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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 community awareness

By Vuyokazi Dube: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System partnered with the *Rise 'N Shine Disability Magazine* for persons with disabilities, on 21 April 2020 and conducted a door-to-door awareness activation on COVID-19 at Ducats informal settlements in East London.

The activation targeted households with persons with disabilities as some of them depend on others to assist them with household chores such as fetching water from the tap, which may expose them to infection. Households were given masks, gloves, sanitisers and COVID-19 pamphlets to read further about various preventative measures.

The door-to-door campaign emphasised the following preventative measures:

- Washing of hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or the use of an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available.
- Covering your mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in a bin.
- Coughing etiquette, which involves maintaining distance.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

Government has called for continued cooperation among communities, strengthened collaboration between government and various sectors in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19.



Community members receiving sanitisers and gloves.



Rise 'N Shine Disability Magazine official providing masks to community members.



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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Private sector joins fight against COVID-19

By Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State

Free State Premier Sefora Ntombela and Social Development MEC Mamiki Qabathe welcomed the donation of 60 beds by King's Comfort to Tshireletsong Child and Youth Care Centre in Bloemfontein on 12 May 2020. The donation will also assist the Free State Provincial Government in its efforts to tackle the spread of COVID-19.

Children at the centre will have their own beds instead of sharing, thus ensuring social distancing, which in turn will prevent the spread of COVID-19. The donation by King's Comfort serves as a proof that private and public sector relationships are essential for community development.



King's Comfort officials handing over one of the 60 beds to the Free State Provincial Government.



Social Development MEC Mamiki Qabathe thanking King's Comfort for the donation of beds.

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Community movement provides relief

By Marianne Williams: GCIS, Western Cape

The extension of lockdown has left many people anxious about the future but there are warriors spreading hope on the streets of Cape Town, risking their health to provide food for destitute families. The Cape Town Together Community Action Network (CAN) is a movement born out of a discussion between a group of public health professionals, community organisers and activists who came together a week before the lockdown after realising the need for a rapid COVID-19 community response. Each member of the movement operates autonomously, identifying new members and mapping the needs and resources in their neighbourhood. The Government Communication and Information System formed part of a team that conducted a community outreach at the Sophia Town informal settlement on 4 April 2020 to make people aware of the risks of the COVID-19.

To date, the CAN movement has grown to 2 300 individual volunteers with just over 140 members assisting vulnerable community members. Kuilsriver CAN volunteers are feeding more than 400 people in the communities living in Sunbird Park and the neighbouring informal settlement called Sophia Town. "We cannot turn a blind eye to the needy. With the help of donations from the community and other donors, we are able to provide people with a warm meal," said Latifah Jacobs, a CAN champion.

Leaflets on COVID-19 preventative measures together with soap donated by the City of Cape Town Disaster Management and bread from a local supermarket were distributed among community members.



Volunteers of Cape Town Together Community Action Network ready to serve the communities.



Community members receiving food from Kuilsriver Cape Town Together Community Action Network volunteers.