
Sharing the gift of recovery

NEF's Response to the National Disaster caused by floods

On 18 April 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a “National State of Disaster” in response to the wave of death and destruction that devastated parts of KwaZulu Natal (KZN) and the Eastern Cape provinces as a result of catastrophic flooding following between 200 and 400mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period.

“As a patriotic corporate citizen, the NEF has also rolled up its sleeves in response to the devastating humanitarian and economic crisis that has affected parts of the two provinces. The NEF has targeted 13 shelters for aid and the distribution of food parcels and 8 of the 13 will be allocated shower and kitchen containers. Other shelters will be provided with the food parcels, hygiene packs and clothes from staff donations. The total number of targeted households is 900 equating to 2150 beneficiaries. In the wisdom of our forebears, *izandla ziyagezana*. We are stronger when we help one another and this is the ethos that is central to our mandate as the National Empowerment Fund (NEF),” says CEO, Ms Philisiwe Mthethwa.

On 24 and 25 May the Ms Mthethwa, NEF Executives and staff went on a roadshow to deliver food parcels, blankets, clothing and steel containers for the benefit of various communities in KwaZulu Natal.

Interventions to support Affected NEF Investees

The mandate of the NEF is to grow black economic participation through the provision of financial and non-financial support to black entrepreneurs. Since operational inception in 2005 the NEF has 1 291 transactions worth more than R12.35 billion across the country, with a total project value of R21.44 billion.

A total of 14 KZN-based NEF clients were affected by the floods. The impacted businesses operate across various sectors of the economy inclusive of manufacturing, services, retail, energy, agriculture, transport and logistics, construction as well as tourism. The NEF has assessed each client and appropriate

support has been provided to each one of the businesses, encompassing the following measures:

- Provision of repayment moratoriums/deferment for loans;
- Provision of additional funding in order to assist with repairs or replacement of damaged assets that were not insured;
- Engagements with relevant stakeholders (e.g. insurers for a petrol station business facing claims from motorists because its petrol in underground tankers was contaminated);
- Supporting engagements with the eThekweni Municipality to explore alternatives to infrastructure that was destroyed by the floods.

Humanitarian Support

The NEF is also providing humanitarian support to families affected by the floods both in Kwazulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape Provinces. The NEF has allocated a budget of R4 million for humanitarian support.

Food Parcels

The support entails the provision of 550 food parcels to affected people. A total of 450 food parcels will be distributed in KwaZulu Natal as the hardest hit province and a total of 100 parcels will be distributed in Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape. The NEF has partnered with Telesure in this initiative.

Mobile Ablution Facilities and Kitchen Facilities

The NEF is also supplying mobile steel containers that will serve as bath facilities and others that will serve as kitchens and food serving areas for the families that are living in shelters. The containers have the following facilities:

- Industrial gas stoves
- Gas cylinders
- Water Urn Kettles
- 50 litres water storage buckets
- Bathing utensils
- Soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste
- Bath towels
- Cleaning utensils and cleaning products

Blankets

A total of 500 blankets will be donated by the NEF to families who lost their belongings and who have not been reached by other aid providers.

Additional donations by NEF Staff Members

The NEF has also started a campaign amongst its own staff members for them to donate from their own resources. NEF staff members have been asked to donate food, clothes, blankets and any other items they may consider appropriate. These have been packaged in boxes and are being delivered to beneficiaries in the affected areas at the same time with the food parcels.

Targeted Shelters to be Visited

The NEF has targeted 13 shelters for aid and food parcels distribution and 8 of the 13 will be allocated the shower and kitchen containers. The other additional 5 shelters will be provided with the food parcels, hygiene packs and clothes from staff donations. The total number of targeted households is 900 equating to 2150 beneficiaries.

Location	Place	Households	Beneficiaries
Ntuzuma	Ntuzuma	82	181
eThekwini	Umlazi G	72	157
eThekwini	Umlazi V	69	150
Umzumbe	Nguza Hall	150	150
KwaDukuza	Lindeni Hall	20	97
Amawoti	Abase Hall Inanda	16	200
Emzinyathi	Bhekumbali Hall	84	342
Inanda	Sassa Hall	26	150
Iqadi	Emachombeni Hall	95	180
Verulam	Redcliff, Daniel Heights	105	79
Pinetown	Escombe Hall	25	100
Port St Johns	Various Villages	100	230
Total		900	2150

A history of care

The NEF has had a long history of corporate social investment across many communities. One of these was in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic began, which saw the NEF partner with Telesure to distribute food parcels to 7000 households countrywide to help alleviate the effects of the pandemic on child-headed households in particular.

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