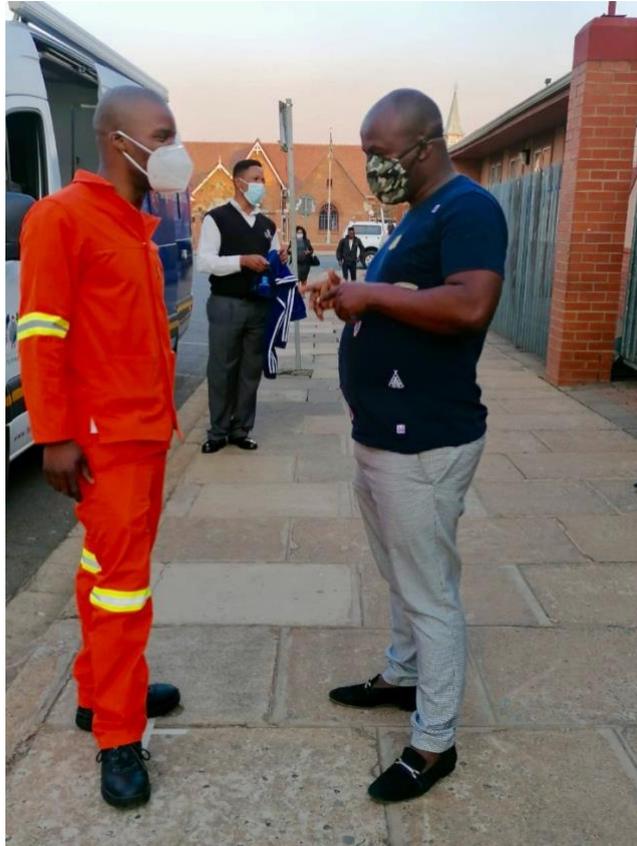


## Corona Conversation With An Activist

### Mzamo Zondi – Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)



**Tell us about the civil society response to Covid-19 and the lock-down regulations in terms of health in KwaZulu-Natal?**

*The main KwaZulu-Natal response has been through the Civil Society Forum which is made up of local organisations and activists including the TAC, the KZN Christian Council, TB / HIV care, the Community Media Trust and representatives of the provincial Council of Aids.*

**What are the main issues that came up in this province?**

*The first has to do with people not being able to access healthcare. This is because the clinics they usually come to have closed, in some cases because of outbreaks of Covid-19. In other cases the clinics do not have stock of medicines. Second, people were afraid of going to clinics and hospitals because of stories about the army patrolling to make sure people stayed home. Third, in some cases people were required to social distance in queues which meant queueing outside and patients already unwell had to stand out in the cold for long periods of time.*

**What were some of the responses by the Civil Society Forum?**

*Our main response has been to communicate with local communities and to communicate with authorities. We did this by setting up a WhatsApp group where people could call in about their health related challenges. We then engaged with authorities to deal with these challenges which included closed clinics, shortage or no supply of medicines and quarantine measures for people who had*

*tested positive for the Corona virus but couldn't self-isolate at home because they had household numbers of up to ten people.*

**What have been the main challenges for activists during this time?**

*Well we always have challenges but during this time we also have to wear protective gear and getting that for ourselves and our communities was a struggle. It was also difficult to keep in touch with communities who were not able to access WhatsApp. Finally, organising and communicating as activists / civil society groups is difficult with data and connectivity inequality. Many are also just not familiar with tech Apps like Zoom. It makes things difficult.*