BEYOND SURVIVAL:
THE BOARD’S ROLE FACING CORONA

RULES OF THE ONLINE SEMINAR:
• All microphones and video will be muted for first part of session
• There will be a short online survey in this session (www.menti.com), so please have a laptop/cell with an internet browser window open
• If you have questions during session, please post to “chat” to Daniel privately and we’ll address when time permits.
• After the session, there will be an open session for Q&A’s
• In response to questions, please make use of “raise hand” function if you want to answer
• Remember to unmute when talking and return to mute when finished talking
• PowerPoint will be distributed to attendee mailing list (If you want to receive it and other resources, please send your email address via chat to Daniel or Lisa privately).

SHORT SERIES

Session 1 (COMPLETED): Beyond Survival: Repositioning for Relevance
Session 2 (COMPLETED): Financial Sustainability Amidst Corona

Session 3: (June 10th) The Board’s Role Amidst Corona
• The board’s responsibility to the organization amidst Corona
• Regulatory / fiduciary responsibilities
• Engaged Board Members
• Ethical issues

This three-part series for Non-Profits aims to address key challenges faced by NPO’s amidst the Covid-19 crisis, with a focus on financial sustainability and operational efficiency whilst ensuring maximum community impact.
PRESENTERS

CA (SA), FCA (UK), MBA (Stell). He is particularly passionate about development in Africa. He consults NPO’s all over South Africa with regards to Financial Integrity and Sustainability and serves as Trustee and Non-Executive director on various NPO’s.

Founder/Director of the Sustainable Development Network. She has a Master’s degree in Sustainable Development from Stellenbosch University, and honours degrees in social sciences and sustainable development. She has 25 years’ experience in the NGO sector in South Africa.

THRIVE....

To THRIVE is to:
• To develop well
• To prosper
• To flourish
• To reach potential
LEGAL ROLE OF BOARD

• Duty of Care & Skill
• Duty of Loyalty
• Duty of Obedience

“Corona” might bring new challenges to the Board from a “legal compliance” perspective e.g.

• Duty of Care & Skill (Overall responsibility)
  • Fiduciary responsibility to act in best interest of beneficiaries (speaks to governance & adhering to regulations)
    • Strained due to capacity / lack of resources?
    • Beneficiaries vs “own survival”?
  • Monitoring program effectiveness and financial performance
  • As Board, must ensure a “lean and effective” organisation
  • Adhering to applicable laws (e.g. tax, labour, health and safety etc)
    • “Cutting corners” due to financial constraints
    • “End justify the means?”
    • Do you understand the laws?
• The law stipulates that the board member should act with due care – and will be held legally accountable in this regard
LEGAL ROLE OF BOARD

“Corona” might bring new challenges ......

• Duty of Loyalty (Specific transaction)
  • To give undivided loyalty to the organisation when making decisions affecting the organization
  • As board member, constrained in time, finances and focus?

• Duty of Obedience (NPO Mission and laws of country)
  • It requires board members to act in accordance with the organization’s policies, articles and to comply with the laws of the country

CHECK-IN

BUT – you want MORE from your Board...to actually JOURNEY with you and be ENGAGED.....
Please go to www.menti.com and type in the Code.... / ALL ANSWERS ARE ANONYMOUS
Looking back over the past 10 weeks, How can the board support the organisation better / or what can they do differently?
ENGAGED BOARD MEMBER

Care & Support
- Reach out and Care
- Be “available” to listen
- Be “visible”
- Prayer?

Guidance & Advisory
- Guidance to “weather the storm”
- Assistance with technical skills
- Guidance on innovation
- Bring in Qualified & Equipped people

Ambassador & Advocacy
- Use networks (Partnerships and Donors)
- Advocacy of organisational mission
- Fundraising

Stewardship & Accountability
- Focused use of resources (Core focus)
- Efficiency
- Regulatory compliance (Don’t want to deal with legal)
- Governance / Policies and procedures
- Finance oversight
- Fiduciary responsibilities
- Ensure sustainability (Reposition)
- Ethics (Don’t want the credibility of organisation questioned now)
ENGAGED BOARD MEMBER

Do you have the right people on the Board that understand the role they have in serving the organization and managing the Covid crisis?

Consider:
- Functions on the board
- Persona of the board members (i.e. character / spiritual attributes)
- Ad-hoc insourcing of expertise OR advisory council

ETHICAL CHALLENGES IN CORONA

The Board might be faced with very real ethical challenges in these times e.g.
- Issuing of 18A receipts (or partnering with organisations who are 18A whilst you are not) in order to attract donations
- Using specified / ringfenced funds to pay operations / salaries
- Accepting donations from “questionable” donors who “morally” doesn’t align with your organisation
- “Double-dipping” i.e. attracting donations from different sources for project that already reached it budget
- Inflating fair values for 18A donations to appease donors
- Using organisational funds to serve board member interests

HOW do you respond to this?
NEXT STEPS

- Honestly review the Board
- Review YOURSELF
- Consider how the board can better "serve" the organisation
- Engage with organisation on ground level
- Be wary of ethical challenges

Email us:
- daniel@ascentgroup.co.za
- lisa@sdnafrica.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Platform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 17th</td>
<td>Branding &amp; Marketing: Keeping Your Story Alive During and Post COVID</td>
<td>10h00 – 11h00</td>
<td>Zoom (link to be provided)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1st</td>
<td>Resource Mobilisation &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>10h00 – 15h00 (1 hour lunch break at 12h00)</td>
<td>Zoom (link to be provided)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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FURTHER SESSIONS ARE BEING PLANNED