



# INTRODUCTION

The CSI Toolkit evolved because of a growth in the number of companies engaging in Social Investment initiatives, the needs that practitioners have highlighted, and the astounding number of white-elephant projects that we came across while working with various communities.

Simply put, the CSI industry is in turmoil and, unless we start working together, sharing lessons learnt and professionalising our practice, we could be doing more harm than good in those communities in which we are striving to make a measurable impact.

We developed the CSI Toolkit as a starting point for ensuring professionalism of a growing industry and to assist CSI practitioners to follow a methodological approach to their social development practices.

Each chapter has been through a robust process of being researched, developed, work-shopped, dialogued and reviewed by a host of people within the industry.

We have developed and consolidated the templates, checklists, questions and approaches that you can use to understand the broader context of CSI and then identify, plan and manage the programmes that will assist community development projects to be initiated and supported by companies, and sustained by communities.

We hope that this Toolkit will empower CSI practitioners to develop processes to successfully manage and report on their projects. We hope, in turn, that the executives of their companies will value these practitioners as assets within the company and give them the necessary support

and resources to take on the responsibility, and be held accountable for delivering on their mandate.

We applaud all those individuals and companies who shared their lessons learnt and experiences (good and bad) with us, as it is this kind of collaboration that is so needed within our field.

A big thank you to the forward thinkers (companies and individuals) who immediately realised the benefit of the toolkit and jumped on board with support and resources to allow us to research and develop a valuable resource that will assist those working in the field to make a measurable impact at grassroots level.

Congratulations to the fantastic CSI Solutions Team, without whom this Toolkit would not have been made possible - all your hard work and long hours have paid off, thank you.

We look forward to working with you to strengthen your team and enabling it to develop sustainable, economically viable development projects.

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