



# FLOODS RESPONSE: WEFEEDSA – SHELTER AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

## Impact Report

PROJECT	FUNDING ALLOCATED (EXCL. VAT)	FUNDING SPENT (EXCL. VAT)	FUNDS RETURNED TO SOLIDARITY FUND
<i>Boreholes</i>	R3 677 500	R3 676 484	R1 016
<i>Home repairs</i>	R2 385 000	R2 323 062	R61 938
<i>School repairs</i>	R970 000	R774 782	R195 218
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R7 250 000</b>	<b>R6 989 132</b>	<b>R260 868</b>

### 01

#### SOLIDARITY FUND FLOOD RESPONSE MANDATE

The Solidarity Fund brings together government, business, and civil society to help South Africa respond to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following a resolution from its Board of Directors, the Fund expanded its mandate to include disaster relief response to benefit all victims of any disaster in South Africa where such relief may be required. This response includes the provision of humanitarian relief, including food, water and sanitation, emergency health care services, shelter, and other support services.

After severe flooding devastated large swathes of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the Eastern Cape in April 2022, the Fund responded to the government's request to assist with the flood response efforts and set up the Solidarity Fund Flood Response.

The impact of the floods has been profound. Approximately 444 deaths, 40 000 displaced people and 13 790 totally or partially destroyed homes were recorded in KZN. While the crisis in Eastern Cape is on a smaller scale, the impact on these mostly rural, socio-economically deprived communities are no less devastating. Over 3 000 families, 1 943 homes, and countless livestock, crops, farming equipment and infrastructure were destroyed due to the floods. Across both provinces, access to health, education, food, transportation, and water and sanitation services have been interrupted due to the extensive damage to infrastructure and supply chains.

As part of its flood response, the Fund, following a board resolution and support from relevant donors, redirected some of its resources and raised additional funds to fund seven projects. These projects focused on supporting those displaced by the flooding by providing food and essential products, integrated shelter services, and psychosocial support.

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## PROVIDING ACCESS TO WATER AND SHELTER

The after-effects of the floods are still very evident, with many communities left without water and homes. After the emergency relief efforts by civil society and the government, thousands remain in evacuation shelters and community halls with uncertain futures.

To help those displaced by the floods, the Fund partnered with weFEEDsa to support those families, communities, and schools to provide access to water and sustainable solutions through the implementation of potable borehole solutions, home repairs, and school repairs. The intention of the boreholes was to provide drinkable water to those victims whose water supply was either partially or entirely cut off due to water infrastructure damages. By supporting the repairs to victims' homes, the project worked to provide a safe living space as well as helping to replace household goods that were either damaged or lost for those that did not have the funds or insurance to recover from their losses. In respect of the schools, the focus was to repair property damaged by the floods to create a safe environment for learners and educators where support was not received from the government.

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## PARTNERS

The Fund partnered with weFEEDsa as the project implementation partner. WeFEEDsa is a non-profit organisation (NPO) that works to feed, educate, and empower the less fortunate in a dignified manner. They work synergistically with 50 NPOs, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and companies to effectuate a significant difference for those in need.

Deloitte, an extensive professional services network and one of the big four accounting firms, provided project management support to the project on a pro bono basis.

### Principal contractors and service providers

The project worked with various contractors and service providers to source, deliver and install boreholes and effect building repairs. All contractors and service providers were appointed through a competitive process, with cognisance taken of their pricing and their previously disadvantaged status. All appointed service providers and contractors were local to the region. They had been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the civil unrest in 2021, and/or the recent floods, with some businesses on the brink of closure. Allowing them to work on this project helped to rejuvenate their businesses and gave them the opportunity to retain and/or re-employ their old staff.

Where challenges were experienced with contractors and/or service providers, efforts were taken to find a solution through remedial efforts. Where this was not possible, replacement service providers were contracted.

In implementing the boreholes, safe and secure sites were identified by the project's assessment team through careful consultation and negotiation with local community leaders. This helped to provide long-term sustainable solutions for communities.

## IMPACT



**30 boreholes** were installed, converted, or repaired to provide drinking water to affected communities.



**10 schools** impacted by the floods repaired.



**50 flood damaged homes** replaced and/or repaired.

**44 homes provided with basic household furniture** for a new start in life. Household furniture consisted of:

- Double base bed and mattress
- Double bunk bed with mattresses
- Kitchen base cupboard
- Kitchen table and four chairs
- Stainless steel gas stove with two plates
- Linen and fitted sheets for all beds including pillows
- 5kg gas cylinder with gas

**88 144 beneficiaries** reached either directly or indirectly.

### CREATING TEMPORARY JOBS AND EMPOWERING LOCAL CONTRACTORS

The project **created temporary employment for 116 people**, including women, in the various geographical areas. Local labour was sourced from the local communities, with an emphasis on upskilling certain individuals that showed potential.

Local subcontractors that were used were tutored on how to do formal quoting, measurements, setting out and levelling, whilst local transporters with bakkies/vans were afforded the opportunity to transport materials from suppliers to the various sites. All principal contractors were required to source materials from suppliers based within the local community. This resulted in funding going back into the community, helping to enhance and uplift these local community-based small businesses.

### DIRECT IMPACT

**88 028 people** have benefitted directly from each project category:

- 80 532 with access to water through the boreholes
- 250 through homes repairs/replacements
- 724 through school repairs

### INDIRECT IMPACT

**The 116 temporary jobs created** during the project include:

- 3 x Project managers
- 10 x Bricklayers
- 11 x Painters
- 55 Labourers
- 37 Delivery staff and transport contractors



**7 local community-based small businesses** benefitted from the increased sales in building materials generated by the project.

**21 contractors/service providers**, including transport contractors, were utilised on the project.

**Over 83%** of service providers were historically disadvantaged individuals.

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

Prior to implementation, due consideration was given to the root cause of the damage and how to best mitigate against any recurrence. Cognisance was taken of the type of structures that would be best suited to withstand devastation in the event of a recurrence. Within the limited budget per home, the solutions offered are all long-term sustainable solutions.

Certain homes were deliberately built on stilts, elevated off the ground to allow any future excess stormwater to flow safely beneath the home, reducing the risk of the home being washed away. In some cases, roadside kerbing was installed to re-direct stormwater away from the homes and towards the intended stormwater catch pits.

In most cases, the boreholes were installed in secure locations such as schools, religious sites, NGO sites and, in some exceptional cases, in community leaders' homes. The custodians have taken the responsibility to maintain and safeguard the infrastructure in return for access to free water to their respective facilities/institutions/communities.

In the case of schools, these boreholes will have a double impact by ensuring minimum disruption to teaching since schools had to close early due to water not being available for hygiene and hydration purposes. These boreholes serve a dual positive impact on the local communities.

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### **BENEFICIARY STORIES AND INSIGHTS**

The joy and the smiles of the beneficiaries on handover are very rewarding. WeFEEDsa has also grown through experience and is positioned support other humanitarian organisations, communities, and individuals with similar projects in the future. We are pleased to have provided solutions with a lasting impact which will provide dignity to those who have received the benefits for years to come.

*"They came in here I was sitting outside not knowing what to do after the floods and told me that they will come and build me a shelter. Indeed, they came and build for me. Today they bring gifts, wonderful gifts. I don't know what to say. Thank you so much weFEEDsa".*

**Gogo Madlala - Recipient of a prefabricated home in Mpola**

*"I would like to say thank you to weFEEDsa for giving us a shelter over our head after we have been victimized by floods. Now today they bring furniture: beds and linen, gas stove with gas cylinder, table, and chairs. I am really happy thank you so much."*

**Counsellor Siganda Shezi - Ward 15 Ethekeweni Municipal Council**



*"Shout out to team weFEEDsa for partnering with us. Thank you for donating the complete borehole system. What an awesome project, not only does LRC benefit from this, but this amazing team also installed taps outside the facility for the entire community to benefit."*

**Lorraine's Rehabilitation Centre NPC**



**Borehole Reservoir.**



**Borehole Cato Manor.**



**Water tasting by the Solidarity Fund team.**

**These flood victims' homes were rebuilt and they also received furniture.**

## 06

### CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION

The project experienced several challenges, with the team working hard to mitigate them as best as possible.

**Tight deadlines to deliver 90 solutions** – The project was implemented against a tight timeline. To meet this timeline, the project defined clear timelines for activities, contingencies, and worked through weekends and public holidays.

**Potential budget overruns** – These were mitigated by hard negotiations with suppliers, re-thinking the solutions without affecting the impact, and balancing new installations of boreholes with repairs and conversions instead.

**Accessibility to sites where there was no water supply and roads to drop off building materials at the time of construction** – These were mitigated by working with the local community to physically carry materials to sites, arrange a JoJo tank with water whilst the borehole in the community was being implemented, and doing small deliveries with small vehicles to deliver to the sites. Water was fetched manually from the river, loaded onto bakkies, and then transported to refill the JoJo tanks for building purposes.

**Security issues on sites** – This was mitigated by getting community buy-in to the project and using local labour to assist with the project. In some cases, security companies were engaged in enforcing security.

**Lost days due to weather, strikes, and delay in delivery of materials** – These were mitigated through working longer hours during the and, fortunately, without increasing quoted costs.

Some other minor problems were identified on projects during and after the completion of work. The project team's on-site quality inspections identified these, and an activity list with strict timelines was used to manage the remediation of these.

## 07

### LESSONS

Some of the homes that were washed away were built in areas prone to flooding again in future. Better planning of homes should be carefully considered before their erection to mitigate this. However, the project ensured that all homes supported were safe to occupy.

Aged, damaged, and unkempt municipal infrastructure was also a major contributing factor towards the flooding. Furthermore, roadsides were absent of kerb and channels, which would help contain the flow of stormwater and prevent homes from being flooded and washed away. There is a huge need for government and local municipal councils to address these challenges.

Time and budget constraints limited the extent of certain implementations, particularly in homes. Given this limitation, the project could not provide a fully serviced home that included electricity and plumbing. Future projects should consider these aspects and plan for the budget and contract period to allow for a fully serviced home.

## CONCLUSION

Through this project, the Solidarity Fund and weFEEDsa provided high-impact long-term sustainable solutions to families and communities severely impacted by the flooding. The project helped provide homes for vulnerable families and create a safe environment for learners and educators through school repairs. Through the implementation of the boreholes, communities that have not had water, or are experiencing water interruptions since the floods, were provided with safe potable water.

There is still a lot to be done to return these communities to normal living conditions and restore their human dignity. Further projects of this kind will achieve similar sustainable results and help to bring long-term relief to communities.

