



Bench Marks Foundation NPC

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MEASURES ADOPTED IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Building solidarity and alternatives in a time of great need

In response to the rapidly spreading novel coronavirus, now reaching communities across the world and informed by the information available, guidelines issued and the national lockdown, the Bench Marks Foundation has adopted the following measures.

1. All face to face engagements, including workshops and meetings, are suspended and further activities will be conducted using electronic means.
2. Best practice with regard to sanitation and maintenance of general health is to be observed, in the conduct of our own staff and community monitors in the communities where we work. This includes the social distancing measures, washing of hands, no physical contact and avoiding gatherings.
3. Resources will be maximised to focus on a coronavirus – COVID-19 response in mining affected communities. This will include awareness raising, educational and support activities.
4. Bench Marks has joined civil society organisations in a campaign to minimise the impact of the virus on all sectors of our society and especially the most vulnerable, the poor and working class.
5. Community monitoring activities will focus on awareness raising, organising and reporting on how communities are affected by the corporate and the state response at all levels. This will include mapping of those most affected and organising and developing appropriate responses aimed at strengthening community resilience.
6. Special attention should be paid to the most vulnerable and we will be especially wary of potentially increased gender based violence, the needs of children and the elderly.
7. In the interests of the communities that we work with the Bench Marks Foundation staff will work remotely by electronic means. This poses a new challenge which the organisation is in the process of addressing aimed at providing the necessary means to support communities.

**We are faced with an extraordinary crisis that requires a resolute response!
Solidarity starts in our homes and spaces.**

The Bench Marks Foundation is chaired by the Right Reverend Dr Jo Seoka

