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MEDIA RELEASE

6 May 2020

Update from the B4SA COVID-19 Working Group on Water and Sanitation

Hand-washing in informal settlements made possible with simple South African innovation

JOHANNESBURG, MAY 6, 2020 – Water is life. Yet millions of South Africans don't have safe or reliable access to it. Due to the central role of hand-washing in slowing the transmission of COVID-19, a small pilot project has been run in an informal settlement north of Johannesburg using a novel innovation manufactured by South African company Envirosan.

This simple hand-washing unit comprises a standard two-litre plastic bottle that is fitted with a self-closing tip tap valve. The bottle is placed into a wall-mounted plastic bracket incorporating a ribbed soap holder and peg to accommodate a face cloth or small towel.

With support from private sector donors and Godfirst Fourways Church's Heart of a Champion Africa programme, these units were trialled at two Johannesburg informal settlements. Approximately 700 people live in poverty within these communities, relying on communal standpipes and water tanks, often located some distance from their dwellings.

"It was very special to see the way the community organised where the units should be placed and who would have responsibility for keeping the bottles filled and looking after the soap," said Cliff Musamba who runs the Heart of a Champion programme. "They are deeply appreciative."

You can help a home with a hand-washing unit for just R65

Each unit costs R65 and includes a bar of soap. Individuals, companies and faith-based organisations are encouraged to assist with the broader rollout by making a donation in the following ways:

EFT

All donations will be managed by the National Business Initiative (NBI) under a separate water emergency fund and will be entitled to a Section 18A tax deduction. The NBI is a registered public benefit organisation (PBO Number: 081-437-NPO) that administers funds on behalf of several programmes.

National Business Initiative
Bank: First National Bank
Branch: Main Street (251705)
Account: 5061 0022 803
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Payment reference: P0551 and Company name

If you would like a Section 18A tax certificate, please email your details and proof of payment to: GillianH@nbi.org.za

For further information on these projects or on how to help please contact:

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PHOTOS AND VIDEOS – [LINK](#)



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NOTE TO THE EDITORS

Business for South Africa (B4SA) www.businessforsa.org is the alliance of volunteer resources from across South African business bodies and organisations, member companies large and small, including professional services firms and communication specialist. B4SA actively collaborates with government to use business resources and capacity to support public sector initiatives. B4Sa is mobilising volunteer resources through focused working groups that are driving a coordinated and proactive programme in support of government's COVID-19 public health and civil defence campaigns. The primary goal being to keep the country's business community and other stakeholders



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updated on progress made across the various working groups, highlight challenges faced, launch calls to action, obtain the business resources to assist in these profoundly challenging times, to forge partnerships with existing expert organisations in the areas of need and to create links to important information from government and other role-players.

The B4SA Working Group on Water and Sanitation (B4SA Water) is one of eight focus areas of the B4SA Economic Interventions Workgroup www.businessforsa.org/economic/

National Business Initiative (NBI) www.nbi.org.za (established in 1995) is an independent and voluntary coalition of companies working towards sustainable, inclusive economic growth and social transformation in South Africa through responsible business action and in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The NBI promotes that business thrives where society thrives. So while the issues change over time, the role remains constant, which is to build a South African business community that plays a meaningful, trusted and action-orientated role in the achievement of a sustainable, equitable and inclusive society. The NBI has deep project management and execution expertise across many spheres including within the B4SA context public private partnerships, water, local economic development, SME support and section 18(A) donation management.