Addressing COVID-19 in South Africa

To understand the impact of COVID-19, demography and epidemiology must be taken into account.

Variation by geography too, shouldn’t be understated.

Most reported cases were likely to be females between age 25-49

Deaths by Provinces
- Western Cape 25.9%
- Gauteng 25.4%
- Eastern Cape 19.3%
- KwaZulu Natal 15.6%
- Free State 5.3%
- Mpumalanga 3.1%
- Limpopo 2.2%
- North West 2.0%
- Northern Cape 1.2%

Source: NICD (data from March to August, 2020)

Innovations to estimate and respond to COVID-19

1. Civil registration data to estimate excess mortality. (SAMRC)
2. Demographic and health surveillance sites to monitor utilization of health services and long-term impacts.
   - Collection and disaggregation of demographic and health surveillance data to monitor short and long-term impacts. (SAPRIN)
3. Mobile technology to conduct the National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM)
4. Developing the South Africa COVID-19 Vulnerability Index (Stats SA)

Socio-economic Impacts of the Pandemic

- EMPLOYMENT: Unemployed increased by 2.8 million rising from 43% to 53% between Feb-Apr 2020
- EDUCATION: 40% of school days lost for most children in 2020. Increasing inequality as wealthy children twice likely to attend school
- HUNGER: Higher in July/August 2020, adult hunger was at 16%, child hunger at 11% & 37% of households had no money for food
- MENTAL HEALTH: Depressive symptoms doubled between 2017 and June 2020 from 12% to 24% of individuals

Governments responses to mitigate the impact of the pandemic

- Social grants
- Social insurance
- Food parcel distribution
- Shelters for the homeless
- Infrastructure grants for schools to resume teaching and learning
- Support for Early Childhood Development programmes
- Measures to safeguard against gender-based violence and femicide

About 2 out of every 5 of 11.3 million applicants received the special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant that has brought millions of previously unreached individuals into the system