



Annual Report 2020

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Cover: "Food relief delivered to Thembaletu Center, KwaMhlanga".

ABOUT SALT ALLIANCE

WHO WE ARE

SALT Alliance, founded in 2010, is an Alliance of seven South African Christian non-profit organisations working in four of the country's nine provinces.

Each Alliance Member delivers their own programmes but with shared programme foci and some joint activities. The Alliance facilitates peer learning and accountability, and community-based research and advocacy.

Members also fundraise and manage funds collectively.

VISION

SALT Alliance sees strong and courageous South African families and community groups responding to the needs of and opportunities available in their communities, using the many assets that they have. This is being achieved, in part, by the work of different community change agents including home based carers, youth workers, church leaders, women's community groups and community leaders.

MISSION

SALT Alliance has set itself the following objectives:

1. Development and learning of Alliance members' senior leadership
2. Development and learning of Community Change Agents
3. Joint research, development and advocacy
4. Communications and fundraising support for Alliance members



HOW WE WORK

SALT Alliance Members work independently on programmes in their own communities. Collective learning, research and advocacy takes place through online collaboration, face-to-face meetings and exchange visits.

Members work together to run SALT Imbizos (meetings) to capacitate community groups with whom they work; meetings are characterised by peer and expert learning sessions, peer review, programme design and review, and times for general sharing and encouragement.

The work of the Alliance is facilitated by a part-time Secretariat.

SOUTH AFRICAN LEARNING & TRANSFORMATION ALLIANCE
 learning & acting together to strengthen families and community groups in South Africa

SALT MEMBERS

SALT Alliance has seven members. The six core founding Members of SALT Alliance all have representation on the SALT Board. We also have several other non profit organisations who are “walking with us” to see if they have the same DNA and vision. As these organisations become familiar with SALT, the Board can choose to invite them to become members.



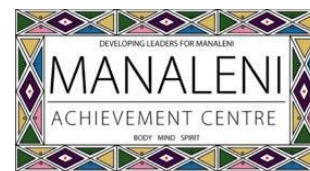
Meaning “place of hope”, **eThembeni** supplies holistic, relevant social services in KwaZulu-Natal, focusing on the rural, poor communities of the uThukela and uMsinga. eThembeni's services address HIV and Aids-related issues and encourage communities to take control of their situation in their private life, family structures and society. This is achieved through outreach to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), home based care, self-help groups, life skills at schools, family preservation, assisting religious leaders to understand HIV and create congregations that are without bias.

www.ethembeni.org



Mfesane's vision is to empower communities. Mfesane has developed several successful programmes to address the basic needs of vulnerable groups including HIV counselling and testing, palliative care, orphans and vulnerable children, peer education, community development, skills development in ancillary health care, child and youth care work, sewing, plastering, welding and bricklaying.

www.mfesane.org.za



Supported By Faces In Need, Inc.

Manaleni Achievement Centre provides afterschool facilities, a basic meal, homework help, counselling and spiritual care to children and their families in KwaMhlanga, just north of Pretoria.

www.manaleni.org



Nakekela Christian Community Centre is a Step-Down Facility and Hospice giving care to the terminally ill in the greater KwaMhlanga community. Nakekela's mission is to render palliative and curative care in a holistic manner to both in- and out-patients whose lives are impacted by HIV/AIDS.

www.nakekela.co.za



Themba lethu Nkomazi is situated in the Nkomazi region of Mpumalanga province, close to the border of Swaziland and Mozambique. Themba lethu Nkomazi offers home-based care, orphan care, spiritual counselling, social welfare, garden projects, burials, health services and food parcel distribution to local communities.

www.themba lethu.biz



Themba lethu Christian Community Centre delivers a comprehensive service to orphans and vulnerable children and their families - from early childhood to teenager years - addressing their physical, spiritual, social, emotional and educational needs. Located in KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga (90 km from Pretoria), the Centre currently reaches orphaned and vulnerable children between the ages of 2 and 18 from the local community and their caregivers, addressing the immediate needs of the beneficiaries and community.

[http:// themba lethucommunitycentre.weebly.com](http://themba lethucommunitycentre.weebly.com)

TWR-Africa's vision is to reach the world for Christ through mass media so that lasting fruit is produced. The offices of TWR Africa's Zulu Ministry are in Botha's Hill, just outside Durban. The Zulu Ministry works in close partnership with the church, media networks, organizations and the private sector to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Within South Africa, TWR-SA produces relevant programmes to address the challenges of the nation through mass media. www.twrafrica.org

GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SALT Alliance is governed by a Board consisting of the Directors of the founding SALT Members and a Secretariat of one person. Funds are administered centrally with signoff by three directors.



*Chairperson: Lourens Schoeman
(eThembeni)*



*Vice-chairperson: Cleopas Maseka
(Themba lethu Nkomazi)*



*Treasurer: Yolandi Afrika
(Mfesane)*



*Dorcas Mathibela
(Nakekela)*



*Ernest Matsela
(Themba lethu Christian Community Centre)*



*Sphiwe Petros Gwala
(TWR-SA)*

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SALT Alliance started 2020 with minimal funding to support its work. The office of the Secretariat was temporarily closed until funds were sourced. SALT members were busy with their own programmes.

On 5 March 2020, Minister of Health Zweli Mkhize confirmed the spread of the coronavirus to South Africa, with the first known patient being a male citizen who tested positive upon his return from Italy. The first death to have occurred from the disease was reported on 27 March 2020.

On 15 March, the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, declared a national state of disaster, and announced measures including immediate travel restrictions and the closure of schools from 18 March. On 17 March, the National Coronavirus Command Council was established, "to lead the nation's plan to contain the spread and mitigate the negative impact of the coronavirus". On 23 March, a national lockdown was announced, starting on 27 March 2020. On 21 April, a 500 billion rand stimulus was announced in response to the pandemic. This included an additional small SASSA social grant and a TERS grant companies could apply for to aid in paying employee salaries.

SALT Alliance was blessed to receive funding from Verre Naasten, and the Secretariat was reopened with Zoom meetings held to exchange vital information about coronavirus, share ideas and responses, and receive support.

Ramaphosa announced that a gradual and phased easing of the lockdown restrictions would begin from 1 May 2020, lowering the national alert level to 4. From 1 June, the national restrictions were lowered to level 3. The restrictions were lowered to alert level 2 on 17 August 2020.

SALT Alliance received food aid funding from Pharus Foundation, Zuid-Afrika Mission and Verre Naasten in August. Members identified families struggling with food insecurity and job losses and a massive drive was conducted to get food parcels into communities.

From 21 September 2020, restrictions were lowered to alert level 1.

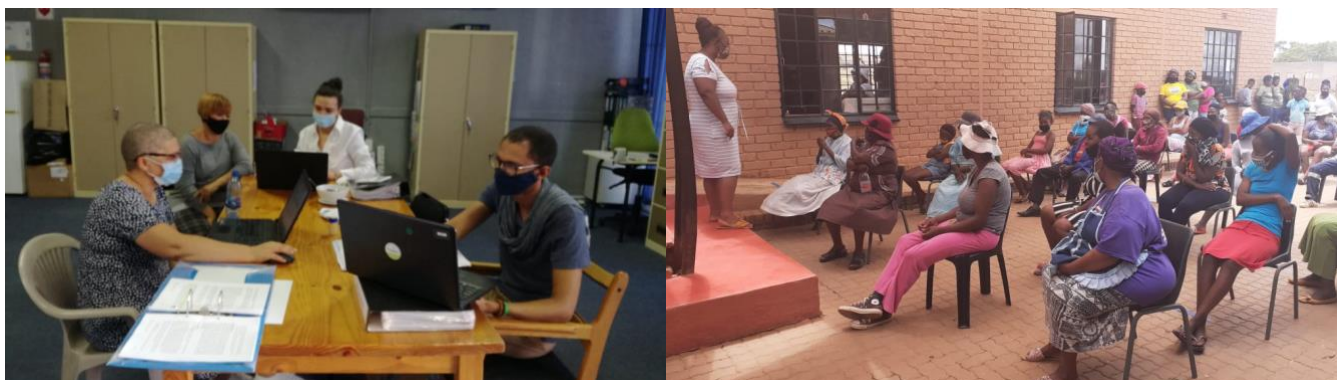
A second food aid relief was granted in December 2020. Approximately one half of the relief was distributed by SALT members in December, with the remainder to be distributed in January and February 2021.

In December 2020, the country experienced a second wave of COVID-19 infections. The lockdown was tightened from an adjusted level 1 to an adjusted level 3 starting on 29 December 2020.

There were 267,157 new cases in December, raising the total number of confirmed cases to 1,057,161. The death toll rose to 28,469. The number of recovered patients increased to 879,671, leaving 149,021 active cases at the end of 2020. Taking into account the excess death count tracked against deaths in the

previous year, the actual number of COVID-19 deaths is estimated to be at least double the official figure recorded, if not more.

IMPACT ON SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITIES AND NPOS



Throughout the country, non profits had to quickly re-strategise their programmes to meet the following needs:

1. **Food insecurity** - many of the communities rely on casual labour for income, and when locked in homes, no work was permitted.
2. **Ongoing health care** education and provision to beneficiaries who rely on NPOs for medication, wound dressing and more.
3. **Closure of schools.** Education remained largely inaccessible from March to August, and even after schools were finally permitted to reopen, limited classes were available. Parents were denied access to school grounds. Non-fee-paying schools have few resources at the best of times.
4. **Data** - online schooling relies on access to data which is expensive in South Africa - and presupposes access to smartphones.
5. **Afterschool programmes** and education support. Afterschool programmes were denied access to school premises, group lessons had to be curtailed for much of the year.
6. **Lack of access to early childhood development** - ECDs were the last to reopen after primary and high schools returned.
7. **Child malnutrition** - school feeding programmes were closed, denying children access to at least one nutritious meal a day. Soup kitchens and more had to be set up, with essential services permission required.
8. **A ban on travel** and strict regulations on using public transport.
9. **Curfews** which limited travel times.
10. **Job losses** nationally, especially in agriculture, tourism and entertainment industries.
11. An increase in **food prices**.
12. **Mental health issues** from being locked down and isolated.
13. A rise in **Gender Based Violence (GBV)**.
14. **Spiritual encouragement** and support due to churches being closed.

SALT ALLIANCE IN ACTION IN 2020



SALT members had to close programmes during the hard lockdown from 27 March to 1 May. They did however immediately apply for essential services certification in order to be able to get into communities to check on families and also source/distribute food, mental, spiritual and medical relief.

As such, no imbizos were held this year. SALT members relied on Zoom, email and WhatsApp to remain connected, exchange coronavirus information and support each other.

SALT members were deeply grateful to Pharus Foundation, Zuid-Afrika Mission and Verre Naasten who provided two food relief donations in August and December for vulnerable families. The first relief drive reached 2269 families. After reports of the conditions found, particularly in remote areas where the government social grants were not received and other food relief efforts had not been seen, a second food grant was requested and approved. Ongoing drought and escalating job losses severely affected those who were economically vulnerable to start with. The second food drive delivered food to 2290 families with 550 new families included in the distribution.

All SALT members experienced sickness in their staff with some of the key leadership contracting coronavirus. Thankfully no staff personnel died of COVID, but all SALT members report multiple deaths in their communities.

SALT members provided counselling and care to their communities, addressing and referring cases of child neglect, health, GBV and mental instability as needed. A key part of visits to communities included provision of personal protective equipment, sanitisers, education about coronavirus and its spread and spiritual care.

In addition to regular online meetings and central coordination and reporting on food relief, SALT members benefitted from communications assistance from the Secretariat, including design and compilation of Annual Reports, proofing of funding proposals, updating of websites, newsletter design/layout/content as well as social media support. The Secretariat also advised on communication strategy.

Despite the ban of youth coaches from schools due to COVID-19 protocols, some SALT members were able to run Dignity and Dare Days for youth towards the end of the year, leveraging the training provided by

The Dignity Campaign. The Dignity and Dare Days proved to be most successful and the youth were able to debrief their covid experiences as well as the course material in a safe space. For many of the children, this was the first time they could interact with each other like this in more than six months. SALT members also participated in online Dignity and Dare facilitator training, and several Zoom sessions were held for the facilitators to debrief, share information and learn from each other.



SALT FINANCES

SUMMARY OF 2020 EXPENSES

SALT Alliance uses the services of Magdel Hougaard Accounting Services to assist with submission of tax returns. SALT Alliance's application for PBO certification was approved this year.

A copy of the Annual Financial Statements is available on request.

THANKS AND GRATITUDE

We are called to be "salt and light" to this world. 2020 has been a year of deep loss and darkness for many in South Africa. Not one person or community has been unaffected by lockdown, death, loss, depression, job insecurity and/or health issues in some form.

Truly, as Christian NPOs carrying the message of the gospel, we have been privileged to walk with many people through the valleys of the shadow of death this year. We give thanks that we can and have lifted their faces (and our own) to His light and love, and found comfort and hope.

We thank Verre Naasten for their support again this year. Without this funding, SALT Alliance would not exist, although the friendships would remain.

We thank Pharus Foundation and Zuid-Afrika Mission for more than R4 million of funding for food relief, reaching over 4000 households. Our members were met with tears, celebration and gratitude wherever they distributed the food which arrived at just the right time for vulnerable families.

A special mention of Magdel Hougaard - thank you for sorting out our PBO tax status and your excellent accounting services.

Thanks to The Dignity Campaign for their great investment in putting together solid material and training our facilitators, making such a difference in the lives of young people in our SALT member communities.

Last but not least, thank you to our SALT members who have gone above and beyond in caring for the communities they serve this year. It has been hard. It has been worth it. We will not give up.

His Kingdom come.

CONTACT SALT ALLIANCE

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SaltAlliance>

SALT Alliance is a registered Not for Profit Company: NPC: 2017/183687/08
PBO: 930069036