

Solidarity Fund Integrated Annual Report, AFS and Fund Update Media Briefing - Presentation Script

Tandi Nzimande – CEO

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TANDI NZIMANDE • 3RD QUARTER REVIEW

- Thank you Gloria. Good morning everyone! Thank you for joining us for this briefing where we will be presenting a review of our Integrated Annual Report, announcing our Annual Financial Statements and providing a review of the activities since our last update in June. This will include an update on our scaling down process. The Audited Financial Statements, and Integrated Annual Report will be available to view and download immediately following this briefing on the Solidarity Fund's website, and media releases will be released shortly after the briefing.
- I will be taking you through the update on our activities, followed by our CFO, Zanele Ngwepe, who will take you through a detailed Annual Financial Statements presentation.
- But first, as always, an overview of the numbers.
- In the period between March 2020 and February 2022, almost R4 billion was raised in total. R3,4 billion for the COVID response and R597 million for the Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund. As at February 2022 the Fund had disbursed R3,2 billion, or 80% of total donations.
- To date, **R3,27 billion** has been disbursed in the COVID fund as follows:
In the Health Response Pillar - **R2,35bn**
In the Humanitarian Pillar - **R431m**; and
In the Behavioural Change Pillar – **R496m**
- Further, the **Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF)**, established as a direct response to the challenges resulting from the unrest in July 2021, raised **R597m**, including R100m redirected within the Solidarity Fund. This amount has been fully disbursed.
- When the **devastating floods** in **KwaZulu-Natal** and **Eastern Cape** occurred in April of this year, the **Solidarity Fund Floods Response** was set up to respond to the resulting humanitarian crisis. To fund this intervention, the Solidarity Fund initiated fund-raising and R45,3 million was received as at the end of August, including R20m redirected from within the Fund. Of this amount, R43,3 million has been allocated and R42,7 million disbursed to date.

Floods Response update

- The floods that devastated KwaZulu Natal in April this year, destroyed schools and buildings, damaged infrastructure and left many without food, shelter, or fresh water. Despite our scaling down process, the Fund committed to responding to this catastrophe and assisted NGOs that were already working on the ground to deliver relief and assistance.
- The **R42,7 million** disbursed to date has been allocated as follows:

Food and essential products support – R13,2 million

Integrated shelter support – R26,3 million

Psycho-social support – R3,2 million

- As at the end of August, our impact in the focus areas reflects as follows;

Food and Essential Hygiene Products

- 457 076 meals, 4 764 food parcels, 4120 hygiene packs and 2000 blankets have been delivered

Integrated Shelter Solutions

- 30 fully installed boreholes of which 23 are fully operational and handed over to beneficiaries with 7 in final testing phase. We have also provided 334 tents, 1152 Mattresses, 117 toilets and 36 water tanks.
- 10 schools and 50 homes have been repaired
- Building material vouchers and cash vouchers for transportation and labour provided to 300 beneficiaries in the Eastern Cape.

Psychosocial Support

- A total of 2,748 beneficiaries have been provided with counselling.

Health Pillar update

- Under the health Pillar, the project to **deliver** essential COVID-19 and critical care equipment to public sector hospitals nationally is nearing completion. R418 million - 97% of the total project allocation has been disbursed to date, with 1 389 pieces of equipment delivered. All equipment contributes to the long-term strengthening of the national health system. Equipment sourced includes vital signs monitors, hospital beds, x-ray machines, ultrasound sonar machines and diagnostic sets, to name a few.
- The Solidarity Fund programme to support and augment the **National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme** was completed on the 30th of June 2022.

Some Key Highlights of the programme include:

- Contracted 20 Clinical Operators who administered a total of 1,392,051 vaccinations at 320 outreach sites.
- Supported the Eastern Cape Department of Health's vaccine programme which resulted in over 500,000 additional jabs being administered in the rural and deep rural Eastern Cape subdistricts.
- The National Vaccine Coordination, Technical Assistance and Capacitation Programme led by DGMT which the Solidarity Fund co-funded alongside other donors, contributed to the deployment of over 200 technical assistants to the NDoH, Provincial Departments of Health and districts.

Humanitarian Pillar update

- All Humanitarian Pillar projects were fully implemented and closed out as at the 31st August 2022. The impact thereof has been previously reported on.

Behavioural Change Pillar update

- The Fund's mass reach, vaccine demand creation campaign to inform & educate; address myths, fears and concerns; and motivate people out of their hesitancy and inertia was scheduled to close out at the end of January 2022. Continued and scaled community level engagement was necessary, however, if South Africa was to reach its vaccination roll out targets as set by the National Department of Health (NDoH). The Fund therefore extended the campaign, focusing on two areas: Community engagements; followed by support of NDoH vaccine demand creation activities through community mobilisation at outreach sites and radio interventions. An 'on the ground' communication approach was adopted, focusing on the districts and sub-districts that had the lowest uptake and biggest populations.

The extension ran from 15 March to 15 May 2022, reaching 5.3 million people via digital channels, community radio and through the deployment of 1,450 on the ground community mobilisers.

The NDoH vaccine demand creation activities focused on supporting the extension of the #KeReady campaign through radio intervention Public Service Announcements. From the 15th May to 30 June, the campaign employed 600 community mobilisers supporting 60 outreach sites. The impact thereof resulted in 327 824 people directly engaged, with 103 787 vaccinations directly attributable to the campaign at the outreach sites.

- Solidarity Fund support for **The National COVID-19 Call Centre, launched** in May 2021 has concluded following an extension of the project to the 31st of July 2022 from the initial end date of March. Additional funding of R18 million was approved to enable the 4-month extension. The Call Centre handled close on 2 million calls from inception to end July 2022.

Community Partner Organisations have played an important role in the Fund's demand creation campaign. While the partnerships have now come to a close, the impact has been significant. The third and final phase of the community partners programme ran from March to June 2022 after additional funding was approved for our three partners - SACC, Covid Comms and CCF. Some highlights of activities and impact delivered by the Community Partner Organisations includes: **The SACC** held over 40 vaccine literacy and mobilisation training workshops with more than 3,000 attendees; over 60 vaccine drives leading to the vaccination of 2,500 people. **Covid Comms** conducted more than 500 workshops with over 10,000 attending through the period. **The CCF** drove social mobilisation at district and community level through door-to-door mobilisation and community radio partnerships. 600 activations reached 17,000 people with 3,000 vaccinations achieved.

- **Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund update**

- The work of the **Humanitarian Crisis Relief Fund (HCRF)**, established after the July 2021 civil unrest that took place in parts of Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal has largely been concluded, with the successful disbursement of funds in the final phase.
- The Solidarity Fund made available R87 million in grant funding to civil society organisations (NPOs) that suffered direct losses, or whose beneficiaries had incurred losses. Working closely with implementation partner Tshikululu, funding was disbursed to 39 organisations. 84 projects were initiated, and 83 381 beneficiaries reached. The project will close out at the end of September, heralding the conclusion of the HCRF's activities.

- **Scale Down update**

- As Gloria said, the Fund is well entrenched in the process of scaling down operations, with the final deadline being mid-December. All but approximately **R80 million** of our donated funds have been allocated and disbursed at this time and the remaining amount is currently in approval process for allocation to **Gender-based violence interventions** and **food relief** programmes prior to the financial year end.
- Funds remaining after the final disbursements will be retained within the Fund for reactivation purposes when the need arises.
- With the scaling down of our operations, comes the requirement to slim down the executive and management team. From January 2023, the day-to-day operations will be managed by an administrator. Further details pertaining to this will be announced at the Fund's final briefing in late November.
- As we inch closer to our final deadline for the scaling down of our operations by December 2022, we stay committed to fulfilling all our existing obligations responsibly and to the highest standards. We don't, of course, know if or when COVID-19

infections will be on the rise again, but the Fund leaves a legacy that will stand us all in good stead for the future – a better capacitated health system, NGO's that are more adequately equipped with skills and resources and a nation that has reaffirmed its power through solidarity.

- Thank you.