

## ■ INCOME LOSS

# Survey finds NPOs hit by pandemic

A SURVEY of over 170 non-profit organisations situated across the country has been undertaken to assess the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on NPOs.

Graeme Wilkinson, of Tshikululu Social Investments, which carried out the survey, said: "We are keenly aware of the twin burden of financial survival in the midst of increasing and overwhelming need within the NPO sector.

"As part of our role in supporting these organisations, we wanted to understand the nuances of how the Covid-19 pandemic has specifically impacted NPOs during this time."

The results of the survey confirmed the pandemic has had a significant impact on NPOs, with 66% of respondents reporting they had experienced a decline in income since the lockdown began, and anticipating their income would be negatively affected over the next 18 months.

In terms of impact on staff, 35% of respondents said they had taken steps to temporarily lay off staff or reduce working hours to reduce their monthly salary costs (with 10% reporting that they had to retrench staff).

Despite these challenges, approximately 60% of organisations reported that they did not apply for relief funding from either the public or private sector. Some were unaware relief funding was available while others benefited from relief in the form of social investment (budget allocations and grant conditions) or top-up funding from donors. In addition, 67 respondents were awarded funding for Covid-19-specific interventions to the value of R37 305 062.

Mandisa Diza, a monitoring and evaluation specialist at Tshikululu, said: "The change has been rapid and ubiquitous, and it has required new levels of resilience from individuals, communities, companies and organisations alike." | **Staff Reporter**