

Dear reader

This is a truly unique opportunity for business to flex its socially responsible, ethical and innovative muscle, and for all sectors of society to explore what we can achieve when we work together creatively towards a common goal. While we know that you are more than likely inundated with Covid-19-related news, we want to do our part to ensure that you have access to curated information about how business South Africa is being affected by and, importantly, how it is responding during this unprecedented period.

Please share how your organisation is responding to Covid-19 by emailing us at info@trialogue.co.za.

We commend all our essential services workers who are helping to ensure that we make it through this challenging time with some semblance of normalcy. We wish you a safe rest of lockdown and hope to connect with you online soon.

CSI FORUM ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SOCIAL INVESTMENTS



trialogue CSI FORUM The impact of Covid-19 on social investments

We will be hosting our first-ever online Trialogue CSI forum which will explore the impact of Covid-19 on social investments, with emphasis on how to maintain or adjust existing CSI projects and funding, and how to respond directly to the crisis through new investments.

Date: Tuesday, 21 April 2020

Time: 9:30 – 10:30

RSVP [here](#).

ONLINE REPOSITORY OF BUSINESS RESPONSES TO COVID-19

We are all being inundated with information about Covid-19 and it can get tricky to weed our way through the information overload, to unearth the lessons and insight that can be gained during this unique time. The latest topic on the [Trialogue Knowledge Hub](#) – an online body of knowledge for business and other role players that invest in socioeconomic development – collates information on interventions to support businesses, communities, non-profits and the most vulnerable in society as we confront the far-reaching fallout of the pandemic.

Read more [here](#).

SOCIAL DISTANCING – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS TO RECONNECT WITH THE SOCIETY THAT IT SERVES



There's nothing quite like a global pandemic to demand that all sectors of society act responsibly, ethically and collaboratively. Following his announcement on 15 March of a national state of disaster and the measures needed to combat the spread of Covid-19, President Cyril Ramaphosa described this crisis as "the most definitive Thuma Mina moment for our country". While we should all be responding to the call to do what we can to prevent the spread of the virus – aside from government – business arguably has the greatest ability to ensure that our people and economy withstand this defining health crisis of our time.

[Here](#) are some of the decisive ways that companies can respond to Covid-19.

LOCKDOWN – A CHANCE FOR BUSINESS TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE, NOT EXACERBATE IT

The way we do business has changed overnight as a result of the Covid-19 virus and parts of the system are breaking because of it. Suppliers are most vulnerable to this sudden change. Guesthouses, travel agents and conference venues that rely on corporate patronage have had the rug pulled out from under them. Others, such as lawyers, consultants, catering and courier companies are also hurtling as the corporate machine hunkers down. We are in a no-win situation. Everyone is compromised, but not everyone has the same ability and reserves to survive the crisis.

In many instances, this survival is dependent on big business that has, until now provided, the life blood for smaller ones.

Read more [here](#).

HOW WE CAN ALL EMBRACE PHILANTHROPY'S TRUE VALUE IN A CRISIS

South Africa's richest families, often vilified on social media for having excessive wealth in a country of great inequality, have been quick to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. On 23 March, the Rupert and Oppenheimer families each donated R1 billion to assist small businesses and their employees during this difficult time, and on 28 March the Motsepe family, in partnership with their associated companies (Sanlam, Africa Rainbow Capital, Africa Rainbow Minerals) also pledged R1 billion, to help save lives and slow the advancement of SARS-CoV2, the novel coronavirus that has plunged the world into chaos.



Read Head of Philanthropy for Nedbank Private Wealth, Noxolo Hlongwane's full opinion article [here](#).

You can also read more about the *Nedbank Private Wealth Giving Report IV* and access the full document [here](#).

THEME OF THIS YEAR'S TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY HANDBOOK REVISITED: 2020 - THE YEAR OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND SOCIAL RECONNECTION



Feature in the trialogue BUSINESS IN SOCIETY HANDBOOK 2020

With a decade left to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the National Development Plan, 2020 was pegged as a critical juncture at which to reflect on our achievements and plot the next decade. However, the best intentions for 2020 very quickly devolved into emergency responses to the Covid-19 crisis.

In this year's edition of the Handbook, we leverage this unprecedented period to collate key lessons in collaboration and innovation as we explore how companies, non-profit organisations and governments across the world are responding to the pandemic that is forcing physical distancing but presenting a unique opportunity for social reconnection.

Contact Mahlo Maku (mahlo@trialogue.co.za) or Neo Mangope (neo@trialogue.co.za) for more information about how to feature in this year's Handbook.

PARTICIPATE IN TRIALOGUE'S ANNUAL CSI RESEARCH AND STAND THE CHANCE TO WIN!

Trialogue invites companies and non-profit organisations (NPOs) to participate in its 2020 primary research into the state of CSI in South Africa – which includes a focus on responses to COVID-19. All research respondents will receive a complimentary copy of the Handbook after it is launched in November 2020. Trialogue is also offering one corporate and one NPO that complete the relevant questionnaires a free full-page advert in this year's Handbook. The draw will take place once the research has been completed, by August 2020. Corporate research respondents will also receive personalised company reports, benchmarking CSI practice against the other companies in the sample.

Corporate respondents can contact Mahlo Maku (mahlo@trialogue.co.za) to discuss participation options.

NPO respondents can complete the questionnaire [here](#).

THE TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY CONFERENCE POSTPONED TO 13 & 14 OCTOBER 2020



The conference has been postponed to 13 and 14 October 2020, with masterclasses planned for 12 October. Delegate registrations will automatically be updated.

For more information, please contact conference@trialogue.co.za.