During the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa, CAF Southern Africa conducted five surveys with NPOs between May and July 2020 in collaboration with the CAF Global Alliance team.

The aim of this polling is to understand changes over time, during a period where things are changing rapidly. This polling enables us to get a pulse on how the sector is responding and coping.
While the full impact of the coronavirus and subsequent lockdown on South African NPOs was still unfolding, early indications in May 2020 from an informal survey of 83 NPOs/NGOs by CAFSA showed worrying signs about their ability to survive.

CAFSA asked NPOs to indicate how long they estimated they would be able to continue to operate if no additional help arrives – either from government support or by other means. Most said that they would only be able to continue for up to six months.
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM GOVERNMENT?

In the second poll in the survey, which was released on 1 June 2020, we asked NPOs what they need most right now from government to see them through the coronavirus outbreak.

THE RESULTS

Most NPOs agreed that they would need government policies to encourage giving by individuals and corporate organisations, this includes tax incentives or matched giving schemes.

Many also said that they would need unconditional cash grants, as well as resources for their recipients such as food, medicines or shelter, or protective equipment for staff and volunteers.

32 NPOs answered this survey and these were the key needs that were selected in order to help see them through the pandemic:

- Government policies to encourage giving
- Unconditional cash grants
- Protective equipment for staff & volunteers
- Resources such as food, medicines & shelter
In the third poll in the survey, which was released on 18 June 2020, we asked NPOs what changes, if any, they had made in response to the coronavirus crisis.

We found that the vast majority of organisations had changed their office practices, such as starting to work remotely. Despite the seemingly large shift toward working from home, many NPOs have continued serving their beneficiaries; many have been able to find an alternative or innovative way to deliver a service during the crisis or find new ways to reach beneficiaries.

We have also seen NPOs respond to the crisis directly, many organisations have started emergency fundraising to support activities that they are undertaking in response to the crisis, and some have said that they helped entirely new groups of people.

Whilst we see that some NPOs have invested in technology or equipment, or in employee training during this time, we have seen others need to scale back by reducing or stopping services or reducing staff pay, some have also looked to find new sources of income or fundraising.
HAS YOUR ORGANISATION RECEIVED ANY NEW FINANCIAL OR NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

Released on 23 June 2020, the fourth poll in the survey asked NPOs if any additional support financial and/or non-financial has come about during the lockdown period.

THE RESULTS (FINANCIAL)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

4 in 10 NPOs have been supported during the pandemic by new monetary donations from individuals. In addition, more than a quarter (27%) have seen new donations from high net-worth individuals and a quarter (25%) had seen them from corporate donors.

Fewer, around 1 in 8, had received financial donations from regular giving programmes (13%) or proceeds from a fundraiser (12%). More than 1 in 5 NGOs have had existing financial support repurposed for pandemic-related activities (23%), or have had it retracted (21%).

A third (33%) have not received any new forms of financial support at all during the crisis.

117 NPOs filled in the survey, which yielded these results with regards to new financial support received:

- 42% Received one-off donations from individuals.
- 27% Received donations from high net worth individuals or family trusts.
- 25% Received donations from corporations.
With regards to new non-financial support received during the pandemic, a third of NPOs had received donations of goods such as food, clothing or PPE from individuals (33%) or from corporate donors (33%).

1 in 5 (20%) had received volunteer support from individuals and 1 in 6 (17%) had seen individuals or community groups support by promoting their NGO on social media.

Around 1 in 7 NPOs have seen non-financial support refocussed (16%) or retracted (16%) and, similar to financial support, a third (34%) have not received any new support during this time.

117 NPOs completed this poll, which revealed the following data related to non-financial support received:

- 33% Received donations of goods (such as clothes, food & PPE) from individuals.
- 20% Had increased volunteering by individuals.
- 33% Received donations of goods (such as clothes, food & PPE) from corporations.
A CLOSER LOOK AT GOVERNMENT SUPPORT DURING THE PANDEMIC

In the fifth poll in the survey series, which was released on 13 July 2020, we asked NPOs about the extent of government support received during this time.

THE RESULTS

Many of those we spoke to feel able to advocate for support for their causes during this time. It's also clear that many do not feel that they have the support of government during this period, nor do they agree that they are seen by government as essential in the pandemic response, despite the majority seeing an increase in demand for their services as a result of the crisis.

Many have already applied, or intend to apply, for emergency grant funding. We can see clear disagreement that government measures have enabled NPOs and NGOs to access new sources of funding or have made it easier for them to respond in the crisis, we also see strong agreement that measures have made it in fact more difficult to respond, among the 20 charities that we spoke to.

There is general agreement that NPOs aren't aware of any government support aimed at supporting civil society in the crisis, and haven't been eligible for support for NGOs or otherwise.

20 NPOs answered this survey and revealed that:

Government measures have not enabled NGOs to access new sources of funding or made it easier for them to respond in the crisis.

We also see strong agreement that measures have made it in fact more difficult to respond, among the 20 charities that we spoke to.
YOUR VOICE MATTERS.
WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE PART
OUR UPCOMING SURVEYS.

On behalf of CAF Southern Africa and the CAF Global Alliance, we thank everyone who answered our first series of Covid-19 NPO Surveys.

These surveys are ongoing, and we invite you take part in our next series.

Please sign up to our newsletter at www.cafsouthernafrica.org to receive the polls directly to your inbox or follow us on our social media channels to access the survey links from there.

The results of this study will be shared publicly via social and digital media channels and they will contribute to global conversations about the challenges that NPOs face, as well as identify ways that NPOs can be supported in this time through efforts such as donations and policy change.