Disaster Response Innovation Fund

LUMKANI
Fighting Fire in South Africa

Lumkani fire detectors are IoT devices, which mitigate fire risk inside homes and neighbourhoods in South Africa's most vulnerable settlements through a networked alarm. These smart devices provide autonomous, real-time monitoring and 2-way SMS alert to residents allowing the verification of fire events instantly.

According to Lumkani, over the past decade an estimated 250,000 South Africans have been displaced from their homes through fire outbreaks throughout the year and which are particularly bad during the dry and winter seasons. For instance, the Imizamo Yethu fire (Cape Town), which took hold on 11th March 2017 destroyed over 3000 homes displacing 1,500 of people. Lumkani's aim is to increase the resilience and coping capacity of residents when they are affected.

Through the GSMA grant, over 20,000 homes in informal settlements across South Africa will be fitted with a Lumkani fire detector device (for zero cost to residents). As a result, and thanks to a partnership with a local NGO (Islamic Relief South Africa) and a private sector firm (Hollard), once installed residents are able to opt-in to a micro-insurance scheme which will insure their homes against damage or loss to fire. This could be a critical lifeline to anyone affected by the impact and destruction caused by fire outbreaks.