



## *Building Resilience in SMMEs in South Africa*

### **WEBINAR to launch SURE Resilience Training for SMMEs: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (10.00-11.00)**

Crises happen all the time and often when we least expect them. What is actually abnormal is to think they are not a normal part of life. Yet human nature is utterly opposed to this belief. When Bill Gates in 2015 said that "We are not prepared for the next (viral) outbreak" and suggested creating an army of specialists from many disciplines to meet whatever crisis or epidemic might arise - 27 million people viewed his talk but as he said in 2020, nobody in power heard the message. Within the UN the narrative of the Secretary General António Guterres since he took on the role in 2017 has been the importance of 'creating a culture of resilience' because as he pointed out "*The world spends much more energy and resources managing crises than preventing them*".

Yet these prescient warnings consistently fail to get the necessary traction despite the consequences. We saw with the COVID 19 pandemic how a health crisis created multiple knock on crises - economic, social and political. In a world where an ecosystem in a Chinese province can trigger a global health and economic crisis, such an approach ignores how systems interact and the resulting consequences.

Firms in SA face a myriad of hazards and potential hazards on an almost daily basis. Weak and failing public utilities, crime (and increasingly cybercrime) exchange rate concerns, political disruption and COVID 19 restrictions.

To help South African SMMEs develop resilience (continuity and contingency) against multi hazards the ILO and the German development Agency (GiZ) developed a new multi-hazard resilience training product SURE. The SURE training is a new innovative product developed using global experts from industry, academia and international organisations. SURE will provide your business with a plan to help your business face the next inevitable crisis. It could be difference between surviving and thriving.

The looting and disturbances in KZN and Gauteng in July were a timely reminder of the threats faced to business. The UN in SA is currently deploying a programme of support to SMMEs in KZN. Support future resilience is a key part of those efforts.



International  
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DURBAN CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY NPC

**1. Introduction and welcome by Moderator** (*Krivani Pillay, head of partnerships, UN Resident Coordinators Office*)

- Opening Remarks by Nardos Bekele-Thomas Resident Coordinator of the United Nations (R.S.A)
- Opening Remarks by Business Unity South Africa CEO Cas Coovadia
- Opening Remarks by KZN Provincial Government (TBC)

*\*10 minutes*

**2. Session hosted by Durban Chamber of Commerce : *SMMEs struggling with COVID, Load shedding and civil disturbances***

*Two SMMEs from KZN to provide testimony how they are managing in spite of the multiple hazards they are faced with and what measures they need to support sustainability and growth*

*\*15 minutes*

**3. Tschops Sipuka**

*SA motor racing legend provides his own business experience and how he has navigated through risks in his businesses*

*\*5 mins*

**4. Introduction to resilience and continuity planning: why it is important for SMEs**

- Betsy Ings SA SURE Trainers

*\*15 minutes*

**5. Outline of SURE Resilience training**

- Julian Schweitzer SURE Developer

*\*15 minutes*

**6. Wrap up and Close**

*\*5minutes*

\*Click here for launch registration and details [link](#)