



Save the date

Philanthropy in Education in South Africa: A space for learning and collaboration

Roundtable discussion - preliminary program

Dates | 31 January – 1 February 2019

Location | Johannesburg: Mount Grace Country Hotel and Spa, Old Rustenburg Road, Magaliesburg

Organisers



Introduction

Philanthropy is a complex term within the South African context. The history of the country has had a significant effect of shaping philanthropy from charitable giving (welfare philanthropy) to strategic philanthropy by communities and families to highly specialised Foundations. South Africans have a long history of charitable giving in communities. Family, extended family and neighbours are all supported in times of need. This philanthropy ranges from financial assistance, in-kind donations and personal time. However, this symposium will focus on more formalized philanthropy and opportunities for sustainable impact in the education space.

A brief review of the formalized philanthropy in South Africa indicates that there is a huge contribution being made to supporting the education sector. Sadly, there are still enormous challenges within the education sector, highlighting the urgency for philanthropies to engage with each other and with the government in order to create a coordinated and sustainable outcome.

As part of the Philanthropy in Education (PiE) series¹, the Zenex Foundation, NORRAG and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), are organising a roundtable discussion to bring together philanthropies, implementing partners, researchers and government representative to discuss the experience and approaches used by philanthropic organisations to support improving education quality in South Africa.

Objective

The primary objective of the event is to engage participants in an open discussion on how South African philanthropies are collaborating and engaging with the public sector to support the improvement of quality of education. The roundtable will further delve into how data, evidence, and research is conducted and utilized by the philanthropies in their education programming and explore the need for further research.

More specifically, the discussion will focus on the following:

- Sharing experience on the various models and approaches and innovations to collaboration between private philanthropy and the public sector.
- Examining the challenges that the philanthropic sector faces in collaboration and collection/utilisation of research in education.
- Examining the unique space philanthropies occupy that create opportunities and innovation for further research and learning around improving the quality of education in South Africa.
- Sharing experience on existing approaches, methods and systems within philanthropic organisations for data collection and use, monitoring and evaluation, and research within programmatic areas.
- Identifying existing gaps in data and research on philanthropic engagement.
- Exploring potential avenues to collaborate (with other philanthropies along with implementing partners, government and academics) and further enhance learning from and within the philanthropic sector in education.

¹ In 2017, NORRAG initiated a global symposium series on Philanthropy in Education (PiE), with the aim to facilitate greater understanding and collaboration between philanthropic organisations, national policymakers, representatives of international organisations and academics working in the field of education.

Expected outcome

With this event, the organising partners expect to further the dialogue and enhance research and stakeholder collaboration in philanthropic engagement to improve education quality in South Africa. The roundtable could potentially result in further knowledge sharing events and a collaborative research and action agenda on the topic.

Proposed agenda

Day 1 Thursday, 31 January 2019	
11:00 – 12:30	Welcome and opening session <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction by the organisers and overview of the initiative and its objectives 2. Participant introductions 3. Introduction presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting the stage: Opportunities and challenges in PiE • National education status and priorities • Overview of the PiE landscape globally • Role of Philanthropy in South Africa • Q and A
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Philanthropy and public-sector collaboration in education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations on current collaborations between philanthropies and the public sector in education • Q and A
15:00 – 15:15	Tea Break
15:15 – 16:45	State of the Art Knowledge in M&E <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations on the use of monitoring and evaluation, needs assessment, data and research by philanthropies working in the education sector • Q and A
16:45 – 17:15	WRAP UP and REFLECTION
Tbd	Networking evening event
Day 2 Friday, 1 February 2019	
09:00 – 12:30	Opening and Day 1 Summary Roundtable discussions Moderated Discussion 1: Role of philanthropy in improving the quality of education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the perceived role and responsibility that philanthropic organisations have in improving the quality of education in South Africa? • What can be learned from the experience of philanthropic organisations? • How are philanthropies defining and taking up equity issues in education? • What are the research gaps and needs to better understand philanthropy in education?

	<p>Moderated Discussion 2: Alignment and collaboration with government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are philanthropic organisations aligning their mission and goals with national and international education priorities? • How are philanthropies collaborating with other actors: Implementing organisations, national government, subnational government/departments, international aid agencies, other international and national philanthropic organisations, corporate partners, for-profit organisations? • What are the determinants for the choice to invest in these collaborations? How are models of innovative financing changing models of collaboration? What factors are philanthropies considering when choosing innovative financing mechanisms as opposed to traditional grant-making? • What are the primary challenges experienced for alignment and/or collaboration? How do these challenges differ depending on the type of partner/actor? <p>Moderated Discussion 3: Detailing success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know about success in education programmes? • What information is collected to define and measure success? • Who is the consumer of the information on success? • What are the critical challenges faced by philanthropies in conducting and utilising research? • How is the sector learning from success and failures? • What information gaps exist?
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Looking forward – Action agenda</p> <p>PANEL DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION</p> <p>Summary of moderated discussions and identification of potential avenues to enhanced collaboration between philanthropies and the public sector; definition of a potential research and action agenda.</p> <p>Wrap-up</p> <p>Symposium closes at 15:00</p>