

Solidarity Fund Integrated Annual Report and Update Media Briefing – Presentation Script

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28 September 2021

- **BORIS KAMSTRA** • **HUMANITARIAN CRISIS RELIEF FUND (10 MINS)**

In July of this year, South Africa was rocked by social, violence and looting that swept across Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng. Businesses, both big and small, were destroyed, supply chains were compromised, jobs lost, access to food and medicine was affected. And the impacts of these consequences are still being felt.

In response to this crisis, and in an effort to minimise the impact on a country which is already reeling from the effects of the COVID pandemic, the Solidarity Fund Board agreed to ringfence and oversee the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF) whose sole purpose is to respond to the Humanitarian, Medical and Economic crisis that has arisen as a consequence of the protests. This is a short-term intervention, of three to six months, aimed at addressing immediate concerns that are a direct result of these protests.

The Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund is managed separately from the COVID response mandate of the Solidarity Fund, with a separate organisational pillar, and funds for it are deposited into a segregated bank account. After consultation with key donors, the Solidarity Fund Board approved the reassignment of R100m from the COVID-19 fund to be utilised for the HCRF. A further R400m has been received from government, while R89m has been donated following the Solidarity Fund having undertaken a dedicated fundraising drive.

One of the Solidarity Fund's key priorities is ensuring that the funds available go where they can do the most good. To this end, the Solidarity Fund has undertaken extensive research through targeted surveys, consultation with partners and organisations already involved in relief efforts, the Fund sought to understand the nature and size of the situation post the unrest, the humanitarian response, gaps in the response and opportunities for the Solidarity Fund to respond.

Based on this research, we identified where gaps exist and are working on an integrated and coordinated approach, involving partners and key stakeholders, to plug these gaps and ensure that affected South Africans receive the food, medicine and business relief that they need.

A needs analysis undertaken by Genesis Analytics on behalf of the HCRF established that the recommended intervention by the Fund in the immediate short term should focus on:

- 1) **emergency food provision** through the delivery of food parcels by a limited number of chosen partners, including the contracted delivery agents used by the Department of Social Development;

2) re-establishing critical **delivery channels for chronic medications**;

Additionally, the fund will focus on programmes to support much needed **business recovery**, aimed at supporting small businesses, and thereby their employees as well, whose livelihoods were affected.

On the 18th of July, the **Department of Social Development** approached the HCRF to assist in food relief in the provinces of Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng. Even before the social unrest, food insecurity had significantly worsened due to the COVID-19 lockdowns.

The protests further amplified vulnerability and food insecurity in many communities with production, logistics, distribution and more being affected.

In response, the HCRF has allocated R100m and is working with the Department of Social Development to deliver food parcels to stricken households in KZN and Gauteng. To date, we have distributed 43 000 parcels in KZN and 21 000 in GP.

We have also allocated a further R20m and are partnering with the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders to do the same. We have Completed the distribution of 21 560 food parcels in partnership with 196 National House of Traditional Leaders Councils.

South Africa has a significant proportion of the population who rely on **chronic medication**. These patients are stable, but require consistent adherence to their treatment regimes in order to remain so. To facilitate this, the NDoH introduced external Centralised Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) Pick Up Points (PUPs) to ensure that patients did not have to face prohibitive traveling costs and waiting times to access their chronic medication, and that health facilities are not overwhelmed by stable patients picking up prescriptions, and can focus on in-facility patient care.

During the social unrest and violence, 260 PUPs were destroyed. The result has been that 400 000 patients no longer have easy access to their medicines, and are being forced to travel further, to already overstretched and overcrowded health facilities to find their medicine.

The NDOH approached the HCRF to support the creation of emergency pick up points for chronic medication. The department requested funding for a service provider (Concare) to provide 27 containers and staff for a six-month period.

At R4 437 000, this is a low cost, high impact intervention that will allow over 100 000 patients access chronic medication while their usual channels undergo repairs and gear up for a 'return to business'.

The third focus area of the HCRF's interventions is **Business Recovery**.

Numerous small businesses were affected by the civil unrest that occurred in July in KZN and parts of Gauteng. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities and economy, providing employment and access to goods and supporting suppliers. Those SMME's that

are not covered by insurance have been left with few options for survival, together with those who depend on them to make a living.

Together with The National Empowerment Fund (NEF), the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund has established a R450m SMME Support Programme targeting small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) able to demonstrate that they were negatively impacted by the unrest in both provinces.

The HCRF will be allocating R150m grant funding to this intervention to help immediately address the recovery of the SMME sector.

Applicants to the fund must be a registered company, close corporation or co-operative and in good standing with the South African Revenue Service. The applicant must also demonstrate that jobs lost will be restored or increased within 12 months of receiving the funding. The call for applications was announced on Thursday 23rd September, and details are available on the Solidarity Fund's website and NEF's at www.nefcorp.co.za.

These three interventions underscore the intent of the HCRF to be able to respond with agility and speed to recovery efforts in a meaningful way that will ultimately benefit community access to goods and services, and aid in the much-needed economic and social recovery in the affected areas.

Thank you