

COVID-19 THE DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE

What's your experience been of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Covid-19 has exposed many shortcomings within our country (and the world), particularly regarding safety nets for the most vulnerable within our society. Issues such as the number of low income earners that have been unable to claim UIF as their employers failed or neglected to file UIF returns or to pay the relevant contributions to the UIF (particularly in the context of domestic helpers), the poor state of the data at the UIF and the operational challenges and inefficiencies that exist there that prevents employees from receiving UIF benefits, the financial impact on domestic household employers who have had to catch up on their UIF payments (and yes, we acknowledge that its wrong), the impact that the COVID-19 Relief payments or retrenchments have had on the UIF coffers.

Our economy and fellow South Africans are struggling. What are the real / tangible solutions? In reality, we the collective, can create the solution. How do we (each one of us) take ownership and do something to grow the economy and improve the situation for all South Africans?

One of the first things that we can do as domestic household employers is to play an important role in our employees' financial security. If you employ an individual such as a domestic helper, gardener or *au pair*, register for UIF, file the returns and pay the necessary contributions to the Fund – and consider affordable benefits such as healthcare, retirement and funeral cover. Let us support and empower the people who work in our homes and businesses, who make our lives just that much easier.

Be part of the solution!