



COTLANDS RELIEF FUNDING APPLICATION

1. Organisational Details

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2. Introduction

Cotlands was established in 1936 when Matron Dorothy Reece, a nurse from the United States doing missionary work in South Africa, found an abandoned baby on her doorstep. Over the years the organisation underwent many changes, but always retained serving young children as its primary goal. From historical roots as a baby sanctuary, Cotlands initiated its community based programmes in 1999, primarily focusing on HIV and nutrition, and later adding psychosocial and educational support to the programmes.

Cotlands head office is located at:

9 Data Crescent, Ormonde, Johannesburg

Areas of operation:

Gauteng
Eastern Cape
KwaZulu-Natal
Mpumalanga
Western Cape

3. Cotlands response to COVID-19

Nations are uniting across the world to fight this global pandemic and our joint actions will ensure the safety of our communities. Taking a stand together during this difficult period has made us realise just how important it is to take care and support our beneficiaries in the most vulnerable communities. Cotlands' main concern is the safety of our children and their parents. With limited access to proper water and sanitation and high density living these marginalised communities are susceptible to catching the virus.



Even though these communities are faced with challenges where they are at risk of not receiving basic human needs, communities have proven to be resourceful. A good example of this is where communities have set up “tippy taps” made out of 5 litre plastic bottles so that they can wash their hands regularly.

As the national lockdown continues in South Africa and restricts us from leaving our homes until Thursday, 30 April 2020; we are relying on technology to communicate with our early learning facilitators and toy librarians and our beneficiaries (parents). We continue to support our beneficiaries through regular contact to ensure that they are keeping safe and healthy. We are sending SMS messages to the parents of our children on a weekly basis to remind them to follow essential hygiene steps and share ideas on different play routines and tips on how to make toys from waste materials. The mode of engagement and communication is now digital.

Precautionary measures

Cotlands received a directive from the Department of Social Development (DSD) that all Early Childhood Development centres and partial care facilities will be closed from Wednesday, 18 March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cotlands closed all toy library and early learning playgroups in line with the circular sent out by the Department. Prior to the closure of our programmes, our Cotlands staff informed children, parents and caregivers to follow essential hygiene steps to protect themselves and their children from the virus whilst at home.

Precautionary measures to limit the spread of the COVID-19 disease

- Washing your hands with soap for 20 seconds
- Greet people using the “elbow greeting” Don't shake hands.
- Coronavirus public hotline number: 0800 029 999 DOH WhatsApp group 060 012 3456
- If you experience flu-like symptoms or coughing stay at home and call your doctor
- No domestic or international air travel
- Face to face meetings converted to web-based conferencing meetings
- Scheduled break for playgroups and toy library services and options for play-based activities at home
- Avoid group gatherings
- Work remotely and weekly virtual team meetings

Cotlands

4. Caring for children and families at home

4.1 Stimulation for children at home

Cotlands maintains communication with our parents telephonically and we send practical lesson plans to parents so that they can engage in play-based activities with their children at home. Voice notes, home interaction videos, child routines, play booklets and ideas on how to make toys from waste materials is shared with parents on a weekly basis.

4.2 Nutrition of our children at home

During the lockdown period, we are relying on our parents to take advantage of the nutritional family programmes that are offered by the Department of Social Development. Our children will benefit from these family feeding programmes offered by the Department of Social Development. These programmes benefit the entire family including children. Further to this, Cotlands is also taking direct responsibility in ensuring that the children and families receive food parcels. If the lockdown period is extended for a longer period, families may be at risk of providing nutritious meals for their young children. This will require Cotlands to help these families during the extended lockdown period.

<p>Cotlands</p> <p>To qualify for a food parcel You must be unemployed and have a household income of less than R3 600.</p> <p>Call 0800 428 8364 (Gauteng only) If you know of someone in need of food during the lockdown, phone 0800 428 8364 and food supplies will be delivered to the less fortunate. If you can't get through to the number due to high call volumes, please email support@gauteng.gov.za. In the email, include your name, ID Number, address and contact details and they will respond.</p> <p>Call 0800 601 011 (National) For provinces outside of Gauteng, call the national call centre on 0800 601 011.</p> <p>On delivery of a food parcel you will require your ID document.</p>	<p>Food parcel* *depends on how many family members are in each family.</p> <p>The food parcel includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">10kg mielie meal5kg rice2.5kg sugar1kg soya1kg salt880g peanut butter1 packet of tea bags2 tins bake beans2 tins fish1 bottle sunlight liquid1 bottle all purpose cleaner2 bars sunlight soap2 litres oil <p>Cotlands</p>
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4.3 Safety of our children at home

Parents/caregivers have the primary responsibility for the safety and protection of our children while they stay at home. Our early learning playgroup facilitators and toy librarians keep in regular contact with parents and children on a weekly basis to check up on their health, safety and well-being of their children.

5. Continuation of our work

5.1 Cotlands head office

The following teams are working remotely to ensure essential tasks are completed: Finance, Human Resources, Business Development, PLAY and the training team. Employees from these teams have weekly Zoom team meetings, and are contactable and reachable via phone and email during regular office hours. Our human resource department released a Covid-19 policy for all staff members which provides our teams with information relating to staying healthy and outlines the leave process during the period of pandemic.

5.2 Communication in Cotlands

This is indeed uncharted territories that we are now traversing. As our playgroups and toy libraries have had to be closed during the lockdown period, we have had requests from the parents to assist them in maintaining some sort of normality with the children, so we tried to put in place as many measures as we possibly could to respond to their requests:

- All Cotlands employees belong to a WhatsApp group and we have set up an intranet site that is updated regularly so that our employees are kept abreast of information relating to COVID-19 pandemic. This will ensure our national Cotlands network can inform, educate and empower communities to fight this pandemic.

- We have created a zero-rate/data free portal on our website where our parents/caregivers and early learning facilitators can access information and play-based activities to do with the children at home.



Letters to parents

This section below contains important information for parents relating to playgroups or toy libraries, children's health and well-being, parent meetings or trips. Parent information is available in seven different languages. Please click on the relevant tab for a preferred language.

[English](#)
[Sesotho](#)
[IsiZulu](#)
[Sepedi](#)
[IsiXhosa](#)
[Afrikaans](#)
[SiSwati](#)

6 April – Lockdown due to Corona Virus

Let's play, learn and grow together series

	<p>Plan your day with routines and special times</p>		<p>Let's look at circles and shapes that are round</p>		<p>Have fun and move and play today</p>
	<p>Learn about healthy habits</p>		<p>Learn about positions</p>		<p>Healthy food is fun and it helps us learn</p>
	<p>Fun with leaves</p>				

- We have a WhatsApp group with our parents/caregivers via which we keep in close contact with them to see how they and their children are doing and to aid where we can.
- Our early learning facilitators also call the parents weekly to check on the children.
- We have made a critical numbers list available to them and assist them where they need any urgent assistance.

6. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity of submitting this information. Together we can unite and make a difference in the lives of our children and their families during these difficult times.



Dr Monica Stach
Chief executive officer

