

COVID-19 SOLIDARITY FUND

1. Legal framework of the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund

The COVID-19 Solidarity Fund is established under the Finance and Audit (COVID-19 Solidarity Fund) Regulations 2020 (GN No. 71 Of 2020). It came into operation on 24 March 2020.

2. Objects of the Fund

The objects of the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund are to:

- (i) contribute to financing of projects, programmes and schemes related to COVID-19 and other related public health issues;
- (ii) provide financial support to persons residing in the Republic of Mauritius and organisations affected by COVID-19; and
- (iii) provide assistance in such other circumstances related to COVID-19 as the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development may approve.

3. Sources of Funding

- (i) Contributions
- (ii) Donations
- (iii) Grants
- (iv) Other receipts from the private sector, national and international organisations
- (v) Levy on petroleum products
- (vi) Other receipts from the private sector, national and international organisations

4. Administration and Management of the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund

The Fund is administered and managed by the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund Managing Committee which was appointed by the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development as follows:

Chairperson	Mr R. Makoond, G.C.S.K
Representative of the Prime Minister's Office	Mr S. Aujeet, Permanent Secretary
Representative of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development	Mr S. J. Suhootoorah, Lead Analyst
Representative of the Ministry of Health and Wellness	Mrs D. Allagapen, Ag Senior Chief Executive
Representative of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity	Mr Y. Munbodh, Ag Permanent Secretary
Representative of the Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training	Mr K. Samlall, Permanent Secretary
Representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Commerce Protection	Mr J. P. Rangan, Permanent Secretary
Accountant-General or his representative	Mr S. D. Ramdeen, Accountant-General
Co-opted Members	
Chairperson, Committee on Economic Recovery	Mr G. Gnany
President, All Employees Confederation	Mr R. Imrith

Meetings of the Managing Committee take place frequently via Zoom platform. Special Meetings are held for urgent matters. The Managing Committee is serviced by a Secretariat based at the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development.

5. Guidelines, Criteria and Methodology

The Managing Committee has set up a Technical Committee and developed Guidelines, criteria and methodology to consider applications from the following target groups:

- Persons who have not benefitted from the Government Wage Assistance Scheme and the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme.
- Persons who are not on the Social Register of Mauritius (except those who are on the SRM but have not benefitted from any assistance from the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity)
- Persons, institutions, programmes, projects or schemes, directly or indirectly, affected by COVID-19.
- Organisations/institutions should implement non profit making schemes and should be duly registered with NSIF or the Registrar of Associations.

The Fund has also established partnership with the National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF) for monitoring of funded activities of NGOs.

Recommendations of the Technical Committee are submitted to the Managing Committee for final approval, especially with regard to applications from NGOs.

The Fund enlists key Government agencies to obtain information, namely:

- Corporate and Business Registration Department
- Mauritius Revenue Authority
- Accountant General's Department
- Registrar of Associations
- Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity

6. Applications

Applications for financial assistance from the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund are made online through the platform of the Mauritius Revenue Authority, namely from individuals and organisations.

The applications are processed by a Technical Team of the Management Committee and approved according to established methodologies and predetermined criteria.

The composition of the Technical Team is as follows:

- **Mr R. Makoond, Chairperson**
- **Mr Y. Munbodh, Ag Permanent Secretary**
- **Mr V. Boodhna, Ag Permanent Secretary**
- **Mr S. J. Suhootoorah, Lead Analyst**
- **Mr A. Sowdagur, Secretary General, National Social Inclusion Foundation**
- **Mr A.K. Jhoerreea, Deputy Permanent Secretary**

7. Monitoring

The COVID-19 Solidarity Fund has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NSIF which has been designated to carry out monitoring of the implementation of funded activities by NGOs. NSIF submits progress reports certifying whether the NGOs are implementing the funded activities in accordance with the approved objectives and outcomes.

8. The total contributions received by the Fund as at end of 18 March 2021 amounted to Rs 765,256,699 as detailed below.

(a) Contributions from local sources

Government sources (Levy on petrol/diesel):	Rs 572,221,755	
Individuals:	Rs 57,747,605	
Private Company:	Rs 87,764,826	
Public Company:	Rs 21,685,013	
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Sub-total	Rs 739,419,199	Rs 739,419,199

(b) Contributions from International sources

Australia's Food Aid Fund:	Rs 5,000,000	
Decentralised Cooperation Programme of EU:	Rs 8,125,000	
United Nations Development Programme:	Rs 12,512,500	
Embassy – Libya:	Rs 200,000	
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Sub-total	Rs 25,837,500	Rs 25,837,500

Total	Rs 765,256,699
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9. Summary of financial assistance approved and disbursed as at 18 March 2021

National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme: (contribution towards financing of part of the costs for procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines)	Rs400,000,000
Partial Funding for allowance to frontliners: (Ministry of Health and Wellness/Police Department/Rodrigues Regional Assembly)	Rs149,200,000
Quarantine Costs - Contribution to Ministry of Tourism: (in relation to expenses incurred for quarantine facilities upon repatriation of Mauritian nationals stranded abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic)	Rs 45,203,148
Support to Ministry of Health and Wellness: (cleaning and disinfecting of public places and COVID-19 related television, radio, advertising and audio-visual advertisements)	Rs 4,000,000
Application from NGO'S:	Rs 37,520,000
Application from Individuals:	Rs 2,121,600
Total	<u>Rs 637,952,948</u>

10. Status of applications from Individuals

5,874 applications from individuals have been received and their status as at 18 March 2021 were as follows:

Approved and paid at Rs 5,100	384
Approved but not yet paid	16
Not eligible	5,454
Under process	20
Total	<u>5,874</u>

The eligibility criteria applicable are as follows:

- Less than 60 years of age
- Not on Social Register of Mauritius
- Not an employee
- Household income less than Rs 50,000
- Not benefitted from Government Wage Assistance Scheme/Self Employed Assistance Scheme
- Not been in business during last 3 months
- (self-employed)
- Directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19

Applications made by individuals are cross checked with the Mauritius Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity to eliminate duplication of assistance benefited from other Government schemes, namely Government Wage Assistance Scheme, Self-Employed Assistance Scheme and other social aid under the Social Register of Mauritius.

Thus, 400 individual applicants are eligible for a one-off assistance of Rs 5,100 each.

11. Applications from NGOs

The eligibility criteria applied are as follows:

- NGOs – Implementing non profit making schemes
- Registered with National Social Inclusion Foundation/Registrar of Associations
- Projects, Programmes and Schemes are COVID-19 related

183 applications from NGOs have been received and their status as at 18 March 2021 were as follows:

Approved and assistance granted	12
Approved but assistance not yet disbursed	6
Under process	4
Not eligible	161
Total	183

After screening the applications, financial assistance to 12 eligible NGOs is being disbursed in phases, subject to submission of progress reports by the NGOs and monitoring by the National Social Inclusion Foundation. The types of projects and targeted beneficiaries are as follows:

Financial Assistance Approved / Type of project	Targeted Beneficiaries
Basic food support	6,488 vulnerable households
Provision for remedial courses and food packs	203 children in vulnerable households
Provision of shelter, food and logistical support	42 homeless (SDF)
Logistical support	58 impaired children
Online counselling and prevention programme for substance abusers	A batch of 15 substance abusers
Reduction of food insecurity targeting vulnerable families – Jardin Communautaire and Boutique Solidaire	90 households

12. Details of the funded activities of the 12 NGOs are shown in the table below.

SN	Organisation	Projects/Programmes	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Approved (Rs)	Amount Disbursed (Rs)
I.	Caritas Ile Maurice	Provision of basic food support to vulnerable families for a period of three months.	5,500 families	24,750,000	12,375,000
II.	Association Pour Personnes En Larmes (APPEL)	Refurbishing and refurnishing of part Ex-Rishi Building to convert same into shelter	to shelter 42 homeless persons at a time	5,907,000	5,907,000
III.	Association Pour l'Education des Enfants Défavorisés (APEDED)	Provision of basic food support to vulnerable families for a period of 3 months Follow-up the children with Psychologists	300 families	1,380,000	1,380,000
IV.	Century Welfare Association	Provision of basic food support to vulnerable families for a period of 3 months	211 families	949,500	949,500
V.	Elles C Nous Association	Provision of basic food support to vulnerable families for a period of 3 months	45 families	202,500	202,500
VI.	Kollectif Rivier Nwar	Provision of basic food support to vulnerable families for a period of one month	42 families	63,000	63,000
VII.	Movement Bien Etres de la Cité La Chaux	Provision of daily food packs to needy students for 60 days	65 students	409,000	409,000
VIII.	Mouvement Forces-Vives Quartier E.D.C Rose Belle	Provision of daily food packs to needy students over a period of three months Purchase of desks and chairs for students	138 students	884,000	442,000
IX.	Action for Health Care and Prevention/Centre d'Accueil de Terre Rouge	Support to Drug Addicts	A batch of 15 person	125,000	125,000
X.	A.I.L.E.S (Aides, Info, Libertés, Espoir et Solidarité)	Provision of basic food support to vulnerable families for a period of 3 months	300 families	1,350,000	675,000
XI.	CIEL Foundation	Reduction of food insecurity targeting vulnerable families – Jardin Communautaire and Boutique Solidaire	90 families	500,000	500,000
XII.	Society for the Welfare of the Deaf	Support to persons with disabilities – New converted vehicle for mobile outreached audiological rehabilitation project	58 children	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL				37,520,000	24,028,000