



Solidarity Fund

Unity in action

NEDLAC AND MISTRA WEBINAR

The Solidarity Fund Experience

August 2nd, 2022

THE SOLIDARITY FUND



GENESIS OF THE SOLIDARITY FUND

The Solidarity Fund is unique in the world.

- ▶ A multi-sectoral rapid response vehicle to augment and support the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Its establishment acknowledged that this pandemic would become too big for government or individual organisations to fight alone
- ▶ Highly coordinated response effort for the common good of all.
- ▶ Set the bar globally for a collaborative and multi-sectoral approach between government, business and civil society
- ▶ Approach and execution rooted in exemplary governance and critical transparency
- ▶ Unity in purpose and action can achieve great things.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The story of the Fund has been one of change and agility.

- ▶ Fund's focus and activity was directed/redirected as the needs of the country changed, from the onset of the pandemic, through the civil unrest in 2021 and the devastating floods in 2022.
- ▶ Initial focus pillars – Health Response, Humanitarian Response and Behavioural Change.
- ▶ Focus pillars added – HCRF and Floods Response.
- ▶ Catalyst of the Fund's ability to deliver on its mandate was the support from national government, the donor community, foreign governments, organisations, individuals
- ▶ Operationally, organisational support, and pro-bono services were key.

THE FUND'S APPROACH



The Fund chose a **coordinated and collaborative** approach to maximise impact

AGILE AND RESPONSIVE



First six months of existence focused solely on preparing the country and the health system to meet the crisis as quickly and efficiently as possible.
Understanding the need and challenge posed in responding in a timeous and impactful manner.

HEALTH RESPONSE

- Rapidly scaling testing, and sourcing and distributing PPE, ventilators and critical care equipment and vaccinations.
- Close cooperation with the NDoH to identify and respond with impact.
- Collaboration of business to source/secure/distribute.
- The Fund focused on selection of partners and beneficiaries.

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

- Food Relief and Gender Based Violence response.
- Need for support beyond immediate relief.
- Initial focus on food parcels, food vouchers and farming input vouchers, working closely with the likes of the DSD, DALLRD, payment partners and civil society organisations.
- The FIV programme required partners to provide extensive data and a new technology based approach to reach beneficiaries in the targeted areas.
- Gender Based Violence programmes targeted and partnered with existing GBV programmes and NGOs, CBOs and systemic partners.

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

- Employed sector leading communications campaigns to extend messaging, partnering with Civil Society and Religious organisations .
- Partnering with business, media organisations and influencers amplified messaging and drove reach.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS RELIEF FUND

- HCRF partnered with DSD to distribute food parcels, benefiting from its existing pool of suppliers.
- Food parcels distributed through registered NPOs previously partnered for greater efficiency
- Local PHTL partnerships.
- HCRF business recovery support, saw a partnership with the NEF to provide grants to large and small businesses
- Cash vouchers programme saw partnerships with specialised financial organisations to reach targeted recipients.

FLOOD RESPONSE

- Food and Essential products, Integrated Shelter Solutions and Pshychosocial Services
- Interventions was based on the same premise as all the pillars.
- Multi-sectoral approach to effectively allocate donor funding to support and assist those in need.
- Partnering with organisations that were already active in providing relief to beneficiaries within KZN and EC following the devastation.

LESSONS: We learnt FAST, We learnt SMART



CLEAR PURPOSE

Easier decision making process, including partnerships.



COORDINATE / COMMUNICATE

Course-correct and communicate to ensure the best coordination.



DIVERSE PARTNERS

Enable a strong learning environment and greater beneficiary reach.



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Work with partners to find new/improved solutions.



PRESERVE AUTONOMY

Autonomy from government and partners, while working closely with them, was essential. Public trust in autonomy critical.



LASTING IMPACT

Leverage partners and all activities for lasting impact beyond immediate action.



SPECIALISED RESPONSE STRUCTURE

Convergence of decision making, policy making, expertise, finance and more aids effectiveness of solutions and response.

The biggest lesson is the power of the spirit of Solidarity.

SUSTAINING

A few examples of the sustainable outcomes of our collaborative approach which leads to sustainable interventions and solutions



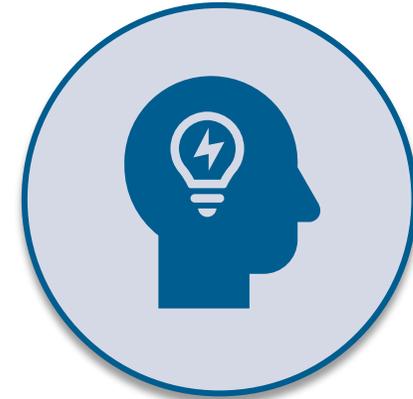
CAPACITATE:

The Fund has helped **capacitate** the national and provincial healthcare system and it stands ready to tackle any future waves, and possibly similar epidemics/pandemics.



LONG TERM SOLUTIONS:

Farming Input Vouchers have provided beneficiaries with the tools and supplies to provide for **extended** food security.



INNOVATE:

Innovation through limitation – partnerships often best placed to create and perfect innovative responses. SF food and farming input voucher projects have brought **new thinking and innovation**, which the country's social assistance programmes can learn from.

SUSTAINING cont.

A few examples of the sustainable outcomes of our collaborative approach which leads to sustainable interventions and solutions



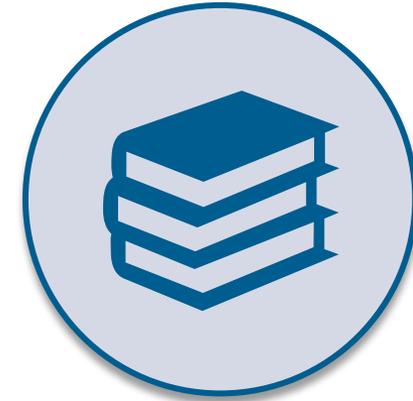
CREATE SYNERGY:

Synergy between organisations operating in different areas but within the same catchment – invaluable going forward



REPLICABILITY = SUSTAINABILITY:

The Fund's success has the potential for interventions to continue with funding from government and other non-governmental funding sources



EDUCATE:

Communications campaigns have **helped educate** people on responsibility, preventative measures and importance of vaccination. Importantly also **reflected the power of partnering with Civil Society Organisations**, trusted by the people on the ground



Solidarity Fund

Unity in action

THANK YOU