

Dear reader

I'm sure you'll agree that 2019 has been a challenging year, not just in South Africa, but across the world. Community protests, crime and violence – particularly committed by men against women and children, poor education outcomes, a tough economic climate and a dire lack of jobs and leadership, the consistently felt impact of climate change. These are just some of the pressing social issues that the latest edition of the [Trialogue Business in Society Handbook](#) talks to, compelling business to respond with urgency.

We launched the 2019 Handbook, with the theme of how business can address the gaping inequality in our society, at [Constitution Hill on 27 November](#). As we toured the Constitutional Court with some of our clients, supporters and friends, we saw how, in this precinct of human rights, the remnants of our country's unjust past are juxtaposed with the promise of a more equitable and inclusive future. We were reminded that, although it may be a slow and painful process, change does come about when civil society, the public and private sectors unite around shared cause and vision.

This year, we once again worked hard to achieve our mission of making a significant contribution to improving the impact of business on society, as well as the long-term sustainability of our clients. We did this through ongoing development of our knowledge-sharing platforms (the [Handbook](#), [conference](#) and [Knowledge Hub](#)) as well as through our CSI and sustainability [consulting](#) and [reporting](#) services. We had the privilege of working with 14 clients on their CSI strategies and project monitoring and evaluation, including helping the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). We further supported five clients on their sustainability strategies and integrated reporting.

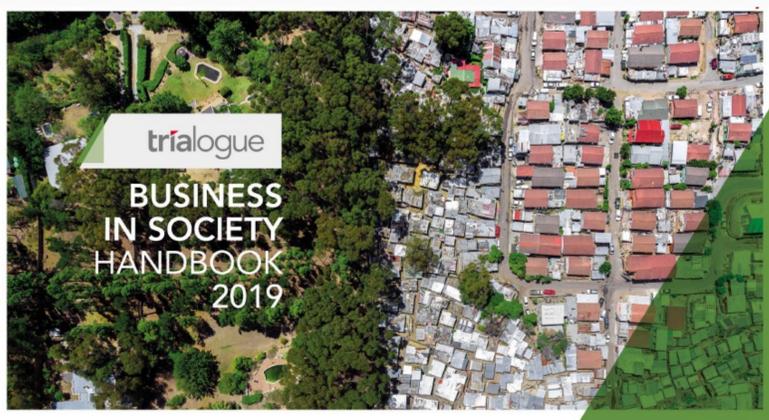
As we usher in 2020 with the hope of a revitalised social compact, Team Trialogue commits itself to continuing to advocate for more socially responsible and sustainable business.

Thank you for your support this year.

With warmest wishes from the Trialogue team

OVERVIEW OF TRIALOGUE'S LATEST ANNUAL CSI RESEARCH

Companies spent an estimated R10.2 billion on corporate social investment (CSI) in South Africa in 2019 – a 5% year-on-year increase in rand terms (2018: R9.7 billion). This growth was flat when taking inflation into account, reflecting a subdued economy. This, according to findings from the 22nd edition of the annual Trialogue Business in Society Handbook.



Read more [here](#) and access a copy of the Handbook from our [website](#).

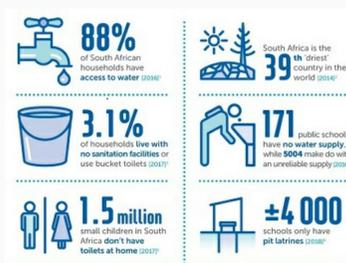
SAVE THE DATE: TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2020

Join us for our annual Trialogue Business in Society Conference where over 400 delegates from the corporate, non-profit, government, academic and media sectors, convene and share lessons and best practice in development, with emphasis on the integral role that business has to play in society.



Venue: The Wanderers Club in Johannesburg
Dates: 21 & 22 April 2020
Registration opens in January.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN A WATER-STRESSED COUNTRY



Access to clean, fresh water and adequate sanitation is a basic human need and right. Water and sanitation are essential for good health and survival. South Africa is a water-stressed country and the ongoing drought in parts of the country is putting more pressure on the supply. To ensure that growing demand for water is met, attitudes about the use of the resource need to be shifted towards more wise usage. The Water and Sanitation topic on the Trialogue Knowledge Hub, sponsored by Rand Water Foundation, addresses the context and challenges of accessing water and sanitation in South Africa, and how corporates can invest in improving these outcomes.

Read more about the topic of the [Knowledge Hub](#).

SEARCHABLE NON-PROFIT DIRECTORY NOW LIVE

Visit the new, searchable NPO Directory on the [Trialogue Knowledge Hub](#) to read more on various non-profit organisations (NPOs) featured in the Trialogue Business in Society Handbook 2019. The detailed listings correspond to the development sectors in which the NPOs operate.

See the full listings [here](#).

CREATING INTEGRATED THINKING FRAMEWORKS IN SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

Trialogue advocates that attending to the management of sustainability practices is essential in order to show consistent improvements and avoid superficial and inconsistent reporting. To this end, we have developed a framework to assist organisations in integrating sustainability within their strategy, decision making and business operations.

Read more about the framework [here](#).

We wish you a peaceful and rejuvenating festive season and look forward to reconnecting in 2020!

Connect with us