



The Corporate Citizenship Newsletter

Your story matters



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Your story matters



Editor's note

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the first edition of The Group Citizenship Newsletter. In each edition we will highlight and celebrate various initiatives that colleagues around the continent are implementing. The magazine will also provide you with an opportunity to see how you can get involved and be a force for good in your community.

2024 started with great anticipation. Fresh from a review and approval of our Corporate Citizenship strategy, we were raring to go. With a full team complement, we were ready to roll up our sleeves and deliver in earnest on a strategy that was set to deliver on the Group's ambition to be an active force for good in everything we do. Our new Corporate Citizenship strategy, Financial Inclusion through Entrepreneurship, seeks to empower Africa's growth and development, thereby enabling intergenerational inclusion through entrepreneurship. Targeting women and young people, the strategy drives these groups' economic participation through three key objectives, namely entrepreneurial awareness, intent and, ultimately, action.

We spent the first quarter of the year building an implementation framework for the strategic interventions and partnerships that bring its ambitions to fruition. One such partnership is our collaboration with Visa to deliver the inaugural Visa She's Next programme. Having been delivered in other markets of Visa's operations, the programme gives women access to a network of mentoring and coaching of peers while taking them through an acceleration programme matched to their specific development needs.

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Editor's note continued

We attended the Global Entrepreneurship Congress+ Africa in March. Under the theme Connecting Africa, the conference hosted more than 1 500 stakeholders across the continent's entrepreneurship landscape. Addresses spanned leaders in the public and private sectors and civil society on topics that included building the next unicorns and the role of technology and philanthropy as a catalyst to entrepreneurship. We gained critical insights from this that we will be using in our implementation plans.

In education, the CSI Trust came into operation with the implementation of its first programme. The Post Graduate Programme in partnership with the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme offers scholarships to students to study post-graduate degrees. The Absa Fellowship Programme welcomed its 2024 intake of beneficiaries while the 2020 cohort reached its fourth year. The programme is tailored to Absa with an objective of instilling leadership skills through a curriculum developed in partnership with the Gordon Institute of Business Studies (GIBS), which is delivered in parallel to the beneficiaries' undergraduate studies.

At a community level, we handed over sustainable vegetable gardens in five regions, which were donated from the proceeds of the funds raised by the five Run Your City races in 2023. Planted by Urban Harvest, the gardens not only mitigate food insecurity in the communities but also transfer skills that instil sustainable practises. Continuing with our focus on food security for community support, we established a second garden on the sidelines of the KKNK festival. For the first time, we hosted a youth festival where Absa colleagues shared their life stories with more than 550

high-school students from various schools across the Eastern and Western Cape. In line with our brand positioning of "Your story matters", the varied stories served as motivation to stay the course and of reinforcement of their identity, thus building strong affinity to the Absa brand as one that cares.

Volunteering activities kicked off with our Development Organisations (DOs) visiting the SOS Children's Village in Ennerdale, with the delivery of blankets and a tree planting activity. To increase our volunteering efforts and enable colleagues to help the bank amplify its impact in communities, we have constituted a Colleague Volunteering Committee. The committee comprises representation from all business units (BUs) and Corporate Functions, including Africa Regional Operations (ARO). The committee provides oversight of volunteering activities within BUs and functions, guidance on governance and use of the Force for Good portal.

We include a view of upcoming activities for the next quarter. We invite you to visit the Force for Good portal and take advantage of the enabling mechanisms for volunteering. Also be on the lookout for Group-arranged volunteering activities in the upcoming months as we commemorate significant events in our global calendar.

Dr Steven Zwane
Managing Executive: Corporate Citizenship

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The Corporate Citizenship strategy

Financial inclusion through entrepreneurship

Empowering Africa's tomorrow, together... one story at a time



Ambition

Empower Africa's *development and growth*, thereby enabling *intergenerational inclusion* through *entrepreneurship* to tackle *socioeconomic ills*.

Primary focus

Community led

Rural | peri urban | township economies

Sector led

Growth industries

Digital transformation led

Fourth industrial revolution industries

Target beneficiaries

Women | Youth | Enterprises

Delivery

Entrepreneurial education

Entrepreneurial mindset | intent | action

Leveraging the bank's to enable the facilitation of an ecosystem

Facilitation of ecosystem and access to Enabling resources

Advocacy and policy influence

Insights that contribute to a conducive environment for small businesses to operate

Measures of success



Number of entrepreneurs provided with education and support



Number of businesses provided with financial literacy training



Number of youth and women micro enterprises trained and formalised



Number of youth provided with access

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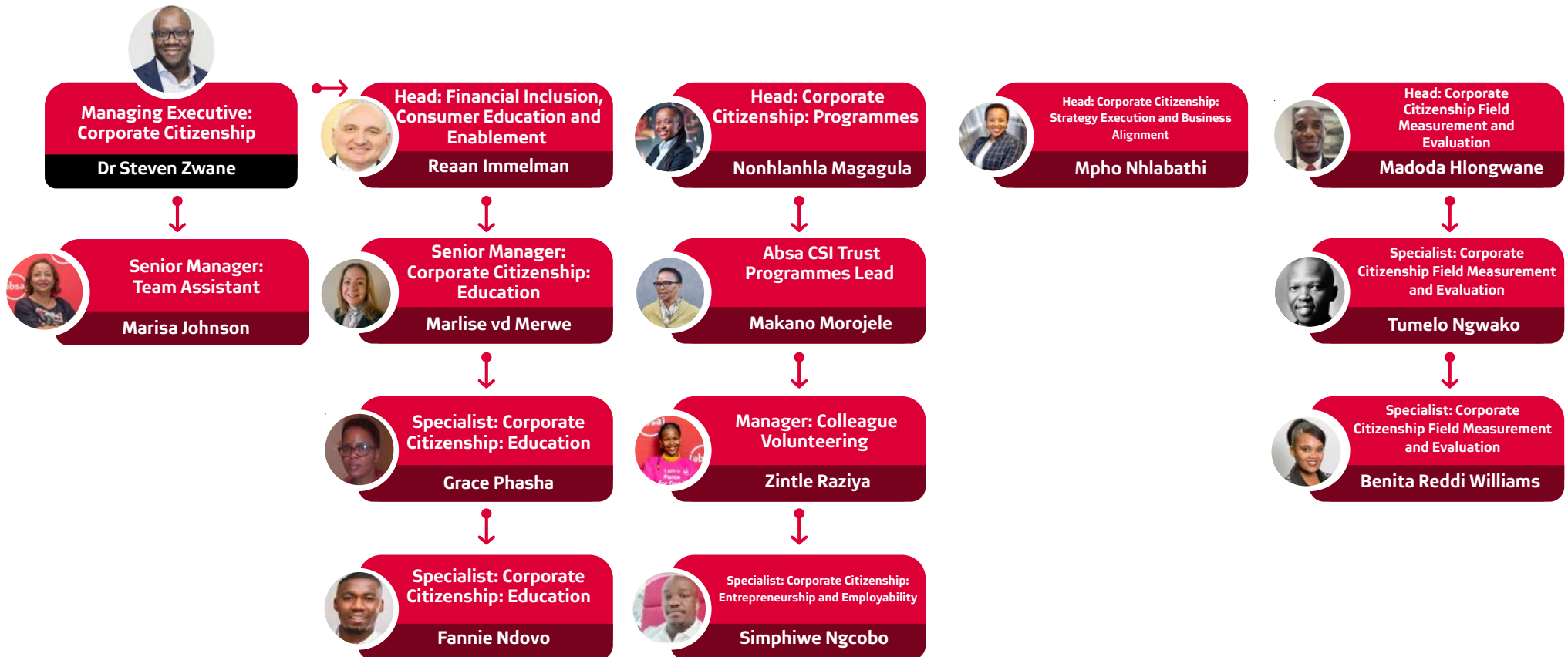
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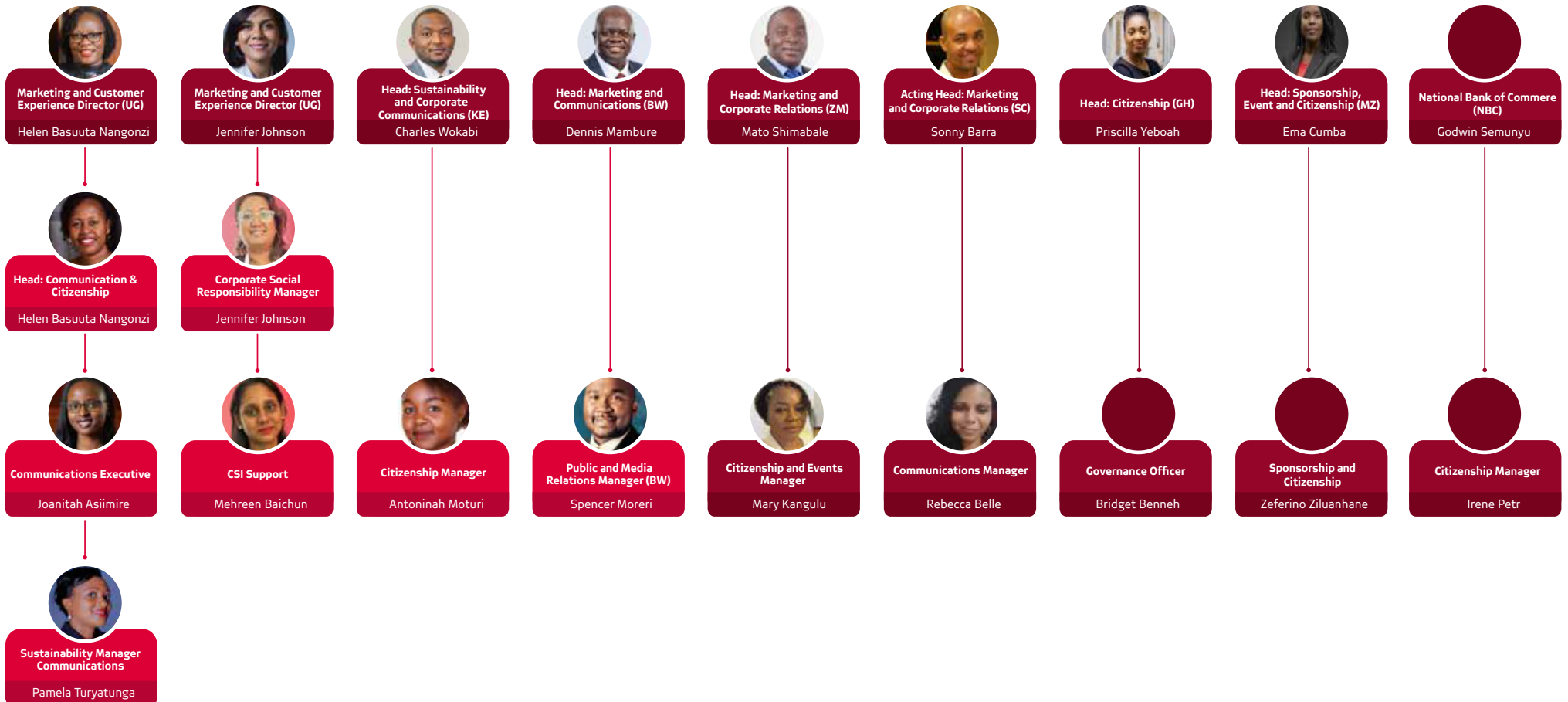
Meet the Group Corporate Citizenship team



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Extended ARO Corporate Citizenship team



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Thought leadership article | Corporates empowering NGOs for social impact

In a multi-faceted society like South Africa's (SA's), with our layered and complex history and modern-day contradictions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a vital role in addressing social challenges and advancing progress. It is also important to appreciate the symbiotic relationship between this sector and the role of public and private sector partnerships across the African continent.

Against the backdrop of global events such as the cost of living crises, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, the partnership between corporates and NGOs takes on even greater significance. To this end, collaboration between corporates, exemplified by Absa's supporting role, is enabling NGOs and Development Organisations DOs to make a tangible difference in our communities.

Continental challenges

Africa is a continent of immense diversity, experiencing significant discrepancies in economic development, infrastructure and

living standards. The region grapples with deep-rooted social issues arising from slow economic growth and complexities from colonial remnants, political instability and widening wealth disparities.

Recently, Africa has been facing a pressing cost-of-living crisis, impacting the economic landscape. For instance, Nigeria witnessed its annual inflation reaching an 18-year high of 25.8% in August 2023, severely affecting the affordability of basic necessities for many citizens. Similarly, SA and Kenya continue to struggle with escalating fuel prices, exacerbating their economic challenges. The World Bank also highlights a broader economic slowdown in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Although SA appears to allocate a relatively substantial portion of its budget to essential services such as healthcare, education and security compared to other African nations, at times these allocations do not translate into improved social outcomes or a better cost-of-living situation. Continent-wide, persistent disparities underscore the urgent need for

innovative solutions and collaborative efforts to address systemic challenges.

Global impact

The socio-economic landscape is plagued by key economic shifts. The world continues to witness an escalation of global geopolitical events that demand a more responsive humanitarian sector. Climate-related disasters are on the rise, affecting not only underdeveloped countries but also nations grappling with the consequences, including the displacement of families and children, and the erosion of livelihoods.

In 2022, 387 natural hazards and disasters occurred worldwide, resulting in the loss of 30 704 lives and affecting 185 million individuals, with economic losses totaling around US\$ 223.8 billion.¹ Simultaneously, ongoing

conflicts between nations necessitate a robust humanitarian response to address the devastating impact on families, children and livelihoods. Moreover, the profound consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to setbacks in countries' efforts to improve the quality of life for their citizens.

Continued on the following page.



1. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/2022-disasters-numbers>

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Corporates empowering NGOs for social impact continued...

The critical role of NGOs

NGOs have long been at the forefront of disaster-relief efforts, providing vital assistance to communities ravaged by natural calamities. The 2020-2023 Horn of Africa drought is ongoing, affecting Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. As of 2023, the region is now in its fifth failed rainy season and a sixth failed season is predicted. In total, 36.4 million people are affected, 23.5 million face extreme hunger and 1.5 million are displaced while livestock deaths stand at 13.2 million.

The speedy response from NGOs in calling out climate injustice and urging global donors to fully fund the humanitarian response, serves as a poignant example of their swift and impactful reaction to the humanitarian crises. At the 2023 Horn of Africa Conference's high-level pledging event, some 22 NGOs penned a joint statement urging for a speedy response from global donors. Ahead of COP 28, NGOs also called for developed countries to take responsibility for their historical contribution to climate change.

²Climate change poses an existential threat, particularly to vulnerable regions like Africa, where its effects are acutely felt. One startling statistic is that by 2030, up to 250 million Africans could be exposed to

increased water stress due to climate change, exacerbating existing challenges of water scarcity and food insecurity.³This highlights the urgent need for coordinated international action to mitigate the effects of climate change and support vulnerable communities in adapting to its impacts. NGOs have been instrumental in advocating for sustainable practices and implementing adaptation strategies to mitigate these impacts.

Support from corporates and Absa

World NGO Day highlights the crucial scope for corporates like Absa in building partnerships that bolster these efforts. This can be realised through financial support, capacitation and access to ecosystems that enable NGOs to extend their reach and efficacy in the timely distribution of resources. In the pursuit of sustainable development goals (SDGs), corporate partnerships are pivotal, serving as essential drivers of change by providing resources, expertise and innovative solutions. Through strategic collaboration with NGOs and public-private partnerships (PPPs), businesses have the potential to lead impactful social-impact driven interventions. Together, they can leverage synergies to tackle pressing global challenges and propel progress towards achieving SDGs.

"In a recent roundtable discussion hosted by us as the Sector Banking team in South Africa, a pivotal insight emerged," says Thokozile Mcopele, Coverage Banker at Absa. "Several participants emphasised the significance of fostering partnerships with NGOs for the effective fulfilment of societal needs, recognising them as experts in this domain. As such, we strongly encourage the private sector to harness the specialised skills and profound expertise offered by NGOs. As a banker to some of these NGOs, we see the value of a shared responsibility where each party leads with their core offering."

Partnerships in response to the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic tested the resilience of society, necessitating collaboration across the spheres of community. NGOs were at the forefront of the pandemic response, providing essential services and driving awareness, information and support to vulnerable populations. The financial assistance, technological resources and logistics support provided by corporates enabled a scaled response and mitigated impacts.

Still, the economic impact was severe, with the World Bank estimating that up to 40 million Africans were pushed into extreme poverty. While this underscores the resilience

of African nations in managing the crisis, it highlights the urgent need for sustainable recovery efforts to address the socio-economic fallout⁴.

In Africa, NGOs reached millions of people in remote and underserved areas – a demonstration of remarkable agility and resilience in adapting their operations to meet the evolving needs of communities during what was an unprecedented period. As a bank, Absa also had to look at its own funding decisions and risk models, and adapt these to address crucial needs in society, which extended not only its citizenship funding, but also its balance sheet.

As an example, Absa is proud to have supported small-scale farmers through innovative funding solutions across the continent, in collaboration with NGOs and other private and public sector players. This continues to challenge banks like Absa to look at risk and returns differently, as risk needs to take into account context and nuances, while returns also need to take into account social returns and impact.

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4. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2020/06/02/world-banks-response-to-covid-19-coronavirus-in-africa>

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Corporates empowering NGOs for social impact continued...

Absa's commitment to enable NGOs

Partnerships between corporates and NGOs represent a strong force for positive change, as demonstrated by Absa's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), sustainable development focus and specialised bank offerings for DOs.

As noted in its human rights statement, Absa strives to be a responsible corporate citizen through the conduct of its business activities and decisions. This extends to promoting and respecting human rights in the way it does business.

Furthermore, Absa's commitment to human rights finds expression in its strategic intent to be an active force for good in everything it does, by championing social outcomes that promote intergenerational sustainability and growth. This includes understanding and appropriately managing the impacts of its business on the communities it serves.

How Absa is honouring its commitment – recent examples

In Mozambique, Absa partnered with Counterpart International to host an International Children's Day. The event included culture and sports activities, lectures, an agricultural production fair and

clean-up campaigns to raise awareness alongside parents, guardians and society in general about the need to respect the rights and obligations of children. It also highlighted the challenges children face regarding education, health, gender-based violence and premature marriages.

In 2023, World Vision International presented Absa in Ghana and Zambia with an award as its most-valued CSR partner. National Bank of Commerce (NBC) Tanzania, for which Absa is the majority shareholder, spearheads two projects to uplift communities through maternal health and wellness, thereby:

- Reducing maternal mortality rates with the Mkapa Foundation by providing 100 annual scholarships to midwives, equipping them with the expertise to provide essential care before, during and after childbirth. A portion of the proceeds from NBC's Dodoma Marathon also supports this vital cause, with TZS 500 million having been dedicated to combat cervical cancer over the past three years.
- Enhancing maternal health with AMREF Health Africa by supporting them in procuring essential medical equipment for women and children's hospital wards in Zanzibar, through a TZS 200 million donation. This collaborative effort enhances

healthcare accessibility and quality by ensuring safer childbirth experiences for women.

Your story matters – Absa's new brand and business positioning

Through transformative partnerships like those mentioned above, Absa is not only addressing pressing societal challenges but also fostering a culture of collaboration and empowerment. By being a catalyst for inclusive growth and sustainable development, Absa plays a critical role in uplifting communities and reshaping lives.

Further underscoring its commitment to being an active force for good, Absa recently introduced its new brand and business positioning, "Your story matters". This serves as an ongoing reminder of the many ways in which Absa is writing a new narrative of hope, resilience and progress, where every person is seen and heard, and every life is empowered to thrive throughout their unique story.

"At Absa, our Corporate Social Investment (CSI) journey has evolved significantly, reflecting our commitment to fostering sustainable impact and shared value," says Dr Steven Zwane, Managing Executive: Corporate Citizenship. "By recognising the

pivotal role that each story plays in our collective tomorrow, we've reimagined our CSI. In embracing 'Your story matters' as more than just a tagline, we've shifted our strategic focus towards a new horizon: financial inclusion through entrepreneurship. This pivot embodies our dedication to being a force for good, merging societal impact with sustainable business practices. Our purpose-driven approach acknowledges the power of inclusivity, particularly among the marginalised segments of women, youth and enterprises."

Looking ahead

As we work towards a better future for all, let us celebrate the transformative power of NGOs and the vital role played by the private sector in enabling positive societal impact. Through strategic partnerships and a dedicated DO sector, Absa calls on other like-minded corporates to join us in helping to address the most pressing global challenges and create a more inclusive and sustainable future.

To this end, collaboration between corporates, exemplified by Absa's supporting role, is enabling NGOs and DOs to make a tangible difference in our communities.

End.

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The Global Entrepreneurship Conference

The Global Entrepreneurship Congress+ Africa took place in Cape Town on 13 and 14 March 2024 under the theme Connecting Africa. Dr Steven Zwane, Managing Executive of Group Corporate Citizenship, contributed to key discussions at the event.

Here are the key takeaways for the continent:

- To empower female entrepreneurs through support mechanisms and initiatives like the Visa She's Next programme.
- To advocate for the integration of entrepreneurship into secondary school curricula, to foster a culture of entrepreneurship.
- To advocate for policies that facilitate the growth of African entrepreneurs, focussing on mini- and micro-enterprises led by women and youths.
- Prioritised support for high school, university and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) students through impactful entrepreneurship education initiatives.
- Recognising the need to redefine entrepreneurship in SA and shape a uniquely South African and African entrepreneurship narrative.
- To understand the perspective of entrepreneurs and acknowledge funding as their core challenge.

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She's Next 2024: Absa partners with Visa

We are proud to announce our collaboration with Visa to launch She's Next 2024, a global programme that aims to support women-owned small businesses through funding, training and mentorship.

She's Next underscores its belief in the transformative power of empowering women in business. It goes beyond entrepreneurs, including a grant, one-year coaching membership and

strategic partnerships with influential figures in various industries.

She's Next offers participants a chance to win over R1 million worth of prizes. This year, the global advocacy programme will span across five countries, namely: SA, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Absa has embarked on comprehensively understanding the unique needs of women-owned small businesses and, ultimately, to help them succeed. Through Absa and Visa's joint efforts, we hope to make a meaningful, tangible impact in society"

Dr Steven Zwane

Absa's Managing Executive of Corporate Citizenship



The First CSI Trust programme goes live

The Post-graduate Scholarship Programme offers scholarships to students in study fields such as engineering, chartered accounting, actuarial sciences, humanities and technical and vocational teaching.

Through the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP), a full scholarship is offered to students, which consists of tuition, accommodation, a laptop for post-graduate research, learning materials and meals.

Student support is also offered and includes mentorship, life skills training, tutorials and administrative support at each higher-educational institution. Absa supported 114 post-graduate students through the newly established Absa CSI Trust with 64% of beneficiaries being black females.



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Absa Fellowship Programme: welcoming the class of 2024

Since the establishment of Absa Fellowship Programme in 2021, this programme has met leaders at the forefront of possibility, daring them to lean in and change the world in a way that ignites boundless imagination, creativity and curiosity.

Absa is welcoming the 2024 cohort of Absa Fellows, consisting of 50 Fellows who are ready to reach their full potential and make Africa a better place. They are brave and passionate leaders that are ready to go beyond the standards of what is attainable; to move humanity forward in ways that have not yet been discovered; to reframe, reimagine and reshape society.

The Absa Fellowship journey coincides with the student's undergraduate studies and includes a full scholarship, emotional wellness check-in sessions, academic tutoring and mentoring.

More importantly, this initiative provides access to a leadership development programme, focussing on an entrepreneurial mindset, which aligns to Absa's new Corporate Citizenship strategy of financial inclusion through entrepreneurship.

We wish the class of 2024 all the best with their entrepreneurial leadership journey.

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Harvesting hope with Absa Run Your City

Run, walk and make a difference

The 2023 Absa Run Your City Series challenged colleagues and the public to run or walk one kilometre to raise funds for community upliftment. Participants downloaded the Strava App and joined Team Absa Walk and Run. Absa pledged to donate R1 for every kilometre covered and a total of R1.5 million was raised across five races.

Sustainable vegetable gardens

The funds raised have been used to establish vegetable gardens to combat food insecurity, a harsh reality faced by many households and communities in SA. The initiative is benefitting Ndunakazi Primary School (KwaZulu-Natal), Strelitzia Primary School (Eastern Cape), Ennis Thabong Primary School (North-West), Mautse Primary School (Free State) and Hoër Landbouskool Jan Kempdorp (Northern Cape). The sustainable garden handovers started on 1 February 2024, starting with Mautse Primary School in the Free State.

Small steps can lead to significant changes

Urban Harvest has designed, constructed and planted the gardens, and is helping to maintain them. A designated garden champion has been/is being educated at each school to ensure the longevity of the initiative. The gardens provide fresh produce and empower communities to embrace sustainable practices.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2023 Absa Run Your City Series. Here's to empowering Africa's tomorrow, together ... one story at a time!

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Celebrating our stories through the 2024 KKNK

Absa recognises the importance of supporting the arts and culture in SA, with a commitment to investing in SA's arts industry. In 2023, Absa enhanced its touch points at the KKNK festival, showcasing the best of local and national talent in a celebration of creativity and innovation.

Absa has been involved as a sponsor of the KKNK for 21 years. In 2023, the collaboration was extended for a further three years. This extension of Absa's partnership enables us to be an active force for good, making a meaningful impact in the community of Oudtshoorn and the arts/creative economy.

A big part of who we are and what we do as an organisation is to empower young people and equip them for the future. Through storytelling, Absa colleagues shared their life and professional stories with scholars from across the Western Cape, in Oudtshoorn at Bridgton Secondary School, as part of our KKNK Youth Engagement Session. Being an

active force for good and partnering with communities is at the centre of being an empathetic brand and creating sustainable value for our people.

Absa also donated 50 camping chairs to the Eljada-Kairos Skool. Eljada-Kairos Skool is a special needs school located in Oudtshoorn in the Western Cape. This donation will go some way in making life a little more comfortable for the learners during gatherings and school activities. This gesture aligns firmly with our ethos of being an active force for good as we continue sharing stories that matter at KKNK.

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Computer donations with Absa Kenya

Under the leadership of Absa Bank Kenya and acting COO Ruth Kamengere, our Operations and Technology team spent time at two schools in Kenya this January.

The Greenland Girls School in Kajiado is a haven for young teenage mothers, offering education to the girls and care for their children. The girls are between 10 and 15 years and have run away from early marriages in Kajiado or neighbouring counties. To equip these young mothers with essential digital skills, our team handed over a fully furnished computer lab to the school. They also planted 25 fruit trees and donated dry food and sanitary supplies for the mothers and children.

OI Ngarua Special School, Nyahururu is a mixed school serving the counties of Laikipia, Nyandarua and Baringo. The Financial Crime team has been supporting the school since 2007 leaving a tangible and visible difference in the community – like the 16-year old

orchard and a water tank that supports both the school and the community. During COVID-19, the team also donated two dairy goats, school bags, personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and dry food to support the school and over 50 households in the community.

On 26 January 2024, the team handed over a computer lab equipped with 20 computers, 20 desks and 10 chairs. They provided the school with a three-month supply of dry food items, sanitary items and hand-made blankets, as part of the 67 Blankets for Mandela Day initiative. They even planted an additional 23 fruit trees. We congratulate the COO team and especially the Financial Crime team for embracing the Adopt-a-School Programme.

Development organisation sector Banking volunteering

On 15 February 2024, our Development Organisations Sector Banking teams from Ghana, Mozambique, SA, Uganda, Zambia and the UK office paid a visit to the SOS Children’s Village in Ennerdale, SA

The mission brought together 10 colleagues from five ARO markets, donating 80 volunteer hours. The visit was a collective effort to establish a vegetable garden for the 11 homes in the village.

10 colleagues. Five ARO markets. 80 volunteer hours.

Colleagues teamed up with members of the SOS project and a youth volunteer. Surplus seeds were allocated to individual homes to support their independent gardens. After all the gardening, the team organised a picnic using knitted blankets donated by the Marketing Operations portfolio as part of the 67 Blankets drive. Nearly 100 children participated in the picnic.

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Social Impact Awards

In continuation of our efforts to write the story together, we depend on you as members of communities and ambassadors of the Absa brand to enable us to deliver on our ambition to be an active force for good, by investing your time, skills and expertise towards the betterment of communities.

As our greatest capital, we understand your proximity to communities and the scope to amplify our force for good activity. In 2023, 5 535 colleagues heeded the call, totalling 15 300 hours volunteered. This year, as we ramp up our participation in communities with our Financial Inclusion through Entrepreneurship strategy, we look forward to partnering with you in making this the year of the volunteer.

To this end, we are excited to share three ways that we will recognise and reward colleagues for participating in the upliftment of the communities that we operate in:



Colleague Volunteering tiers and rewards:

Climb tiers and gain access to exciting rewards through points earned by participating in force for good activities.



Inaugural Social Impact Awards:

Recognition and reward of colleagues, teams, departments and BUs for responding to the call to be an active force for good in 2024.



Bespoke Colleague Volunteering tools and apparel

Colleague volunteering tools and apparel to enable and support your volunteering endeavours.

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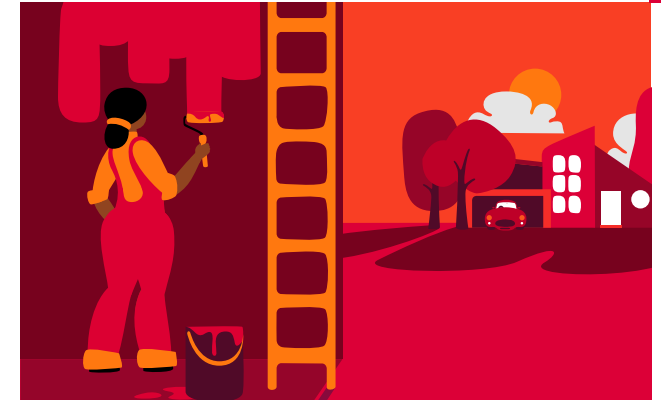
1. Support Group Citizenship initiatives

Participate in themed Group-wide initiatives that are undertaken on milestone days and months. Look out for communication of initiatives that you can support in 2024.



2. Take part in Colleague Volunteering activities:

Engage in volunteer work to directly contribute your time and skills to meaningful causes.

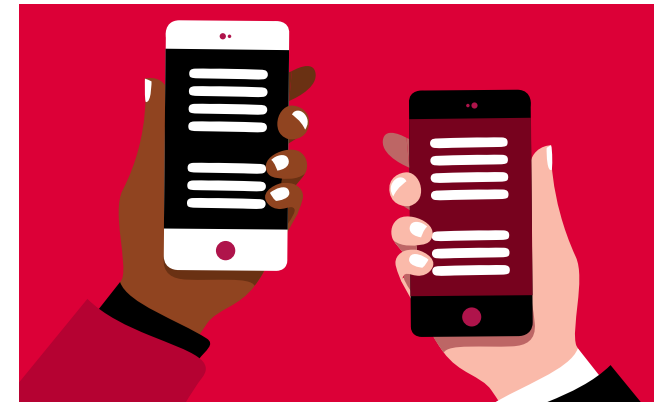


3. Volunteering grant*

As a team of 10 or more, request a volunteering grant of up to R10 000 to support a charitable organisation or school with essential goods. *Subject to governance and budget availability.

Be a force for good Volunteer in 2024

We call on you to volunteer and help us make a positive contribution to our communities. To participate, here are four ways that you and your teams can make a difference:



4. Match funding:

Leverage the match funding mechanism of up to R10 000 per colleague to multiply the value of your contributions and support charitable organisations.

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Mandela Month | Social Impact

A large part of what defines us as an organisation is how we show up in the we serve. As a purpose-led and values-driven organisation, we support initiatives that drive positive change in our communities.

We have a healthy colleague volunteering culture, and we want to **applaud all our colleagues** who offer their time and resources so freely to drive our key **strategic pillar of being an active force for good.**

This **Mandela Month**, we call on all of you to take part in our force for good journey, by making a difference in the communities in which we live and operate. Mandela Month is about honouring the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela through acts of kindness that make a difference in the lives of others.

Join us in making a difference this Mandela Month!

Let's come together to support our communities through meaningful volunteering activities. Group Citizenship offers opportunities and support for colleagues to contribute in various ways, whether by donating money or volunteering their time. Through our initiatives, both forms of giving will be enabled.

Contribute financially to our Footprints school shoe drive

To date, **858 pairs of school shoes** have been donated. The leading business unit is Everyday Banking: Physical Channels – Service Operations with **331** pairs of shoes collected! These efforts are incredible. You have until **Friday, 12 July 2024**, to contribute towards a learner whose story matters, for them to receive a pair of shoes. Collections will be donated to learners from five schools in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, North West, Free State and Northern Cape. Help us to **reach our mark of 5 000 pairs donated.** All colleague donations will be matched by Absa. Click [here to donate.](#)

Give your time by packing food

Did you know that 20 million South Africans face hunger every day? Help us to pack meals that will be distributed to early childhood development centres and beneficiaries of Rise Against Hunger. Attending a meal-packing activity will require only two hours from you. We will be packing meals at the following venues:

- **Windmill Casino** (Bloemfontein, Free State) – **12 July**
- **Sandton Convention Centre** (Johannesburg, Gauteng) – **17 July**
- **The Station** (Durban, KwaZulu-Natal) –

18 July

- **Grand West Casino** (Cape Town, Western Cape) – **18 July**

All you need to do is [sign up](#) and show up on the day of the event. You'll receive further details once you've signed up.

Financial Literacy Fridays

According to a survey conducted by Standard & Poor Global Ratings agency, only 38% of adults in sub-Saharan Africa are considered financially literate. Financial literacy is the ability to understand and manage personal finances, including budgeting, saving, investing and managing debt. Financial literacy is **essential for making informed financial decisions** that can lead to **financial stability and success.** We're calling on you to [sign up](#) and get trained to be a Financial Literacy Champion in our communities through the delivery of financial literacy content.

Tell us what you're doing, and we'll contribute

Are you or your team already planning a volunteer activity this Mandela Month? Let us know! We offer support for individual initiatives (R5 000), team efforts for groups of less than 20 people (R10 000), and groups

of more than 20 people (R20 000). All we ask is a minimum of three hours of volunteering. Consider how you can share your skills and expertise in making a difference. [Click here](#) to tell us how you'll be making a difference, and we'll contact you with more information.

Jozi My Jozi clean-up

Participate in the Jozi My Jozi clean-up to rejuvenate Johannesburg's inner city on Thursday, **18 July 2024.** Join us for a **one-hour clean-up** activity to demonstrate **environmental support.** Transport will be available from Sandton Campus (15 Alice Lane) and Absa Towers West (15 Troye Street). Volunteers will be provided with all the materials needed for the clean-up. [Click here](#) to sign up and receive further details.

Together, we can make Mandela Month a time of impactful change and community upliftment. Let's show our collective spirit and dedication to supporting our communities. Remember, that all stories matter – your story matters.

“You can start changing our world for the better daily, no matter how small the action.”

— Nelson Mandela

1. Editor's note	2. Our strategy	3. The Corporate Citizenship team	4. The extended ARO Corporate Citizenship team
5. Thought leadership article	6. Entrepreneurship and employability	7. Financial literacy and education	8. Social impact response and Colleague Volunteering
9. Our colleagues in ARO giving back to the community	10. Colleague Volunteering Awards	11. Be a force for good – volunteer in 2024	



Image gallery

The Global Entrepreneurship Conference



Computer Donations with Absa Kenya



Harvesting hope with Absa Run Your City





Image gallery continued

DO's Pan-African volunteering



Celebrating Our Stories Through the 2024 KKNK

