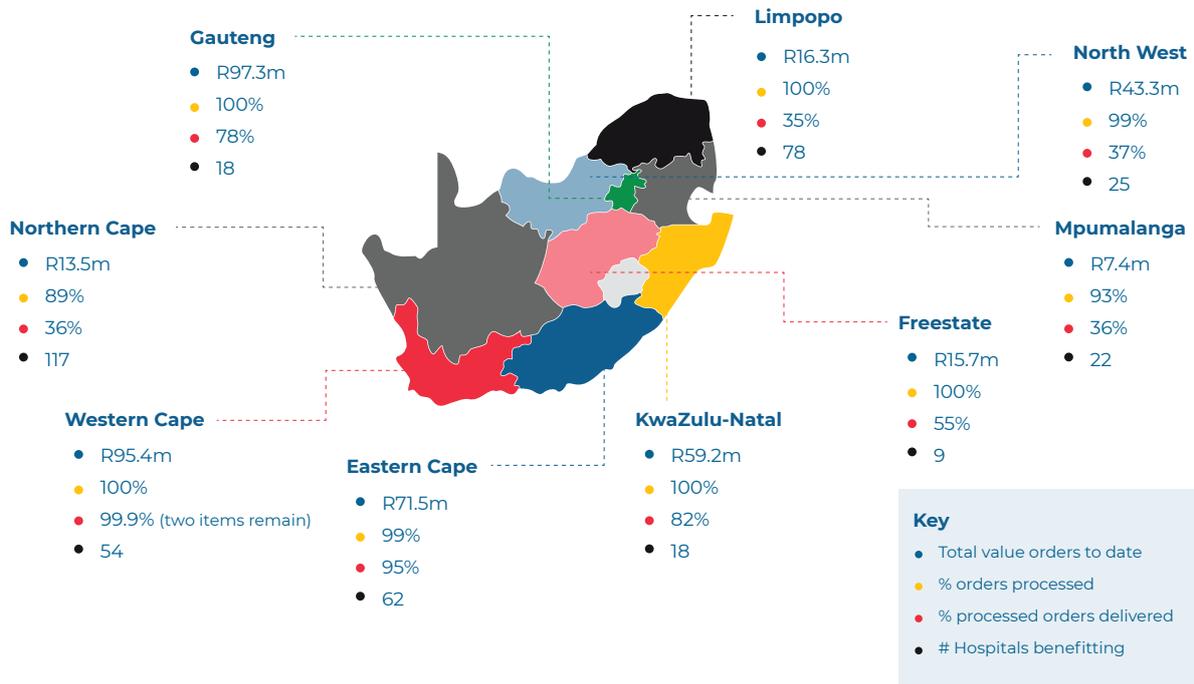
Funding

- Allocated: R422m
- Spent: R276m

Project duration

- May 2020 to June 2022

Essential Equipment support footprint as of 28 February 2022



Augmenting nursing capacity in the Gauteng Province

The Delta variant of COVID-19 led to a dramatic peak in cases during the third wave of the pandemic, with a particular impact in Gauteng province, putting enormous strain on the already stretched resources of the Gauteng Provincial Health Department (GDoH).

The **Solidarity Fund approved R16,6m to support the provision of critical additional nursing capacity to help the GDoH** weather the wave and have sufficient human resource capacity to support the healthcare needs of its citizens at eight major hospitals.

The arrival of the fourth wave, while not as severe as anticipated, lasted longer than expected, creating added pressure on the Provinces' hospitals, and leading to high numbers of staff absenteeism due to staff testing positive for COVID-19 and having to isolate. **The Fund therefore extended its support to the GDoH, providing an additional R6,2m to strengthen GDoH capacity for the duration of the fourth wave.**

The nurses funded by the Solidarity Fund have helped reduce the gap in much-needed nursing coverage, supporting COVID-19 wards, high care, intensive care, and beds for persons under investigation, ensuring that existing nursing staff are able to continue to provide critical care to non-COVID wards.



Key highlights

- 8000+ nursing shifts made possible at 8 major hospitals in Gauteng Province
- 700+ beds made available for COVID-19 patients

Funding

- Allocated: R23.5m
- Spent: R12.2m

Project duration

- June 2021 to 31 March 2022



How the essential equipment is having an impact – appreciation from various hospitals

Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital (NMAH), Eastern Cape saw a significant positive impact in that the essential equipment provided allowed them to help patients needing oxygen therapy, due to being able to offer a variety of oxygenation treatment options. They were able to extend services to a newly refurbished hospital, Sir Henry Elliot, with the help of newly donated equipment from the Fund. Cardiovascular and renal support were also made easier with access to high-level equipment. Access to monitors improved patient care, with the added benefit of assisting in triaging patients being admitted.

“The assistance has been phenomenal: ensuring our needs are met, procurement is efficient, equipment is commissioned, training is done, and – most importantly – equipment consumables have been made available to allow immediate use of the equipment.”

Dr Mrara, HOD, Department of Anaesthesiology, NMAH

“Thanks Solidarity Fund for providing us with tools to properly care for critically ill patients, especially during these difficult times with the COVID-19 pandemic. Frontier Hospital ICU staff, as well as the institution management, really appreciate your support.”

Dr Lazo, Frontier Hospital

“These hospitals need ventilators for the patients who crash, and they have to wait for a bed to become available in the referral hospital. [Previously] these patients just died. Now they have a fighting chance.”

Dr Abdullah, Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Gauteng





Hospital refurbishments

As part of its commitment to support the strengthening of the health system in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Solidarity Fund entered into a number of public-private partnerships to help extend, refurbish, and rebuild two key hospitals critical to treating those most severely affected by the virus.

Cecilia Makiwane Hospital modular hospital extension

In the Eastern Cape, one of the provinces most severely impacted by the pandemic, the Fund partnered with Siemens and the German government to build an innovative modular COVID-19 100-bed hospital as an extension to Cecilia Makiwane Hospital.

The hospital extension provides the community with an additional ten intensive care beds and 90 general ward beds, as well as various support services, such as a pharmacy, laboratory services, radiology, mortuary, and administrative areas. This additional support is helping to improve access to medical care for residents in the mostly rural area for years to come, extending the hospital's reach to more patients in need.

The modular hospital was launched and handed over to the Eastern Cape Province in May 2021. The Eastern Cape health department recruited additional staff and trained them on the new equipment and hospital protocols. The first patient was admitted on 1 September 2021.

Due to recent fire safety incidents at other hospitals around the country, the government Chief Fire Officer recommended the installation of an additional sprinkler system to the hospital. The Fund agreed to support the procurement of the fire safety equipment, with the assistance of Imperial Logistics, the Fund's procurement partner in this project, and using the funds remaining from the existing donation agreement.

The fire safety equipment has been procured and delivered to the hospital, with Siemens managing the installation of the equipment. The fire equipment has been donated to the ECDoH for the modular hospital, as part of an existing Solidarity Fund, Siemens and ECDOH donation agreement. Siemens intends to complete the project by June 2022, after which the hospital will reopen for services.



Key highlights

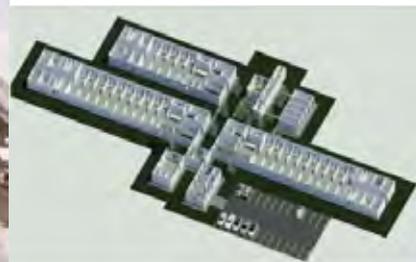
- Modular hospital extension providing 100 additional beds and other essential services built and donated to the Eastern Cape Province.

Funding

- Allocated: R14.2m
- Spent: R9.3m

Project duration

- March 2021 to March 2022



Charlotte Maxeke refurbishment

In April 2021 the Charlotte Maxeke hospital in Johannesburg, Gauteng, suffered extensive damage due to fire. The renowned hospital serves most of Gauteng, as well as neighbouring provinces, and its partial closure severely impacted the provinces, COVID-19 health response. During the second wave alone, Charlotte saw over 5,000 cases.

With the passage of time, as it became clearer that it would take longer than anticipated for the hospital to be repaired, the Solidarity Fund knew it had to act to support the reconstruction and refurbishment of the hospital as part of its mandate to augment the government's COVID-19 response. The goal was to have specific parts of the hospital reopened and back in the referral network before or during the fourth wave.

The Fund approved an amount of R68m for the refurbishment of Block One, which contains the trauma and emergency admissions departments. These departments were prioritised as it was critical for the hospital to reopen this section as quickly as possible to relieve the pressure on surrounding hospitals in the subsequent waves.

The Fund worked closely with the National and Gauteng Provincial Departments of Health to ensure the refurbishment was completed in the shortest possible time and to the highest possible standards. SPIRE is a key

partner, as the principal implementation agent to manage end-to-end delivery of the project.

With the opening of the Block One Accident and Emergency Department, phase one of the refurbishment was completed. The Fund has engaged with the Gauteng Health Department, the hospital management and SPIRE, and approved the requirements and scope for phase two scope, which will be covered by the remaining project funds. Phase two will support the refurbishment of the other levels within Block One, which include the Outpatients Department, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and COVID Response.



Key highlights

- Supported the **refurbishment of the accident and emergency department of Charlotte Maxeke hospital**, helping to bring a critical health facility back on line.

Funding

- Allocated: R68m
- Spent: R33.6m

Project duration

- October 2021 to March 2023

"The recommissioning of the Accident and Emergency unit is a key milestone, and we are pleased that the hospital will be able to relieve pressure from surrounding hospitals and community healthcare centres who have had to take in more patients since the closure of this facility last year. We are extremely grateful to the Solidarity Fund who sponsored the work done in the Accident and Emergency and the Spire Fund for implementing the project."

Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla

SUPPORTING VITAL RESEARCH FOR THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE

A critical tool in the fight against the pandemic is the availability of current, accurate information about the prevalence of the COVID-19 virus infections and how it is spreading throughout communities. Testing and tracing is one method being employed to gather this data. However, since this is mostly done on patients who seek testing and are already showing symptoms, and there is a delay in when symptoms arise after infection, this method puts us behind the curve of the infection. Current testing also doesn't capture the vast numbers of asymptomatic cases in the general population who would not go for testing due to lack of symptoms and not knowing their exposure status.

Therefore, the Solidarity Fund supported the South African Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) to conduct innovative research that is providing invaluable information on the spread and evolution of the pandemic in the country. This is helping to refine and focus the pandemic response and vaccination efforts, using local data.



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The Fund supported the following key COVID-19 research projects:

A national COVID-19 antibody seroprevalence survey, led by the HSRC, to determine the actual prevalence of COVID-19 virus infection in the general population, including the proportion of asymptomatic infections, using antibody tests.

Seroprevalence surveys of SARS COV-2 antibodies provide valuable information about the true extent of the COVID-19 pandemic. It counts infected people who have not been tested, including those that are asymptomatic. The project aimed to undertake a nationally representative household survey to determine the actual prevalence of COVID-19 in the South African population.

This data would help better inform and characterize the pandemic in the country, including which communities are more susceptible to infection, and determine the proportion of COVID-19 cases that are asymptomatic. The data is helping to inform the pandemic response, including vaccination strategies.

A wastewater COVID-19 surveillance and research early warning system

- that monitors wastewater for the presence of COVID-19 as an early warning system of the spread of the virus in communities. The purpose of the study was to use the identification of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in wastewater as a tool to study trends of the COVID-19 virus circulation in the population across time and locations.

The data from the wastewater study was used as an early warning system for COVID-19 to guide the best deployment of public health interventions and resources. Implementation of the study also helped to build capacity in early-career scientists, including from historically under-resourced universities, through training and promoting interdisciplinary research networks with researchers from various academic backgrounds and institutions.

A dashboard was developed to provide stakeholders with current data on the weekly average levels of COVID-19 in wastewater so they can make decisions timeously.

This research is being conducted through the SAMRC in conjunction with three historically under-resourced universities, thereby enabling the training and capacitation of the next generation of researchers.

Together with the University of Venda, the SAMRC is conducting **wastewater surveillance and molecular epidemiology of COVID-19 in northern South Africa**.

This research project aimed to build capacity within the university to conduct disease surveillance through support for the wastewater study and genome sequencing and variant detection of COVID-19 in northern South Africa.

Together with the Walter Sisulu University, the SAMRC is researching **the impact of obesity on COVID-19 severity and mortality** in the Eastern Cape. This research will help identify those most at risk for severe illness and death from COVID-19 due to obesity while building capacity for surveillance at the university.

The research projects have produced much-needed and highly beneficial data and information that is helping the country to better understand the spread of the SARS-Cov-2 virus through the population.



Key highlights

- The seroprevalence study was the **first to provide national estimates of the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in South Africa** based on a representative sample of the population.
- The **seroprevalence study provided decision-makers with critical information on the burden of COVID-19 infection in the country**, the high person-to-person transmissibility of COVID-19, and the proportion of asymptomatic infections, providing valuable information for prevention, testing, and vaccination strategies.
- The **wastewater study has implemented an early warning public health surveillance system** for COVID-19.
- **Capacity for surveillance research was strengthened** in three historically disadvantaged universities.

Funding

- Allocated: R50.4m
- Spent: R33.8m

Project duration

- HSRC seroprevalence study - September 2020 - 31 July 2021
- SAMRC Wastewater studies - April 2021 - February 2022





HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Improving food security and protection for vulnerable households, women and children

The COVID-19 pandemic and the vital measures put in place to slow its spread and keep citizens safe brought considerable challenges and disruption to people's lives. The lockdowns and related economic disruption in particular had a profound impact on the most vulnerable.

The Solidarity Fund's Humanitarian Pillar was designed to respond to the very real needs of people for food, safety and protection as they navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. The pillar augments the efforts of government and business to enhance households' sustained access to food, care, and other interventions, with a focus on reaching South Africa's most vulnerable households and communities and reducing the negative impact that COVID-19 had on aspects of their daily lives.

In the Fund's second year of operation, the humanitarian pillar has continued to focus on the two critical areas of

strengthening sustainable food relief efforts and supporting those affected by the spike in gender-based violence (GBV).

The need to improve livelihoods in the form of food safety, particularly in communities that were hardest hit by the pandemic, underpinned the Fund's food relief activities in the second year. The Humanitarian Pillar therefore continued and expanded the farming input voucher scheme, building on the successes and lessons from year one.

The Fund saw a very real impact from its GBV support in the first year, yet the need for continued support for those most deeply affected and vulnerable to GBV still exists. The pillar therefore continued its GBV initiatives into a second phase, providing grant funding to community-based and larger national level organisations to implement and expand their GBV programmes.

The humanitarian pillar works to support those whose most basic needs have been severely impacted by the pandemic in the following ways

Sustainable Food Relief

- **R94m** worth of **R2000** farming input vouchers provided to **47 173** households, benefitting **235 803** individuals through food security and sustained livelihoods, **68%** of which were redeemed by women.



Supporting GBV Response

- **332** CBOs and **11** NPOs reached **586 173** beneficiaries with information, advice, and direct services to help them with the effects of GBV.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FOOD RELIEF

The first phase of the Solidarity Fund's humanitarian food relief programme focused on supporting food parcel distribution to provide emergency relief to those left without access to food from the COVID-19 pandemic response measures. This was followed by a digital food voucher intervention, largely targeted at urban populations, which enhanced the dignity of beneficiaries and brought efficiencies to the programme by reducing logistical costs.

The Fund then explored options for a more rural-focused relief intervention to address the disruption caused by COVID-19 restrictions to household-level food-production in rural and peri-urban areas. A national-scale Farming Input Voucher (FIV) initiative was implemented to complement the digital food voucher intervention.



Digital Food Voucher Relief Programme

The Food Voucher Relief Programme sought to disburse 135,000 cash vouchers to beneficiaries most greatly affected by South Africa's COVID-19 lockdown. These included expectant mothers, creative industry artists and people working in sports who had lost income; unemployed youth who had lost temporary employment; migrants who were reliant on temporary work; as well as South Africans in rural areas that had also been adversely affected by the lockdowns.

The programme ran from July 2020 until May 2021, working with key public and private sector partners to leverage digital payment mechanisms for social payments, using technology to address and overcome challenges with existing social payment systems, especially the cost and logistics of payment distribution.

The programme focused its support on vulnerable groups who were not already benefiting from existing government grants and support schemes, helping to address their food insecurity created by the pandemic restrictions.

The Fund worked with four public and private sector payment partners to distribute the vouchers to beneficiaries identified from databases run by 10 government departments and civil society organisations working to provide relief to the most vulnerable citizens.

Through this programme the Fund was able to provide much needed rapid emergency relief to relieve food insecurity at a critical time in the pandemic response. By the end of the programme **128 656 vouchers were disbursed to the value of R90m, of which 107 539 were redeemed (84%)** at a value of R75m. The programme is discussed in detail in the previous year's annual report.





Farming Input Voucher Programme

Approximately 75% of predominantly rural subsistence farmers engage in agriculture to provide additional or supplementary food for their household, playing a critical role in household food security. The FIV programme focused on supporting those subsistence-focused smallholder and household farmers who had lost income as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, thereby compromising their ability to fund ongoing farming activities and the next farming cycle. Preference was given to rural and women farmers.

The programme provided vulnerable subsistence farmers with digital vouchers to the value of R2 000 to purchase key farming inputs such as basic equipment (wheelbarrows, hoes, garden hoses, etc.); vegetable and other seeds; poultry and poultry feed; and other inputs like fertiliser and pesticides, etc., to be able to continue with, and expand, their farming activities.

This support ensured these households had direct access to food, and helping to prevent them from being pushed into poverty. It also allowed small-scale farmers to retain their dignity since they have the desire and capability to grow food. The farming input vouchers offered a more sustainable approach to food security, helping to improve and sustain people's livelihoods.

Evolution of the Farming Input Voucher Programme

The first phase of the FIV programme was launched in the Fund's first year, continuing into the start of the second year. However the intensity of work and resources required to collect beneficiary data, verify, disburse, and redeem vouchers took longer than anticipated. Important lessons were learned during the first phase that helped shape the second phase and the development of other farming e-voucher disbursement platforms designed in South Africa (and globally).

The Fund's executive approved the use of the approximately R22m unspent funds from the R100m allocated for the first phase (R75m from the Solidarity Fund and R25m from the British Government), for a second phase. Phase II was aimed at supporting civil society and farming groups to promote voucher redemption uptake amongst their respective members, predominantly in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal where redemption rates were low during the first phase.

Coincidentally, phase II was rolled out in August 2021 after the July civil unrest, which primarily affected communities

in KwaZulu-Natal. This project served as an additional and welcome medium term intervention for those who were also impacted by the July unrest. The second phase came to an end in September 2021.

However, the need to support the development of agricultural value chains, sustainable agriculture, and food security remains, particularly for South Africans who have suffered job losses due to COVID-19. To this end, a third phase of the programme has been approved by the Fund's executive, with implementation beginning in early February 2022. A further 25 000 farming inputs vouchers will be disbursed to a new database of farmers who were not beneficiaries of the first two phases.

Partnerships

The partnerships with government, farmer organisations, the private sector, and the voucher partner, Mezzanine Ware, played a significant and immeasurable role in the success of the programme. The Fund partnered with Siyazisiza Trust, Save Act Trust, and Lingelihle Agricultural Farmers' Cooperative - NGOs that work to develop local small-scale and subsistence farms in rural areas, and support the rural poor, as well as the Land Network National Engagement Strategy in South Africa (LandNNES), a network of NGOs representing marginalised agricultural communities. This relationship helped to extend the reach of beneficiaries, especially to those with the most need, and improve redemption rates by minimising the distances farmers had to travel to redeem vouchers and collect inputs. These partners have worked closely with Mezzanine Ware to ensure the programme achieved its targets. This collaboration has also helped build their capacity to deliver services to their members.

Ensuring due diligence

The Solidarity Fund established controls throughout various stages of the FIV process to reduce the incidence of error and misuse. This included: authorising beneficiary identification personnel; automated cross-checking of selected registration inputs; formal signing off on final beneficiary lists by principals of the identification partners; user and product set-up protocols for input suppliers; and sales/voucher redemption reconciliations of input suppliers.

A concern was raised over an input supplier in the Eastern Cape. Following a thorough investigation and consultations with various key stakeholders, including the legal teams of Mezzanine Ware and the Solidarity Fund, it was concluded

that the process followed by the input supplier was reasonable given the challenges on the ground. However, strict control measures were put in place to minimise future risk.

These due diligence measures have ensured that the vouchers reached their intended beneficiaries, providing them with the support they need to maintain and grow their farming activities and ensure their households remain food secure.

Impact

The programme has proved to be a major success, with a final redemption rate of approximately 99%, or R94m worth of R2 000 vouchers redeemed. 47 173 household producers (vulnerable and subsistence) were supported with farming input vouchers, to enhance their production efforts as they strive to retain self-employment and support food value chains. Those farmers that have access to markets have been able to sell some of the produce for income generation.

235 803 individuals within supported households were reached, with vulnerable individuals and groups, women, youth and people with disabilities, child-headed households, farm dwellers and farm workers proactively supported. 68% of vouchers issued were redeemed by women.

The programme increased the buying power of input suppliers enabling them to sell produce worth R94m collectively and helped sustain local agricultural economic activity at a time when many businesses were struggling because of the pandemic restrictions. 206 of 323 registered

suppliers supplied approximately 171 608 units of input supplies in all nine provinces.

As a result of the success of this programme, the Solidarity Fund was approached by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) to make available its farmer database. The database is to be used by DALRRD to issue approximately R430m worth of farming inputs to smallholder/subsistence farmers. The Solidarity Fund and DALRRD are in the process of finalising a data sharing agreement in this regard.



Key highlights

- 99%, or R94m worth of R2 000 vouchers redeemed. 47 173 household producers (vulnerable and subsistence) were supported
- 235 803 individuals within supported households were reached
- R64m worth of vouchers redeemed by women (68%)

Funding

- Allocated: R100m (FIV programme)
- Spent: R98m

Project duration

- April – October 2021



Handover of farming inputs by the Chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leadership





Gratitude from NHTKL

“The National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leadership’s partnership with the Solidarity Fund is a great example of positive results that can be achieved through partnerships. It has brought back hope and confidence to our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The asset-based community development approach of the Farming Inputs Voucher Programme has helped reduce the dependency syndrome and uplifted our country’s economy. Some lessons learnt include poor telecommunications and road infrastructure that contributed to delays in delivery – particularly to poverty stricken and remote areas. We appreciate working with the Solidarity Fund and are grateful to its donors. It has been amazing and we look forward to future partnerships.”

Nkosikazi Mhlauli, Deputy Chairperson, National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders (Convenor for Solidarity Fund projects/programmes).



Flora Mphuthi, a farmer in the Kholokoeng traditional council, Free State, sells takeaway meals from her kitchen. She uses the produce from her garden to feed her family and to use in her takeaway business.

SUPPORTING THE GBV RESPONSE

Sadly the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the already existing challenges and causes of GBV and how it is dealt with. Services like shelters, clinics, and civil society organisations were having to adjust to the pandemic restrictions while trying to support an increasing need, all without adequate funds or PPE.

Through its first GBV programme, the Solidarity Fund provided much needed support to shelters through the National Shelter Movement of South Africa and to Thuthuzela Care Centres via the National Prosecuting Authority, and civil society organisations working in GBV, supporting them with PPE and other resources. The Fund also ran a national awareness campaign to equip survivors and potential victims with information on where to access immediate help such as shelters, or services, such as legal, paralegal, or psycho-social support.

Supporting community and systemic GBV programmes

The second phase of the GBV programme aimed to support organisations working at the local level who work with survivors, providing them with the necessary resources to implement positive programmes to assist those affected. The Fund provided **grant funding to 332 community-based organisations (CBOs), and 11 large Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs)** to assist them to continue providing the much-needed day-to-day assistance and systemic interventions to victims of GBV. The grant projects were implemented over a 12-month period.

The Fund's support through the CBOs was focussed on three core categories, chosen to have maximum impact and reach those most in need:

Prevention – Providing communication and information; programmes that focus on counselling, positive parenting, skills development and economic empowerment, addressing gender norms, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

Response – Providing trauma counselling; maintenance of shelter services; programmes to improve access to emergency response; support and capacity building for community caregivers; access to protection services.

Access to Justice – Provision of non-profit and/or free legal and paralegal support services or support to victims in the criminal justice system.

It was important for the Fund to work with CBOs that are rooted in their local community who could implement a

range of activities to strengthen the prevention response, access to justice, awareness raising, and direct services to survivors.

The Fund also provided grants to a smaller cohort of higher level partners who could have an impact at a more systemic level. The activities of the 11 systemic NPO partners also focused on the same categories as the CBOs, but included:

- Research, advocacy and/or policy work related to GBV in South Africa
- Development and scale-up of digital solutions that help to address GBV-related challenges
- Support for and capacity-building of the criminal justice system
- Support for and capacity-building of community-level responses to GBV
- Support for feminist movement building efforts
- Support of innovations and/or piloting of GBV initiatives that can be sustained beyond the Fund's support

The following core principles guided the GBV grant programme to ensure that the project maximised its reach and impact.

Creating synergies – An effective GBV response requires a multi-sectoral and organisational response. Grantees were encouraged to identify and leverage synergies between organisations operating in different areas but within the same catchment area to provide more holistic opportunities and maximise resources.

Augmenting local impact – It was vital to ensure that GBV services and support are available in the communities where they are most needed. The Fund therefore ensured that the grant programme supported under-resourced CBOs already active and making an impact in GBV in their communities.

Replicability and sustainability – The project was designed to provide a clear means of replication in other sectors to implement a well-funded national effort to eradicate GBV. The project's success has improved the grantee organisations, especially the CBOs, ability to attract additional funding from government and other non-governmental sources.

Innovation through limitation – The pandemic restrictions proved challenging, imposing limits on movement and interaction. However, this forced the grantee organisations to devise innovative solutions to their programmes, for

example developing virtual training and other mechanisms to assist and reach their beneficiaries.

Programme monitoring

The Fund partnered with Tshikululu Social Investments as the grants management partner to support the grantee application and organisation on-boarding process. The project was implemented nationally and overseen by Ucwangingo Research Surveys, Tshikululu's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) partner. Ucwangingo worked with Tshikululu and the Fund to develop a robust M&E framework and trained partners on M&E and reporting to ensure organisations were implementing programmes according to the desired impact the Fund wanted to achieve and utilising resources effectively. Ucwangingo is currently working with all partners to finalise their close-out reports for the conclusion of the project.





Key highlights

- 291 CBOs supported with R54 715 000 in funding to implement community-level GBV projects
- 11 NGOs supported with R9 991 491 in funding to implement systemic GBV programmes
- 586 173 beneficiaries reached with 16 508 activities (information, direct services, training, etc.)

Funding

- Allocated: R75m
- Spent: R68m

Project duration

- October 2020 – July 2022

"It has been very positive to see these organizations that really struggled to have any kind of visibility, struggled to access funding at all, to see how they've been able to operate because of the Fund's support. Especially during COVID when everything has been especially tight, a lot of them have been able to actually strengthen their services, reach more people in some cases, or reach out to different communities like neighbouring communities and expand what they're already doing."

Ali Channon, Tshikululu Social Investments



Seeing a positive impact in the community – Ekupholeni Mental Health and Trauma Centre

Ekupholeni Mental Health and Trauma Centre was established in 1994 during the political violence in the poverty-stricken townships in the East of Johannesburg, South Africa. The organisation works to support those affected by GBV, HIV and AIDS, and at-risk and vulnerable youth. They run a Thuthuzela Care Centre that supports victims of GBV and sexual violence with medical, legal, and psycho-social support to victims. They also provide survivors with comfort packs containing hygiene products to help them get cleaned up after they have been examined by health professionals, removing the stench of their attackers and helping them to feel better.

The Solidarity Fund support has enabled the organisation to expand their services into more police stations in the community, supporting victims of crime, including GBV, when they come to the police station to report crime. This support includes assistance and information with dealing with the police and the legal system, directing them to the Thuthuzela Care centres and shelters, as well as psycho-social support. Because of this expanded presence, the organisation caught the eye of the Department of Social Development and has now received funding from them.

The Fund's grant also allowed Ekupholeni to implement advocacy campaigns on behalf of survivors of GBV, going to the local courts during the trials of perpetrators, and raising awareness on GBV. This has led the judges to take these types of cases more seriously and hand out stiffer sentences to perpetrators.

The Fund's support also helped Ekupholeni to strengthen their awareness raising activities, holding a massive women's month commemoration event and community dialogues where survivors shared their stories with the community. Survivors told of how, with the support of Ekupholeni, their social functioning has improved. Their self-esteem and confidence has returned, they have been able to find jobs and become more economically self-sufficient, for students, their performance at school has improved, and the counselling has enabled them to see themselves as survivors and no longer as victims.

Receiving this grant from the Fund during the pandemic helped the organisation build resilience and be able to continue to operate and support their community. They ran men's groups, teaching men skills on how to manage their stress and deal with the impact from the pandemic measures without turning to GBV, and how to treat women with respect. When the schools closed during the lockdowns, they ran homework centres, and self-defence and life-skills classes for both boys and girls, helping them to deal with the impact of GBV or witnessing violence, and to minimise the disruption to their education.

The organisation is seeing the positive impact in the communities it works thanks to the support it has received from the Fund.

"I hear the people saying, this is what you have done for me, I am what I am today because of the services that I have received from you, and in a back of our minds, we are saying, if it was not for the Solidarity Fund, we, Ekupholeni, were not going to be able to bring this result or this outcome, or to make an impact within the community that we serve."

Zodwa Mzondo, Ekupholeni Executive Director



**BEHAVIOUR
CHANGE AND
COMMUNICATIONS
PILLAR**



In the first year of the Solidarity Fund the behaviour change and communications pillar focused on educating South Africans on non-pharmaceutical behaviours as a means of preventing further spread of COVID-19.

With the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines, the Fund shifted its focus to support the national vaccination programme – with an emphasis on creating demand and increasing the uptake of vaccinations – while continuing with prevention and safety messaging.

The Fund and its partners employed creative messaging and communications to educate and inform the public on the vaccine programme, helping to debunk myths, answer vaccine related questions, and ultimately to get more people vaccinated. Every person vaccinated makes us all safer and enables the government to reopen the economy, allowing people to move forward and realise their economic and social ambitions.

The initial vaccination communications focused on national mass communication campaigns to educate South African's

on why they should get vaccinated and providing general information on the COVID-19 vaccines and their benefits. These were targeted mostly at vulnerable age groups such as the elderly.

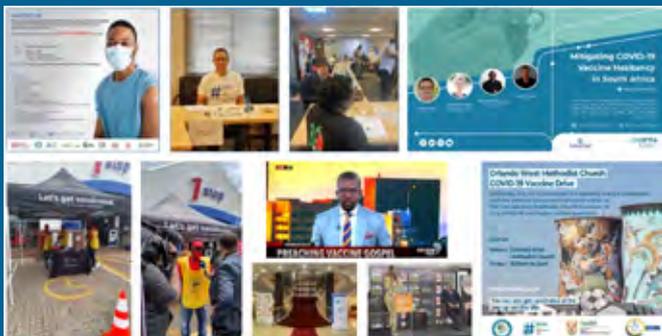
The Fund then adapted its strategy to individual targeted communications, working with its partners to understand the barriers and hesitations to the vaccine across different age and socio-economic groups. The Fund is now creating a very targeted, demand creation communications campaign that focuses largely on community mobilization - door to door mobilization, specific community activations, working through community media-radio stations to drive messaging, and collaborating with influential community stakeholders (individuals or organizations) to amplify communication on vaccination.

This messaging will provide targeted information infographics, media, and activations that address the specific barriers and hesitations in specific communities, with a particular focus on young people and young adults. These programmes began implementation in March 2022.



Engaging civil society to amplify reach

To intensify and extend its COVID-19 and vaccinations communications and ensure messaging reached all parts and all peoples of the country, the Fund collaborated with several civil society organizations. This collaboration helped to reach many more South Africans by providing information in all official languages and engaging people in their communities and through their faith.



Covid Comms

Covid Comms focused on creating, translating, and distributing credible and easily understood public health material during the behaviour change campaign. For the targeted vaccine demand creation campaign, they are implementing on-the-ground community workshops, collaborating with existing community organisations to increase vaccine uptake in communities.



The South African Council of Churches (SACC)

The South African Council of Churches (SACC) supported the creation of a dedicated interfaith COVID-19 forum to engage interfaith leaders and share key messages on the pandemic and increase demand for the vaccine. The Religious Forum Against COVID-19 was established in July 2021 bringing together leaders of various religious groups to the fight to combat COVID-19 and to promote the vaccine through their networks. The forum ran a mass communication campaign on their internal communication systems and public platforms including radio, TV, social media, email, websites and more, that provided information on the vaccine and promoted uptake. In September 2021 the forum then turned to a bottom-up approach, creating demand for the vaccine, and addressing hesitations and concerns, through local community engagements and on the ground mobilizations via the #VaxuMZansi Campaign.



Community Constituency Front (CCF)

Community Constituency Front (CCF) facilitates the participation of civil society sectors and networks and their constituent member organisations, in the national COVID-19 response and implementation of community-based measures to respond to the pandemic and its impact. The CCF appointed the Show Me Your Number HIV Prevention Project as the managing organisation and contracting party on its behalf for mobilising and managing the Solidarity Fund's support. CCF neighborhood agents have been conducting door-to-door mobilizations, working with key civil society community stakeholders to drive behaviour messaging and vaccination uptake over the past year.



Seriti Institute NPC

Seriti Institute NPC was supported by the Fund to conduct workshops to provide information on the vaccine and address hesitations and misinformation surrounding it. They produced content for community radio, YouTube, and Cape Town TV to encourage behaviour change and encourage vaccine uptake.

At a national level the Fund continued its partnership with Joe Public to implement the National Vaccine Demand Creation Campaign in October 2021: **#RollUpYourSleevesSA - get vaccinated so that we can get back to living**. This multi-layered campaign ran through radio, television, activations, mobilizations, and public relations, encouraging vaccination uptake in South Africa. Content was created for radio, television and social media whilst the mobilisation team worked on the ground supporting outreach vaccination sites and conducting door-to-door visits encouraging vaccination and addressing hesitancies and misinformation.

With an original media budget of R78 million, the Fund negotiated added value of R210 million, resulting in a campaign valued at R288 million. This universal support has led to impressive results:

- **23.3m people reached through TV**, six times, accounting for 65% of TV viewers.
- **25.4m reached through radio**, 71% of total listeners.
- **25 million reached through digital** channels, achieved 33 million video views, leading to **604 000 clicks to the official vaccination website**.
- **There were 1266 Out of Home sites** including 1019 in-taxi screens.

- A total of **1 400 pieces of content were generated** and earned media via PR resulted in an impressive 538 media clippings.
- On the ground, **950 community mobilisers** working in all nine provinces **achieved 670 000 direct engagements on average per month** to encourage, support, and convert citizens to get vaccinated.

After the conclusion of the community mobilisation programme at vaccine outreach sites, the health department noted a marked decrease in vaccinations due to the absence of mobilisers on site and requested the Solidarity Fund to continue to support this critical element of the programme. The Fund readily agreed and mobilisers were back on site as of the 14th of February 2022. The renewed outreach site community mobilisation consisted of 240 community mobilisers across the rural, peri-urban, and township landscapes, covering approximately 60 sites in eight provinces.

The national campaigns and civil society partnerships have aided the country's vaccination journey and contributed to the decision by many South Africans to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated.





Covid Comms – Empowering a nascent communications organisation

Covid Comms began as an informal group of volunteers -public relations and communications experts, graphic designers, video developers, translators, and others that work in the communications field - that came together during the first lockdowns to develop and support COVID-19 communications efforts. In December 2020, we were officially registered as a public benefit organization.

The organisation joined the government national communication partnership, where the Solidarity Fund, other civil society organizations, business, labour, and various communications stakeholders coordinated communications on COVID-19. We received our first grant from the Solidarity Fund in March 2021.

The partnership with the Fund has allowed us to transform from a volunteer organization, producing a small number of graphics, videos, and translations, to dramatically scale our output and reach, producing live action Public Service Announcement videos, higher quality animated videos, and more than quadruple the number of translations, making more content available in a greater diversity of languages.

With the Fund's support we piloted a series of vaccine workshops primarily targeted at youth, to provide accurate information about COVID-19 and the vaccine and address misinformation and hesitations. From these workshops we have been able to reach around four thousand participants, with a number of participants heading straight out to get vaccinated after attending.

We formed a collaboration with the Fund's other civil society partners - the SACC and CCF, linking with each other's activities and supporting each other to extend our reach, achieve more, and save resources. For example, we worked with the SACC to make use of our existing content to create education materials for communities, while they used their budget, originally earmarked to produce this content, for printing. This meant that together we were able to print and distribute twice the number of materials, saving hundreds of thousands of Rands, and reaching more people with vital information to help them make the best decisions around the pandemic and vaccinations. We also collaborated with other government departments like GCIS, at times producing content for them.

Working with the Fund has had a catalytic effect for us. The Fund has built a remarkable reputation and partnering with them has enabled us to secure additional funding, attract new partnerships, and expand upon our work. We are grateful that the Fund put their faith in us and empowered us to be creative and pilot and implement projects that make sense on the ground.

Through this support we have become a recognised and respected communications organisation focusing on filling the gap in the communications space in community organizations with low literacy rates, that operate in languages other than English, and supporting them with the tools they need to communicate internally and with their communities.



HUMANITARIAN CRISIS RELIEF FUND

In the winter of 2021, the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces were gripped by a wave of unrest and looting, causing catastrophic damage to businesses and severely impacting the livelihoods and lives of so many, especially informal traders and small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and those that work for and rely on them.

With businesses and civil society organisations still reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the unrest made it even more difficult for them to recover, leaving businesses struggling to survive, plunging many into unemployment, and negatively impacting the local economy.

The riots and looting also prevented access to medical care and cut supply chains of food, medicines, and COVID-19 vaccines, pushing already vulnerable communities further into need, and having a detrimental impact on the COVID-19 response.

The Solidarity Fund has shown its ability to mobilise rapidly in support of the COVID-19 pandemic, while maintaining due diligence and cost-effectiveness. The South African government therefore requested the Fund to assist with humanitarian and business recovery support in the provinces affected by the unrest. The Solidarity Fund thus established its fourth pillar: the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund.

Government donated R400m to the Fund, and with the agreement of its primary donors, the Solidarity Fund redirected R100m from the COVID-19 response fund to the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF). Philanthropic foundations and businesses also donated to the HCRF.

The HCRF has focused its efforts on the following four critical areas most impacted by the unrest

Food Relief

- Supporting the procurement and distribution of **157 112** food parcels, providing food relief to **± 678 310** vulnerable individuals.

Humanitarian Relief

- Providing cash vouchers to **6 827** informal traders and employees left unemployed and stranded after the unrest, to pay for essential products such as food, hygiene products, and utilities.

Civil Society Support

- Providing grant funding support to **39** civil society organizations working in Food Security, HealthCare, Peace Building, Economic Recovery, and NPO Support in communities that were severely affected by the unrest.

Business Recovery Support

- Providing financial assistance and business mentorship support to **254** SMMEs damaged or looted in the unrest, who are not covered by insurance, and are struggling to survive.
- Providing business recovery support to **11** pharmacies devastated by the unrest to ensure access to life saving medicines is disrupted for as short a time as possible.

FOOD RELIEF

The COVID-19 pandemic and the wave of unrest in the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces have severely exacerbated already high levels of food insecurity in these provinces, leading to a spike in hunger and a disruption in livelihoods, especially in the informal sectors.

It is estimated that over 70% of the food outlets throughout KwaZulu-Natal were devastated, and protesters disrupted food supply chains by looting supermarkets, torching goods trucks, and causing the closure of food distribution routes. Communities in these areas therefore faced major food shortages.

Furthermore, many were left unemployed from the unrest, leaving them unable to buy food for themselves and their families.

The Solidarity Fund partnered with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders (PHTL) to implement an emergency food relief response to help address the food shortages in the affected areas.

The DSD had mobilised rapidly to get emergency food relief to over a million households across both provinces. As part of this response, they requested funding support from the Solidarity Fund to procure and deliver food relief parcels for 135 662 distressed households that were experiencing severe food insecurity, 81 376 in KwaZulu-Natal and 54 286 in Gauteng.

The Department made use of the existing infrastructure for delivering food relief using established food distribution mechanisms in each province, such as community beneficiaries, facilities for the vulnerable, and feeding programmes.

The food parcels contained products to the value of R700 and typically included starches such as fortified maize meal and rice, proteins such as pilchards, baked beans, and full cream milk powder, seasonal vegetables, seasoning, cooking oil, and soap.

KwaZulu-Natal was much more severely impacted by the unrest, with a large number of informal traders affected. It also has a more rural geography making it harder for those affected in the province to access relief points. The Fund therefore partnered with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial House of Traditional Leaders (PHTL) to distribute food relief parcels to the 196 districts that were affected and which the House oversees.

The food parcels contained enough food to feed a family of four for one month, to the value of R740. The PHTL was contracted to support the last mile of distribution from the central delivery point at the Traditional Council to the homes of the beneficiaries. Each Traditional Council was required to ensure a community-led system for distribution at this level, as well as monitoring and reporting on the distribution, so the Fund could ensure that vulnerable beneficiaries were prioritised, such as women-headed households.

This donation of 21 450 food parcels enabled over 85 thousand vulnerable South Africans in rural KwaZulu-Natal to survive as supply chains recovered, and as support for informal traders and small businesses was rolled out.



Key highlights

- **157 112 food parcels delivered**
(DSD: 135 662; PHTL: 21 450) (KZN:102 826; GP: 54 286)
- **± 678 310 individuals benefitted** from the food parcels
- **196** traditional councils reached

Funding

- Allocated: R120m
- Spent: R115m

Project duration

- DSD: 01 August - 30 September 2021
- PHTL: 11 August - 30 September 2021

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

The civil unrest of July 2021 left thousands of informal traders and employees of affected businesses unemployed and stranded, unable to make a living and support themselves and their families. The Solidarity Fund cash voucher project was designed as a means of getting much needed financial support to these vulnerable groups in the form of cash vouchers to the value of R3000.

Providing cash vouchers allows those in need to access support with dignity and offers them flexibility and agency to use the money on things they really need according to their individual circumstances. The voucher support helps to mitigate the loss of jobs and income while they either seek alternative employment or while waiting for businesses and malls to rebuild.

The R3 000 cash vouchers provided short term relief and were intended to cover beneficiaries for at least three months. The digital vouchers are custom made uniquely for this project so that beneficiaries can redeem at a bank ATM, OTT Collect voucher approved outlets and over 30 retailers country wide.

The Fund worked closely with its implementing partner the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) to target 20 000 informal traders and employees as voucher recipients. Beneficiaries were selected according to strict criteria, including that they were employed or operating at affected KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng malls, have been identified by the NEF and who can provide valid proof of identity and contact details.

This selection process is crucial to ensuring that grants are disbursed to those most in need. Further checks are used to ensure due diligence in the system, including using

a technical partner to check proof of identification and existence, using the Know Your Customer platform; use of the banking partner's technology platform to identify duplications, errors in identity and mobile contact numbers; and having the Fund's internal processes sign off on vetted databases that are used to select beneficiaries.

The Fund also consulted with local government and private sector entities in the affected provinces to ensure a coordinated response and that the Fund's support helped to fill gaps in the unrest support response.

The HCRF pillar is leveraging existing technology partners to rollout the cash voucher programme in support of the Fund's rapid response mandate. Making use of digital cash vouchers is a tried and tested solution in facilitating financial inclusion and digitisation of payments. The digital cash voucher technology further allows for visibility, governance, and reporting in real-time, allowing for more effective and timely programme management. This programme is expected to run for four months to April 2022.



Key highlights

- **6 827 beneficiaries** received cash vouchers (34% of target)
- **R20.5m** total value of issued vouchers
- **5 126 (75%)** issued vouchers redeemed

Funding

- Allocated: R62m
- Spent: R21m

Project duration

- January 2022 – April 2022

BUSINESS RECOVERY SUPPORT

The Fund's business recovery support programme focuses on providing financial assistance and business mentorship support to SMMEs and pharmacies that were damaged or looted in the unrest, and providing grant funding support to civil society organizations that were also severely affected.

Helping businesses bounce back

SMMEs are the lifeblood of our communities and the economy, providing employment, access to goods, and supporting suppliers. They also provide a mammoth 70% of jobs in South Africa. Sadly 89% of the businesses affected by the July 2021 unrest were SMMEs. These businesses were losing up to R3.4 billion a month in revenue while being closed due to the unrest, and required more than R16 billion in operational funding to recover.

Given the enormous value of SMMEs to the economy and livelihoods of South Africans, the Solidarity Fund knew it had to act quickly to support these businesses to recover as quickly as possible from the civil unrest. The recovery of these businesses was inextricably linked to the reversal of the negative impact of the unrest on affected communities, from employment through to ease of access to services that were available in the community, but as a result of the unrest, communities had to travel elsewhere to access.

In September 2021, the NEF and the Solidarity Fund pooled resources to assist businesses that are affected by the unrest that were not covered by insurance, and that are struggling to survive. In terms of the arrangement, the parties allocated an initial minimum of R450m towards the partnership, with the NEF making R300m available as interest free loans, and the Fund making R150m available as grants. This support was aimed at more established SMMEs with a turnover of over R3m.

Subsequently, both the NEF and Solidarity Fund have made additional contributions to the partnership to increase the fund value to R740m and expanding support to include co-operatives and pharmacies. The Solidarity Fund allocated additional resources of R63m - R20m to assist entities in the medical space and R43m for SMMEs with a turnover of less than R3m and several cooperatives. The Fund's contribution is administered by the NEF and each supported transaction under this arrangement includes both a loan and a grant portion.

The NEF issued a call for applications to eligible businesses which was published on social media including Facebook and LinkedIn, and submitted to NEF network partners and industry bodies. The Fund and NEF also held webinars in October and November 2021 to promote the call for applications and address queries.

To date, 240 applications are under consideration to the value of over R980m. Of these, 79 applications have been approved at a value of R575m (NEF contributions: R428.8m; SF grant contribution: R146.5) that will save 2 919 jobs.

The NEF also partnered with the Independent Community Pharmacy Association (ICPA) to channel R20m of business support to pharmacies looted and damaged in the unrest. The NEF maintains a management role, ensuring due diligence while disbursing funds.

To date the NEF has disbursed R12m to 11 pharmacies saving 83 Jobs and is reviewing the further pharmacies selected by ICPA that require grant and blended funding (grant and loan facilities) for consideration.

Under the SMME/Cooperatives budget, to date, one enterprise has been approved R700,000 grant funding, saving seven jobs.

Reviving township and rural economies

In response to the unrest, Afrika Tikkun NPC launched its #RevivingTownshipEconomies campaign to help rebuild township economies one business at a time. The Solidarity Fund has partnered with Afrika Tikkun and the First National Bank (FNB) Disaster Relief Fund to provide crisis relief to SMMEs in the townships and rural areas that have a turnover of less than R3m, employ on average three to five people, and who contribute on average R600 000 to the economy.

Afrika Tikkun is responsible for conducting a thorough needs analysis of the recipient, verifying the business registration, and will then manage the distribution and monitoring of funds and/or donations in kind to each approved business. FNB is supporting the verification of the selected businesses, vetting against fraud, and verifying the turnover of the business.

The Solidarity Fund has approved R64m to be distributed in three tranches to fund a maximum of 900 businesses targeting an average cost per grant of R71 211. All entrepreneurs must be based in Gauteng and / or KwaZulu-Natal.

As of the end of February 2021, the two tranches of funding have been disbursed to the value of R20m has been disbursed to 174 SMMEs, at an average of R112,931 per SMME, saving 834 jobs.



Key highlights

- **254** SMMEs supported
- **11** Pharmacies supported
- **8 343** jobs saved

Funding

- Allocated: R338m
- Spent: R265m

Project duration

- NEF: September 2021 - April 2022
- Afrika Tikkun: December 2021 - March 2022



Afrika Tikkun – Supporting township and rural businesses

Afrika Tikkun helps to develop communities by supporting individual at all stages of life from early childhood development, through education, and supporting youth to enter employment either through jobs or entrepreneurship. We work in township and rural communities throughout the country.

We also work with SMMEs in these areas to assist them to be more profitable, sustainable, and to help them grow and employ more people.

We were deeply distressed by the civil unrest, and seeing so many people who have put their life and livelihoods on the line and overcome huge challenges to start a business in their community. It was really important for us to do something for the people who have lost everything, so we started a campaign to revive township economies and help entrepreneurs get back on their feet. As our campaign grew, we attracted more and more funding support, and was eventually introduced to the Solidarity Fund by FNB.

The partnership with the Fund allows us to provide grant funding to up to 900 small businesses to get them back on their feet and actively trading and save jobs. But beyond this we wanted to show these small businesses that there are people who care about them and who are willing to help them out unconditionally to recover after a traumatic event.

So we provide them with business mentorship and some trauma counselling, focusing on the business development going forward, as well as looking back at where the business was before the unrest, and processing what happened during it. This support is provided through an online platform and face-to-face for those who are not computer literate or who don't have online access.

Collaborating with the Solidarity Fund has enabled us to scale our support to more SMMEs which was absolutely crucial for us. It also helped us to achieve the fine balance between getting support to beneficiaries as quickly as possible, while still ensuring the necessary checks and balances are in place to ensure the funds go to the correct beneficiaries. It has also brought more credibility and visibility to our campaign in communities and with other potential funders.

Just a few of those that we have helped with the Fund's support include several **rural farmers in KwaZulu-Natal** who had lost all their cattle in the looting. They're not computer literate, and have no ambition to be so, so we provide them with more informal, face-to-face support and mentorship to help them to formalize their businesses a little and improve their budgeting, and with counselling support.

Alex FM is a 28-year community radio station in Alexandra, Gauteng that was looted, losing over R2m in equipment. We supported them with a grant to get back on their feet which has propelled the national lottery to provide them with further support to replace much of the equipment that they lost. The station had not been off air for significant periods for over 20 years and now had to go offline for an entire day. But through their determination and our support they were able to bounce back quite quickly.



Another great success is a **butcher in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal** who had quit a secure job and poured all his time and considerable resources into buying and running the butchery. He had taken out a loan and an additional bond on his house to make his dream a reality. During the unrest all his stock was looted, all his equipment and fridges were broken, and he was unable to trade for six months. But he still had to keep repaying his debt while his business wasn't operating, getting him even further into debt. Our grant helped him to get back trading again, opening on Christmas Eve, and his business has picked up considerably, enabling him to, in his words, "start getting out of the mess and see the light at the end of the tunnel".

"Helping these community businesses to recover has a really big impact on the community. Seeing their businesses bounce back and the people they have come to know in their local shops and restaurants, etc. returning after facing all of this trauma is inspiring and uplifting."

Alef Meulenber, Afrika Tikkun CEO



SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY

It was not only businesses that were devastated by the unrest. Civil society and communities all felt the brunt of the protests, disrupting services and key activities that help communities to survive and thrive.

The Fund partnered with Tshikululu Social Investments to provide grants to civil society organisations that suffered damage from the violence through for example looting or arson, as well as those that are providing urgent support for sustainable food security, access to healthcare, that are helping to rebuild economies through business recovery and livelihoods projects, and those that work to support trauma recovery, peacebuilding, and social cohesion.

The Fund published a nationwide call for applications from eligible civil society organisations (public benefit organisations) for grants ranging from R500 000 - R10m for no more than six months, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, for organisations that were directly impacted by the violence or responding to urgent needs from the violence in the key areas mentioned above.

An independent panel of experts was convened to review short-listed applications and approve successful recipients. A total of 39 organisations working in the focus areas of food security, economic recovery, healthcare, NPO support and peace building were approved for grant funding.

As of the end of February 2022, contracting with approved organisations is under way, after which the funds will be disbursed.

Through this civil society grants programme, the Fund is helping to stabilise targeted communities through holistic assistance and peacebuilding activities and support those communities ravaged by the violence to recover, rebuild, and progress.



Key highlights

- **39 organisations** working in food security, economic recovery, healthcare, NPO support and peace building **approved for grant funding**

Funding

- Allocated: R87m
- Spent: R0m

Project duration

- October 2021 – April 2022



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Solidarity Fund would like to thank all the contributing organisations, companies, and individuals who have worked tirelessly, contributed what they could and made sacrifices over the last two years to help the Fund achieve its purpose and help countless South Africans to weather the pandemic and overcome the devastation of the civil unrest.

Together we have made a real difference in the lives of so many. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you!

All the people who have dedicated their time over the past year to the Solidarity Fund as volunteers or seconded staff.



The Solidarity Fund also acknowledges the work of the Reporting Team led by Wongakazi Majola and supported by Gwen Wilkins (lead author), Jordyn Armstrong, Elné Potgieter (design), Victoria Peverett (editing and proofreading) and the Solidarity Fund teams who contributed to this report.

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Glossary

Acronyms

APC	Accounting Practices Committee
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
BBBEE	Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment
B4SA	Business for South Africa
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DGMT	DG Murray Trust
EC	Eastern Cape
EXCO	Executive Management Team
FBO	Faith-based Organisation
FRB	FirstRand Group
FRSC	Financial Reporting Standards Council
FS	Free State Province
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GBVCC	GBV Command Centre
GIZ	German Department for Development Cooperation
GP	Gauteng Province
HDIHL	Historically Disadvantaged Institutions of Higher Learning
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
HSS	Health System Strengthening
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
ICPA	Independent Community Pharmacy Association
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IHS	Imperial Health Sciences
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal Province
LP	Limpopo Province
MP	Mpumalanga Province
NC	Northern Cape Province
NDoH	National Department of Health
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NHLS	National Health Laboratory Services
NHTL	National House of Traditional Leaders
NPO	Not for Profit Organisation
NSMSA	National Shelter Movement of South Africa
NW	North West Province
PBO	Public Benefit Organisation
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
SACC	South African Council of Churches
SAMRC	South African Medical Research Council

SANZAF	South African National Zakaah Foundation
SARAO	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
SAVE-P	South African Emergency Ventilator Project
SEP	Selection and Evaluation Panel
SPIRE	South African Pandemic Intervention and Relief Effort (initiative of FirstRand Group)
WC	Western Cape
WHO	World Health Organisation

Definitions

COVAX

A global pooled procurement mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines for all 190 participating economies. It is run by a coalition that includes the Vaccine Alliance known as Gavi and the World Health Organization.

Extraction kits

Extract RNA, a kind of genetic material, from patient samples, a crucial step that labs must take to identify the virus.

Funding allocated

Amount approved by the Executive Disbursement Committee, Disbursements Board Sub-committee and/or Solidarity Fund Board for a specific initiative.

Funding disbursed

Payment of money from the Solidarity Fund to projects/service provider, on the basis of a signed grant agreement and/or service provider contract.

Hotspot

Geographical areas where cases of COVID-19 are high and rising.

In-kind contribution

The payment in goods or services as opposed to money.

Invasive ventilators

The term 'invasive' is used if it involves any instrument penetrating via the mouth (such as an endotracheal tube), nose, or the skin (such as a tracheotomy tube through a stoma, a surgically-created hole in the windpipe) to serve as an artificial airway.

Non-invasive ventilators

Simpler equipment called a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) ventilator which assists with patients' breathing. Non-invasive ventilation supports the patient's breathing without the need for intubation or a tracheotomy.

Pro bono

Services that are provided by experts/professional at no cost to the Solidarity Fund.

Reagents

Are chemicals required to prepare samples for testing.

SARS-CoV-2

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 is a novel severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus.

Seroprevalence

Detect the prevalence of COVID-19 antibodies in the general population and estimate how many people have had COVID/COVID exposure.



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