Nurturing our communities
Corporate Social Investment (CSI) is an integral part of any business as we contribute to creating a more prosperous country. In the past few years, a company’s commitment to the principles of sustainable development and responsible corporate citizenship has become a determining factor in assessing the acceptability and credibility of its business practices. We have to ensure that the communities we operate in are sustainable because we are committed to Corporate Social Investment.

With this in mind, Samancor Chrome continuously strives to strengthen its commitment to sustainable development by building mutually beneficial relations with our stakeholders and contributing to the communities within which we operate.

Our corporate values guide us in this. They enable us to recognise the needs of our communities while at the same time being transparent in our dealings and following best corporate governance practices.

In line with this we have formalised a policy which outlines the processes we use to initiate, implement and manage our CSI initiatives. The policy guides us to actively identify needs and the relevant funding by consulting narrowly with all stakeholders.

By doing this, we ensure that projects are selected according to the needs of the local communities and how we can best benefit them.
Although Samancor Chrome’s CSI initiatives span over a number of categories, this brochure focuses on some of our recent education and community upliftment projects.

All our business units develop CSI plans and strategies to ensure that our contributions add value — now, and in the future. We are constantly working to better the execution and implementation of our corporate social and economic plans with wider initiatives for the greater good of our communities.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this publication, which highlights some of our recent CSI initiatives. We could not have achieved these outcomes without the support of a diverse range of stakeholders (ranging from unions and community agencies to local government). I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank them for their partnership with us on this important work.

We look forward to sharing many more CSI success stories in future as we are committed to improving the quality of life of people and communities in and around Samancor Chrome operations.

Regards,

Jürgen Schalamon
Chief Executive Officer
Samancor Chrome Limited
Focusing our CSI efforts
Samancor Chrome’s Corporate Social Investment efforts are governed by the Samancor Chrome Foundation. This foundation approves the CSI projects that are thereafter implemented, coordinated and managed by the different business units: Western Chrome Mines (near Rustenburg in North West Province); Ferrometals (near Witbank, Mpumalanga); Middelburg Ferrochrome (in Middelburg, Mpumalanga); Eastern Chrome Mines; and Tubatse Chrome (both situated near Steelpoort in Limpopo).

The community relations professionals and their supporting CSI committees who coordinate the CSI efforts on the business units are part of the local communities. This means that they have a greater understanding of the local social and environmental needs, and are thus best-placed to determine how the company can make an effective contribution at this level.

All projects undertaken by the Samancor Chrome Foundation are consistent with our business strategy and subscribe to the following set of operating principles:

- Adhering to the key pillars of the Mining Charter
- Aligned with the Community Relations Plan
- Subject to regular audits
- Achieving sustainable development
- Fostering community involvement
- Applying project management principles
- Sound corporate governance

These principles ensure that all funds and projects committed to by the business units fall within the mission statement of the Samancor Chrome Foundation, which is “to improve the quality of life of people in communities around Samancor Chrome operations”.

Education
Education is a fundamental part of Samancor Chrome’s CSI programme as the company believes in providing the leaders of tomorrow with every advantage possible. We are investing in the education of our communities, through a variety of projects enabling them to create a brighter future for themselves and bolstering our country’s economic growth.
Mangabane Crèche

Caring for young children using the proper facilities and educational tools, enables them to make a greater success of their educational future. The children of Mangabane Crèche in the Mangabane Village outside Steelpoort in the Limpopo Province have been given this opportunity by the Samancor Chrome Foundation. We renovated the crèche by painting the building, tiling the floor and fitting bathrooms and a kitchen. In addition, we donated educational toys to sustain education and child development.
School feeding scheme

Hunger breaks down all other aspirations and goals you may want to achieve, as everything else pales in comparison. The Samancor Chrome Foundation recognised this plight and has been running a feeding scheme for four local schools in the Mooinooi, Marikana and Kroondal/Matebeleng areas since 2003. Sandwiches and fruit are delivered to these rural schools during break time. The feeding scheme has an even larger impact: the food packets are prepared by unemployed women in the Greater Rustenburg/Brits area who make use of Grenswag High School’s facilities. The success and positive impact of this project has been tremendous.
Steelpoort Academy

The Steelpoort community is fast developing due to new mining projects which has created a greater need for a high school in the area. The Samancor Chrome Foundation identified this need and decided to invest in the construction of a high school. This led to the launch of the Steelpoort Academy in 2007. Samancor Chrome’s initial involvement included the building of four classrooms and ablution facilities which enabled the Steelpoort primary school to start the high school. The Samancor Chrome Foundation has already approved the building of the next group of classrooms for 2008. Role players in this project included the Tubatse Municipality, the local councilor for this ward and the circuit manager from the Limpopo Education Department.
J. Kananda Primary

Computer-based knowledge has become vital in equipping children in making a success of their careers once they leave school. The learners of the J. Kananda Primary school near Witbank are now able to ensure that they have these skills following support from the Samancor Chrome Foundation. A computer reading centre was established and consists of a classroom with 41 computers connected to the internet as well as ablution facilities. Four educators were also trained to assist the learners in their quest to master the English language and to improve their comprehension skills. Burglar proofing, security, school chairs and tables were also sponsored.

Tirelong Intermediate School

Growing pressure on school infrastructure, and a lack thereof, definitely has a negative influence on a learner’s educational experience. Tirelong Intermediate School, just outside Rustenburg in the North West, had to deal with an inferior infrastructure for a very long time. Apart from overcrowded classrooms and having to teach classes under trees, they also had no functional ablution facilities and no perimeter fence. The Samancor Chrome Foundation forged a partnership with the Department of Education to address the school’s needs. This partnership resulted in the erection of a fence around the school, brand new ablution facilities as well as the maintenance of the existing buildings. In addition, two new classrooms were built with additional storage facilities to cater for the implementation of a science laboratory in the future.
Ekwazini Secondary School

Research has shown that the failure to improve maths and science education is probably the most significant obstacle to economic advancement in South Africa. Children who benefit from early development in these subjects are more likely to cope well at school, go on to tertiary education and become economically productive. With this in mind, the Samancor Chrome Foundation assisted Ekwazini Secondary School in Middelburg, Mpumalanga, by equipping an existing classroom with suitable laboratory furniture, laboratory equipment and other applicable aides. The learners are now able to conduct proper scientific experiments, adding a new practical dimension to their science education. We also erected a concrete fence to protect the school’s assets.

SGB and RCL training

Samancor Chrome is dedicated to the upliftment of its communities, and education is one way in which we are making an impact. Following a joint venture between The Samancor Chrome Foundation and the Lonmin Development Trust, a huge impact was made on the Whole School Development Programme in the Mooi/Ma/ atikana area. The two companies sponsored the training of 70 delegates from the School Governing Bodies (SGB) in these areas, which enabled them to make a positive impact on the way their schools are run. The training of 60 learners from the various schools’ Representative Council of Learners (RCL) were also sponsored to equip them with the necessary skills to cope as the leaders in their schools.
Community upliftment
Uplifting the communities within which we operate gives them the ability to truly empower themselves. Projects, like providing necessary infrastructure, go a long way towards making a sustainable difference. We subscribe to the old analogy: ‘teach people how to fish instead of just giving them a fish’.
Hlanganani Nazaret Upliftment Centre

“We have seen that you really care for the children who are suffering and also for the community. The community is very happy with what you have done for us.” This was written in a letter to us from the Hlanganani Nazaret Upliftment Centre in Middelburg following the Samancor Chrome Foundation’s valuable contribution. This infrastructural project resulted in a brand new building consisting of six classrooms, bathrooms, caretaker accommodation, a foyer, a storeroom and offices. During the day, children of school-going age receive after-school care at the centre. The centre primarily cares for HIV/AIDS orphans in this regard. After hours it caters for people in crisis, runs adult literacy classes, parenting courses, needlework skills training and other forms of life skills development work. This centre stands as a beacon of hope in the community.
Batlagae Primary School

One of Samancor Chrome’s CSI missions is to improve the quality of life of people in communities around our operations. With this in mind, the Batlagae Primary School, located in the heart of Doornkop near Middelburg in Mpumalanga, was upgraded and given a brand new infrastructure. The project consisted of erecting a concrete fence around the school, building two store rooms, offices and a concrete assembly point. In addition to this, the school was supplied with running water for the first time which also enabled the building of a brand new ablution block. The impact of receiving education in a school with proper facilities will no doubt have a positive impact on these learners’ school years.
Hlalanikahle Water Reticulation Project

There are many luxuries that we take for granted in our everyday life. One of these is access to clean, running water. Imagine how not having this will impact every aspect of your life from basic hygiene to washing and cooking. This need was identified within the Hlalanikahle informal settlement and Samancor Chrome stepped in to help. The Samancor Chrome Foundation signed an agreement with the local municipality to install taps with running water in the settlement’s Extensions 2 and 4. The system provides clean running water to 520 newly established stands in the area. This has led to a major improvement in the living standards of this community.
Spes Bona House for the Disabled

Care for the disabled is often ignored in communities facing so many other adversities. The Spes Bona House for the Disabled in Rustenburg is able to care for more disabled people thanks to the efforts of Samancor Chrome. The Samancor Chrome Foundation sponsored the building of an annex to the original house with new ablution facilities and five new rooms — this meant that they could now accommodate people on their waiting list as this is the only facility providing live-in care for disabled people in the region. The annex was also designed in such a way that future extensions could be accommodated as well.
Grace Help Centre

Sexual and domestic violence is a social problem prevalent in all communities across South Africa. The Grace Help Centre was launched to support victims of sexual and domestic violence in the Mooinooi/Marikana/Brits region. The Samancor Chrome Foundation, in partnership with the Lonmin Development Trust, provided additional infrastructure to be used as counselling rooms to provide a professional service for the victims of domestic violence. The second building is an Arts and Crafts facility where women can be trained in skills such as sewing and knitting, catering and gardening.
Plantinum Harvest

In a country plagued by insufficient food production, agricultural development projects can truly make an impact on our local communities needs. Plantinum Harvest is a project that employs historically disadvantaged farmers that run a variety of agricultural projects on its premises. The Samancor Chrome Foundation helped the existing project expand by assisting the farmers to clear more land for cash crops and by building agri-tunnels for the production of vegetables. We also provided an irrigation system, soil preparation and fertiliser, as well as fencing material to secure the area and seedlings. This expansion created five new jobs and ensures more than 12 seasonal jobs. Their produce is sold on local markets and to greengrocers through secured supply chains.
Tukakgomo Kitchen for Aids Orphans

The HIV/Aids pandemic is a crippling disease that is leaving families without parents and caregivers and is taking more lives each day. This means that orphans are left to fend for themselves or become reliant on their communities for basic care. The Tukakgomo Kitchen for Aids Orphans, situated in Steelpoort, primarily cares for these children. The Samancor Chrome Foundation provided the funding to build a new kitchen for the project which used to work out of a dilapidated building on the premises of the Mealebe Primary School. This kitchen provides breakfast and lunch for the children, and comes complete with a large area where they can sit down and eat. There are also ablution facilities. This project is addressing one of the numerous needs in the fight against the effects of HIV/Aids.
The way forward
The Samancor Chrome Foundation recognises the importance of investing in socio-economic development for the future.

Our strategy is to continue our participation in projects that focus on areas identified through consultation with local community stakeholders.

Our pursuit of improving the quality of life of people in communities around the Samancor Chrome operations is an ongoing journey … a journey to which we will always remain committed.