



Solidarity Fund

Unity in action

MEDIA RELEASE

THE SOLIDARITY FUND UPDATES ON ITS ACTIVITIES | 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

Johannesburg, 28 September 2021 – It's been just over 18 months since the Solidarity Fund was formed on the 23rd of March 2020 as a rapid response vehicle to mobilise South Africa in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. From an ambitious idea, it has grown into a multibillion Rand organisation that has touched the lives of thousands of South Africans.

Since inception, **R3.44 billion in COVID relief funding** has been raised. Of the funds, **R2.62 billion** has been disbursed to date as follows:

In the Health response **R1.97b**

In the Humanitarian Pillar **R371m; and**

In the Behavioural Change Pillar **R282m**

The remaining funds have been allocated to interventions that are either in approval process or in execution. As such, they have not yet been distributed.

Further, the **Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF)**, established as a direct response to the challenges resulting from the unrest in July, has raised R489m, including R400m that was donated by the National Treasury from the RDP fund. In addition, and with the permission of donors, R100m was redirected from the COVID relief fund to the HCRF, while an additional R89m raised from corporate donors takes the total funds available to the HCRF to R589m.

Health Response update

The aim of the **Health Pillar** is to support and bolster the national and provincial health systems. The Fund was not only able to service the immediate, urgent needs but did, and still is, contributing to a legacy of general improvement of the health system which will be felt well after the pandemic.

The current priority of the Health Pillar is to support the **National Vaccine Roll-out Programme**. With government, we are working to enable as many people as possible to get vaccinated by the end of the year.

Humanitarian Response update

The **Humanitarian Response Pillar** focus is to provide support to the most vulnerable in our communities and help alleviate the negative social impact of the pandemic by:

- Enabling access to food and food security through food parcels and vouchers, as well as farming input vouchers; and
- Aiding vulnerable women and children from increased Gender-Based Violence by supporting shelters and the National GBV Command Centre, as well as providing funding to enable GBV Community-Based Organisations to continue their good work.

Behavioural Change & Communication update

Under the **Behavioural Change Pillar**, the Fund rolled out **#UnityInAction**. The approach of this campaign was multi-faceted, partnering with faith organisers, community leaders, influencers, sports celebrities and more to mitigate the message of preventative behaviours.

In support of the National Vaccine Roll-out Programme, we the Fund has launched two large-scale communications campaigns aimed at core preventative behaviours and demand creation targeting vaccine inertia and hesitancy. The Fund also donated R72 million to establish the national vaccine programme call centre.

The Humanitarian Crisis Fund

The Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF) was set up in response to the civil unrest that occurred in July in KZN and Gauteng. It focuses on three key areas of support:

- 1) **emergency food provision**;
- 2) re-establishing critical **delivery channels for chronic medications**;
- 3) **small business recovery**.

“The work done in the last 18 months has been nothing short of incredible. I would like to thank the Board, the Exco, all our donors, stakeholders, partners and staff, both current and previous for all the hard work. Most of all, I would like to thank South Africans for the incredible spirit of solidarity that they have displayed, and continue to display during this pandemic.” *Tandi Nzimande, CEO Solidarity Fund*

To access the Annual Financial Statements, Integrated Annual Report and media update scripts, visit <https://solidarityfund.co.za/integrated-annual-report/>

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