

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



COVID-19 Coordinating Committee (CCC)

Annual Report
March 2020 – March 2021

Vision

To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

Our Mission

To offer a diverse range of life-changing educational experiences for a better world.

Our Values



Diversity

Excellence

Ubuntu

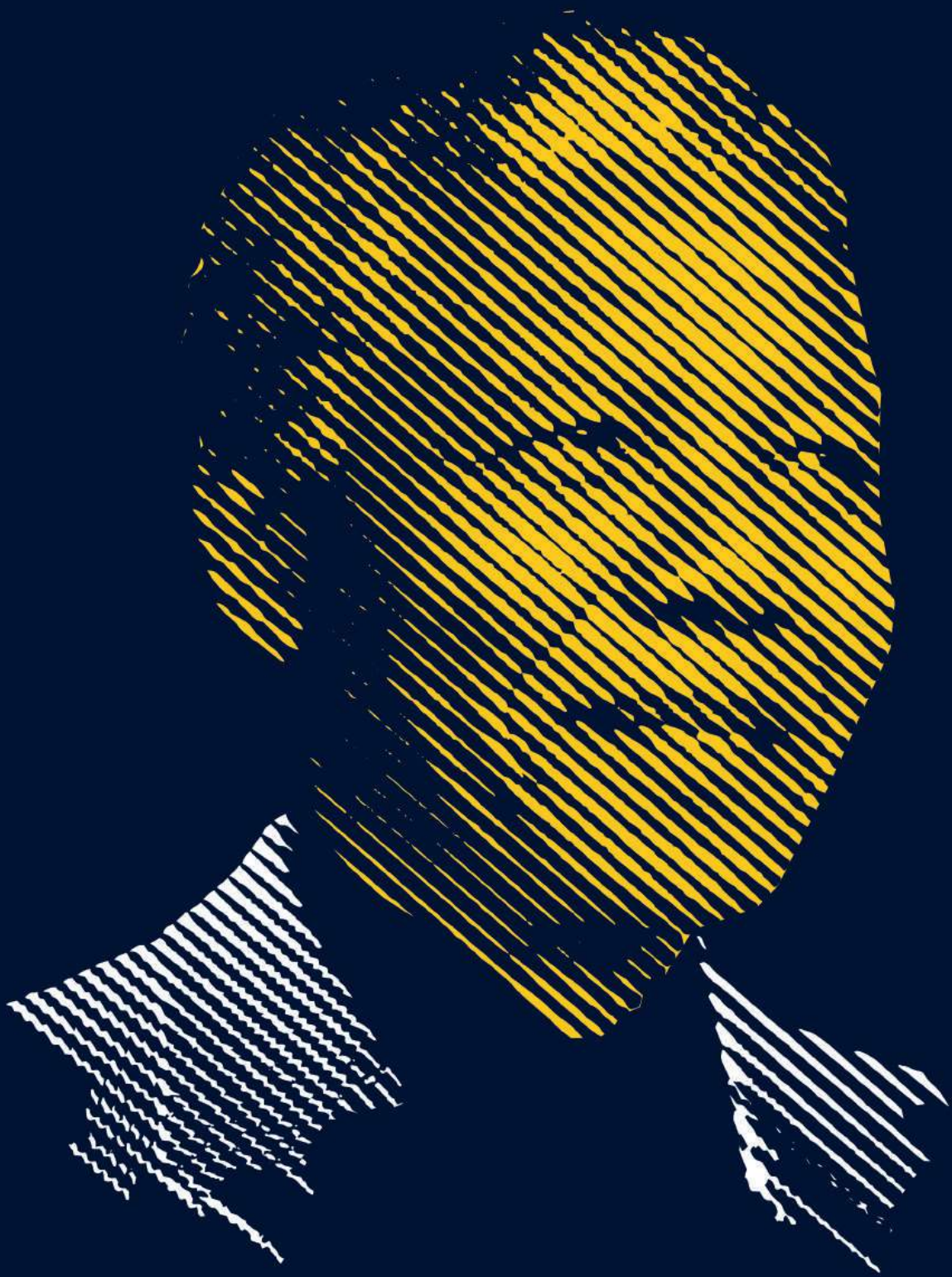
Social Justice
and Equality

Integrity

Environmental
Stewardship

Contents

Introduction	1
In Memorium - <i>Professor L. Pepeta</i>	2
Membership	3
Steering Principles	6
Terms of Reference	6
Inter-Governmental and External Stakeholder Liaison	7
- Collaboration on a Metro Level	
- Collaboration on Provincial Level	
- Vaccine Rollout	
- Civil Society	
Academic, Technical and Intellectual Service and Capacity	9
Projects and Workstreams	10
- Health Sciences	
- Sanitiser Production	
- COVID-19 Engineering Team	
- Community Mask Distribution	
- ICT solutions	
- Economic and Data Modelling	
- Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation	
- Community Convergence Workstream (CCW)	
- Communication & Marketing Support	
Convergence Fund	26



Introduction

The COVID-19 Coordinating Committee (CCC) was established by a MANCO decision on the 31st of March 2020 to coordinate and facilitate the University's external response to the COVID-19 pandemic in support of state and other efforts at a local, provincial and national level.

The work of the CCC, in executing its mandate in line with the University's values, is informed by the socio-economic landscape of the province and the metro. That is, it steers the University's interventions to respond to the realities of inequality and unequal access to adequate healthcare and health protection.

The CCC is thus positioned within the University's emerging engagement philosophy. The University is intent on re-positioning and re-imagining engagement in co-creative and socially just ways in order to make a meaningful contribution to overcoming societal challenges. The pandemic has reinforced the urgency and importance of this kind of engagement work.

When it was first established, as the country went into hard lockdown, the CCC met three times a week in order to respond to the urgency of the situation and create productive working relationships across various functions of the University and with external stakeholders. These stakeholders include provincial and local government, through forums such as Metro JOC and the Extended Provincial Command Council (EPCC), and formal agreements such as the Memorandum of Agreement with the Office of the Premier; the private sector, through the Business Chamber; and civil society, through community organisations, NPOs and NGOs, and civil society forums. As these relationships have become more established and generative, the CCC has started to meet less frequently.

The CCC has a diverse membership, bringing together expertise from various faculties, fields and disciplines. These include the visual arts, engineering, health sciences, communications technology, economics, science, communications and marketing, human settlements, water and sanitation, alongside broader university functions such as student governance, research and innovation, and engagement and transformation. The CCC thus represents a transdisciplinary approach to engaging with society on different levels, working to cross boundaries and share capacities and skills.

Under the CCC's purview, Mandela University contributed in various ways to the production and distribution of PPEs, especially during the time of shortages during the first hard lockdown. The Visual Arts Department, with the assistance of funding from the Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA), procured cloth masks from Braemore Designs for distribution to institutions and communities who needed them, and eNtsa used 3D-printing technology to produce face shields for distribution to healthcare facilities. InnoVenton was able to produce hand sanitiser both for internal use at the University and for distribution to external communities, most notably in partnership with Sasol.

Through the Centre for Community Technologies (CCT), the University played a vital role in providing ICT solutions for tracking, tracing and managing data related to COVID-19 cases, including at the Rev Dr Mamisa Chabula-Nxiweni Field Hospital. The Faculty of Science also engaged with COVID-19 data, producing models of the pandemic in order to predict the 'peak' and to understand the behaviour of the pandemic more generally. Prof Ronney Ncwadi and his team also worked with the provincial government modelling the economic effects of the pandemic.

The Communication and Marketing Department were able to provide educational resources on the pandemic for use in campaigns beyond the University space. These included resources promoting behavioural change, providing information about concepts and terms related to the pandemic, and, most recently, reliable information on the vaccines to assist staff and students to make informed decisions regarding vaccination.

The CCC also coordinates the engagement of the University with societal challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. The Chair for Sustainable Human Settlements has been working to address challenges related to dense human settlements, as well as the water shortages in the Eastern Cape that have implications for the survival of precarious communities. Within the Engagement and Transformation Portfolio (ETP), the Community Convergence Workstream (CCW) was convened to draw on the expertise of those in the portfolio to drive work in service to society. The workstream initiated projects on tele-counselling, sustainable food systems, food and material relief, archiving and citizen journalism, and anti-GBV training for first responders, as well as drawing together a webinar series and research projects related to COVID-19 from the portfolio.

Apart from sourcing external funding, the University also set up a Convergence Fund in order to provide an avenue for staff members at the University to contribute towards COVID-19 initiatives. These funds were disbursed through the CCW in the form of food parcels and other material relief. This fund is now being reconceptualized in relation to the University's broader mandate to be in service to society and hopefully to support the University's growing food systems initiatives, brought together under the new Food Systems Working Group.

The work within the CCC over the past year has provided many lessons pertinent to the University's engagement mandate and philosophy that will serve it well as it responds to the ongoing challenges of C19. The cross-functional, transdisciplinary mode of work and connections that the CCC has established under the urgency of the pandemic has the potential to be harnessed to engage with other societal challenges, and the members and partners of the CCC will continue to develop these.

Professor André Keet
DVC: Engagement and Transformation Portfolio
CCC Chair

In Memorium

Professor Lungile Pepeta

Prof Lungile Pepeta was an integral member of the CCC from March 2020 until he fell ill. He tragically passed away on the 7th of August 2020. As Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Pepeta represented the health sciences and its resources in the CCC, as well as bringing his extensive experience in the field into the meetings. He helped to spearhead the University's response to the pandemic, working closely with communities, health workers, and government and business stakeholders.

During his time serving on the CCC, he worked to mobilise the Faculty of Health Sciences students towards assisting with the COVID-19 response. Under his guidance, an SOP was put together to facilitate volunteers from the faculty, including nursing students, EMT students, and those equipped to provide psycho-social support. He also offered the resource of the Zanempilo mobile clinic. He was key in connecting the University's response to that of the government, chairing both the Academic Governance Committee along with Dr Litah Matiwane to coordinate the relationship between health science departments, and the Department of Health, and the Academic Science Advisory Committee, which was established to advise the SG's office on COVID-19 and to assist with data analysis.

Prof Pepeta was always on-hand in CCC meetings to provide the health perspective on the situation and to push for urgent action to combat the pandemic. He brought this spirit and insight to the "When is the Peak? COVID-19 Data Models" webinar, speaking alongside Prof Muronga and Prof Van Greunen. He was passionate and pragmatic, and his heart for the people of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro and the Eastern Cape was always evident.

We greatly appreciated his contributions, his warmth, his advice and his presence, and he is dearly missed amongst his colleagues in the CCC.



Membership



Zandile Mbabela

Communication and Marketing

CCC involvement:

Communication and
Marketing support



Advocate Daryl Newton

Legal Services - Director

CCC involvement:

Legal advice



Prof Darelle van Greunen

*Centre for Community
Technologies*

CCC involvement:

ICT Solutions



Dr Denver Webb

*Strategic Resource Mobilisation
and Advancement (SRMA)*

CCC involvement:

Government, University and Civil
Society Interface and Mandela
University Convergence Fund



Dr Thandi Mgwebi

*DVC – Research, Innovation
and Internationalisation*

CCC involvement:

COVID-19 research and
research collaboration



Mr Luthando Jack

Student Affairs - Dean of Students

CCC involvement:

Student engagement



Prof Sijekula Mbanga

*Building and Human
Settlement Development*

CCC involvement:

Human Settlements,
Water and Sanitation



Prof Azwinndini Muronga

Faculty of Science - ED

CCC involvement:

Science Communication,
COVID-19 Data Modelling,
Sanitizer Production



Dr Laura Best

Vice-Chancellor's office

CCC involvement:

Public sector liaison
and engagement



Prof Ronney Ncwadi

*School of Economics, Development
Studies and Tourism - Director*

CCC involvement:

Economic modelling



Chantal Janneker

People and Operations

CCC involvement:

Communication and Marketing



Prof Fikile Nomvete

School of Medicine - Director

CCC involvement:

Faculty of Health Sciences
representative and Health
Specialist



Dr Bruce Damons

Hubs of Convergence: Engagement and Transformation Portfolio

CCC involvement:

Convenor of Community Convergence Workstream (CCW)

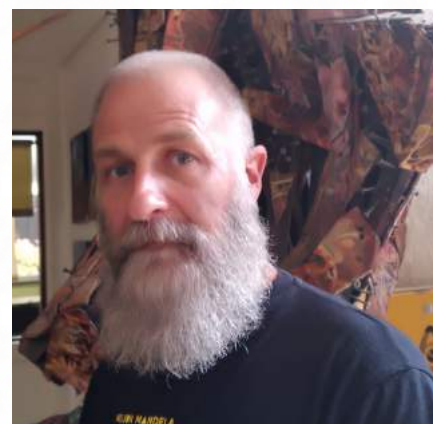


Prof Danie Hattingh

eNtsa: Faculty of Engineering, the Build Environment and Technology

CCC involvement:

Engineering Support



Prof Pieter Binsbergen

Director: School of Visual and Performing Arts

CCC involvement:

#MaskUpMandela



Mr Mike Monaghan

Finance - ED

CCC involvement:

Advice on financial matters



Dr Jenny du Preez

Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CriSHET)

CCC involvement:

Secretariat



Prof André Keet

DVC: Engagement and Transformation Portfolio

CCC involvement:

Chairperson

Steering Principles

- Our commitment to be in service to society; based on the University's values and strategic objectives.
- Efforts are located within the mandate of the University; and carefully assessed against its capacity to deliver.
- Integrative approach guided by structures within the Office of the Premier (OTP) that coordinate within an inter-governmental framework, cascading to the Metro; inclusive of relevant line function departments such as health, public entities such as the Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council (ECSECC), the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Disaster Management Advisory Forum, the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber, etc.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the CCC are:

- to coordinate the University's engagement, interventions and partnerships with external entities, structures and networks in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- to enable swift and effective University responsive capability to the COVID-19 pandemic, aligned to and informed by the University's values and its commitment to be in service to society;
- to offer the University's expertise and capacity to the country-wide institutional arrangements set up to respond to the pandemic;
- to prioritise direct and active support to the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro-led COVID-19 response structures, and to stakeholder formations in the Metro, given the University's primary footprint in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro (NMB);
- to provide support to provincial and national interventions, as practicable, and in George; and
- to manage resources allocated as a specific budget allocation for the purposes of COVID-19 responsive capability.

Inter-Governmental and External Stakeholder Liaison

Essential to the University's COVID-19 response has been building a strong relationship with external stakeholders in order to drive collaborative projects for the benefit of society, particularly those worst affected by the pandemic and its effects. Since its inception, in March 2020 as lockdown protocols were implemented, the CCC has served as a point of coordination for liaison with government at national, provincial, and local level; with business and the private sector, such as through the Business Chamber; as well as with non-profit organisations, civil society organisations, forums and networks, and its local communities.

Collaboration on a Metro Level

Profs Muthwa, Keet and Van Greunen and Mr Jack represent the university on the Metro JOC/Metro Command Council.

Collaboration on Provincial Level

A particularly productive relationship has been developed with the Office of the Premier (OTP) of the Eastern Cape. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the OTP and Nelson Mandela University on the 15th of April 2020 after the University offered to cooperate with the OTP in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic to facilitate this collaborative work.

Mr Vuyo Mosana from ECSECC on behalf of the Premier's Office approached the University with a proposal for three areas of work. These were: work on data-modelling/analytics between the University and ECSECC, with the aim to extend networks into the national epidemiological and socio-economic consortiums; assisting with reviving the DVC-Research Eastern Cape Forum (which includes the HSRC) and exploring COVID-19 in relation to the Social Sciences; and assisting with ICT solutions regarding contact tracing. The University was able to table an overview of ICT solutions on the 14th of June 2020 and some of these have been implemented. Members of the CCC have been attending the Extended Provincial Command Council (EPCC) since the 24th of May 2020.

The EPCC is an important space for updates regarding the provincial response to the pandemic. Other attendees include MECs; MPLs; national deployees to the Province;

traditional leaders, HoDs and other senior public servants; representatives of the religious community, higher education, and the business sector; and mayors and executive mayors. Prof Fikile Nomvete is the main University representative in the Health COVID-19 Project Management Unit (PMU), which falls under the OTP. Prof Darelle van Greunen and Dr Laura Best also actively participate. There are five workstreams in this unit:

- Community Health
- Health Systems
- Psycho-social Support
- HR and Leadership
- Health Business Continuity

The other PMUs are for Government Business Community and Economic Recovery.

The University is also involved in the psychosocial support workstream with the other universities in the Province. A proposal has been put forward and the working group has been able to move ahead with implementing the interventions that respective line departments are able to fund, as additional resources could not be mobilized to fund the proposal holistically. The Department of Education will be funding aspect (i) below, in the new financial year from 1 April. The universities' proposal covers four areas of work:

- i. Strengthening psychosocial support networks in schools
- ii. Enhancing and strengthening the capacity of communities as effective psychosocial support networks
- iii. Strengthening existing interventions
- iv. Psychosocial support using ICT innovations

The University is able to offer BPsych final year students and Psychology Masters' students to distressed communities in the Province, as well as trained social work students. They will also be offering workshops for volunteers on stress management, coping with isolation and the death of a loved one, dealing with COVID-19, self-care, noticing psychological stress, providing psychological first aid, making appropriate referrals, and supporting one another. The University is also able to offer online SLPs on wellness for Health and Social Work practitioners.

IT IS IN YOUR HANDS
the fight against COVID-19

Vaccine Rollout

The vaccine rollout plan is being led by the National Department of Health via the provincial co-ordinating committee which reports to the Office of the Premier. The vaccine rollout structure is replicated at Provincial and Metro level.

Prof Van Greunen is serving as the Mandela University representative on a number of structures including the Metro Co-ordinating Committee (MCC). Colleagues from Mandela University's Occupational Health and Student Health Services are also part of the Metro rollout team for the different phases. Mandela University will not only be a vaccination site for staff and students but will also serve the general public within a 5km radius of the North Campus.

The University is working on contributing to education around vaccinations, having joined hands with experts to offer the public first-hand insights into the processes, risks and

experiences of the vaccination rollout process in Nelson Mandela Bay in a series of "Vax Fax" conversations. The series forms part of an overriding "Vax Fax" education campaign by the University to provide credible information to stakeholders, particularly its staff and students, to enable them to make an informed decision about the vaccination opportunity ahead.

Civil Society

The University is represented on the Nelson Mandela Bay Civil Society Lobby Group by Dr Bruce Damons. This is an external stakeholder forum comprising business, religious fraternity, organised labour, and civic organisations. The University also has ties with the Eastern Cape C19 People's Coalition and, through its Community Convergence Workstream (CCW), engages with non-government and non-profit organisations and other community stakeholders to respond to the inequalities exacerbated by COVID-19.

TREE OF VICTORY

The fight against COVID-19



Nelson Mandela University Tree of Victory

Academic, Technical and Intellectual Service and Capacity

On a national level, Dr Thandi Mgwebi responded to USAf's request in 2020 to provide a list of academics, professionals, intellectual skills, technologies, and innovations that could be deployed in combatting the pandemic. This resorted under the Rapid Response Research and Innovation measures against the COVID-19 pandemic, which included an exercise in institutional mapping of key research strengths and capacity at Mandela University. Six thematic areas where the University has the expertise, research, and engagement skills to contribute were identified:

- i. Engineering and Design
- ii. Public Awareness and Understanding
- iii. Public Health and Safety
- iv. Clinical and Medical Assistance
- v. Data Analytics and Research Information
- vi. Mental Health

Dr Mgwebi and Dr Denver Webb worked together to feed this information on the academic and research capacity of the University into the provincial 'command centre' located at the ECSECC, which is an entity of the OTP. For instance, expertise in modelling, data-analytics, and other appropriate expertise were made available.

In response to an internal institutional call for research on the COVID-19 pandemic, proposals were received from five faculties: EBET, Education, Health Sciences, Law, and Science. These responses were analysed and clustered to enable trans-disciplinary collaboration. SRAC funding has been mobilised to support the smaller projects, while grants will be pursued for the larger projects. Many of the submissions were made by early-career academics, developed in 'rapid response' style, ranging in duration from three months to a year. There may be a need and opportunity for training on how to develop a comprehensive, long-term programme that supports the building of individual and group research profiles.



Nelson Mandela University, South Campus



Wear a mask



Wash your hands



Social distance

Projects and Workstreams

Health Sciences

The Faculty of Health Sciences has been key in providing mental health support during the pandemic for those who have been infected and affected by COVID-19. The work done in this area was linked to the psychosocial support interventions coordinated by the School of Behavioural and Lifestyle Sciences within the Faculty. Interventions have been numerous. Online counselling for distressed communities in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro by final-year Bachelor of Psychology Students and psychology Masters students was organised and social work second and fourth year students were placed in schools in socio-economically deprived areas to offer counselling to learners. Other community work involved conducting a needs analysis of communities and then providing workshops on coping skills and establishing a community of practice for parents, learners, educators, and education partners to re-imagine schools as beacons of hope. With the aim of increasing the capacity around mental health care, a basic training programme for community volunteers aimed at giving them psychological first aid skills was begun in 2020 and has continued into 2021.

The Faculty has also been involved in raising awareness related to the pandemic. Prof Pepeta and Prof Nomvete conducted interviews with various news outlets such as SABC News, eNCA, and Newsroom Afrika. Prof Pepeta and Prof Nomvete also served on the Provincial Premier's Advisory Council on COVID-19, with Prof Nomvete continuing in this role in 2021. This was key during the second wave in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, as Prof Nomvete was able to assist with identifying hotspots in the Summerstrand and Motherwell areas.

Sanitiser Production

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in South Africa in early March 2020, there was an acute shortage of hand sanitiser throughout the Republic. InnoVenton/DCTS was initially requested by Nelson Mandela University to produce an emergency supply of hand sanitiser for internal use by the University. InnoVenton/DCTS could source enough alcohol and other raw materials to produce and pack over 2000 litres for the University within one week before running out of raw material supply, following which South Africa was placed in a 3-week lockdown under the State of Disaster Declaration. InnoVenton produced a further 1500 litres of hand sanitiser for the University before running out of raw material again.

InnoVenton/DCTS received good press coverage during the production of sanitiser, which precipitated a flood of requests for assistance from individuals, companies, and government. InnoVenton was requested in writing by the EC Premier, via the Nelson Mandela University Vice-Chancellor,

to assist the Eastern Cape Department of Health and, later, Chris Hani District Municipality by producing hand sanitiser to assist with the mitigation of this disaster. InnoVenton has a Kilo Lab facility that contains suitable explosion-proof equipment in which alcohol-based hand sanitiser can be produced at a production capacity of 400 litres per day.

Whilst InnoVenton can manufacture small-scale quantities of hand sanitiser on site, the acute demand was much greater and the effort to meet this challenge was enhanced by a parallel focus on scale-up through assisting local SMEs in the manufacturing of hand sanitiser by offering product testing for percentage alcohol and providing manufacturing technical assistance packages. As an entity predominantly involved in engagement through interaction with SMEs and industry, mainstream media has been very effective in communicating with SMEs and has had the added benefit of making the University accessible to a whole new audience, who normally would have no reason to interact with the University.

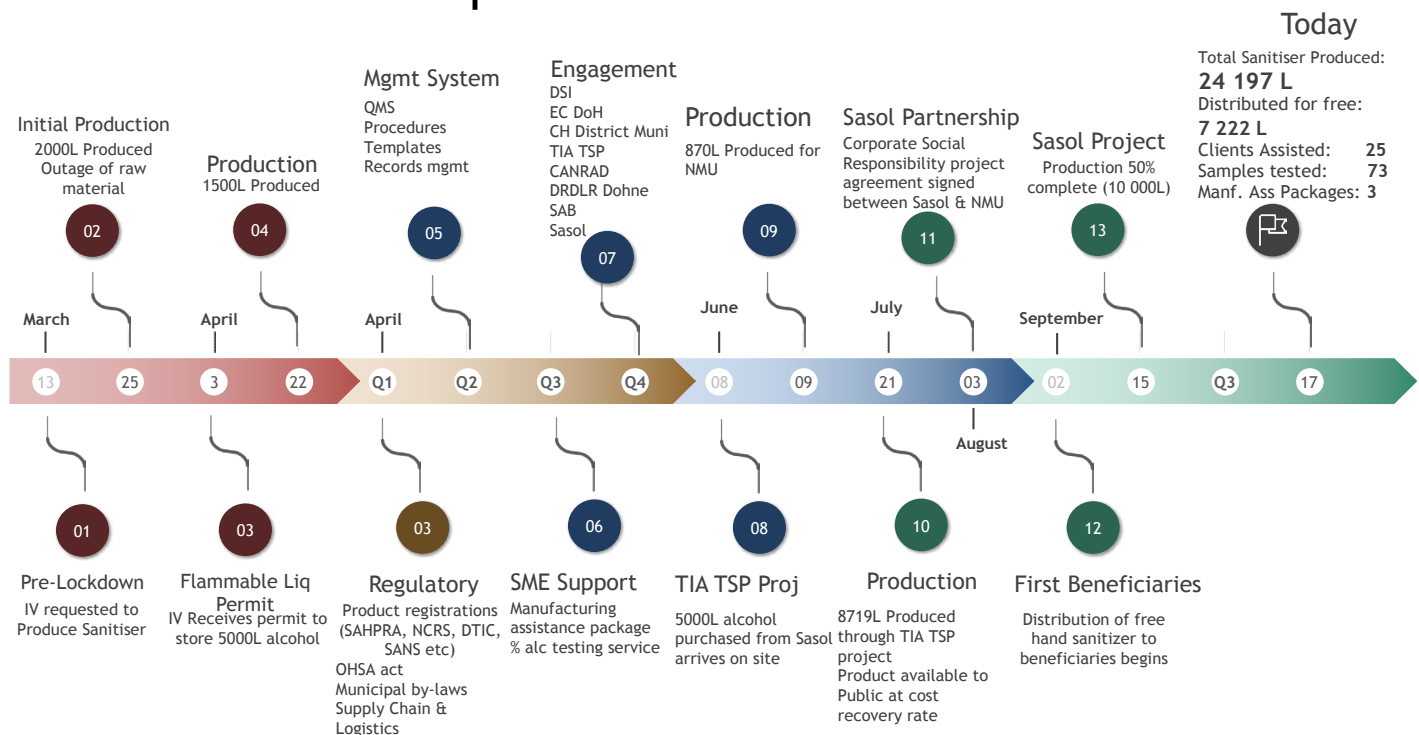
In the second half of 2020, Sasol donated 16 000 litres of Ethanol95IPA to InnoVenton to produce hand sanitiser for free distribution to identified needy beneficiaries in the surrounding community. This was a collaborative corporate social responsibility project with contributions from Sasol, TIA, InnoVenton, CCS and Nelson Mandela University. The Community Convergence Workstream (CCW) was involved in distributing the sanitiser to a large number of NGOs and CBOs. In total, this initiative produced and distributed 20 275,5 litres of sanitiser.

One of the recipients of sanitiser was the Interchurch Local Development Agency (ILDA), based in Kariega. Nobuzwe Mofokeng of ILDA stated that "in September we reached 115 houses with sanitizers, thanks to Nelson Mandela University sponsorship. One hundred and fifteen households received two litres of sanitisers and fifty households received two masks."

BELOW: Hand sanitiser formulation, production and logistics were carried out by InnoVenton staff from left: technician Mr JJ de Jongh, product developer Dr Nicole Vorster, facilities manager Dr Melissa Gouws, intern Mr Hlumelo Mji and acting director Dr Gary Dugmore.



InnoVenton Covid Response: Hand Sanitiser



ABOVE: InnoVenton Covid Response: Hand Sanitiser

COVID-19 Engineering Team

eNtsa was particularly active during the beginning of the COVID-19 spread in South Africa, when resources such as face shields and ventilators were in short supply. During this active time, the team received Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA) funding and used it for printing face shields, increasing the 3D printing capacity for face shields, and designing and developing intubation units, amongst other things.

One of the team's most successful projects was the 3D printing of face shields, beginning in April 2020, to cover the initial shortage faced by the country, especially in healthcare. Between April and the suspension of the project in late 2020 due to decrease in demand, over 14 000 face shields were distributed. Face shields were donated where funding allowed, otherwise subsidised units were distributed at material cost. Based on a review of the sectors assisted with donated and subsidised face shields, it is noted that public healthcare (69%), private healthcare (5%) and centres caring for vulnerable groups (12%) accounted for the majority of

demand. The Nelson Mandela University 3D printing capacity was also augmented by the procurement of eight 'Creality Ender 5' 3D printers in June 2020 to meet demand during the national lockdown.

Upon request, a prototype of an intubation/extubation unit was developed by the Advanced Engineering design Group and approved by ICU hospital staff. These were designed for the purpose of decreasing the risk of exposure for hospital staff who needed to intubate or extubate critical COVID-19 patients. The intubation/extubation units were distributed to Livingstone Hospital and Dora Nginza Hospital.

The team also contributed to the national project working on reverse-engineering parts for the Nuffield ventilator, and performed an experimental analysis and compiled a report on the ideal dosage of UV for decontamination to assist doctors at Nelson Mandela Bay hospitals.

Furthermore, they were able to assist the National Health Service (NHS) with the help of Prof Maryna van de Venter from Nelson Mandela Bio-chemistry by supplying Dr Shareef

Groups assisted with Face Shields	Units	Percentages
Public Hospitals, Clinics & EMS	9753	69%
Dora Nginza Hospital	2960	
Livingstone Hospital	1050	
Uitenhage Provincial Hospital	588	
PE Provincial Hospital	315	
Buffalo City Municipality EMS*	2860	
Cradock, Middelburg & Queenstown Hospitals & Clinics	660	
Humansdorp Hospital	480	
Port Elizabeth Clinics	840	
Private doctors, dentists and medical practices	761	5%
Businesses: Manufacturing	185	1%
Businesses: Logistics	100	1%
Businesses: Food and Beverage	27	0%
Businesses: Retail	617	4%
Businesses: Cleaning	30	0%
Care Centres	1676	12%
Nelson Mandela University	636	4%
Private citizens	167	1%
SAPS and security	20	0%
Schooling and childcare	260	2%
Total	14232	100%


ABOVE: Table of face shield distribution

Abrahams of the NHS with pipette lab equipment required to continue COVID-19 patient testing after the NHS pipette equipment broke. This potentially prevented a week-long reduction in COVID-19 patient testing capacity while new equipment was supplied to the NHS.

As PPE shortages became less acute, eNtsa turned to focusing on supporting local industries and entrepreneurs to survive the challenging economic climate, create new opportunities and reduce job losses. Support is provided to local industry through engineering support, testing services and online training. SMMEs and entrepreneurs are able to access this much-needed support with a subsidy on costs. Subsidy is provided via the Technology Station Programme at eNtsa, a DSI/TIA funded initiative.

Community Mask Distribution

As it became clear that masks would be an essential tool for preventing the transmission of COVID-19, the University launched its #MaskUpMandela campaign. In order to contribute with practical, community-orientated initiative to this campaign, the Visual Arts Department first turned to designing masks and then to facilitating the production and distribution of masks to communities facing masks shortages. The first phase of the project was run by Pieter Binsbergen (Visual Arts), Debbie Mattheus (Community Development Unit) and Rodney Boezacht (CANRAD) in coordination with the CCW. This phase involved distributing masks made by Braemore Designs (Nelson Mandela University alumni who created income-generation opportunities for a significant number of unemployed and casual seamstresses and fellow dress



designers whose livelihoods have been negatively impacted) and funded partly by the MBDA, to beneficiaries including frail care centres and other community organisations.

Of the 2000 masks ordered, 1000 were distributed to people living with disabilities; 400 masks were distributed to people having only partial or no sight; 80 masks were distributed to frontline workers; and 50 to elderly and frail persons. In order to reach vulnerable members most in need, the Visual Arts Department engaged with local non-profit organisations such as: the Nkosingathi Foundation for the Blind; the Khanyisa School for the Blind; PE Mental Health; Ikhaya MacNamee Frail Care in Gqeberha; Community Empowerment Inn serving the Northern Areas; Cape Recife School; and Cheshire Homes (both in Summerstrand and Cleary Park Estate). All non-profits targeted by the Visual Arts Department were in desperate need of cloth face masks. Furthermore, most non-profit organisations were unable to fundraise during the lockdown.

Phase One concluded in August 2020, after which the Phase Two team was brought together, comprising of Nkosingathi Mzuzu (CCS), Rodney Boezacht (CANRAD) and Nicole Collier-Naidoo (CCW Coordinating Team). This phase was intended to support mask-making in communities, but by September many of the mask-making networks that had originally emerged had slowed or stopped entirely, and there was a glut of fairly cheap masks available on the market. The team then focused on distributing masks produced by Braemore to community partners working with other projects, often alongside sanitiser. In addition to these community partners, beneficiaries included families within KwaLanga and New Brighton who had lost their homes to fire, schools within the Manyano network, and a number of Community Kitchens whom Nelson Mandela University had been supporting via Ikhala Trust.



eNtσα

innovation through engineering



SAPS



Livingstone Hospital Staff



Cheshire Homes



Colourful Masks Project



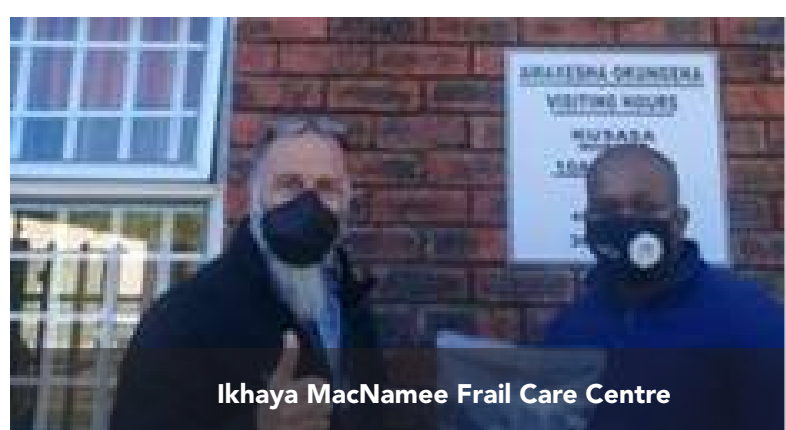
Nkosinathi Foundation for the Blind



Colourful Masks Project



#MaskUpMandela



Ikhaya MacNamee Frail Care Centre



Cape Recife High School



EC Mental Health

ICT solutions

The Centre for Community Technologies (CCT), in partnership with the ICT industry and the ECDoH, worked on a number of solutions for assisting with the COVID-19 response in 2020. As part of the MoU with the OTP, collaboration has been ongoing between the District Office of the Department of Health in Nelson Mandela Bay (NMB) and Sarah Baartman (SB). In addition, the CCT supports the Provincial Departments of Health, Education and Social Development with a variety of technology solutions not only to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, but to also strengthen service delivery in the Province. A number of the ICT solutions were developed in a manner that will allow for their continued use in a post-COVID-19 scenario. Where relevant, such solutions will be deployed. Below is a list of the solutions that have been deployed and are in use:

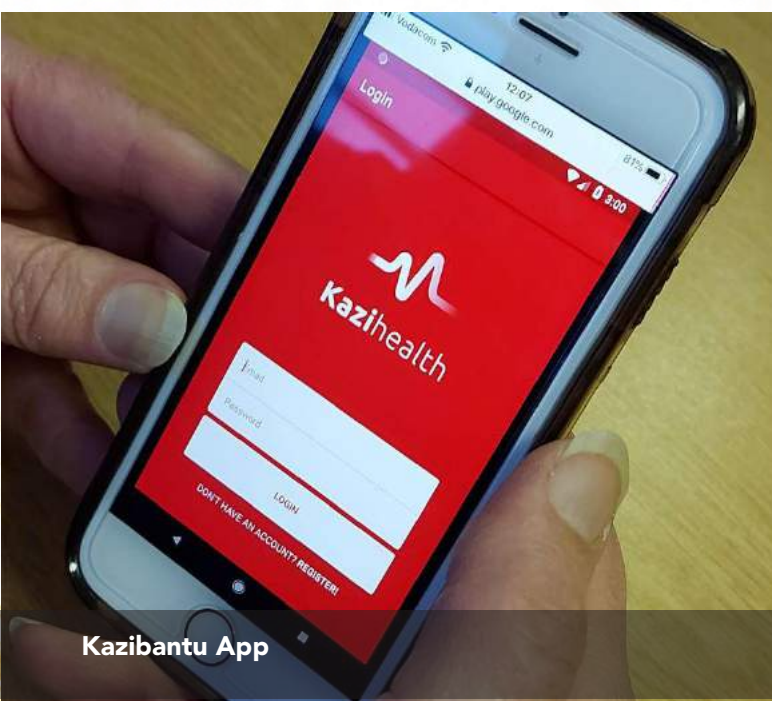
Health Sector

A web-based tool, COVTOR (www.covtor.co.za), was developed and deployed for the purpose of contact tracing and monitoring, as well as for use by persons who suspect that they may have had contact with a positive case. The tool monitors symptoms as per the protocols provided by the National Department of Health. Monitoring is done for a period of 14 days post-contact with a positive or suspected positive case. A comprehensive COVID-19 case management solution was developed and deployed in the NMB area as well as SB. The solution is web-based and can be used on any device. Its functionality includes the geo-mapping of hotspots and the management of cases of "Persons Under Investigation", contacts to be traced and contacts already traced. It also records outcomes and indicates wards and suburbs on the relevant maps to indicate hotspots.

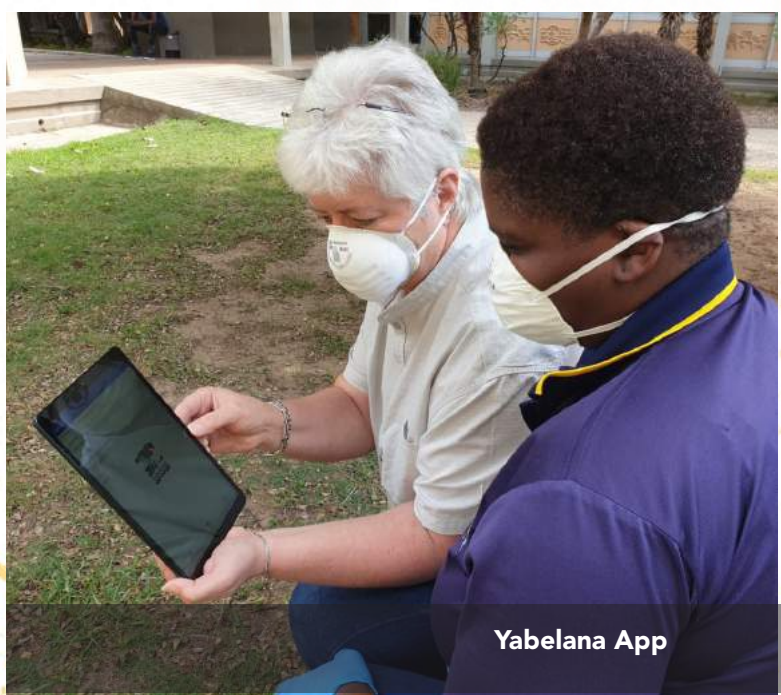
The CCT is responsible for the end-to-end support of both hardware, software, and connectivity at the Rev Dr Mamisa Chabula-Nxiweni Field Hospital. In addition to support, the CCT is also responsible for the ongoing training and re-skilling of all staff required to use the Cloud-based Hospital Management Solution (HMS2). The solution allows the hospital to function as a paperless facility with real-time access to all data at any given time. All reports are dynamic and clinical staff make use of mobile devices to capture patient data. The HMS2 has been rolled out to all public hospitals with COVID wards, with the aim of creating a single view of bed availability. All COVID admission clerks at nine facilities have been trained to use the system. Support is also offered to nine facilities and the District Office for reporting. It has also been approved for roll-out in all public hospitals in the Eastern Cape. It will be rolled out at identified facilities in the first half of 2021. The aim is to replace the current Delta 9 solution in 2021.

Education Sector

At the request of the EC Department of Education, CCT developed and rolled out a digitized screening tool, Carebuddy, for use at 5142 schools in the Province. The solution was customized for the Eastern Cape and is inter-operable with the EMIS system. The data for 1.8 million learners was uploaded into the database. All learners are screened on a daily basis using the tool. As of the 5th of October 2020, more than 400 000 screenings had been captured. Webinars were offered to all principals to guide them in the use of the tool. A helpdesk team is also available to support any queries. The CCT developed self-screening BOTS in English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans. These are tools that are available for quick and easy screening of basic COVID-19 symptoms. The BOTS are available on a multitude of platforms.



Kazibantu App



Yabelana App

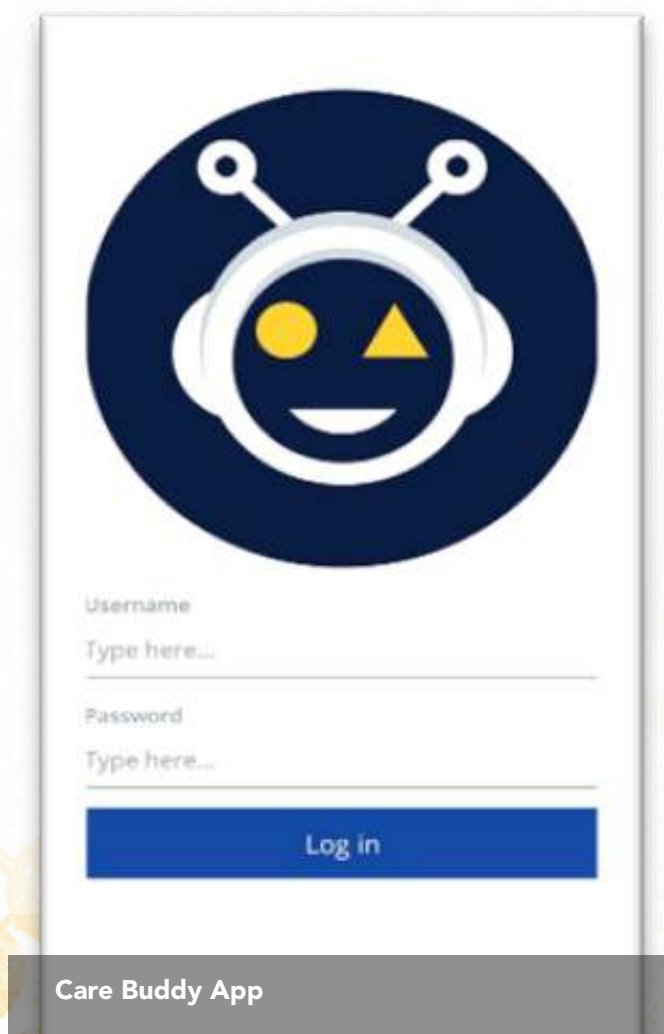
Civil Society

The CCT has also been involved in training and development that involves re-skilling of different sectors for the 'digital now' due to the increased reliance on ICT solutions during lockdown and social distancing. The CCT is involved in ongoing training of different sectors in Digital Literacy, in the use of tools such as Zoom, Teams and other relevant platforms. The CCT is also working with the relevant workstreams in the CCW to build suitable platforms to support the work of the CCW and the EC C19 coalition group. A proposal was submitted to GIZ to develop a digital platform to support Active Citizenry in the Eastern Cape. This project has been accepted and the project is underway. A number of online focus group sessions have been held and a series of mask-to-mask sessions are currently underway across the Province, covering small towns and villages.

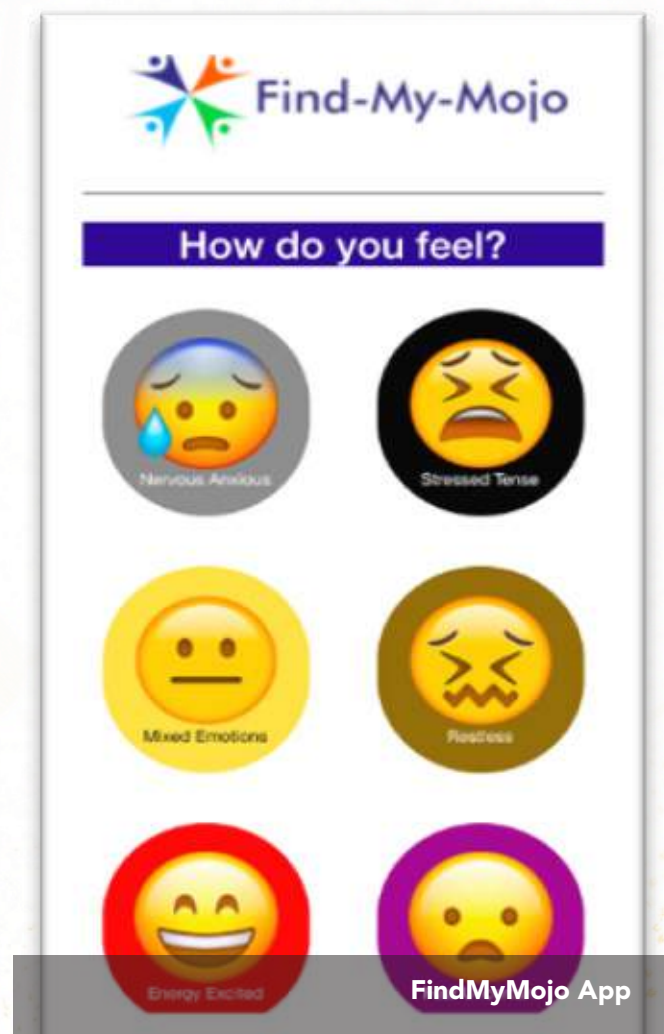
A presentation was made to the Psycho-Social Wellness Co-ordinating Group on behalf of the Higher Education Institutions outlining different interventions and associated costs. The proposal was well received, and a small task team was formed to co-ordinate an implementation plan. HEI input on this solution was made to the Department of Social Development. The tool is in development and is aimed at creating a support network for healthcare workers to deal with PTSD and to debrief.

Data

Prof Van Greunen has been assisting with verification of data on a daily basis in terms of the master line list received from the Province, laboratory results, and data entered on the HMS2.



Care Buddy App



FindMyMojo App

Economy and Data Modelling

Prof Ronney Ncwadi and his team have been involved in economic modelling around the COVID-19 lockdown. This included a report for the Premier for the Eastern Cape COVID-19 Commission and work on the impact of Level 4 lockdown. The partnership on economic research and modelling is enabled through ECSECC.

During 2020, the team presented on the topic of the economic impact of COVID-19 on the Eastern Cape, looking at which sectors are most important to the Province's economy. It is clear that there is limited diversification in the economy of the Province, which could impact the strength of its recovery after the pandemic. The team will be collaborating to model the Province's recovery.

A microsimulation of the economic inequality in the country and the province was presented as a seminar in the Eastern Cape with stakeholders including government departments, Coega, ECSECC, and the Business Chamber. It was advised that economic interventions focus on reducing the inequality gap in various sectors in the economy post-COVID-19. This presentation will be finalised as a working paper and presented to the EC Provincial Cabinet.

Prof Ncwadi and his team are working with ECSECC and four postdocs to examine fiscal policy and its impact on the Eastern Cape, as well as determining priority areas for fiscal allocation and how the Province should manage its resources going forward. A proposal is being compiled and will be presented in due course.

Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

Prof Sijekula Mbanga with his multidisciplinary team, which includes Geosciences, Architecture, Human Settlements, Building Science and Construction Management, have been engaging the Eastern Cape Provincial Government Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation sector to find common ground on post-COVID-19 sector priorities where the government can explore utilisation of the University's capabilities.

The focus of the government engagement effort has thus far been on COVID-19 interventions in the provision of basic services such as shelter, water and sanitation. The engagement intervention has been focusing on the short and medium term. This workstream's approach has been to use a hybrid of short-term interventions in vulnerable communities with a post-COVID-19 innovative strategy in informal settlements to upgrade infrastructure and sustainably provide clean water and sanitation services in the Eastern Cape province. A number of tentative projects have emerged from interactions with the Eastern Cape provincial Department of Human Settlements, and the two Metropoles based in the Eastern Cape:

Development of Timber-Frame Construction Technology for Low- and Middle-Income Affordable Housing

A proposal for the development of a timber-frame building system for the Breaking New Ground houses and middle-income affordable housing is being prepared with a private sector company, FurnTech.



Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation engagements



Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation engagements

Walmer-Gqeberha Informal Settlement Innovative Intervention Programme

A costed trans-disciplinary research and development proposal for Walmer-Gqeberha Informal Settlements Intervention was presented to the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropole on the 15th of September 2020, in a meeting that included representatives of the National Department of Human Settlements, Eastern Cape Department of Human Settlements, and National Treasury City Support Programme. The NMBM is still facing challenges relating to securing the services of the University through a MoA versus MFMA restrictions.

Water Supply Alternative Sources for the Eastern Cape

AEON has developed a proposal for a pre-feasibility desktop study on potential for ground-water abstraction as an alternative water supply source in BCMM settlements.

National Department of Human Settlements Stakeholder Forum

From April 2020 Prof Mbanga was invited by the National Department of Human Settlements to participate in a Stakeholder Forum that included Civil Society Organisations in the human settlements sector, agencies of the NDoHS, metropolitan municipalities, and Gauteng-based universities and CSIR. The Forum was set up to advise national government on appropriate responses to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the informal settlements across South Africa. A national Engagement Framework has been developed and adopted. This framework provides for institutional mechanisms that promote participation of universities and civil society organisations in informal settlement programmes in all municipalities in South Africa.

Policy Advisory Group on Upgrading of Informal Settlements

Prof Mbanga has also been participating in a national government Policy Advisory Group called POLERT that has spearheaded the review of Upgrading of the Informal Settlements subsidy programme in the National Housing Code of 2009. A new conditional grant framework dedicated to Upgrading of Informal Settlements has since been introduced through National Treasury and seeks to harness the capabilities of civil society organisations and universities to realise community empowerment and sustainable livelihood outcomes in the planning, design and implementation of informal settlement upgrading programmes.

Publication on COVID-19 and Challenges of Informal Settlements

With a PhD student under his supervision, Mr Sive Dintsi, Prof Mbanga and Prof John Smallwood have published a paper in the *Journal of Public Administration*, Vol 55, No. 2 of 2020, entitled 'Covid-19 Pandemic and the Challenges of Informal Settlements in South Africa and Beyond; Theoretical Insights and Practical Interventions.' The paper was previously presented at the Southern Africa City Studies 5th Annual Conference held from 31 August to 4 September 2020.

Community Convergence Workstream (CCW)

The Community Convergence Workstream (CCW) draws from the expertise and networks of the Engagement and Transformation Portfolio (ETP) to respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The HoC and CIPSET are responsible for the overarching administration and coordination of the CCW. The specific focus of the CCW is marginalised community-



Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation engagements



Human Settlements, Water & Sanitation engagements

based workers (including healthcare workers), people affected by GBV, vulnerable groups experiencing hunger, education stakeholders, farmworkers, casual workers, and unemployed youth, amongst others.

In 2020, the entities in the ETP identified existing funds earmarked for engagement/convergence activities to support the work of the CCW. The projects of the CCW, elaborated on below, will be continuing into 2021. They have been transitioned into the thematic hubs of the HoC and the CCW is exploring how they can start converging with various engagement activities. The CCW is also focusing on the lessons learnt from COVID-19 in order to re-position the workstream to ensure solidarity is maintained with communities 'post' the pandemic. All projects have been assimilated into departments, units and faculties and a proposal is under development based on these developments. The CCW coordinates eight projects:

Tele-counselling

This project entailed setting up a structure of suitably qualified volunteers who provided telephonic support around mental health issues (debriefing) to Community Healthcare Workers. This was successfully achieved, but the uptake of services dipped over time and did not increase after wider advertising efforts. Unexpected benefits of this project were that it provided an alternative avenue through which senior and postgrad students could gain practical experience and facilitated psychology and social work students working together for the first time. The team has also adjusted Emthonjeni Student Wellness pamphlets for a broader audience. The development of a new offering for 2021 is underway. It has been agreed that basic counselling training should not be offered online as the process requires a particular method of facilitation that can only safely be done in person. The possibility of running an in-person course for individuals identified by our community partners is being investigated.

Community-based food systems

This project aims to provide support for existing food systems in various communities across the Metro. The team works to support 25 teams (consisting of approximately 150 people in total) who are establishing or maintaining community gardens, school gardens, clinic/hospital gardens, and backyard gardening networks around Nelson Mandela Bay. New abalimi (farmers) have been provided with Permaculture training, and teams from nearby areas have participated in Gardeners' Assemblies to share knowledge and troubleshoot issues together. Each group has received a basic Permaculture training manual and gardening tools, along with a series of seedlings appropriate to the season. At the end of last year, Seed Banks were established and teams gathered to share seeds and seed-saving knowledge. In addition, the project team ran weekly webinars situating the critical food systems issues within national and global conversations about Food Sovereignty.

Two webinars have been held in 2021 so far, both well-attended. One was on "Agroecology in the Time of Drought and Water Scarcity with Prof Raymond Auerbach" and the other was on "Ecovillages as Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa with Sarah Motha". In March, the project team collaborated with Ikhala Trust to deliver seedlings to a number of community abalimi and to discuss how to build healthy soil.

One of the community farmers, Mpumzi Roja Mofu, whose group in Kwazakhele, #Sibanye, worked alongside members of CIPSET in the Community-based Food Systems project, shared the following:

"With the support of Mandela University, #Sibanye has made an impact on food sovereignty in our area. We have improved our knowledge of vegetable farming, and our work has inspired many other young people from surrounding areas. With our harvest, #Sibanye was able to assist poor households in our area, sell some of the harvest, and share the rest amongst our volunteers. And our community has grown more interested in purchasing produce from us."

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY
The Centre for Integrated Post-School Education & Training (CIPSET)
in collaboration with the Community Convergence Workstream (CCW) of the Engagement & Transformation Portfolio
present

Looking at the issue of hunger through the lens of social reproduction
A conversation with Inna Senekal and Enver Motlale, researchers at CIPSET.

Saturday 31 October 2020 | 11h00 to 12h30
Meeting ID: 955 0447 9708 | Passcode: 854494
Contact: siybulelam@mandela.ac.za to register for the event

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY
The Centre for Integrated Post-School Education & Training (CIPSET)
in collaboration with the Community Convergence Workstream (CCW) of the Engagement & Transformation Portfolio
present

Global Food Struggles
A conversation with Raj Patel

Raj Patel is an award-winning author, film-maker and academic. He is a Research Professor in the Lyndon B Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin and a Senior Research Associate at the Unit for the Humanities at the university currently known as Rhodes University (UHRU), South Africa. Prof Raj Patel studies the world food system and alternatives to it. He is the author of: *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System* and the international best-seller, *The Value of Nothing*. His latest book, co-written with Jason W. Moore, is *A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things*.

Saturday 7 November 2020 | 17h00 to 18h30
Meeting ID: 964 2727 1917 | Password: 197239
Contact: siybulelam@mandela.ac.za to register for the event



Mandela University student and staff volunteers gathered at Missionvale Care Centre to pack food parcels. Here, they are seen discussing how they have been coping with the pandemic, and how to maintain safety measures as they pack food parcels together.



Ikhala Trust's Unathi Mselane (left) and CCS's Nkosinathi Mzuzu (right) meeting with Nomvuyo Faku of Nasiphi Isipho Community Nutrition and Development in Motherwell, who received support in their nutrition programme along with sanitiser and masks.



Asakhe ECDC Mask Handover



Asakhe ECDC Mask Handover



ILDC sanitiser distribution



Manyano Schools Mask Handover



Sophumelelo handover



ILDC sanitiser distribution



One of the collaborating Community Kitchen partners at Moeggesukkel in Kariega, shown at work preparing soup for the children in the community.



HoCstaff provided home-made butternut soup so that student and staff volunteers had something to eat during the day's work of packing food parcels at the Missionvale Care Centre.

Food and material relief

This project aims to facilitate the distribution of multiple forms of relief to communities. Working with the Convergence Fund Deployment Committee (CFDC), the team has successfully deployed three cycles of funding for food and material relief. Apart from food parcels, this material relief included sanitiser, masks, and various household items (requested by two communities affected by fire in the New Brighton area). The third cycle combined safe food relief with an investment in longer-term sustainability by collaborating with Ikhala Trust to strengthen the operations of Community Kitchens around Gqeberha and Kariega.

Bernie Dolley from Ikhala Trust shared the following feedback on this collaboration:

"Despite the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the world at large – a pandemic that was unexpected and that continues unabated to ravage families and communities – the one most positive development during this period has been the formalisation of the relationship with the University. Ikhala Trust has worked with many individuals and some departments over the years but there has never been a formal partnership with the University. We are excited that through this partnership there will be opportunities to learn, share and grow as we craft new pathways on how to place communities at the Centre of all our deliberations and decisions. We are looking forward to the next few months of learning together whilst we build social cohesion and ultimately economic freedom for some of the people we will work with."

In 2021, Ikhala Trust submitted a proposal for funding set aside for food security support. This builds on the engagement with Community Kitchens that took place during Cycle 3 and seeks to deepen the support offered in order to strengthen these organisations/groups' capacity and skill to sustain their valuable community work and expand the offerings they can provide. Another new initiative is the Firekill Pilot Project, which is the result of a partnership between eNtsa, HoC and the SMME who developed the product – an easy-to-use, affordable fire extinguisher created with the intention to assist those in informal settlements particularly vulnerable to fires. Community Kitchens are participating in the pilot.

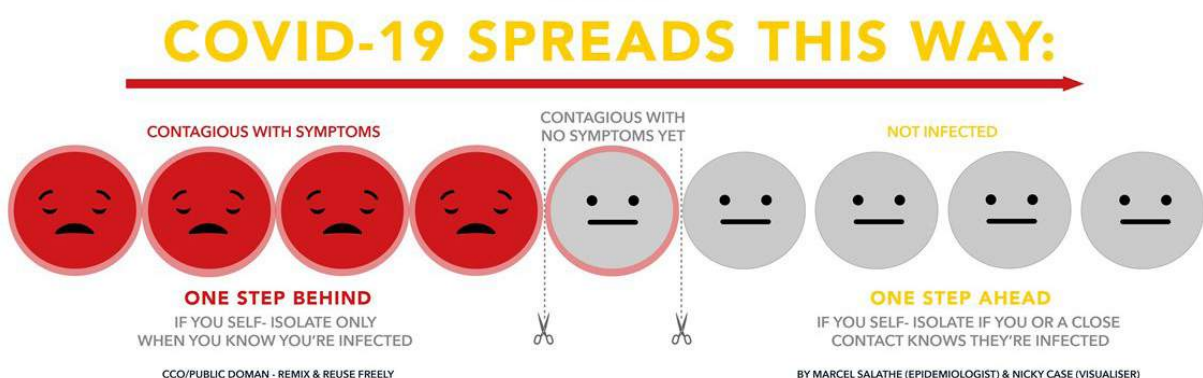
One of these participants is the Moeggesukkel community kitchen. They have reported that they held a community meeting, in which they shared the news of the project

and how to use the fire extinguisher. They then distributed the units amongst 8 different community members, each from different sections in the community. Thankfully they have not had any fire incidents thus far.

There were also two fire-affected communities to which CFDC responded in 2020. Nomakhaya Dabula, from Mandela Village in Kwa-Langa, shared that the area's Ward Committee jumped into action, despite the added difficulty of responding during pandemic times, and were pleased to be able to work with Mandela University. This was the first time the community had experienced a fire of this scale, and Dabula felt that it had been a learning experience working in this way. "Community members responded very positively and really appreciated this effort," she said. She also highlighted the assistance from the Centre for Refugee Rights, which helped the three people who are foreign-nationals to apply again for the legal documentation on which their lives here depend. "The masks and sanitiser provided allowed the Ward Committee to do our work without fear of contracting or spreading the virus". Dabula also added that her fellow Ward Committee members are available to assist the University in any such future work, to show their appreciation for the University's support.

Capacity-building in GBV for first responders

This project aims to co-construct a GBV programme that is responsive to the immediate needs of communities. The proposal for a research project titled *Knowledge, attitudes and practices of the SAPS in the Nelson Mandela Municipality on gender-based violence* was approved by the Mandela University Ethics Committee and the Head of Research: SAPS. The project team met with funding organisations and were asked to upscale this research to a national project. The pilot study is complete and a GBV short learning course is in development. The team has established a planning committee in order to co-construct a GBV advocacy programme with community partners — Yethu Safe House, Yokhuselo Haven, Engage Centre, Phaphamani Rape Crisis Centre, Doxa Family Care, and Phila Ndoda Movement. The team is also working on developing materials in the form of posters and radio inserts to address issues around GBV. They are also holding workshops with community partners to develop a community-driven Short Learning Programme (SLP). They have been communicating with community radio stations around the Province on GBV topics related to materials covered in the SLP-development process, in all three languages.



Location	Thematic Area	Theme	Date
Hubs of Convergence	Knowledge Communication	The production of socially engaged knowledge and scholarship: its limits and possibilities in academic institutions.	Wed 28 Oct
Community Convergence Workstream Coordinating Team	'The Kitchen'	The human experience of coordinating pandemic response projects while 'culturally translating' between various social actors in the effort to express and explore the meaning of an "engaged institution"	Wed 4 Nov
Advanced Mechatronic Technology Centre	Engineering	Understanding how the sciences can be of service to communities: a story from Riemvasmaak.	Mon 9 Nov
Ubuso Bethu	Community-driven projects	Community Journalism – 'All that journalists have to offer the world is their integrity'	Wed 11 Nov
Mandela University HIV Unit, Yethu Safe House, Yokhuselo Rape Crisis and OUT	GBV	Exploring the potentials and dimensions of a GBV programme driven by communities' needs.	Mon 16 Nov
Transformation Office	Individual & Collective Wellness	Counselling the frontlines in pandemic times: an exploration of the nature of the mental health crisis bubbling under the surface of this pandemic.	Wed 18 Nov
CIPSET	Food Systems	Learning about food systems with community gardeners.	Sat 21 Nov
Hubs of Convergence	Knowledge Communication	Weaving together the tapestry of experiences shared across the series in the context of our exploration of engaged scholarship.	Wed 25 Nov
NMU Music Dept. artists from the University and community. Messages from VC and DVC Engagement & Transformation	Music, Arts & Culture	Virtual concert – RE/Membering: A Musical Reflection!	Fri 27 Nov

Thematic areas of webinars

Participants in the GBV hub, comprising of 7 community-based organisations focused on various responses to gender-based violence, reflected on how engagement with Mandela University assists them to understand and support one another's work while thinking about collaborative responses to GBV. Zolile Dayimani of Phila Ndoda movement said that "understanding the work of other organisations has been helpful to assist us in maintaining hope through recognition and affirmation." Karen Kemp of Yethu Safe House indicated that the multilingual materials (including the university's COVID-19 pamphlet, and one of the eRona Times comic strips printed for distribution) were a great resource. Karen shared that these masks and pamphlets were distributed during an anti-crime walk, which ended up with the unexpected result of achieving a peace treaty with gangs in the area.

Civil Society Engagement Tool and citizen journalism

The idea of the Civil Society Engagement Tool was brought to the CCW by the Eastern Cape working group of the C19 People's Coalition. CCT was approached to explore how to bring it to life. Later, GIZ approached the EC C19 People's Coalition to discuss supporting them using digital tools, and the connection with the CCT was made. Thereafter, CCT and GIZ partnered up to develop this tool and this is now underway, with focus groups having been held online and mask-to-mask around the province.

The Community Journalism project was brought forward by seasoned journalists, Wara Fana and Louise Vale, whose partnership brought Ubuso Bethu into being. CCW

provided seed funding to allow for the development of the website and the commissioning of a number of articles by community journalists around the province, along with a process of mentoring and support. In 2021, Ubuso Bethu will receive a second small funding tranche as the CCW works alongside the entity to identify and secure further funding to support independent journalism from voices largely unheard in mainstream media. You can explore the Ubuso Bethu project here: <https://www.ubusobethu.co.za/>

Supporting masks campaigns

Phase One of this project was run by the Visual Arts Department (as outlined earlier in this report), with support from the CCW, but has now been taken over by a CCW-led team. Under Phase Two, 7380 masks were received from Braemore Designs between September and December 2020 and were distributed along with pamphlets and printed copies of the eRona Times to a number of community partners – many of whom worked with other CCW projects – as well as Manyano Schools and Community Kitchens. Beneficiaries were surveyed and a revised plan is being prepared based on the responses.

Public webinars

The 2020 webinar series was successfully complete (see list of webinars above). Two of the nine webinars had to be cancelled due to the pandemic – one due to illness and the other (the concert planned for the end of the series) due to concerns over recording the concert in a manner that would adequately capture the compositions

without compromising COVID-19 safety regulations. This project is taking on a broader scope in 2021, encompassing various forms of communication with community-stakeholders. The Music Concert planned for the end of 2020 that was postponed is set to take place towards the end of April or the beginning of May. The concert is part of a collaboration between the HoC and the Faculty of Humanities.

ETP engagement and research projects related to COVID-19

The following research projects were identified in 2020:

- i. CANRAD: socio-political implications of COVID-19 and lockdown
- ii. Hubs of Convergence (HoC): scholarship around community engagement
- iii. Chair of Youth Unemployment: existing programme has shifted focus to include COVID-19 reflections
- iv. Dr Kalenga's research into COVID-related workplace readiness and GBV capacity building

Furthermore, a research proposal linked to the work of the CCW has been created. The desktop research was completed and feedback on ethics submission was received. The project will be receiving an internal research grant. Fieldwork will start in 2021.

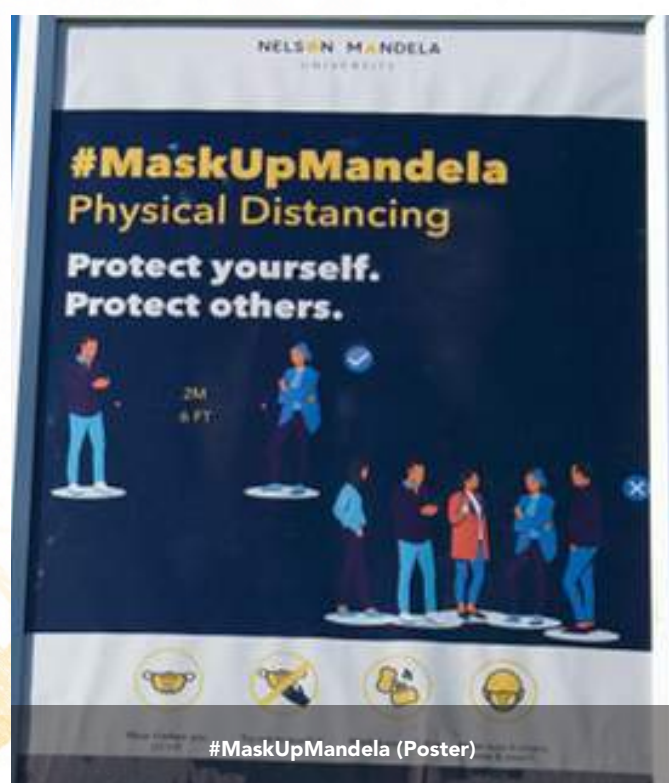
Communication & Marketing Support

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University, through its COVID-19 Coordinating Committee (CCC) and Coronavirus Task Team (CTT) has been coordinating the external and internal response to the pandemic, respectively. The COVID-19 pandemic presented a unique

opportunity to showcase the University's engagement philosophy and work in the service of society practically, through internal, digital and media platforms. The Communication and Marketing department at Mandela University took up this task with the onset of the pandemic. Its internal work falls under the CTT, but the department is also represented on the CCC in order to provide communication support for public education campaigns. From the work of the CTT and CCC and its various work-streams, numerous marketing campaigns, internal communication memos, opeds and thought leadership pieces were identified, written up and shared through digital and other platforms. Academics and support staff shared their expertise on various aspects of the pandemic and its impact (such as health, ICT, learning and teaching, engineering, student life, nutrition, and wellness) for internal and external consumption. These went a long way in entrenching the Mandela University brand internally and externally through resource material use externally and through media.

The Communications team is looking at re-energising its various campaigns from 2020 in 2021, as well as building a campaign distributing credible information on vaccination. The communication and marketing initiatives have included:

- i. Guides and posters
- ii. Coronavirus information website, which can be found at: <https://www.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Coronavirus-Information>
- iii. Education and awareness around alert levels and definitions
- iv. Webinars, including the "When is the Peak?" webinar featuring three members of the CCC - Prof Van Greunen, Prof Pepeta, and Prof Muronga



- v. The 'In Your Hands' campaign, which was begun as the University prepared for the return of staff and students to campuses. The campaign entailed several campaigns rolled out by the University regionally in the Eastern Cape Province, elevating the message of hygiene practices, physical distancing and masking up
- vi. Resources on the vaccines and vaccine rollout.
- vii. Marketing the Convergence Fund by sharing the work of the fund, identifying potential donors, and providing digital support
- viii. Publishing interviews sharing opinion and analysis around the pandemic and higher education
- ix. The eRona times, a comic strip depicting real people learning about the pandemic which have been printed and distributed with masks to communities by the CCW

Data Modelling

Prof Azwinndini Muronga and his team from the Faculty of Science have worked on modelling the waves of the pandemic to try and predict their peaks.

With a group of interns from different South African universities hosted at Mandela University, the team is also trying to understand the dynamics of the festive season and the effect it has had on rural areas, considering mobility between metropolitan and rural areas during this period. This kind of mobility will also have an impact on COVID numbers when students return to campus for the 2021 academic year.

Furthermore, the team are also currently involved in a project collaborating with colleagues from other African countries to look at the first wave as it was experienced on the continent. They are focusing on aspects such as the low mortality rate, the dynamics of the wave, and the effect and efficacy of different policies (such as lockdown). The aim is to publish a paper on these findings.



ABOVE & BELOW: COVID-19 education & awareness

ALERT LEVEL 3 | February 2021



IT IS IN YOUR HANDS

the fight against COVID-19

ABOVE: Nelson Mandela University COVID-19 website / BELOW: COVID-19 education & awareness

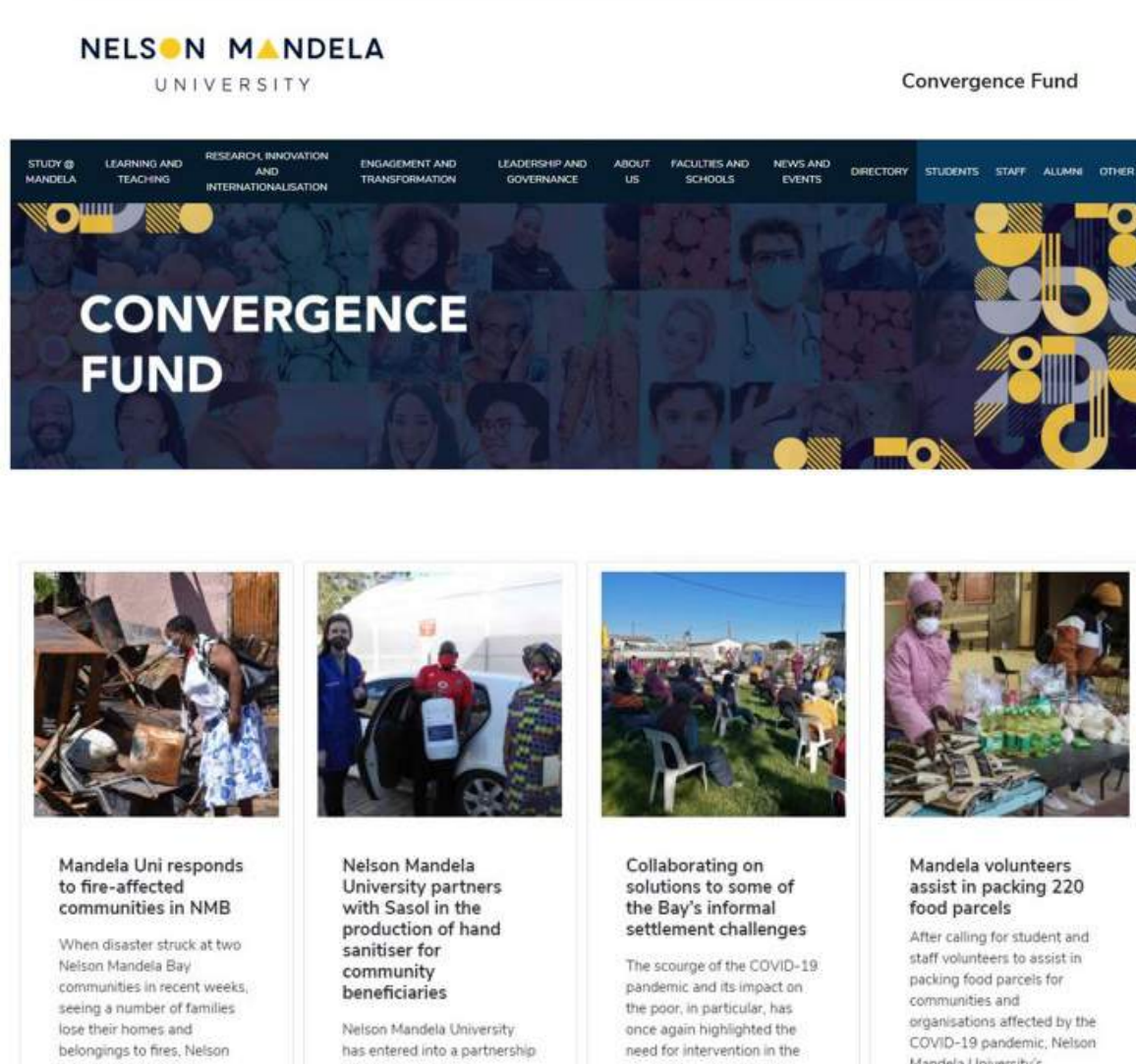


Convergence Fund

MANCO approved the establishment of the Mandela University Convergence Fund on the 20th of April 2020. It was established as an avenue for staff and student voluntary donations for the purpose of funding immediate aid for the fight against COVID-19 and the mitigation of its socioeconomic effects. A Convergence Fund website and payment portal is live; see: <https://www.mandela.ac.za/convergencefund>. The Convergence Fund Disbursement Committee (CFDC) is located within the ETP and consists of representatives from the portfolio,

the SRMA, the Office of the VC, and civil society. The DC has completed three cycles of disbursement aligned to the work of the CCW Food and Material Relief project. So far, distribution has worked well in relation to the food relief initiatives and building solidarity between the University and communities. The emphasis is now shifting from food relief to sustainable food security, concretised in the establishment of the Food Systems Working Group, which had its first meeting on the 27th of January 2021.

BELOW: Convergence Fund webpage



Change the World

PO Box 77000,
Nelson Mandela University
Port Elizabeth, 6031

info@mandela.ac.za



mandela.ac.za