
COVID-19 SOLIDARITY FUND

Framework and Operating Guidelines

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Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
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A. FRAMEWORK

1. Legal Status

The Fund has been established under the Finance and Audit (COVID-19 Solidarity Fund) Regulations 2020, made under the Finance and Audit Act.

2. Objects of the Fund

The objects of the Fund are to:

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

3. Vision and Mission of the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund

3.1. Vision

A resilient society during and after COVID-19.

3.2. Mission

The Mission of the Fund is, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, to:

- (i) alleviate suffering during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- (ii) strengthen the preparedness and response of the Nation to face COVID-19 type situations; and
- (iii) save lives and maintain human dignity.

4. Financing of the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund

The COVID-19 Solidarity Fund will obtain its financing from the following:

- (i) sums received from the Consolidated Fund, public enterprises and statutory bodies;
- (ii) contributions, donations, grants and other receipts from the private sector, national or international organisation, and any other person; and
- (iii) any other sum which may lawfully accrue to it.

5. The COVID-19 Solidarity Fund Managing Committee

5.1. A Managing Committee has been established to administer and manage the affairs of the Fund. The Members are as follows:

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

5.2. Organisation of work by the Managing Committee

The Managing Committee will organise its work as it deems fit, including setting up of sub Committees.

5.3. The Committee shall be autonomous, independent and transparent in achieving its objectives.

5.4. The Managing Committee will establish clear and transparent criteria for:

- (i) inviting applications for assistance;
- (ii) evaluating applications based on needs and capacity assessment; and
- (iii) approving programmes, projects and direct support to applicants.

5.5. The accounts of the Fund and the Annual Report would be audited by the Director of Audit.

B. OPERATING GUIDELINES

6. Control and Guiding Principles

6.1. Control

The Managing Committee will operate in all independence in the best interests of the Fund and shall put in place proper control mechanisms to ensure that its objectives are achieved efficiently.

6.2. Guiding principles

The Managing Committee, in its operation, will be guided by the following principles:

- (i) urgency and non-duplication of support (as far as possible);
- (ii) transparency and accountability;
- (iii) integrity;
- (iv) completeness, coherence and relevance;
- (v) fairness and equity; and
- (vi) flexibility.

7. Beneficiaries

- 7.1. The Fund will not entertain applications for direct support to persons who have benefited from Government support under the Wage Assistance Scheme and the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme during the confinement/ curfew period.
- 7.2. Any person, institution, programme, project or scheme, directly or indirectly, affected by COVID-19.
- 7.3. Any institution, programme, project or scheme related to COVID-19 and associated public health issues.

8. Areas of Intervention

8.1. The Fund will intervene in giving support to:

- (i) affected persons; and
- (ii) programmes, projects and schemes related to COVID-19 and associated public health issues.

8.2. The Fund will intervene:

- (i) during the confinement/curfew period; and
- (ii) during the recovery period.

9. Implementation Mechanism

- 9.1. The implementation mechanism will be either through direct support or in collaboration with programmes, projects and schemes related to COVID-19.
- 9.2. The implementation mechanism would be flexible, effective, and contain measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPI).
- 9.3. Organisations and institutions implementing programmes, projects and schemes mentioned at paragraph 9.1 should meet the following criteria:
 - (i) should have a legal status;
 - (ii) the specific programmes and projects should be on a non-profit making basis;
 - (iii) should keep proper books and records; and
 - (iv) should report on the implementation of the programmes.

C. MODE OF APPLICATION

All applications for assistance as per paragraph (7) above should be submitted **online** to the Mauritius Revenue Authority on the following URL addresses:

- (i) Individuals:
<https://eservices.mra.mu/csfInd/individuals>
- (ii) Organisations/ Institutions:
https://eservices.mra.mu/csf/organisations_institutions

D. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- (i) All direct support, programmes, projects and schemes should be related to the objectives, as spelt out at paragraph (2) above;
- (ii) All programmes, projects and schemes should contain at least two performance indicators with respective target(s) that will enable monitoring of the activities performed to achieve the desired service (output); and
- (iii) Where a programme, project or scheme is implemented in collaboration with an organisation/institution the latter will be required to submit regular reports on progress.