

The Giving Organisation Trust - Covid-19 Crisis Intervention Summary



SA Red Cross Society

In South Africa, the global COVID 19 outbreak has affected all nine Provinces, with more than 2,200 people testing positive for the virus, as at 14.04.2020.

To curb and manage the spread of COVID 19, the President has, in invoking the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002, called for a 21-day national lockdown as of 27th March 2020, which was further extended to the end of April 2020.

The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) is auxiliary to the Government of South Africa, by virtue of the Government being signatory to the Geneva Conventions, which mandate all Governments to establish Red Cross Societies in their countries by an Act of Parliament: to compliment Government in preventing and alleviating human suffering in peace times and during man-made and natural disasters.

The government has reached out to the SARCS to support the nine affected provinces to intensify public awareness, basic screening and conduct contact tracing.

As part of the SARCS Disaster Risk Reduction policies, and with some support from the International Red Cross Red Crescent family, the SARCS has:

- Mobilized disaster response teams in 9 provinces to provide preparedness and response;
- Trained 1074 volunteers and 25 staff members on health promotion, COVID-19 prevention and risk communication
- Media engagement to disseminate mandate of SARCS, promote hygiene and responding to myths (risk communication);
- Developed and distributed information pamphlets and shared with targeted community members;
- Engaged with Department of Health (DoH) to strengthen partnership and eliminate duplication of relief efforts;
- Cooperated with DoH to train more volunteers in contact tracing of people who may have come into contact with those that tested positive for the virus;

The SARCS has reached more than 200,000 people, through community education, enforcing the concept of social distancing at shopping malls, homes and in other public spaces. In addition, through media engagement about 42 354 000 viewers and listeners were reached with regular updates on activities implemented in the 9 provinces.





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The lockdown has had a negative impact on the vulnerable community groups such as the elderly, homeless, child headed households, orphaned and vulnerable children, the homeless, refugees/asylum seekers and people with disabilities.

SARCS is providing the following assistance to the identified vulnerable community members:

- Provision of hot meals for homeless, child headed households, elderly, orphan and vulnerable children and disabled persons;
- Pasting of social distancing stickers in the malls with key messages;
- Public education at the SASSA pay points during pay day of social grants
- Supporting DOH with contact tracing and basic screening;

To date, the SARCS has reached some 13,000 people with hot meals activities and they will continue until the lockdown is over.

SARCS intends to increase the number of volunteers involved in contact tracing and basic screening, in response to the observed rapid increase of numbers of people testing positive to COVID 19;

This necessitates broader volunteer support with training, personal protective equipment, travelling arrangements and ensuring psychological support to them.

We also need to close the food security gaps in households where regular meals have been diminished by the inability to seek work and sustenance. provides hot meals or food parcels for them. Promotion of social distancing demonstrations by SARCS is assisting as government to curb spreading of COVID-19.

Long term, we foresee a shortage of assistant or auxiliary health workers in Hospitals and clinics, as fatigue among regular nurses and nurse-aids is bound to set in; our volunteers are skilled to offer this support.

The SARCS is carrying out the following activities, inter alia ;

- Supply of PPE, including face masks, gloves, disposable overalls, hand sanitizers, for our volunteers and staff that assist with the above-mentioned activities;
- Provision of hot meals for the homeless and Places of Safety;
- Provision of food parcels for identified vulnerable community members
- Provision of blankets for identified vulnerable community members
- Provision of mattresses for identified vulnerable community members
- Providing support to department of health with screening and contact tracing;
- Supply of buckets and soap for hand washing demonstrations and household usage for identified vulnerable communities.



ACFS



The work that ACFS does, is located in the context that more than 6 million children in South Africa continue to suffer multidimensional levels of poverty. This compounding poverty, places a severe burden on the family, stifles the child's ability to develop fully and compromises and robs her of the opportunity to

become a responsive, active and engaged citizen. As the turmoil and crisis of the COVID19 Virus erupts all around us, one thing is clear ... the poor will be most affected and in many cases have no options to respond to the virus as some of our privileged communities do. While they scramble for basics such as food, nutrition and health provisions, their counterparts in the more privileged communities have turned their living rooms into online classrooms

With the onset of the COVID19 Shutdown, we have focused our intervention to weekly food distributions to ensure that at a minimum the children from our vulnerable families do not go hungry. We also work directly with over 5000 households who receive a monthly food hamper for a family of five. Since the onset of the lockdown, we also revised our support to delivering a bi-weekly food hamper.

Obviously as people stay at home, they are bound to consume more food. They are also unable to ply their trade on the streets, as this would be in contravention of the lockdown regulations. It is imperative that we consider expanding our reach to reach those individuals who have been recently affected due to loss of income or an inability to continue trading in one way or another to make the income required to put food on the table.

As the turmoil and crisis of the COVID Virus erupts all around us, one thing is clear in our response. We have to stay the course and ensure that our vulnerable communities, who are food insecure on good days, are supported to go through this lockdown situation. For many of our families, their livelihoods have been wiped away with no notice. They find themselves cramped up in overcrowded homes and shacks and with restless children out of school. The requirement for food and nutrition is suddenly multiplied as children are at home 24/7. Without support to access food, these vulnerable families will have more to worry about than just the spread of the COVID virus – they will go hungry. Many children in the townships depend on the school nutrition programme as well as our nutrition centres for a full meal each day. With this lockdown now fully in place, the food security for many of the children and families is significantly compromised.



Africa Foundation



The Government of South Africa has taken stringent precautionary measures to 'flatten the curve' of infection so as not to over burden the healthcare system.

However, in rural communities, the healthcare facilities are already woefully under-resourced to effectively manage an outbreak of COVID-19. Many rural clinics lack a functional direct water supply. They are dependent on municipality deliveries of water in tanks, or their own collection of water from community taps. Africa Foundation has been in contact with all the clinics in our 28 communities and all report a lack of PPE and sanitisers, and express a general sense of fear regarding their own safety and ability to cope with an outbreak.

The incapacity of clinics in the context of COVID-19 is compounded by the fact that they are serving communities in which poverty, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and diarrhoea related diseases are rife. Where whole families live in small one or two room homes and social distancing is an impossibility.

Africa Foundation has regional teams who are well positioned within communities to understand the needs and provide the support where it is needed most urgently. In both KZN and MPU we have team members who are permitted to work during the lockdown, as an essential support service to clinics and HBC centres. Africa Foundation also has access to key suppliers and transportation, and with the necessary funds is able to act fast.

Our COVID-19 Response Fund goals are to ensure that:

1. Rural clinics have access to water – through the repair of broken boreholes.
2. Rural clinics are equipped with sanitisers, protective masks, clothing and basic medical supplies required to diagnose and treat the symptoms of COVID-19.
3. The children and staff at HBC centres are kept as safe as possible, through the provision of sanitisers, and as the economic impact of COVID-19 increases that the basic needs of the most vulnerable are met.



CANSA



Research • Educate • Support

The current COVID-19 is a crisis like nothing we have experienced before. Never before in recent history have we witnessed the world economy coming to a standstill – it is worse than the recent global financial crisis.

The Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), as a non-Governmental non-profit company is totally dependent on donations to maintain the essential services that it offers. One of the important essential services that CANSA offers is accommodation in the CANSA Care Homes.

Immediate Impact of COVID-19

Poor and destitute individuals cannot afford that CANSA Care Homes close their doors as this will interrupt their Chemotherapy and/or Radiation Therapy with dire consequences for their recovery.

CANSA has 12 Care Homes across South Africa which provide home-away-from-home accommodation for cancer patients while undergoing their cancer treatment. These are patients from outlying rural and far-rural areas who cannot afford another form of accommodation, e.g. hotels or B&B establishments.

Some Facts About the CANSA Care Homes

- Over 2 100 cancer patients stayed at the CANSA Care Homes during the 2019/20 financial year
- Patients stay at the CANSA Care Homes for 6 to 8 weeks (per cycle), depending on their treatment.
- Patients are provided with transport each morning to the various cancer treatment centres and transported back in the afternoon after their treatment sessions
- In the case of childhood patients, CANSA provides accommodation to a parent, legal guardian, or older sibling who accompanies the child so that they can have contact with someone they know and who can keep family members informed of the child's progress

The CANSA Care Home staff were requested to provide some urgent requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

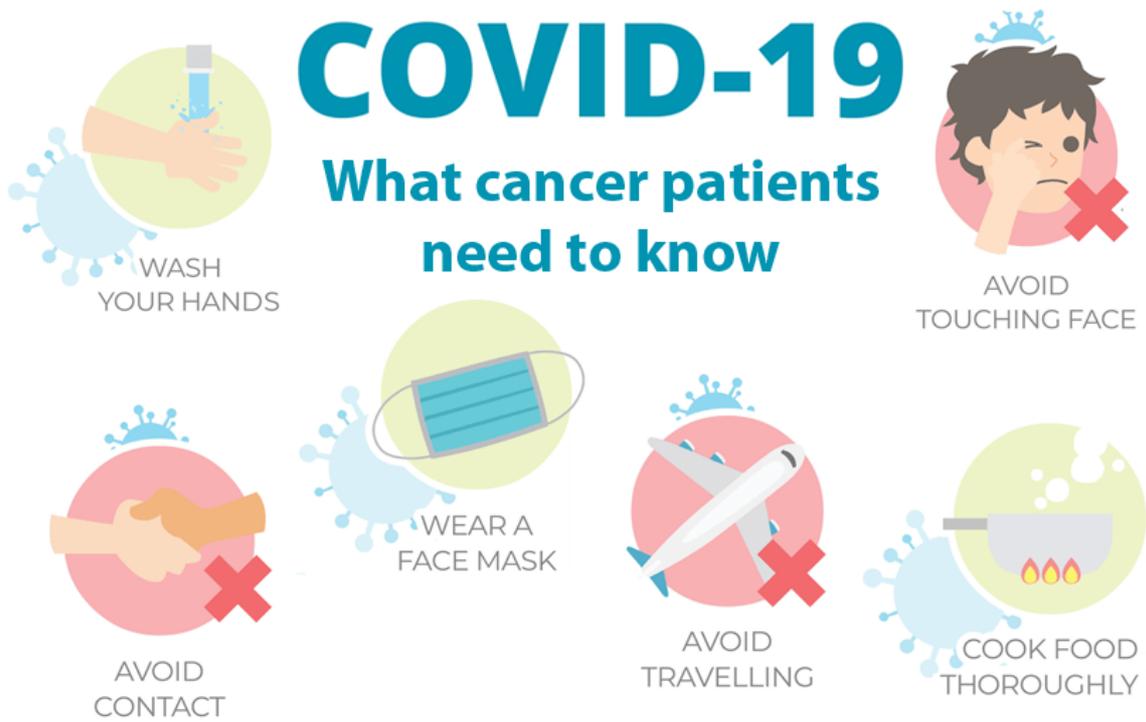
In declaring a national state of disaster recently, President Cyril Ramaphosa made it clear how seriously the Government views the threat of the coronavirus. He acknowledged that it is not simply a question of the nation's health. He made it clear that, in addition to the impact that the pandemic will have on the health and well-being of South Africans, and the impact it will have on the day-to-day life of society, COVID-19 will also have a significant and potentially lasting impact on South Africa's economy.

Given the already weak state of South Africa's economy, the possible aftermath of COVID-19 is something CANSA can ill-afford. It is to be expected that because of increased unemployment, scarcity of resources and a negative impact on the socioeconomic situation in South Africa, funding from members of the general public and other sources may be difficult to come by and this will have a direct impact on service delivery by CANSA.

Without obtaining urgent continuous funding, CANSA will not be able to provide those services it has stood for since its inception in 1932. CANSA needs continued financial assistance to assist it to help patients access their lifesaving cancer treatments during, and after, the very difficult financial times South Africa is facing as a result of the worldwide pandemic.

COVID-19

What cancer patients need to know



- WASH YOUR HANDS
- AVOID TOUCHING FACE
- WEAR A FACE MASK
- AVOID CONTACT
- AVOID TRAVELLING
- COOK FOOD THOROUGHLY

Cotlands

Cotlands

During the Covid-19 Crisis, children from poorer communities will not have the opportunities for distance learning and we will have to actively keep children learning through play and discovering in order for them to continue to get the education and early learning stimulation even while they are at home.

Cotlands will be communicating with the parents of the children we serve on a weekly basis through a phone call to check in on the family and to determine what help they may need regarding early learning. We will be producing brief videos based on Cotlands early learning plan which will be send via sms or WhatsApp to parents.

We know that data costs is a barrier for beneficiaries to access this information. To overcome this we will be incurring the costs for the communities that we serve as far as possible.

Cotlands is excited at the prospects of launching our IGNITE online learning platform which we have invested in over the past 12 months. A large number of early childhood practitioners are not qualified because the training is not accessible or affordable. Cotlands has digitized two accredited training courses specific to the early childhood development sector: the Occupational Certificate: Early Childhood Development Practitioner (SAQA QUAL ID: 97542 – 131 credits), and New Venture Creation Toy Library Skills Course (Unit Standards: US114592, US115857, US263534, US114805, US263434 – 28 credits). Our aim is to enrol 2000 students in the next four months onto these accredited courses.



Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation



Besides community based research, we support communities by providing tailored, differentiated sexual, reproductive, HIV and TB treatment and prevention health care services to some of the most disadvantaged communities.

The services provided from our youth clinics and our fleet of mobile clinics including the Tutu Teen Truck, Tutu Tester and Amajita Tutu Truck for men. Services offered to youth, young men and adolescents from, included HIV, TB, STI, mental health and pregnancy screening, contraceptives, PrE Exposure prophylaxis, treatments and health information and counseling.

Our Covid-19 campaign includes but is not limited to:

- Covid-19 screening and testing on our mobile clinics
- Contact tracing and screening for Covid-19 and TB
- HIV testing in all Covid-19 and TB cases and household contacts.

Self-presenting patients 12 years and older who approach the mobile screening team for screening will be included. The team will operate in peri-urban, limited-resource communities. The screening team will offer the screening service seven days a week, providing patient-initiated HIV counselling and testing (HCT) and SARS-CoV-2 rapid testing, along with screening for chronic diseases (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, and obesity), and other communicable diseases (e.g. symptoms of tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections [STI]). The clinic is operated by a driver, a nurse, three counsellors, and an educator. It consists of a modified flatbed van with a private examination room, three counselling rooms, and a private toilet. A large tent pitched outside the clinic provides additional waiting space for physical distancing whilst counselling.

Procedure – Community-based screening will be conducted: a wellness service, including SARS-CoV-2 testing with the Abbott BasePoint™ COVID-19 IgG/IgM Rapid Test Device, HCT, TB and chronic disease screens with a trained medical team with suitable PPE in hotspots in Cape Town. Results from the SARS-CoV-2 and HIV screening rapid tests are available at point of care. A nurse will triage patients who test positive on any of the screens and refer to care. This will also facilitate a better understanding of the interactions between TB, HIV and SARS-CoV-2.

Decentralised, community-based, active case-finding may facilitate rapid identification of SARS-CoV-2 and HIV co-infections and facilitate rapid HIV treatment initiation. Rapid identification is especially important in unidentified HIV positive individuals who are at high risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 progression. HIV positive individuals will be referred for HIV care, which may reduce susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 acquisition and transmission.





Ithemba Hope Trust

The world post-Corona is likely to be very different from the world we have always known. Whereas the initial focus in most countries, including South Africa, has been on saving human lives, the impact of a weakened economy, reduced income and job losses on society's most vulnerable is of even greater concern.

The Ithemba Hope Trust is focused on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education is available for children with disabilities so that they will be afforded every opportunity to be able to reach their full potential.

Even before Covid-19, approximately 241 000 children with disabilities attend various facilities and schools but not all of these are equipped to adequately meet the needs of these children.

Our focus is also on the further 600 000 children with disabilities that remain out of school with no access to any developmental programmes.

Covid-19 and extended Programmes and Objectives

- To increase the skills of families, care workers, home visitors, youth, older persons and ECD practitioners working with children with disabilities
- To provide educational resources to implement the START and workshop developmental programmes
- To create employment opportunities for youth to work in the disability field, job creation for young people with disabilities, as well as income generating opportunities for parents / primary caregivers of children with disabilities
- To offer families and caregivers a range of services that will support them in caring for children with disabilities in their own communities.



NSPCA

The NSPCA works nationally.

Uplifting the welfare of animals is a significant form of community support. Priority is given to impoverished and especially rural areas where there are no veterinary services and where donkeys – for example – are used to transport water and food, to take children to and from schools and

even as ambulances.

Funding is essential not only to enable this work to continue but also to enable expansion and to give assistance to many more needy communities who depend upon their animals.

The NSPCA has been recognised as an essential service. Our work has not stopped during the COVID-19 lockdown. Nothing has changed. On-site support is being given which means our staff travelling to areas where assistance is required. Improving the welfare standards of animals may include veterinary treatment and the replacement of equipment. It is essential to continue and expand the hands-on assistance and skills development for owners of donkeys.

Primary health care for animals impacts positively on the health of communities. Treating animals for fleas and lice (to mention but two) means they cannot be transferred to humans.

People and animals go together.





WESSA

WESSA, as the oldest environmental organisation in South Africa also focuses on education programmes in rural areas.

WESSA has a national footprint and covers support education for thousands of learners and teachers annually. Our Schools programmes supports the curriculum in full and consist of Eco-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment and

Learning about Forests.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has focused us towards on-line training and education for teachers and learners through our International Schools Programmes and our 5 education centres located in KZN, Limpopo and Northern Cape.

Our Education Centres provide curriculum support in an outdoor practical classroom environment with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Arts.

It is critical that these skills be delivered to the rural communities we serve since these communities do not have the luxury of unlimited data and home schooling.



CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation



The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus in 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that 'most people infected with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment.

Older people, and those with underlying medical problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.

CHOC is a non-profit organisation made up of caring, committed and passionate people who stand up for and support the well-being of children and teenagers diagnosed with cancer or life threatening blood disorders and their families.

CHOC aims to save lives through early detection and making the journey of those who are affected by childhood cancer, less burdensome through the comprehensive support programmes we offer.

During these trying times, CHOC as a registered essential service is focused on ensuring children and teenagers with Cancer are not even more adversely affected in addition to their current health challenges.

Our focus continues to be:

- professional emotional support
- accommodation close to treatment centres
- transport to and from treatment centres
- support groups (including parent supporting parent groups)
- CHOC interactive learning programme and other activities run by volunteers
- transport assistance to ensure every child and caregiver can return for treatment
- nutritional support

