

SOLIDARITY FUND  
INTEGRATED ANNUAL REPORT

March 2020 – February 2021

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**THIS IS  
SOLIDARITY**



**“When spiders unite, they can tie down a lion.”**

African proverb

## **IN 2020, THE WORLD CHANGED.**

South Africa, like the rest of the world, faced an enemy like no other. One that would turn our world upside down and test us to our limits.

Because of this enemy, we had to stay apart. But, to overcome it, we would have to stand together.

Seeing the devastation the COVID-19 pandemic was wrecking in other countries, we knew we had to act, and act fast – as one – to lessen the deadly impact this disease would bring.

And so, we came together. From all walks of life – those with plenty and those with very little – we came together. Through the Solidarity Fund, we opened our hearts and our wallets. We gave of our money, we gave of our time, and we gave of our knowledge, expertise and experience.

And together we are making a difference. We are helping those who need it most. We are helping to save lives and to bring hope.

This is the story of how, together, we are meeting the challenges the pandemic throws at us and are standing together in our hour of need.

This is your story.



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“**South Africa put their trust in us, we couldn't let them down.**”

## PERSPECTIVES FROM GLORIA TOMATOE SEROBE

– *Solidarity Fund Chairperson*

The establishment of the Solidarity Fund came with a mixture of excitement and a great deal of anxiety. We were confronted with something we didn't know. Witnessing what the COVID-19 pandemic was doing to Italy and Spain, just the ruthlessness of it, we weren't sure what it meant for South Africa. What would it do to our fragile health system? Would it stand up to the onslaught?

Government recognised they would need to harness the power of the private sector and civil society to respond quickly and be able to adapt to whatever came our way. This was the strength of the Fund. We could rapidly garner and mobilise support from private sector, civil society and even ordinary South Africans, to give our country the best possible chance to take on this enemy.

South Africans threw themselves behind the Fund: emotionally, financially, and with in-kind support. We received

money from individuals, from corporates, from foundations. Even from people who had nothing. We could tell people just what they wanted to feel like they had done their little bit to help.

And in a very short time, over 300 000 people donated. It felt as if they had put all their hopes on the Fund. It was really quite touching.

But it also put a huge burden on us. We had to meet people's expectations. We couldn't disappoint them. People trusted us with what little they have, and we had to make sure we protected their money, that our governance was robust, and that the money went to the right places to really have an impact.

And so we mobilised a team to help us fulfil this duty bestowed on us. Many came forward to assist. Highly respected companies helped with governance, finance, legal

and administrative matters. They joined forces with us to make sure that nothing slips through the cracks. Business for South Africa connected us with businesses all over the country to help implement our projects in whatever way was needed.

In the end, over 400 highly skilled volunteers joined us. Overnight we created this large company that we are not paying for. The fund has not paid any salaries, consultants or fees, and has not had any overheads. All individuals who have worked for the fund have worked pro bono or have been seconded, and all companies supporting the fund have done so pro bono. Because of this great team of people, we could be flexible and get things done quickly. We could deal with this crisis in a way that government processes sometimes could not allow, and they found that very, very helpful.

The Fund is managed by a diverse and highly skilled board and leadership team that came together overnight. Even though many of us had never worked together and were just getting to know each other, there was a huge amount of trust. We knew that each individual was there for the right reasons, and that with a team of leaders in their field, we could be confident we were making the right decisions.

I am truly grateful to the leadership of the interim CEO Nomkhitha Nqweni, who's full time pro bono service to the fund for the first demanding eight months from April to November 2020, was a true patriotic act of love for the country.

She was fully supported by a strong team of executives, dedicated leaders in their own right - Dr Jonathan Broomberg, Nic Kohler, Nicola Galombik, Paul Bondi, Mike Easter, John Hunt, Itumeleng Mahabane, and Grant Brewer. Their efforts shaped the fund into the success it is. I cannot express my gratitude enough to this team.

In November 2020, we welcomed the current CEO Tandi Nzimande. I am grateful to Tandi and her team for this seamless transition to the second phase, and their ability to adapt to an ever-changing pandemic that keeps bringing new challenges.

I am privileged to Chair our diverse board comprising highly experienced individuals - Sizwe Nxasana, Ayanda Ntsaluba, Thulani Tshefuta, Michael Katz, Tryphosa Ramano, Kgomotso Makhupola, and Ministers Tito Mboweni and Ebrahim Patel, all who provide their services pro bono. Their guidance, together with the amazing support from my Deputy Chair Adrian Enthoven and the advice from Martin Kingston, has helped ensure the Fund is managed in the best way possible.

From the beginning, the leadership team mobilised rapidly. We made major decisions and released massive amounts of money for critical projects, on a daily basis. From our houses, on Zoom, (the Fund has no physical offices), we met every morning at 7.30am, again during the day and late into the night, all the while still continuing with our "day jobs". But we work well together because of this trust and because as South Africans, we have strong values.

The Fund had all the ingredients to succeed, and I can safely say we have exceeded expectations. I'm not saying that we haven't had hiccups, but I can proudly say the Fund has lived up to its mission to unite the country in the fight against COVID-19 and to play a catalytic role in supporting the national response to the pandemic. We have delivered on the mandate given to us, and people still trust us, because we are mindful that we are here to serve them.

One of our core mandates was to make sure our pandemic response complemented and augmented the government response. As private sector and civil society, we learnt how to work with government, to respect their systems and to execute our projects in the quickest, most flexible way possible. In this way we were able to raise over R3 billion and spend just under R2 billion.

I am grateful for the support from President Cyril Ramaphosa and the Government which has enabled the Fund to ensure we align with, and augment, national efforts as we navigate this unfamiliar COVID-19 territory.

One of the most impactful things we did was to design and execute solutions that would include everyone. We quickly learnt that the pandemic does not discriminate between poor or rich, urban or rural. It has no profile. It affects everybody pretty much the same way. We needed to make sure our programmes were inclusive and that we could pre-empt upcoming challenges across the country based on what we saw and learnt from other parts of the country. We learned to nuance our responses for different settings to overcome the same challenge. The diversity of our team was a great asset for this.

I am truly proud of what the Fund has been able to achieve in such a short period of time. More importantly though I am exceedingly grateful for the overwhelming support and faith South Africa has shown us, as well as the impressive achievements of the Solidarity Fund Team. **We have come together as a nation looking after brothers and sisters we've never met, and in this way have saved and protected countless lives. For this I thank you.**



***“The Solidarity Fund has been a platform for many South Africans to show their support in the fight against COVID-19 in many, many different ways. It has been an amazing demonstration of solidarity in support of our country.”***

## **A WORD FROM OUR CEO**

– Tandi Nzimande

Joining the Solidarity Fund in late October 2020, I wasn't sure what to expect. From the outside I saw that the Fund was accomplishing a considerable amount and I was amazed at how quickly it had been able to get up and performing. It looked like it was running at a frenetic pace, so I had to make sure my family supported the decision, knowing that it would mean sacrificing time together.

Once I started, I realised what an amazing team we have here at the Fund. The level of support from colleagues, the team work, the dedication, the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes... Despite people being dispersed across the country and sometimes across continents, the passion and commitment from each and every one of them is extraordinary. The team has sacrificed a lot of time from their family and loved ones, and is a testimony to the kind of people the Fund has been able to draw.

This really speaks to how society at large has responded to the pandemic. The generosity we have witnessed comes from a place of understanding that, together, we can actually face COVID down, support everybody through it, and get to the other side together.

What keeps the whole team, and definitely myself, going is the meaningful impact we have been able to make. In our humanitarian efforts, the food and agricultural input vouchers have been far reaching because we are able to make a difference in the lives of people who were already living on the edge, and on whom COVID has brought even more difficulty.

Likewise, our support against the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV), was critical. Again, we're talking about the most vulnerable in our society, who as a result of the pandemic, saw a much-increased level of abuse. The Fund understood that GBV is not new, but the much higher incidence rates were linked directly to the effects of the pandemic and related lockdowns, and so this became a key focus for us. Our efforts in GBV have strengthened the ability of communities country-wide to access the help they need, close at hand.

On the health side, our partners have been exceptional right from the beginning; from B4SA with PPE acquisition, to SPIRE assisting with essential equipment procurement, to the more recent construction of a modular hospital wing at



Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in the Eastern Cape with support from Siemens AG. I was so moved to be at the hospital's launch. Being able to visit a facility that has 100 beds, the size of a small hospital, and which was erected so quickly, was fantastic. The relief that this facility will bring and the possibilities a construction of this nature has opened up are exciting for the health system in the Eastern Cape.

I am equally proud and excited by the essential equipment that we've been able to donate to various provinces. Admittedly, it has not been all smooth sailing. Some institutions have experienced some difficulties using the locally manufactured ventilators, for example, but by and large, they have made a difference, saving lives. Other essential equipment distributed across the country, beyond the hotspot provinces, is contributing to a legacy of general improvement of the health system which will be felt well after the pandemic.

With the vaccine being rolled out, we are hoping to see far fewer people in our hospitals, but we are only starting out on that journey. And whilst many have commented that the vaccine rollout in South Africa has started out later than in other parts of the continent, it has been encouraging to see efforts by government to ensure that, as South Africa catches up, the vaccines procured are able to address a variety of variants.

COVAX was one of the efforts where we supported government. Given the available facts at the time, it made sense to diversify the risk of vaccine development and be in the running to have access to several vaccines, rather than back one or two uncertain vaccine developments. Today, a number of developers have become approved manufacturers, and countries that took the bigger gamble are either not seeing a payoff, or have seen a much larger payoff. Unfortunately, the first vaccine COVAX offered to South Africa, AstraZeneca, was declined by government as it was considered ineffective for the variant prevalent here. It is expected that the COVAX facility will deliver vaccines that have increased efficacy against the Beta variant in the second half of 2021.

Responding to an unknown pandemic involves much uncertainty and managed risk taking, as decisions have to be made on available facts and best estimates. Diversity of thought is critical at such times, and our stakeholders have played an invaluable role, both internally and externally. One

of the most wonderful things about the Solidarity Fund is the robustness of the executive governance structure: the war room. Here, matters are properly tested and thoroughly debated. At all stages of the Fund's decision-making processes, there is a detailed analysis of proposals from different perspectives, resulting in the optimal response – rather than responses driven by the loudest voices.

The Board works through its committees to engage in-depth on their respective themes. The audit and risk committee, the disbursements committee and the fundraising committee are all robust, and work to make sure that we deliver the highest impact within our mandate. Management may come out feeling a bit battered and bruised from time to time, but it is understood that it is the intent of the committees that the Solidarity Fund will continue to deliver the best outcomes in terms of impact and mandate.

Our operational governance support also extends to our supporting partners, many of whom provide their services pro bono. They bring an additional layer of governance; they too question and examine everything. In this way we are all working to make sure that what we do, is done properly, for the right reasons. And we are able to continually improve the Fund's processes and policies.

Over the past year, the Solidarity Fund has been a platform for many South Africans to show their support in the fight against COVID-19 in many different ways. It has been an amazing outpouring of love and support for the country. It is the individuals who gave what they could through crowdsourcing platforms in the first six months, to the large corporates that supported the Fund and continue to do so, to the international support.

The most recent successful fundraising to support the vaccine rollout implementation bears testimony to the quality of the Fund's work, and a recognition of the impact we are having. South Africans will continue to benefit from the solidarity shown by many in responding to this debilitating pandemic. It is noteworthy that South Africa is one of the few countries where differences were set aside and individuals, corporates, government and others came together to respond to the pandemic in this way.

**For this, I am so very proud and grateful. Thank you for the solidarity.**

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## LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

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The first year of the Fund has been both exhilarating and exhausting. The way so many people have to come together and worked so hard for a single objective is unprecedented. It has not been without its challenges, and we have learnt so much. But I am extremely proud of what we have been able to achieve and the difference we've been able to make.

Our first six months were solely focused on preparing the country and the health system to meet the crisis as quickly and efficiently as possible. We had to be agile and responsive, rapidly scaling testing, and sourcing and distributing PPE, ventilators and critical care equipment to those who needed it most.

We also worked furiously to help to get food and humanitarian assistance to the many vulnerable South Africans whose ability to survive was jeopardised by the fallout from lockdown and pandemic response measures.

Over the following six months, we focused on extending the reach of our interventions and putting in place sustainable solutions that will help strengthen the health system for years to come.

There is now sufficient PPE and ventilators available to handle new waves of the pandemic, and critical care units around the country are getting much-needed vital equipment.



**Adrian Enthoven**

*Deputy Chair of the Solidarity Fund*

Many local and empowered businesses have gained valuable skills and experience in manufacturing equipment, which is helping to strengthen their futures.

The food and farming input voucher projects have brought new thinking and innovation, which the country's social assistance programmes can learn from. These projects make optimal use of technology, while protecting and promoting beneficiaries' dignity and agency.

Our numerous targeted communications campaigns have helped educate people on their responsibility and the ways they can play their part to help contain the spread of the virus and protect each other. We are now shifting focus to promoting the importance and benefits of vaccination, and how all citizens can access this vital initiative.

Many of our projects are now coming to an end, and we are ensuring they are closed out professionally, with full accountability and handover. As the trajectory of the pandemic response now shifts towards vaccinating the country, we are putting the full weight of our resources and capabilities to support the government with this enormous but vital task.

We are grateful to our key donors, Accenture, Anglo American, De Beers, Sibanye-Stillwater, Exxaro, FirstRand Group / SPIRE, Implats, and Gold Fields, who are supporting us in this crucial endeavour.





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## ABOUT THE SOLIDARITY FUND

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**The Solidarity Fund is the largest mobilisation of private funding and support ever seen in this country, and is the largest non-governmental COVID-19 relief fund in the world. It was established as a vehicle for South Africans to pool resources and unite the country in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.**

To ensure confidence in the Fund, it was set up as an independently run public benefit organisation; entirely separate from, but working closely with, government and business. It's made up of a team of highly skilled people, all working to raise and manage over R3 billion on projects crucial to easing the devastation of the pandemic.

All those working for the Fund have been volunteers or seconded on a pro bono basis from over 100 well-respected companies. In addition, all legal, IT, accounting, communications, fund management and many other services have been provided pro bono to the Fund.

The Fund has not paid any salaries and has not incurred any core expenses, creating a "frictionless" mechanism to enable the full amounts donated to be directed to impact. Without this generous outpouring of assistance, the Fund would never have been able to achieve the impact it has.

The Fund is organised around three focus areas – the health response, the humanitarian effort, and the communications and behaviour change campaign. These areas were chosen because it was where the Fund believed we could make the greatest contribution to supporting the national health response and ameliorating the impacts of the crisis on the most vulnerable.

All projects are managed by experts in their respective field, with input from teams of sector-specific technical advisors. The Fund is managed by a strong leadership team, overseen by an independent, highly respected board.



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## HOW THE FUND WAS BORN

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On 16 March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic reached South African shores, leaders representing business, community, government, and labour held a special National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) meeting. Both the business sector and the government tabled the idea of an independent, coordinated effort to face the storm heading our way. From there things moved rapidly.

In the week leading up to 23 March 2020 presidential announcement of the Fund, Business for South Africa engaged experts from a variety of disciplines to assist in getting the Fund established and operational as quickly as possible. A key objective was to ensure that the Fund would be an independent and transparent entity, accountable to society at large.

In this first week, the basic structure, focus areas and governance principles of the Fund were defined. Registration as a public benefit organisation began, a brand design and website were created, a bank account opened, and the Board Chair and Deputy Chair identified.

As soon as the Fund was announced, significant numbers and amounts of contributions began to flow in from South Africans from all walks of life, as well as international donors. The Fund's leadership held their first daily war room meeting at 7.30am the day after the Fund was announced, a tradition that continues to this day. The first board meeting took place on 9 April, by which time approximately R2billion had already been pledged to the Fund.

Throughout the rest of April and early May, a large number of volunteers worked tirelessly, donating their skills and commitment to finalising the Fund's structure and establishing its sub-committees, operations, governance and controls.

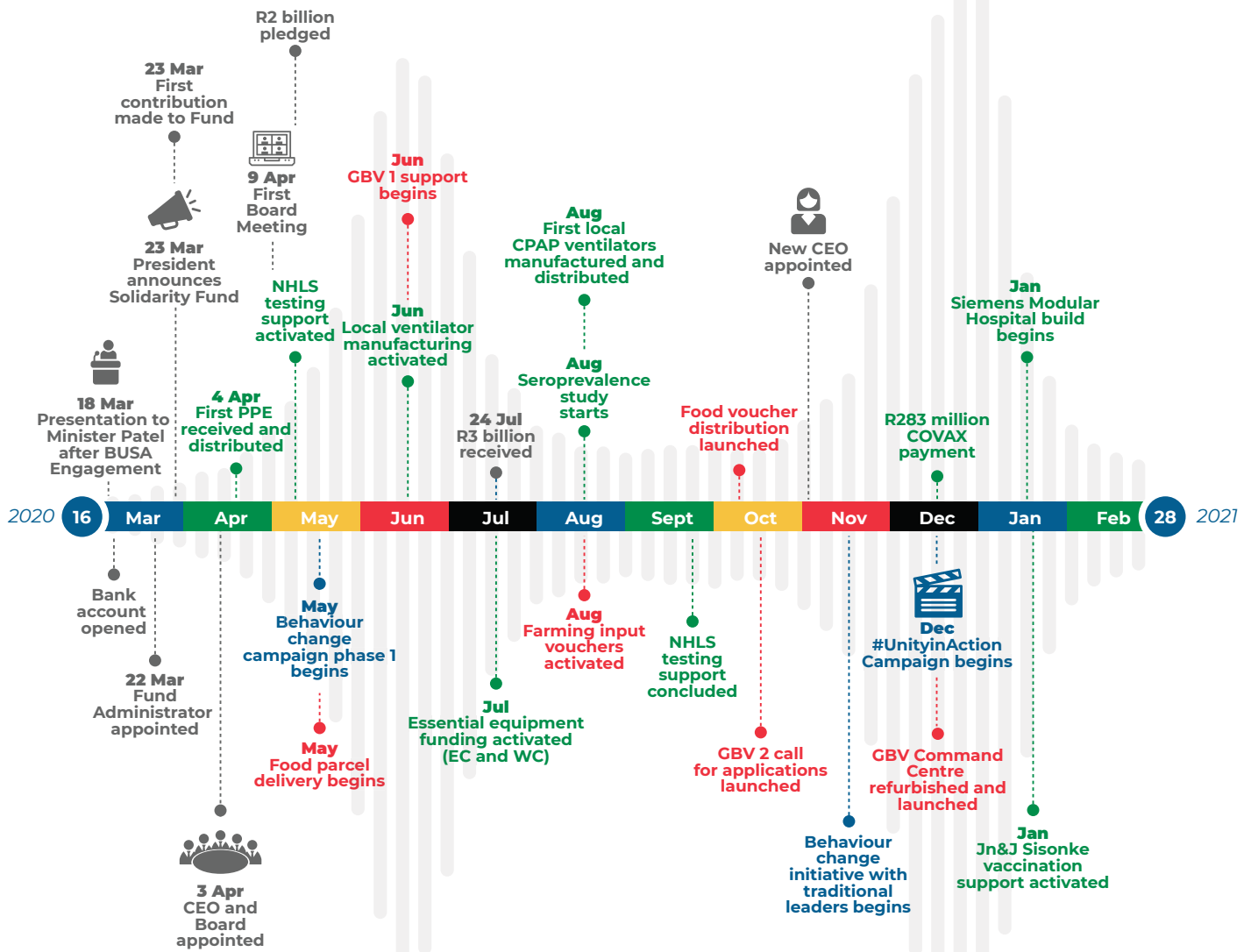
The speed and agility at which the Fund was established is unprecedented; traits that have become a hallmark of the Fund. It has continued to raise and disburse significant resources and channel these to where they can have the greatest impact on the pandemic response.



***“Even if we’d planned it, we couldn’t have done it better than how it transpired. There was nothing sluggish about how the Fund came into being.”***

*Martin Kingston, Paul Bondi and Grant Brewer,  
members of the Solidarity Fund formation team*

# THE SOLIDARITY FUND TIMELINE



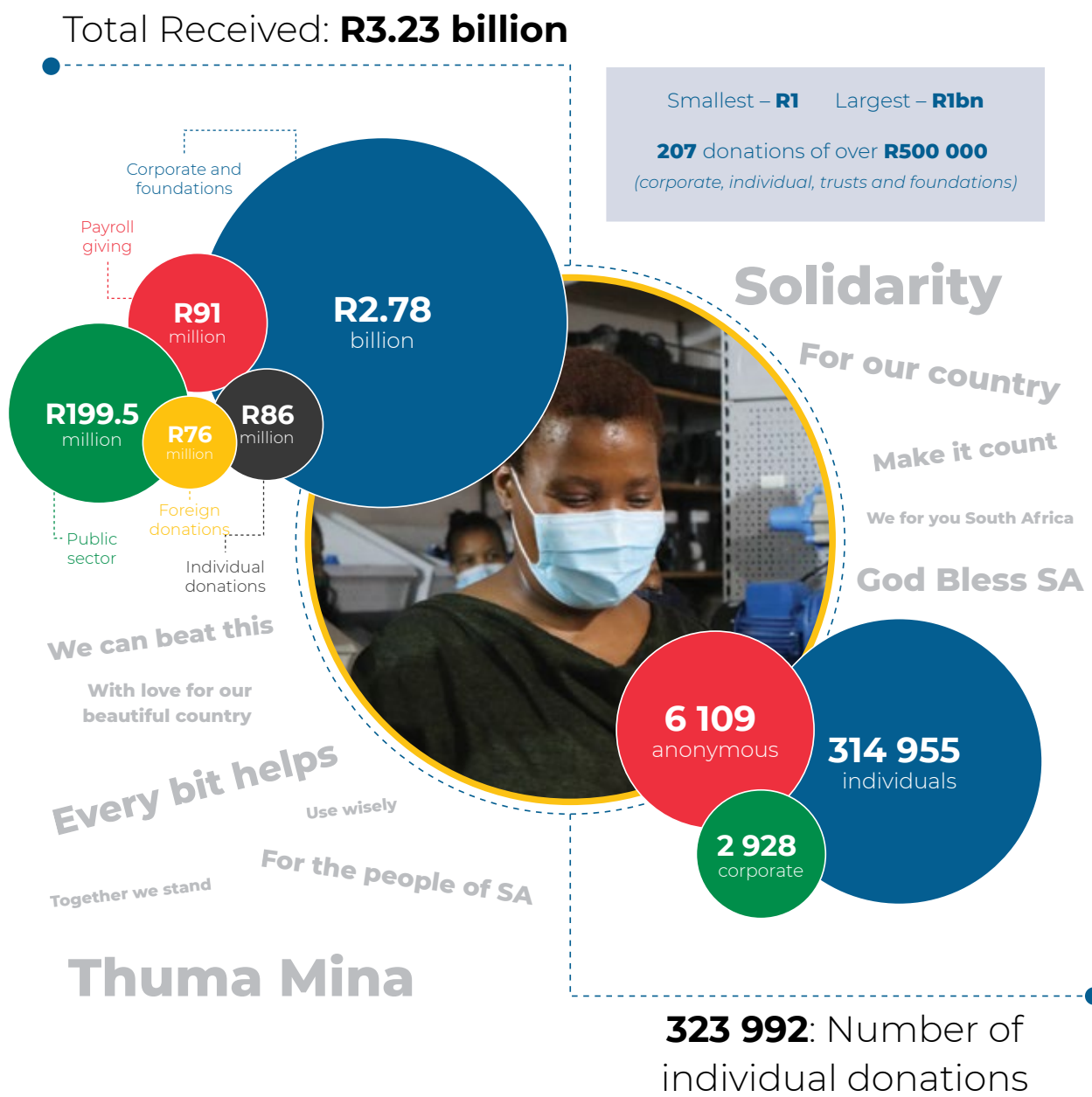
**Key:** ● Solidarity Fund    ● Health Pillar    ● Humanitarian Pillar    ● Communications Pillar

Graph: COVID-19 pandemic cases South Africa (source: World Health Organization – <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/za>)

# DONATIONS RECEIVED

## We couldn't have done it without you

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity from all corners of the country, and the world, the Solidarity Fund mobilised a staggering amount of funding and expertise in just a few months. **Thank you!**



# VOLUNTEER, PRO BONO, SECONDMENT, AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

Beyond just financial donations, the Solidarity Fund has also benefited from a tremendous outpouring of support to help the organisation function and implement its day-to-day work. This comes in the form of volunteer, pro bono, secondment and in-kind support from hundreds of individuals. It has provided the Fund with considerable expertise in operational, financial and strategic management, allowing the Fund to fulfil its mandate with confidence, knowing its resources are being managed and used in the best way for the country.



**400+** people worked for the Fund in various capacities – volunteer, secondment, pro bono



**100+** different organisations seconded staff or provided staff pro bono

## Expertise and capacity



## The multitude of organisations that joined forces with the Fund in various ways to help our country face down the pandemic:

### In-kind product donations



### Funding partners



### Supporting organisations



### Strategic partnerships



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## SOLIDARITY FUND APPROACH

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The Fund is organised around three focus areas chosen for their potential to reach the areas of highest need and have the greatest impact.

These focus areas and all the Fund's projects take the following factors into consideration:

- the best available evidence at the time,
- their alignment with the national pandemic response,
- their ability to be implemented quickly and adapt as the situation evolves,
- their optimal use of resources,
- where possible, their ability to be implemented by local and empowered companies, and
- their ability to have impact at scale.



**The health response** focuses on strengthening the health system to cope with the surge in demand from the pandemic, and protecting those at the frontline of the response.

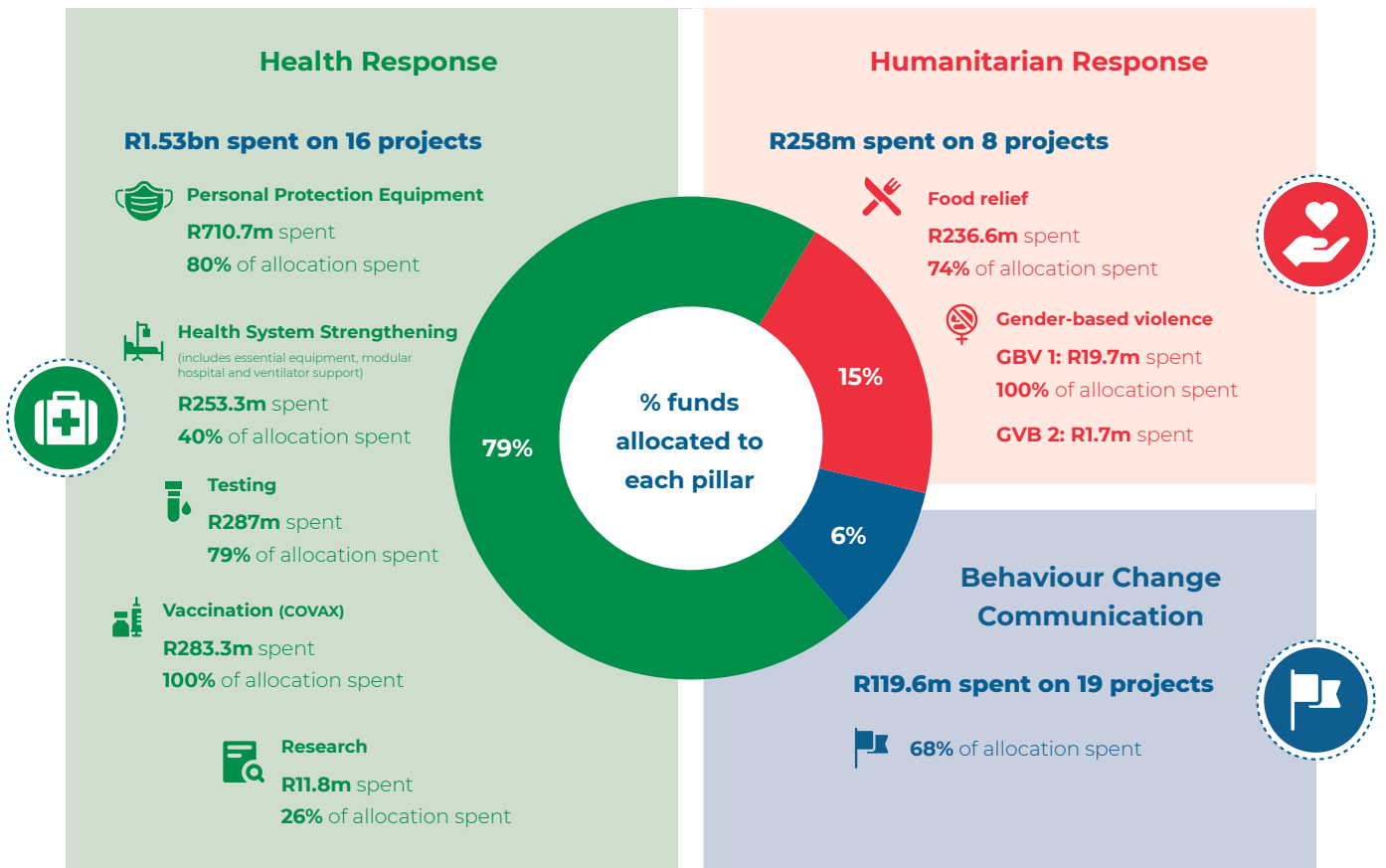
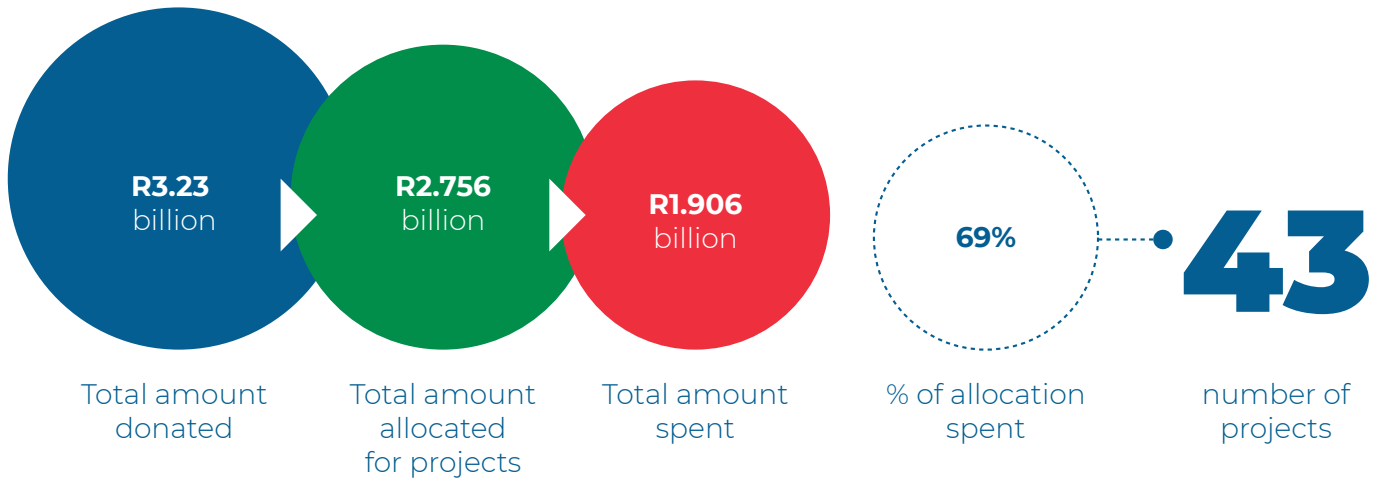


**The humanitarian response** focuses on protecting vulnerable South Africans at increased risk of hunger and gender-based violence because of the lockdown and pandemic response measures.



**The communications effort** focuses on promoting positive behaviours to help slow the spread of the virus and stay safe.

# Where your money is going



All figures as of 28 February 2021. All remaining funds will be allocated and spent in 2021.

# HOW WE'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE

The Solidarity Fund does not implement projects directly itself. All our projects are implemented through various trusted partners, vetted and transparently contracted by the Fund.



## Health response



- **65+ million** units of PPE procured (41+ m for health care workers and 24+ m for community care workers)
- **1.23 million** COVID-19 tests enabled
- **18 200** ventilators procured through local manufacturing
- **200** international ventilators procured
- **±R300 million** approved for essential equipment for Eastern Cape, Gauteng, and Western Cape Provinces

## Humanitarian response



- **280 000+** households reached with food parcels
- **105 318** food vouchers issued (valued at R73.7m), with 91 736 redeemed (valued at R64.2m)
- **38 250** farming input vouchers issued to rural subsistence farmers (valued at R76.5m), with 21 326 redeemed (valued at R42.7m), 63% of them women-headed households
- **133** GBV shelters and care centres provided with PPE and critical medical services
- **30 777** units of PPE distributed to GBV support centres



## Communications and behaviour change campaign



- **90%** of all adults in South Africa (~35 million adults) reached by both campaigns
- **19 million** people reached with the #UnityinAction Campaign phase 1
- **66%** of people surveyed were aware of the #UnityinAction Campaign, with **85%** of those saying it has motivated them to change their behaviour and inspire others to do the same.
- **R82.5 million** in media added-value donated



# GOVERNANCE

The Solidarity Fund is deeply committed to ensuring it protects and uses the generous donations it receives in the most effective and impactful way possible. The Fund was established to be completely independent while working closely with government, the private sector and civil society to implement its programmes.

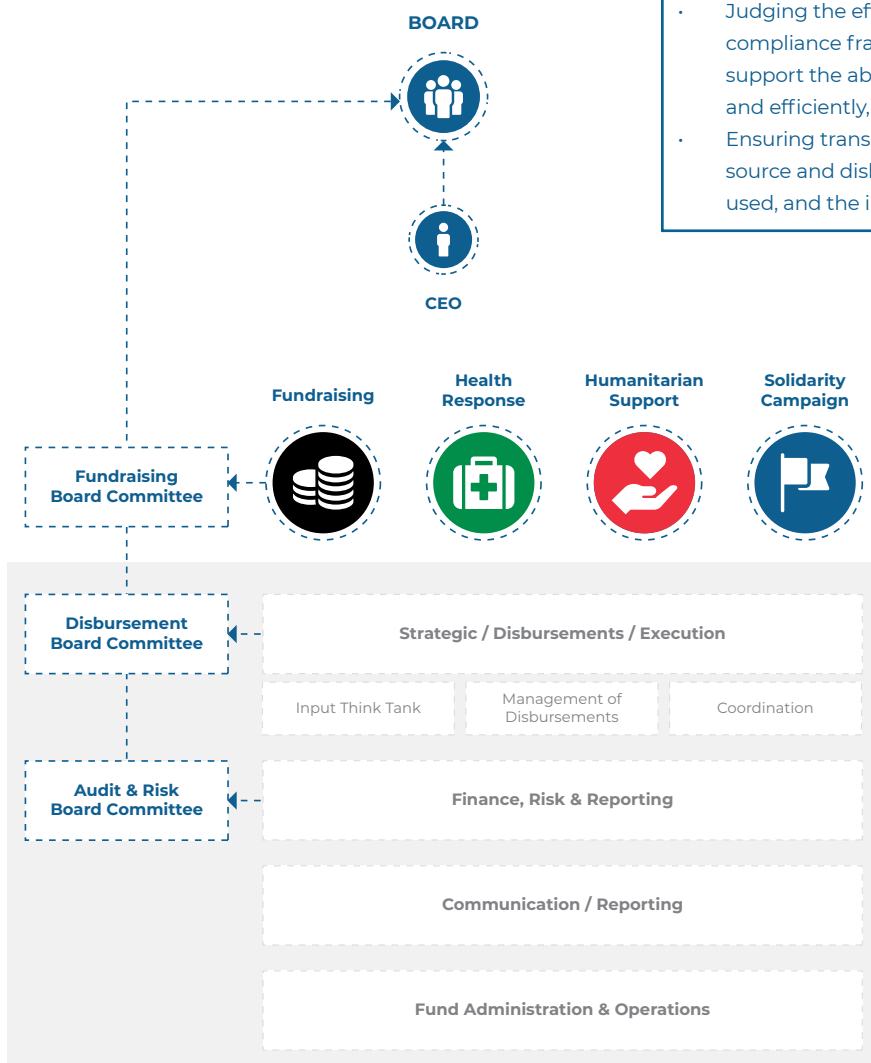
We are committed to robust governance and full transparency to ensure that we use the resources we've been entrusted with in the best way possible to alleviate the effects of the pandemic on all South Africans, especially the most vulnerable.

The Fund is governed by an independent and highly respected Board of Directors, and led by an experienced and skilled executive management team (EXCO), with the CEO, Tandi Nzimande, at the helm.

Our operational governance support also extends to our supporting partners, many providing their services pro bono. They bring an additional layer of governance by questioning and examining everything, together with an internal and external audit that also strengthens the control environment of the Fund.

**The Fund is committed to:**

- 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**



**Ebrahim Patel**



**Thulani Tshefuta**

## EXCO



**Tandi Nzimande**



**Zanele Ngwepe**



**Nicola Galombik**



**Wongakazi Majola**



**Gugu Ngubane**



**Rick Menell**



**Wendy Tlou**



**Jennisha Gappoo**

The Board and the EXCO are 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 comprehensive 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 Audit and Risk Board Committee
- The Fundraising Board Committee
- The Disbursements Board Committee
- The Executive Committee

## Audit and Risk Board Committee



Tryphosa Ramano  
(Chair)



Michael Katz



Kgomotso Makhupola

### Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) oversees financial and other reporting, the control environment, and overall compliance. It undertakes an objective and independent review of the performance of the finance and risk functions by engaging with management and the internal and external auditors, who have unrestricted access to the members and chairperson of the ARC.

The ARC is comprised of three independent directors and three co-opted members. ARC meetings are held at least

monthly, with additional meetings called when necessary. The CEO, external auditors, internal auditors and financial executives can attend ARC meetings by request. The ARC discharged its statutory and Board responsibilities during the period under review to consider, inter alia, the results of the Fund, the regulatory and accounting standard compliance by the Group, and appointed PriceWaterhouseCoopers to perform an independent and objective audit of the Fund in terms of the provisions of Section 90 of the Companies Act.

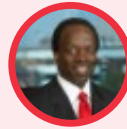
## Disbursements Board Committee



Ayanda Ntsaluba  
(Chair)



Adrian Enthoven



Sizwe Nxasana

### Disbursements Committee

The Disbursements Committee oversees disbursements of funds to the Fund's three pillars. However, the committee is not merely a dispenser of funds. A critical focus is to ensure that disbursements are aligned to the Fund's strategy, especially as it evolves over time, and that monies are disbursed in accordance with the Fund's mandate. Committee members invest a lot of time understanding and monitoring how the epidemic is unfolding and how this relates to the Fund's strategy. It also considers what other stakeholders are doing in the national effort. In this way, the committee can work with the executive to ensure that the strategy provides a solid framework for evaluating and prioritising the proposals the Fund receives, and identifies projects where the Fund can play a truly catalytic role and distil optimal value for money.

The Solidarity Fund is a trusted partner to both the public and the private sector. It therefore helps to support and bolster public and private sector collaboration to ensure the country moves forward in the fight against the pandemic. The Disbursement Committee strives to understand each partners' particular strengths, and how to make their efforts as complementary as possible.

Ensuring that the Fund's projects are well conceptualised and properly executed is of critical importance to the committee. We do not want to fail the people who donated their money in good faith because of recklessly executed, or ill-conceived projects. Once funds have been disbursed, we continue to monitor that funds are put to good use, and

ensure that we are aware of, and able to mitigate, whatever risks might arise.

This focus on identifying the best projects, monitoring their execution, and ensuring institutional integrity has helped the Fund truly make a difference. It has also helped the Fund to attract further support, including from international partners, and to achieve a clean external audit.

There is such a sense of goodwill in the country, and we as the Disbursements Committee are doing everything we can to make sure that our limited resources are used responsibly. On a personal note, being involved in a venture that you truly believe is contributing to the advancement of human wellbeing has been very inspiring. I am proud to be a part of it.



*"The Disbursements Committee ensures that the Fund's decision-makers are thinking with our heads, not our hearts, when making funding decisions. We want to make sure we have the biggest impact and bring true value for money."*

*Ayanda Ntsaluba, Disbursements Committee Chair*

## Fundraising Board Committee



**Sizwe Nxasana**  
(Chair)



**Adrian Enthoven**



**Thulani Tshefuta**

### Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee guides and supports the fundraising team to maximise the capital raised for the Solidarity Fund; overseeing the fundraising strategy, the choice of fundraising team leaders, and the channels through which fundraising activities are pursued.

The Solidarity Fund is a good case study of how South Africa has been able to pool resources to address a significant challenge. This same innovative model can be considered to help address other social challenges our country faces. It shows that when we have the will to overlook our differences and come together, we can make a substantial impact on the lives of all South Africans.

The Fundraising Committee has learnt a number of lessons over the last year.

- The speed with which the Fund was established and registered as a PBO with Section 18 status meant that we were able to raise funds very quickly.
- The decision to have senior government ministers on the board – the Minister of Finance and the Minister

of Trade, Industry and Competition – and having the government be one of the first donors to the Fund, showed tremendous political will and government commitment and promoted confidence in the Fund.

- The support of the private sector was tremendous. Their support with developing the systems to effectively and transparently ringfence, account for and report on the donations received and how they were used, ensures donors trust the Fund enough to hand over vast sums of money.
- Lastly, the rapid and effective implementation of the Fund's projects has reinforced the feeling amongst donors that they were right to trust in and contribute to this valuable initiative.

The sheer number of donors – over 300 000 – who have contributed to the Fund, including so many ordinary South Africans who sacrificed part of their salary to the Fund in the payroll giving initiative, shows the extent to which South Africans are willing to overlook their differences for the sake of others.



*"It has been an honour to be a part of a fantastic team working towards such a crucial goal, and to have achieved so much in such a short amount of time."*

*Sizwe Nxasana, Fundraising Committee Chair*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING IN MARCH 2020 AND ENDING 28 FEBRUARY 2021

This summarised report is extracted from audited information but is not itself 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 the company's registered office and on our website [www.solidarityfund.co.za](http://www.solidarityfund.co.za). The directors take full responsibility for the preparation of the summary financial statements.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021	RAND R'000
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	
Intellectual Property	-
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Inventories	108 687
Other receivables	89 028
Cash and cash equivalents	1 246 732
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1 444 447</b>
<b>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Funds</b>	
Accumulated funds	1 373 964
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Trade and Other Payables	70 483
<b>Total Funds and Liabilities</b>	<b>1 444 447</b>

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	RAND R'000
<b>Revenue</b>	
Donations	3 233 187
<b>Operating expenditure</b>	(1 905 780)
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>1 327 407</b>
<b>Interest income</b>	54 660
<b>Bank charges</b>	(4)
<b>Foreign exchange loss</b>	(8 099)
<b>Profit and total comprehensive income for the period</b>	<b>1 373 964</b>

<b>SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY</b>	<b>RAND R'000</b>
Funds	
Accumulated Funds	
<b>Balance at 25 March 2020 - Opening balance</b>	
Comprehensive income for the period	1 373 964
<b>Balance at 28 February 2021 – Closing balance</b>	<b>1 365 689</b>

<b>SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>	<b>RAND R'000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	
Cash receipts from donors	3 233 187
Cash paid to suppliers	(2 029 575)
<b>Cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>1 203 613</b>
Bank interest received	51 222
Bank charges	(4)
	<b>1 254 831</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>1 246 732</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	-
Foreign exchange loss on cash and cash equivalents	(8 099)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period</b>	<b>1 246 732</b>

## **SUMMARY NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Accounting policies**

#### **Basis of preparation**

The Fund's 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.

# HEALTH RESPONSE



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## Strengthening the health sector to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic

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Around the world, health systems buckled under the pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic. Knowing what was coming, it was critical to support and reinforce South Africa's health system to cope with the added pressure.

The health pillar works to rapidly complement and build on the government's pandemic response, to strengthen the response in an agile and impactful way. It focuses on strengthening the ability of the health system to identify and treat those most vulnerable to the disease.

Using the best available evidence on the SARS-CoV-2 virus and its effects, and an understanding of the most critical needs of the health system, the health pillar focuses on five essential areas that will have the biggest impact on the pandemic.



**Strengthening COVID-19 surge testing capacity** to widen the coverage of case finding surveillance so that infected people can be identified, isolated and treated early.



**Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** to protect frontline workers.



**Strengthening health system capacity and resilience** with essential medical equipment to improve the capacity of hospitals to respond to healthcare demands.









**Research** to improve the knowledge base of the local epidemic's spread and evolution, and promote the use of evidence for decision-making to strengthen the response.



**Supporting the vaccine roll out** to help the country reach population immunity fast and improve chances of getting back to normal.



## Achievements


-  **1.23 million** COVID-19 tests enabled
-  **65+ million** units of PPE procured (41+ m for healthcare workers and 24+ m for community care workers)
-  **±R300 million** approved for essential equipment for EC, GP and WC
-  **18 200** ventilators procured through local manufacturing
-  **200** international ventilators procured
-  **R11.8 million** spent on the HSRC Seroprevalence study

## Funding spent


**R1.53bn spent on 16 projects**



 **Personal Protection Equipment**  
R710.7m spent  
80% allocation spent

 **Health System Strengthening**  
includes essential equipment, modular hospital and ventilator support  
R235.3m spent  
40% allocation spent

 **Testing**  
R287m spent  
79% allocation spent

 **Vaccination (COVAX)**  
R283.3m spent  
100% allocation spent

 **Seroprevalence study**  
R11.8m spent  
26% allocation spent



## Strengthening COVID-19 surge testing capacity

To fight the virus, we had to know where it was and how it was spreading. It was therefore vital to boost the country's ability to rapidly test for and trace positive cases.

With severe backlogs in COVID-19 testing, the Fund focused on helping to increase the supply of COVID-19 testing kits and scaling the testing capacity of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) by adding academic laboratories and historically disadvantaged institutions of higher learning (HDIHLs) to support. The Fund also supported access to COVID-19 testing of uninsured healthcare workers.

### Support for NHLS COVID-19 test kits

Within a month of the Fund's formation, we committed R250 million to support the NHLS to procure COVID-19 extraction and reagent test kits. These test kits are a critical component of testing supplies and were in short supply across the globe in the early stages of the pandemic. This support helped to bolster the NHLS COVID-19 testing capacity and reduce test results turnaround to within 25 hours, from 8-10 days.

### Capacitating academic laboratories and historically disadvantaged institutions of higher learning

To support a surge in demand for COVID-19 testing, the Fund supported the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) to ensure sufficient testing capacity in hotspot provinces. The SAMRC leads a consortium of seven academic laboratories located in several of the country's universities, three of which are HDIHLs.

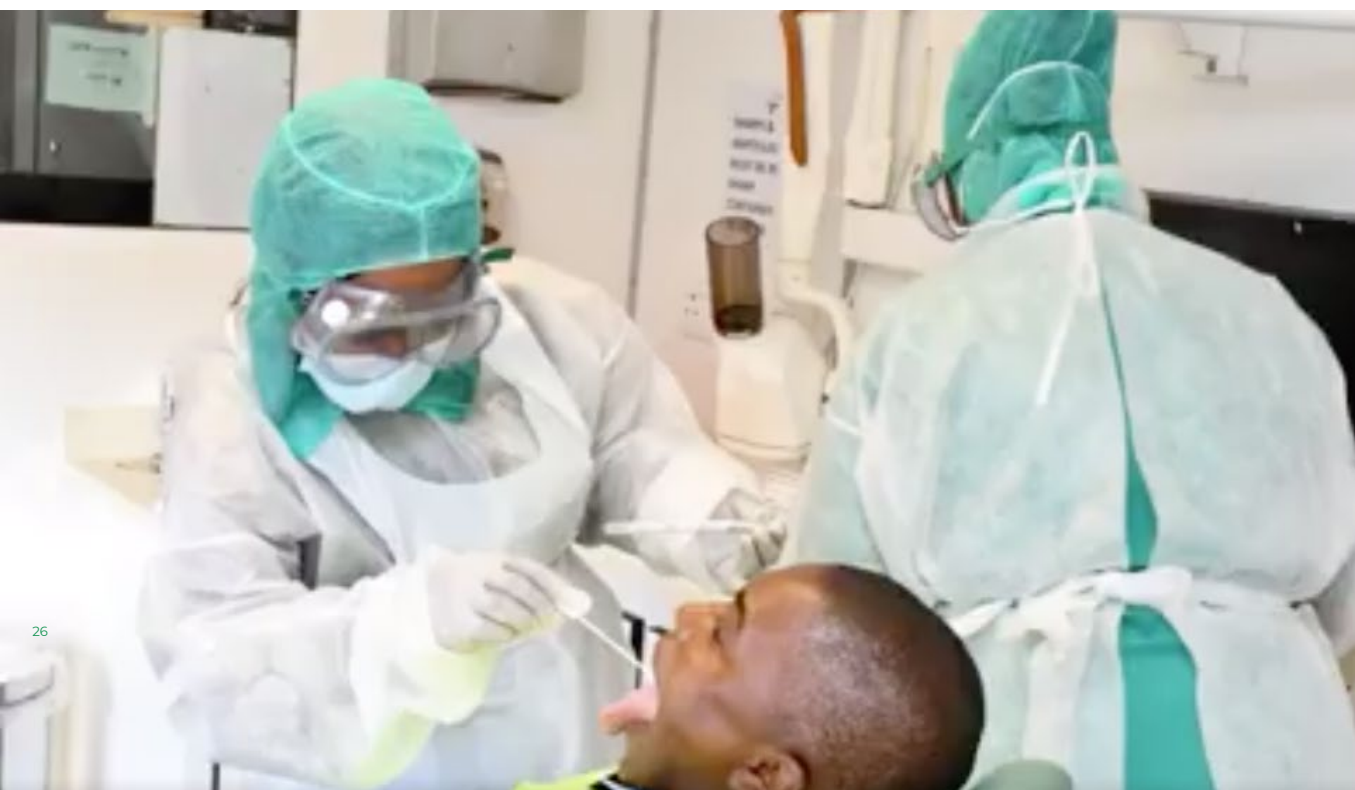
The academic laboratories were verified through an online readiness assessment against NHLS standards. Once approved, they processed urgent overflow tests from the NHLS for healthcare workers and prioritised persons under investigation who were admitted in hospitals. This helped to improve testing turnaround times and supported the health system to better manage their staffing resources.

The three HDIHLs – Walter Sisulu University, Sefako Makgatho University, and the University of Venda – were engaged to develop their laboratory testing capacity to provide additional support to an overburdened system. Their labs were upgraded with much-needed equipment and staff were trained on the new equipment. This support has helped to expand the country's laboratory capacity beyond just the needs of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

### Expanded healthcare worker testing

To expand testing for at-risk healthcare workers, the Independent Community Pharmacy Association (ICPA-) led partnership managed a network of pharmacies, general practitioners and healthcare practices across the country to support COVID-19 testing of healthcare workers. ICPA employed an administrator to assist with the facilitation of the project at its own cost.





Healthcare workers were screened using the Vula Mobile App, and those considered at risk received a voucher for a COVID-19 test at a nearby location. HamadiLab and Neuberger



Global Laboratories provided the lab testing infrastructure to ensure all tests were completed within a 48-hour turnaround time. In this way, 18 318 healthcare workers were tested.

Initial uptake of the ICPA project was slow, but a vigorous marketing campaign led to a surge in testing prior to the second wave. This support for surge testing enabled facilities to be alerted to the possibility of a COVID-19 spread within their facility, allowing them to take the necessary precautions to avoid further infection of their staff and/or patients. The project also provided employment through the testing sites.

### Achievements

-  **1.23 million** COVID-19 tests enabled
-  **55** healthcare testing sites established across the country:  
(WC-4, KZN-12, GP-30 MP-5, LP-2, FS-2)
-  **18 318** uninsured health care workers tested
-  **1.2 million** reagent and extraction kits purchased to increase NHLS testing capacity

### Partners



### Funding



## Protecting frontline health and care workers

The swift spread of COVID-19 and supply-chain constraints from national lockdown measures created both an incredibly high demand for, and severe shortages of, PPE and medical equipment around the world.

Yet the protection of health and community care workers on the front line has been essential to ensure enough qualified staff are available to treat those in need.

### Emergency international PPE procurement

The Solidarity Fund mobilised rapidly to make sure South Africa could access much-needed PPE for the first peak of the pandemic. The initial emergency phase focused on sourcing quality PPE at as close to market price as possible, taking into

account that for certain items, market prices were moving daily based on availability of supply. The Fund partnered with Business for South Africa (B4SA) on a pro bono basis to manage the procurement on behalf of the Fund. The National Department of Health (NDoH) provided guidance on what PPE was required, and where it was most needed. Imperial Health Sciences (IHS) was used for all logistics, including the transport of the PPE from suppliers to public hospitals, clinics, or municipal depots.

B4SA has a proven ability to validate and vet local PPE suppliers and gain access to products from both local and international markets. They identified 30 PPE suppliers that could provide PPE rapidly and meet the Fund's procurement



standards. IHS has a sophisticated logistics network and was able to charter flights at relatively competitive prices to transport the PPE to the country and to where it was needed. They provided their support at cost price.

### Supporting local manufacturing of PPE

Following the initial emergency phase, the Fund turned its focus to supporting local manufacturing of PPE and medical equipment as a more sustainable and cost-effective approach. This shift enabled the Fund to source over 94% of PPE through local manufacturers and black-owned suppliers in the second phase.

Black-empowered businesses and local suppliers were encouraged to register on the B4SA supplier portal to ensure they could be properly vetted and prioritised.

### PPE for community care workers



Community care workers are a vital part of the health system, bringing care and support to communities with limited access to health care. As such, they are an essential part of the pandemic response and need to be adequately equipped to remain safe and continue to support those in need of care outside of clinics and hospitals.

The Fund partnered with ELMA South Africa Foundation and DG Murray Trust (DGMT) to provide PPE to community health workers, social workers and social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, and food and relief workers working for hundreds of non-government organisations (NGOs) in communities across the country. In total, 170 NGOs ensured that PPE would reach all corners of the country, especially the last mile.

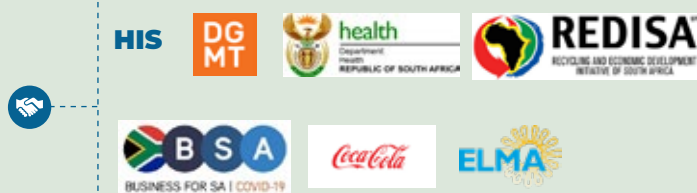
Coca-Cola supported the distribution of PPE, and REDISA developed a logistics monitoring system to ensure the PPE was distributed in a transparent and auditable manner. Both partners provided their services at no cost.

By overcoming PPE sourcing challenges, delays at customs, and taking the time to capacitate local manufacturers, the Fund and its partners were able to procure over 65 million units of PPE for healthcare and community care workers and provide life-saving PPE to over 42 thousand community care workers. The project has also developed the skills of a large number of local and black-empowered businesses as a sustainable and reliable source of PPE, boosting local employment in the process.

## Achievements

- 
**65+ million** units of PPE procured (41+m for healthcare workers and 24+m for community care workers)
- 
**42 190** community care workers provided with PPE

## Partners



## Funding

- 
**R883.9m** allocated
- 
**R710.7m** spent (80% allocation spent)

## PPE for community care workers



Community-level screening and testing for COVID-19 was key to better understand the reach of the pandemic and contain its spread.

Numerous NGOs are working in the trenches to support this by conducting screening questionnaires, supporting referral and transportation of persons under investigation to testing sites, and supporting community and facility-level testing services.

This selfless dedication is helping communities to determine the extent of the pandemic in their area, to know whether they have been infected, and how to isolate to help slow the spread of the virus. It also helps to educate and raise awareness of the pandemic and actions communities can take to protect themselves and their neighbours.

The Solidarity Fund supported NGOs to carry out this vital work by providing their community care workers with PPE and other necessary equipment.

Through this support, 42 190 community care workers were provided with PPE and non-PPE items. These workers were then able to safely screen over 2 million individuals, referring 16 231 symptomatic clients to NDoH testing sites for further management.





## Strengthening the capacity of the health system

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the South African health system experienced challenges with a lack of essential equipment and capacity to meet the needs of its people. The arrival of the pandemic exacerbated this, but also brought an opportunity to target the massive resources invested in the response to provide long-term benefits for the health system.

The strengthening of the health system to be resilient to current and future demands is a critical focus of the Solidarity Fund. Success in this area will leave a lasting legacy that can benefit the health system, and the country, for years to come.

### Providing 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 Fund therefore works closely with provincial department of health staff to determine the critical equipment needs in their ICU and high-care wards, including ICU beds, monitors, defibrillators, diagnostic tools, ventilators, etc., and assists with procuring these.

Due to the explosion of the pandemic in hotspot areas and big metros – the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and the Western Cape – in the earlier stages of the pandemic, the Fund initially focused its support in these provinces. The project was then expanded to include KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), and from 2021 will expand further to all remaining provinces.

NDoH specialists 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 is then submitted to the Solidarity Fund, where an internal review

panel, including the health pillar leads, management staff, and members of the technical review committee, review the requests, approving and disallowing procurement of items based on a set of strict criteria.

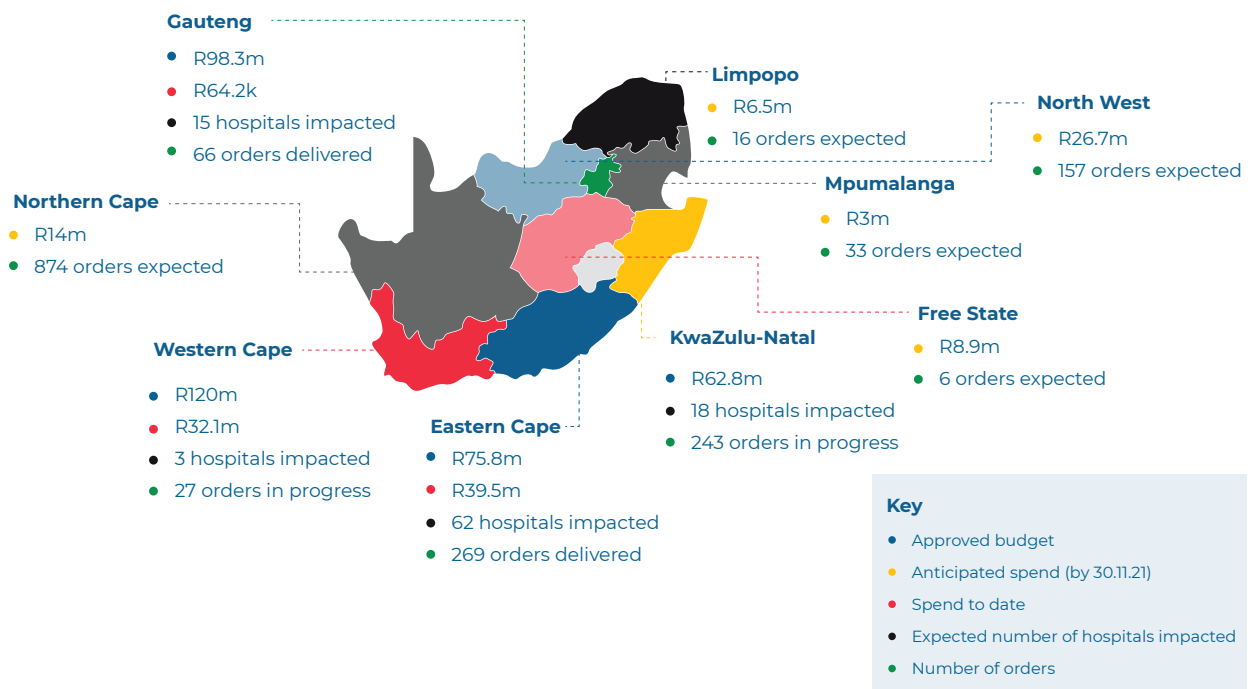
In the Eastern Cape, 90% of orders have been delivered to facilities. In the Western Cape, the Fund has procured almost R38 million worth of equipment, and almost R86 million of equipment for Gauteng. An equipment list of up to R62 million has been approved for KZN.

The Fund partnered with the South African Pandemic Intervention and Relief Effort (SPIRE) – a public benefit fund, managed by the FirstRand Group (FRB), that aims to make a sustainable difference in the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

SPIRE is responsible for the procurement of essential equipment on behalf of the Fund. It 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.

The partnership with SPIRE and FRB enabled the Fund to ensure the speedy procurement of equipment to meet demand prior to the second wave of infections. It helped to ensure life-saving equipment was available where it was needed most, for the pandemic response, and well into the future.

Essential equipment support footprint 2020/21





*“This equipment will remain relevant beyond the pandemic and have a long-term impact on the services we provide.”*

Letter of thanks from Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital

As Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital supporting the OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo Districts of the Eastern Cape, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the equipment purchases to support the COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the wellbeing of our communities, particularly the rural areas. The severity of illness from the pandemic has been unprecedented, with patients presenting with organ failures and needing ICU support, experiencing long hospital stays, and disappointingly low rates of recovery for those with severe COVID-19.

The Solidarity Fund, together with Rand Merchant Bank, supported us by procuring equipment to support critically ill COVID-19 patients, ranging from respiratory, cardiovascular and renal support. The assistance has been phenomenal: ensuring our needs are met, that procurement is efficient, that the correct equipment is commissioned, that staff are trained on new equipment, and most importantly that equipment consumables have been made available to allow immediate use of the equipment.

The impact of the support has been notable and appreciated, including:

- Improved access to different types of oxygen therapy from masks to oxygen concentrators, high-flow oxygen therapy, and provision of ventilators (where necessary) in the hospitals referring to us, which has made our numbers more manageable and has saved many patients who would have been compromised having to travel the distances to a tertiary hospital.
- At Nelson Mandela and Mthatha Regional hospitals, there has been adequate equipment for managing the critical patients referred to these hospitals. The additional equipment also allowed us to expand the services to a newly refurbished hospital, Sir Henry Elliot.
- Access to monitors from pulse oximeters to big ICU level monitors, and blood gas machines, has improved patient care. Portable monitors have made it easy to triage patients for admission.
- Cardiovascular support has been made easier with the infusion pumps and cardiac output monitors.
- Renal support access for many of the patients has been made much easier.

This equipment will remain relevant beyond the pandemic and have a long-term impact on the services we provide, with possibilities of improving obstetrics care in the rural hospitals. In many cases, the equipment had been needed even before the pandemic; the assistance has thus closed existing gaps in the health system.

We are grateful to the Solidarity Fund and Rand Merchant Bank. We hope they continue to work with our communities to provide much-needed support in this and future pandemics.

*Prof Busisiwe Mrara  
HOD: Department of Anaesthesiology  
Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital*

## Siemens' Modular Hospital

In preparation for the third wave of the pandemic, the Fund channelled donations from Siemens and the German government to build an innovative 100-bed modular hospital in the Eastern Cape. Erected alongside Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in Mdantsane, this extension will help the province strengthen its COVID-19 response and improve access to healthcare into the future.

The hospital was constructed in less than 100 days and shows the commitment and collaboration of South Africa's international partners. The German Department for Development Cooperation (GIZ) donated R63 million, which was topped up by contributions of R9 million from Siemens employees. Aspen Pharmaceuticals donated a further R4 million. The Solidarity Fund facilitated and managed the donation process. The Eastern Cape Department of Health is ensuring the professional operation of the unit by deploying dedicated staff and providing medical supplies.

The innovative modular hospital will be equipped with Siemens Healthineers medical technology, including ultrasound units, X-Ray machines and blood gas machines. This imaging equipment is uniquely designed for maximum mobility and is indispensable in detecting COVID-19 infections. It can also be used to support a number of other health interventions, and will be a valuable asset to the hospital, district and even the province.

The hospital also includes a range of innovative Siemens' technology to help control contamination in high contact areas of the modular hospital, and will be powered by a solar modular configuration that provides a necessary reliable, continuous and clean power supply.



“

*“This development will certainly address some of the key challenges we face as a health institution, located in the biggest township in East London. The building of the Modular hospital will ease the pressure on the high volume of patients, as well as create an efficient medical-service facility. We are extremely grateful to the stakeholders involved in this remarkable initiative”*

*Sicelo Msi, CEO of the Cecilia Makiwane Hospital.*

*“This project shows how through collaboration and technology, we can tackle big challenges and transform societies. I am proud to support the Cecilia Makiwane Hospital in their efforts to combat the pandemic and provide high-quality healthcare for years to come.”*

*Roland Busch, President and CEO of Siemens AG.*



### **Procuring and manufacturing much-needed life-saving ventilators**

Ventilators are a life-saving treatment option for those seriously affected by the coronavirus. Yet South Africa, as in the rest of the world, had a limited supply of them, exacerbated by the increased global demand from the pandemic.

Soon after its inception, the Fund procured 200 ICU invasive ventilators. As it became clear that the most pressing need was not for invasive ventilators but for non-invasive CPAP ventilators, the Fund agreed to support the National Ventilator Project. This was initiated by government and managed by the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), to engage local manufacturers to produce additional fit-for-purpose, non-invasive ventilators.

The Solidarity Fund funded the development of a prototype for the ventilators, and their subsequent manufacture, by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the South African Emergency Ventilator Project (SAVE-P). Right

to Care and the Gift of the Givers supported the distribution. The locally produced, non-invasive ventilators were designed to treat seriously ill patients before they became critical and would need the advanced invasive ventilators. They therefore alleviated the burden in high care and ICU and helped to save many people, especially in smaller health facilities, who otherwise would have struggled to get the treatment they needed.

They are also cost effective, quick to produce and can be used beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. By strengthening the capacity of local manufacturers, the Fund has helped to develop a valuable ally to support the health system if similar needs arise in future.

In the reporting period, 18 200 ventilators were manufactured and many of these donated to NDoH for distribution to public sector hospitals. In February 2021, distribution included private hospitals around the country as well. Remaining ventilators are being distributed as and when they are requested from the Fund.

*"The CSIR wall CPAP ventilators have had an enormous impact on our patient outcomes"*



Those of us working in the COVID-19 medical wards would like to express our appreciation to the team who developed the CSIR wall CPAP machines.

They have had an enormous impact on our patient outcomes between the first and second wave. Having them freely available to use in the wards during this very busy second wave has definitely saved lives. We are all aware of the resource constraints that ICU faces, and these CPAP machines allowed us to manage patients who were not able to be accommodated in ICU in the general wards. Many of these patients only survived because we had them at our disposal.

A huge thank you to all who were involved.

*The COVID-19 team  
Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital*

## Achievements

- ±R300m approved for essential equipment for EC, GP and WC
- 18 200 ventilators manufactured
- 10 860 non-invasive ventilators distributed
- 200 international ventilators procured and distributed to 32 hospitals in 7 provinces

## Partners



## Funding

- 
- R589.4m allocated  
• R235.3m spent (40% allocation spent)\*  
\*Balance of allocation for extension of essential equipment project will be implemented in 2021





## Researching the pandemics' spread and evolution to strengthen the response

Despite extensive research studies globally and locally, we still know very little about the extent and determinants of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the most part we are still estimating the virus prevalence, mainly from testing for confirmed cases on patients who have mild to serious symptoms. Little is known about the proportion of asymptomatic cases in the general population.

The Solidarity Fund is therefore supporting a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) – led research consortium to conduct a seroprevalence study to help South Africa understand the level of COVID-19 infection in the country.

The primary objectives of the study are:

- To determine the extent of COVID-19 virus infection in the general population across age-specific incidence; and
- To determine the proportion of asymptomatic infections

Secondary objectives of the study are:

- To determine risk factors for COVID-19 virus infection,
- To estimate the prevalence of COVID-19 antibodies by age and sex,
- To assess antibody levels to help estimate herd immunity,
- To identify the proportion of individuals who may have been infected with COVID-19, but do not have detectable antibodies.

The study aims to reach a sample size of approximately 13 419 randomly selected participants nationally. It commenced in October 2020, however, participation has been lower than expected due to lockdowns and people apprehensive of visitors.

To address this challenge, a robust communications strategy has been put in place to inform citizens about the survey and encourage participation. Face-to-face visits by community entry teams are also taking place in selected communities. Other strategies to improve the response rate include identifying and retraining staff with high refusal rates and adding an incentive. At the end of the reporting period, this study was still ongoing.

In addition, the Fund is also partnering with the historically disadvantaged institutions of higher learning supporting the testing efforts to conduct waste water studies. This research is gathering additional data and evidence on the prevalence of the virus by testing waste water samples for antibodies.

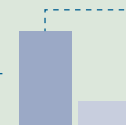
These essential research initiatives are providing invaluable information on the magnitude of the pandemic in the country, and are helping to refine and refocus the response and vaccination efforts.



### Partners



### Funding



- **R45.8m** allocated
- **R11.8m** spent  
(26% allocation spent)



## Supporting the vaccine programme

The vaccination programme is the next crucial step for the country as we attempt to move on from the ravages of the pandemic and turn to rebuilding our society and economy.

The Fund is very proud to be supporting the vaccine programme in a number of ways. On behalf of the government, we have paid R283.3 million to the global COVAX vaccination facility to procure vaccines for the country. The investment in the COVAX facility is expected to deliver vaccines to the country in the second half of 2021.

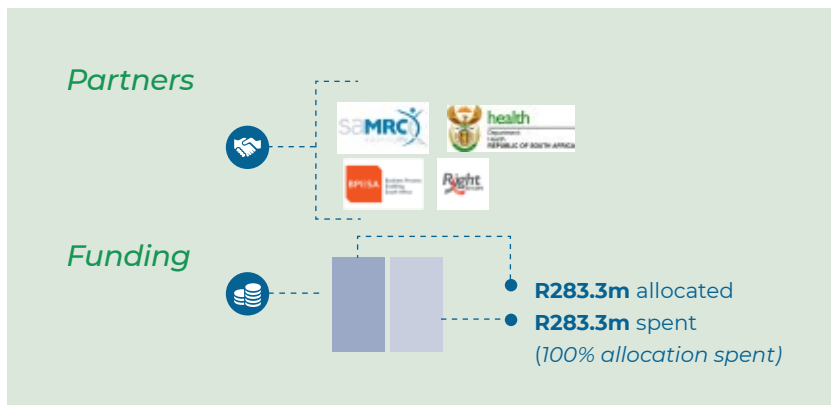
We have invested in the Sisonke Vaccination implementation study, a collaboration between the NDoH and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), which enabled the government to start vaccinating 500 000 frontline healthcare workers with the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine.

The J&J vaccine has passed clinical trials for safety. The benefit of commencing the vaccination programme through a

controlled research study allows the government to begin vaccinating health workers as quickly as possible, while at the same time gathering vital lessons on how best to implement the programme going forward.

The Fund will be targeting much of its assistance for the rest of this year to continue supporting the vaccination programme, including:

- Supporting a COVID-19 hotline call centre, where the public can get information and support on the vaccine registration platform, and answer their questions and concerns on the vaccine itself. It will also have an option for healthcare workers and those supporting the vaccine programme to get information and support.
- Supporting vaccine surge capacity or pop-up sites to support overflow from fixed vaccination sites, and ease pressure on health facilities.
- Providing other rapid-response support for logistical and ancillary supplies as required to make the vaccine roll-out a success.



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# HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



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## Improving access to food and protection for thousands of vulnerable households, women and children

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The COVID-19 pandemic is like nothing we've seen before. Not only has it put people's health at risk, but thanks to the measures we have to take to contain it, it has severely impacted our day-to-day lives, leaving thousands unable to access basic essential supplies and vulnerable to abuse.

With people unable to work under hard lockdown conditions, hunger became another devastating consequence of the pandemic. And having people stay at home, under immense anxiety, meant that those who were not safe at home were in even more danger.

The humanitarian pillar was designed as a rapid-response mechanism to address the needs of very vulnerable communities in a dignified manner to help alleviate the negative social impact of the pandemic. It aims to build on efforts by government and the private sector by focusing on two of the hardest hit areas:








**Enabling access to food** to overcome increased levels of hunger due to the pandemic



**Intensifying protection of vulnerable women and children** from increased incidence of gender-based violence (GBV)

## Achievements

-  **280 000+** households reached with food parcels
-  **105 318** food vouchers issued (valued at R73.7m), with 91 736 redeemed (valued at R64.2m)
-  **38 250** farming input vouchers issued to rural subsistence farmers (valued at R76.5m), with 21 326 redeemed (valued at R42.7m), 63% of them women-headed households
-  **133** GBV shelters and care centres provided with PPE and critical medical services
-  **30 777** units of PPE distributed to GBV support centres

## Funding spent

**R258m spent on 8 projects**



 **Food Relief**  
**R236.6m** spent  
**74%** allocation spent

 **GBV 1**  
**R19.7m** spent  
**100%** allocation spent

**GBV 2**  
**R1.7m** spent



## Alleviating the hunger crisis

Millions of South Africans experience hunger or insufficient access to affordable, nutritious food daily. The COVID-19 lockdown has exacerbated this problem significantly, aggravating the plunge in food security and creating an even bigger social crisis.

The Solidarity Fund's core mandate is to protect and support those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was therefore imperative for the Fund to work with the government to help alleviate this hunger crisis.

At the beginning of lockdown, the Fund's immediate aim was to get food to beneficiaries as quickly as possible through a food parcel programme. As this initiative progressed and the situation on the ground evolved, the Fund adapted and improved its approach, moving to a food voucher solution, and then adding a targeted farming input voucher approach to support subsistence households in rural communities.

### Food parcel programme

The Solidarity Fund partnered with the Department of Social Development's Community Nutrition Development Centres; four large, well-respected non-profit organisations working in food security; and over 400 community and faith-based organisations (CBOs / FBOs) to purchase and distribute over 280 000 food parcels in just a few months.

Engaging the CBOs and FBOs was vital to ensure we reached everywhere there was a need. We worked with academic and research partners to map the initial footprint of food parcel distribution against deprivation data at ward and municipal level. This helped us to identify areas that

were most likely to have been severely impacted by the pandemic, and gaps where the food parcel programme was not reaching.

In this way, we were able to deliver a targeted food relief strategy to the most vulnerable. We have also contributed to increasing the body of knowledge on food security needs in the country.

Safety and security during deliveries and supply-chain stock-outs were some of the key challenges we had to overcome in distributing the food parcels. The South African Police and Defence Force assisted with security, and CBOs and NGOs we partnered with provided innate knowledge and connections in the communities to allow us to use (and thereby support) local producers to overcome the supply-chain issues.



*“One Gogo broke down knowing that she felt valued by receiving this hamper. She had used all her food and had run out of food for the evening, and now has been provided relief for the coming weeks.”*

AFRA report

*“We are a family of five and all of us are unemployed; this food parcel will truly come in handy to us because of our dire situation we find ourselves in during the pandemic.”*

Beneficiary

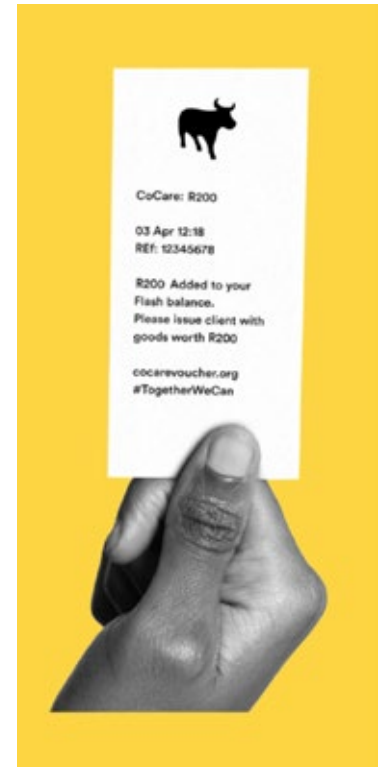


### Trialling a food voucher programme

While the food parcel initiative was being rolled out, the Solidarity Fund partnered with DG Murray Trust and the Mthunzi Network CoCare Voucher Programme to trial a food voucher initiative as the next phase of the Fund's food security focus.

The CoCare Voucher Programme works with local and regional NGOs to determine which communities are most at-risk regarding food- and economic security. Electronic vouchers to the value of R200 are then made available to beneficiaries, who can redeem their vouchers at any of over 200 000 partner stores.

Electronic vouchers avoid the logistical inefficiencies of food parcel delivery. Trialling this programme helped the Fund to better refine and refocus its food security programmes to be more cost effective and to support those in need with dignity, while minimising their risk of exposure to COVID-19.



### Food voucher programme

Although distribution and logistics costs for the food parcel initiative were kept low and most of the challenges successfully overcome, the Fund realised that a more efficient strategy was needed to support food relief.

The Fund therefore moved to a food voucher programme that makes once-off food/cash vouchers of R700 available to beneficiaries through their cell phones. They can then redeem these vouchers for what they really need.

### Benefits of the food voucher programme



1. Increases the value of support for beneficiaries from R400 (food parcels) to R700 (vouchers).



2. Recognises beneficiaries have different needs depending on their individual and family circumstances, and allows them to purchase the food and necessities that will benefit them the most.












3. Supports the local and informal economy, giving beneficiaries a range of local options on where to redeem the vouchers.



The Fund partnered with a number of organisations to identify beneficiaries who fit the profile of those most impacted by the pandemic through their existing beneficiary databases. We also joined forces with a range of partners with expertise in disbursing the vouchers.

These partners were selected based on the efficiency of their technology, their cost-effectiveness, the diversity of their distribution channels, and their potential to scale. The chosen partners are shown in the table below:

	PARTNER BENEFICIARY DATABASE	# BENEFICIARIES IDENTIFIED	VOUCHER DISBURSEMENTS PARTNER
	MomConnect (Dep. of Health)	<b>45 000</b> expecting / new mothers	Standard Bank Cash Vouchers
	Department of Sports, Arts and Culture	<b>10 000</b> unemployed sports, arts and culture beneficiaries	
	International Organisation for Migration	<b>5 000</b> migrants	
	Department of Social Development (NC & NW Provinces)	<b>20 000</b> households in need	
 	National House of Traditional Leaders (NHTL) & South African Council of Churches (SACC)	<b>25 000</b> rural households in need	Mthunzi Network
 	Harambee and M4Jam	<b>20 000</b> unemployed youth and job-seekers	M4Jam platform
	South African National Zakaah Foundation (SANZAF)	<b>10 000</b> households in need	SANZAF

The programme faced some challenges, including significant time delays and slow redemption rates on some of the beneficiary databases. This was largely due to the time required for concluding multiple contracts, as well as database quality and integrity. Verifying which beneficiaries were already receiving social grants (SASSA) also created significant delays. The programme therefore decided to remove the SASSA verification, as many recipients were still in desperate need of the food/cash voucher, even if they had already been receiving child or disability social grants.

### Rethinking social assistance

The food voucher programme has led to the development of a possible new payment mechanism and guide for social payments, which can help to improve and reshape social assistance in the country. The Praekelt/Standard

Bank payment mechanism that was established for this programme has tremendous potential for the disbursement of bulk social payments.

The administrative costs are minimal (under 2% of voucher value, which will decrease further with greater volumes) and it uses SMS, a more accessible technology, for beneficiaries to redeem their vouchers. The requirements on other resources like human resources and time are also much lower than those required for physical payment disbursements.

The ease of this payment system enabled 86% of beneficiaries to redeem their voucher, which is considerably higher than most systems currently in use globally.

“I ... got R700 under MomConnect. [I have an] ill baby and [am] recovering from a stroke. That assisted me a lot ... especially without family. God bless your hearts as you light the next person[’s] journey, thank you so much.”

Beneficiary

## Farming input vouchers

From implementing its food relief initiatives, the Solidarity Fund learnt that these solutions should focus on supporting local economies and supply chains, especially in rural areas. An important way to achieve this is to connect smallholder farmers to market and support subsistence-focused smallholders, particularly rural and women farmers. The Solidarity Fund therefore implemented a farming input voucher scheme to complement the digital food voucher intervention.

These subsistence farmers play a critical role in household food security. Approximately 75% of these households engage in agriculture to provide extra or supplementary food to their household. Supporting their ongoing ability to produce food prevents such households from being pushed into hunger and poverty, and provides direct access to food for themselves and their communities.

### How the farming input vouchers work

This initiative started in December 2020 in partnership with Mezzanine Ware. Through the Mezzanine Ware's Connected Farmer platform:



1. 47 000 eligible rural and peri-urban subsistence farmers across all nine provinces were targeted to receive e-vouchers to purchase key farming inputs, such as seeds, equipment, etc.



2. To date, 38 250 farmers have been registered and issued with a R2 000 once-off e-voucher code via SMS.



3. Beneficiaries are directed via the SMS to redeem their vouchers at the nearest of over 300 participating retailers. Retailers are then paid by Mezzanine Ware.

By end of February 2021, 38 250 vouchers had been issued to farmers, and of these, 55% were redeemed in exchange for farming inputs.

The United Kingdom government committed co-funding of R25 million to the initiative, together with the R75 million earmarked from the Solidarity Fund. Further partnerships with NHTL and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development were instrumental in ensuring a smooth roll-out of the programme and its successful and impactful implementation.

This intervention has led to an increase in general agricultural production. Beneficiaries have highlighted

their ability to provide food for their own consumption and further improve their livelihoods by selling some of their produce. This is a major boost to food security, and ensures that vulnerable families don't fall into the poverty trap. For suppliers, these vouchers provide access to a market and allows them to sustain their business economically.

The digital farming input voucher system limited beneficiaries to buying only equipment and resources to facilitate farming of vegetables, maize, beans and poultry, along with basic equipment and tools, from a range of suppliers. This ensured that the resources would be used for their intended purpose and would support and stimulate the local economy.



## Ernest and Ellie's stories



Ernest Rakane was made redundant from his job at an Engen fuel station during the 2020 lockdown. He seized the opportunity to start growing and selling vegetables in his community in Bojanala, North West province. He has already cultivated an impressive vegetable garden, comprising spinach, onions, broccoli and a variety of pumpkins. He is now using his R2 000 Solidarity Fund farming input voucher to purchase fertiliser, additional seeds and farming implements so he can maintain and expand his growing business.

Others in the community are also benefiting from investing in subsistence farming, developing a sustainable community ecosystem and benefiting from purchases of their crops while addressing food insecurity in their immediate environment.

Ellie Masego, another farming input voucher recipient from Bojanala district, North West province says: *"This voucher and help we have received has really made a big difference as we have been struggling. Now I am able to extend my vegetable garden so that I can improve my life and that of my community."* She currently distributes her crop to four families and receives funds monthly from the community trade.

Support like the farming inputs vouchers is enabling small farmers like Ernest and Ellie to continue and even expand their food production, and prevents their households from being pushed into poverty.



# Thank you from NHTL






*"The National House of Traditional & Khoisan Leadership's partnership with the Solidarity Fund is a great example of the 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 uplift 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 & Khoisan Leaders

## Achievements

-  **280 000+** households reached with food parcels
-  **105 318** food vouchers issued (valued at R73.7m), with 91 736 redeemed (valued at R64.2m)
-  **38 250** farming input vouchers issued to rural subsistence farmers (valued at R76.5m), with 21 326 redeemed (valued at R42.7m), 63% of them women-headed households

## Partners

### Mthunzi Network



## Funding





## Protecting vulnerable women and children

Another unintended consequence of the national lockdowns was an increase in the vulnerability of women and children to GBV. With more women and children forced to stay in unsafe situations, and an increase in anxiety and frustration in households, the rates of GBV spiralled. The Fund had to act quickly to support the government and organisations tackling GBV to strengthen their ability to cope with this increased need, and to be able to provide support in a COVID-19 safe environment.

In order to have the biggest impact, the Fund focused its resources on three key areas, based on extensive research conducted by Global Health Strategies.

### Strengthening the GBV Command Centre

The Fund supported the national GBV Command Centre (GBVCC) to scale its helpline, which assists clients in urgent need, putting them in contact with the police or field social workers for assistance. The GBVCC is an arm of the Department of Social Development, and uses mobile technology to estimate the location of a victim, assign the closest social worker in the field to the case, and record and receive continuous feedback on the case. The centre employs trained social workers/command centre agents, who provide immediate psycho-social support to victims and help them to avoid further exposure to GBV.

The GBVCC plays a critical role in supporting victims of GBV, and was therefore an ideal partner for the Fund to support to have a real impact in people's lives.

The Fund further supported the GBVCC to appoint and train 10 new social worker supervisors, conduct intensive capacity-building training for 72 new and existing provincial social workers, and support the procurement of furniture and technical equipment for GBVCC personnel at their new premises at Salvokop, Pretoria.



### Extending support to communities

To extend the reach of its support, the Fund supported the National Shelter Movement (NSMSA), Thuthuzela Care Centres and other existing victim support shelters to procure 30 777 units of much-needed PPE for all 133 centres to safely continue to support their increased number of clients, especially at community level.

The fund also partnered with Black Circle Communications, a 100% black-female-owned integrated marketing and communications agency with experience in GBV communications, to roll out a communications plan to equip survivors and potential victims of GBV with information on where they could access immediate help – whether it be for shelter, or for legal, paralegal or psycho-social services. The campaign also focused on raising awareness on GBV and encouraging all South Africans to play their part in trying to prevent it.

The Fund's support in this area has helped to increase access to safe spaces and GBV services, provided critical support to the amazing organisations working tirelessly to support women and children, and provided those in need with critical information on how to get help.

### Supporting CBOs and NPOs to continue providing GBV services

The Fund is further extending its support for the fight against GBV by implementing a new programme aimed at supporting CBOs on the front line of the challenge. To date, the Fund put out two calls for applications – one for CBOs, and one for Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) implementing systemic initiatives.

Of the 1 020 CBO applications and 123 NPO applications received, 661 CBO applications and 25 NPO applications were shortlisted through a robust due diligence process. These were categorised into high, medium and low-potential 'buckets' and then considered by the Fund's Selection and Evaluation Panel (SEP). In early February the panel approved funding for 321 CBO and 11 NPO partners, and by the end of February grant agreements were being circulated to approved partners.

The SEP was mandated to make an impartial assessment of applications and approve funding for recipients based on certain criteria applicable to either CBOs or NPOs. The panel was selected by the Solidarity Fund Executive Committee based on their reputable technical expertise in GBV policy, programming and services, management and grant funding, and their demonstrable dedication to improving the lives of South African people. They represent civil society, advocacy, research, the private sector, and international development organisations operating in South Africa, with expertise in social work, education, business development and law.

## Achievements

### GBV 1



**133** shelters and care centres provided with 30 777 units of PPE and critical medical services



**82** social workers trained



GBV Command Centre refurbished and re-launched

### GBV 2



**1 020** CBO applications, 661 shortlisted and 321 approved for funding



**123** NPO applications, 25 shortlisted and 11 approved for funding

## Partners

### National GBV Command Centre



## Funding



- **GBV 1: R19.7m** allocated
- **GBV 1: R19.7m** spent (100% allocation spent)
- **GBV 2: R1.7m** spent



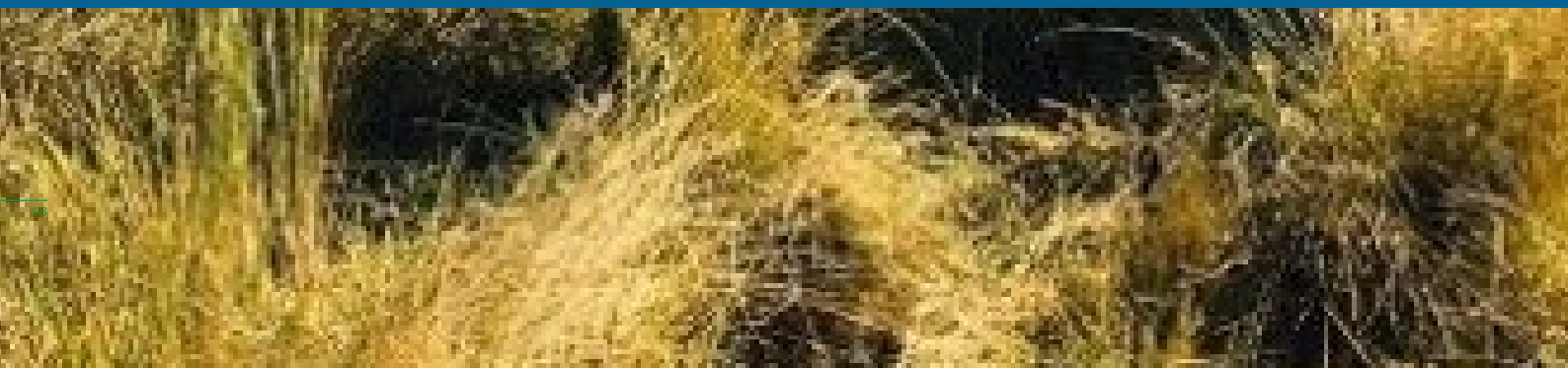
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*“PPE received is used to ensure that the shelter and the entire organisation remain well-cleaned and well-disinfected, reducing the possibility of COVID-19 infection and the spread of other germs that may cause illness. This is important as there are small children in the shelter who need to play in an environment that is constantly disinfected. The PPE received is also very helpful to both the staff and the clients, as they help to ensure that they protect themselves against COVID-19. Thank you for giving LifeLine Vaal Shelter the means to proudly service our communities in need.”*

*NSMSA Shelter*



# COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PILLAR





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## Promoting behaviour change to soften the impact of the pandemic

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The South African government and its health system cannot address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic alone. All South Africans must come together and act responsibly to slow the infection rate and help save lives.

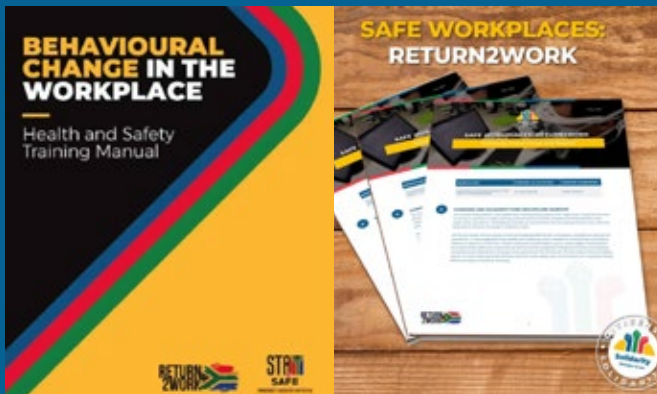
Non-medical interventions like staying at home, wearing a mask, self-isolating when sick or symptomatic, washing hands, and helping those in need are proven to have a strong impact on slowing the spread of the disease and reducing the pressure on the health system.

The Solidarity Fund knew the benefits of its health and humanitarian support would be diluted without a targeted and consistent communications and behaviour change

campaign that educates South Africans to come together and practice behaviours that will help to manage the pandemic.

The Fund has therefore implemented the **Citizens in Solidarity** campaign from March to December 2020, a multi-pronged communications initiative using media, radio, billboards, taxis, loudhailers, websites, webinars, posters, leaflets, social media, and influential political, sporting and social personalities to spread the message to all corners of the country.

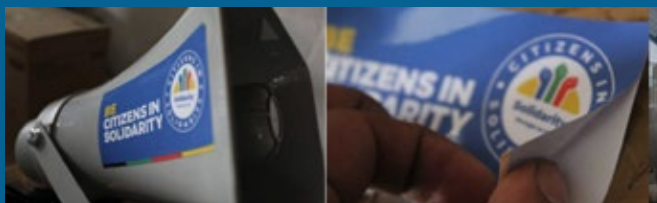
The campaign has reached nearly 90% of all adults in South Africa through targeting numerous sectors of society to support, implement and promote the campaign.



### Business

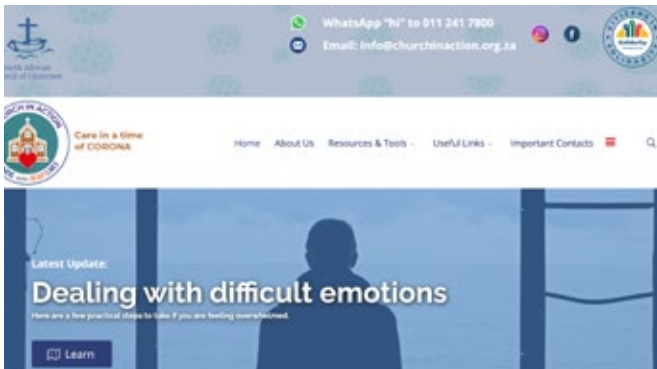
The Fund partnered with the Presidency of South Africa, Business for South Africa, the Public Private Growth Initiative, Harambee Youth Accelerator, and Genesis Analytics on the Return-to-Work initiative to develop a number of protocols and information materials and an informative website to guide a safe return to work and help businesses to stay open.

Premier Foods worked with the Fund to develop and disseminated awareness and educational leaflets, bunting and posters to its vast group of spaza shops to ensure messaging reached more broader sectors of society.



### Traditional leaders

The National House of Traditional Leaders provides significant reach and influence into remote areas across South Africa. The Fund partnered with them, supplying them with branded loudhailers to effectively deliver COVID-19 messaging and promote behavioural change in their communities. They were also given Citizens in Solidarity stickers, and magnetic car decals for the branding of the loudhailers and vehicles used in the campaign.



## Faith leaders

The religious community has a large following and was deeply affected by the lockdown and social-distancing measures, struggling to find ways to continue to engage and support their followers. The Fund partnered with the SACC and other interfaith leaders to empower them with critical information for both church leaders and the public at large on the virus and prevention guidelines, advice on care and support, and essential information to help church leaders and the public better manage the psycho-social impact of the epidemic. Local Ecumenical Action Networks were also set up to support community church groups to mobilise their local communities to assess and respond to COVID-19-related issues.



## Education

According to the United Nations, the COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, with more than 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries across all continents being affected by its impact. It was therefore imperative for the Fund to provide support to educators, learners and school-governing bodies to ensure that schools were re-opened safely and that learning would be fostered in a safe environment. A dedicated website, a 10-part radio broadcast, social media campaigns and a webinar were used to engage and support the sector, helping them to think differently about delivering quality education, while providing a safe environment.



## Youth

The Rx Radio initiative was a unique initiative to support youth through the pandemic by concentrating on the effect of the pandemic from the perspective of children. The campaign included public service announcements sharing educational content and a webinar with Professor Glenda Gray, President of the South African Medical Research Council, with nine reporters and one moderator, all aged 17 years old and below, discussing the impact of the pandemic on youth and how to cope with it.



© RX Radio



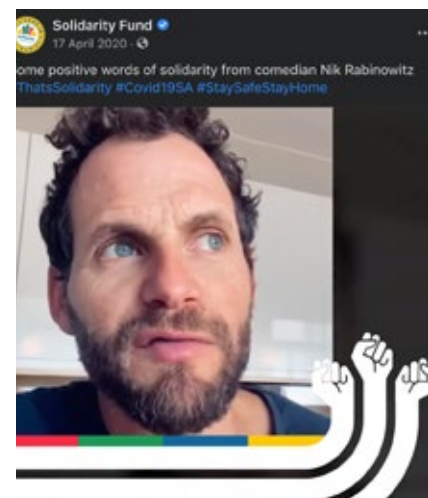
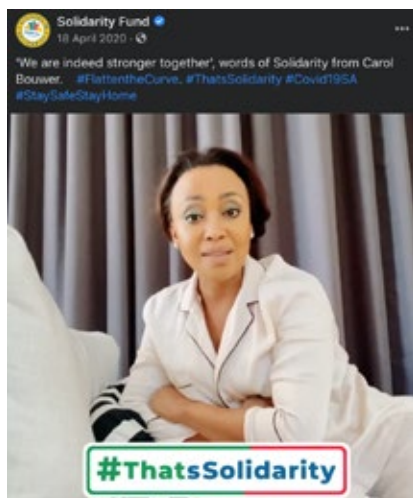
## Research

The Fund partnered with Ask Africa to conduct surveys over a three-month period between April and October 2020 to provide weekly data on the socio-economic impact that COVID-19, the lockdown and gradual re-opening of the economy have had on South Africans. The weekly research report yielded insights into the behaviours of citizens in terms of how strongly they understood, and took personal responsibility for, the impact of the pandemic on themselves and their family; their ability and willingness to adhere to prevention measures, such as washing hands; and how safe from infection they felt when out in public. The research shows that fear, food insecurity and emotional trauma spiked as the cases increased and the country moved towards the second wave. It also highlighted the need for constant communications campaigns to reinforce positive behaviours and help alleviate fears.



## Influencers

The Fund also engaged popular and respected television, social media and sports personalities to help promote positive behaviours and build a sense of unity and solidarity. At the Solidarity Cup, the first televised cricket match since the start of lockdown, cricket players wore the Solidarity in Action branding to endorse the campaign and its life-saving messages. A number of other influencers and well-known personalities took to social media to promote messages of solidarity, positive behaviours and inspire hope and encouragement.



## #UnityinAction Campaign

As the impact and fight against the pandemic evolved, the Fund adapted its communications and behaviour change approach to focus on communications around key events. These included the December festive period, the January 2021 back-to-school period, Easter 2021, behavioural maintenance and the vaccine roll-out.

The first part of this campaign, under the umbrella of “Don’t be a Mampara”, began in early December 2020 and messaging was adapted to promote positive behaviours over Christmas and follow new guidance as President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the amended level 3 lockdown measures over the new year.

This campaign was initially humorous in tone, which made sense at the time. While behavioural change takes time, we have seen a massive shift over the last year, with high levels of self-reported compliance across all preventative behaviours (according to the research).

The Mampara campaign was extensive and ran across TV, radio, outdoor, press, digital, social, activations, PR and

influencers, ensuring we reached the entire SA population. In late December and early January, as COVID-19 cases continued to increase and new lockdown measures were announced, the campaign pivoted its messaging accordingly. After the president’s speech announcing Level 3 lockdown, radio and digital were up-weighted to drive home the core behavioural messaging more urgently.

Through television we reached 23 million adults over 18 years of age, and a further 5.7 million people were reached through the Sunday front page newspaper ads on launch weekend. Eighty per cent (80%) of listeners (30 million) were reached across 65 commercial and community radio stations.

The use of outdoor opportunities for messaging, such as billboards and especially using minibus taxis as roaming advertising billboards, enabled the Fund to reach 19 million people and take the messages to a diverse range of people. It also helped to reinforce messaging from TV commercials, community radio, outdoor, PR and social media.



## Activations

The South African people needed a voice, so we took to the streets with trained community based behavioural change agents, deployed in the hotspot districts of Gauteng, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. We also zoomed in on super-spreader touchpoints across urban, townships, and peri-urban areas.

The agents brought the Solidarity Campaign to life through meaningful conversations and simple moments of listening to South Africans. Their mission was to inform people about preventative behaviours, inspire hope and spread the message: *“when we unite, we can stop the spread of Coronavirus”*. An elderly lady referred to our agents in red as *“unsung heroes”*.

The on-the-ground activities included branded vehicles *“Don’t be a Mampara”*, Solidarity sanitizer wipes, and an activation song with dance moves that showcased how to co-exist with the pandemic, such as toe tapping, the elbow shake and Bluetooth high-fives.

The agility of the agents enabled the teams to reroute to newly announced hotspots overnight, reaching over 500 touchpoints in four Provinces over a five-week period, driving effective behaviour change and advocacy to over a million community members.

## Influencers and social media

Our digital approach was aimed at reaching a diverse audience including affluent, youth, and rural markets. A combination of social media (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) and SMS were used. This combination achieved a reach of 14 million people, with 12 million video views, and a doubling of Solidarity Fund Twitter followers.

We engaged with 60 influencers to effectively reach the youth market on TikTok and Instagram in a humorous and compelling way. These influencers reinforced how youth should follow the required behaviours and reached approximately 4 million people.

Sixty-six percent (66%) of people surveyed about the #UnityinAction campaign stated they were aware of it, with 85% of those saying it has motivated them to change their behaviour and inspire others to do the same.

The Fund’s communications efforts are now being tailored towards education and awareness on the vaccine programme, as well as continued behaviour change messaging.

## Achievements

-  **90%** of all adults in South Africa (~35 million adults) reached by both campaigns
-  **19 million** people reached with the #UnityinAction Campaign phase 1
-  **3 377** billboards and taxis used to promote messaging in both campaigns
-  **R82.5 million** in media value donated
-  **R6 million** in PR donated for the #UnityinAction Campaign
-  **66%** of people surveyed were aware of the #UnityinAction Campaign, with 85% of those saying it has motivated them to change their behaviour and inspire others to do the same.

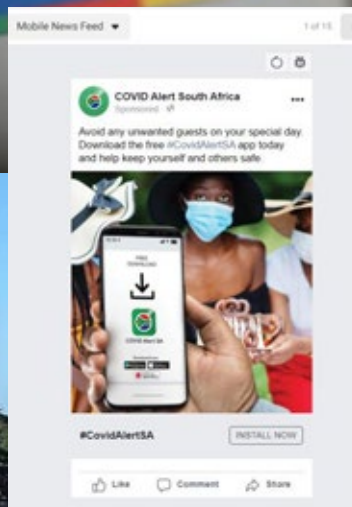
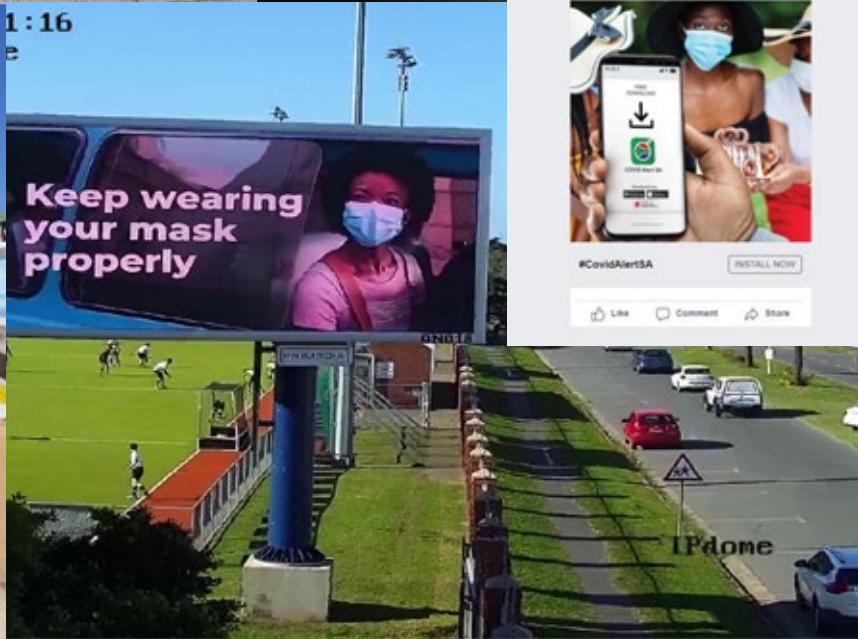
## Partners



## Funding

-  **R175.9m** allocated
-  **R119.6m** spent (68% allocation spent)\*

\*Additional allocation for vaccine and behaviour change communications will be implemented in 2021





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# Glossary

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## Acronyms

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



<b>SEP</b>	Selection and Evaluation Panel
<b>SPIRE</b>	South African Pandemic Intervention and Relief Effort (initiative of FirstRand Group)
<b>WC</b>	Western Cape
<b>WHO</b>	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.



**Solidarity  
Fund**

Unity in action