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**Expanding Corporate Social Investment in Africa?  
South African Companies in Swaziland**

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Discussions on the role of the private sector in Africa's development are more common today than they were some decades ago and reflect a growing need to understand the dynamics and effects of Corporate Social Responsibility in the region. Overall, current debates on CSR reflect fundamental disagreement on the appropriate role of the private sector in society and highlight the existence of broad expectations on companies' social responsibilities.

In South African corporate language, the term Corporate Social Investment (CSI) is different from the broader concept of CSR and is broadly used to describe the social spending and role of companies in communities. CSI is unique to South Africa where the term seems to be linked to the country's efforts to transform the society and to overcome the legacy of racial and economic divisions left by the apartheid. Given the importance and influence of the South African private sector in Africa's development, this paper looks at the experience of South African companies in a small country like Swaziland, where the economic and social influence of these companies is visible. Drawing from field and desk research done in 2010 with five large companies operating in Swaziland (MTN, Pick n Pay, FNB, Standard Banks and Sun International) the paper primarily explores whether the economic expansion into Swaziland reflects the social investment agenda companies follow within South Africa and the implications of these findings.