

25 March 2020

### **KILT's response to the COVID-19 national state of disaster**

Our 2019 Annual Report reflects the enormous strides that KILT is making, with very encouraging green shoots appearing. The report also covers the approved budget for our 2020 projects, that focuses on consolidating our educational programme of systemic school support. We work with a number of service providers who, together with the KILT team, provide a professional, ethical and value-driven service and contribution.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting these programmes and plans, and at present we do not know how long this major disruption will continue, nor the full impact it will have on our schools, teachers and community. South Africa will be in nationwide lockdown from midnight on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March for at least the next 21 days. All our schools are closed and there is the need for us to ensure we observe the restrictions and recommendations that have been put in place, putting the health and well-being of everyone first.

KILT has used the most reliable available guidelines and directives from government and the education department in order to inform our next steps. We have put a number of immediate plans in place, notwithstanding our recognition that children are more vulnerable during the holiday, and now they will be on holiday longer which is unplanned for families. This affects home supervision and nutrition as most of our participants are dependent on feeding schemes during school terms and we are aware that food security in holiday times is a real issue. We are engaging with churches, NGO feeding schemes and support networks to assess whether KILT can assist with the non-regular holiday period in April. We are also looking at how to support those organisations working on nutrition and basic needs in our communities.

We have postponed two upcoming holiday educator training programmes – one will be moved out to June (that affects 35 leadership delegates from the schools) as it requires trainers from Johannesburg to be present in the room; and the other for 55 participants will be run in the middle of April or as an on-line Community of Practice as part of the e-Learning teacher support programme.

We have also asked the involved principals to share reliable and practical advice with parents via their regular communication channels. We will continue to explore ways in which KILT can contribute to the well-being of our children, teachers and community in these changed circumstances.

In 2020 KILT's staff and our project partners will continue to be contracted to ensure we fulfil KILT's mission in what will no doubt be a very challenging 'new normal'. There is no quick or easy fix to the challenges we face. But the policies and practices that we implement as we battle the COVID-19 pandemic and manage through what it will leave in its wake will determine whether we set a new, inclusive path that will take our country forward and build a more equitable society.

Should you require any information on how to assist or support Knysna through this state of disaster, please visit <https://www.knysna.gov.za/news/covid-19-corona-virus/>

We wish you and your family well and stay safe at this difficult time.

Regards

Sandy Ueckermann ● Managing Director

