

Your story matters



Absa Social Impact Awards Nominees



Foreword

The Absa Social Impact Awards

These awards celebrate the power of collective action across our Pan-African community. They shine a light on colleagues who generously give their time and skills, and on the teams, business units and countries that drive community impact at scale.

We also honour the non-profit partners and community champions who stand with us to strengthen local communities, and acknowledge the development organisations that enable long-term, sustainable change.

These awards showcase how Absa colleagues and partners bring our purpose to life, in every interaction and engagement, demonstrating what it means to be a true force for good across the continent.

Your actions matter. Your impact inspires.

Let's continue to write these stories of impact together.

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The Colleague as a Force for Good award recognises an individual who has shown outstanding commitment to volunteering, contributing their time and efforts toward sustainable initiatives aligned to organisational needs.

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Leading Country Volunteering efforts

The most impactful volunteering initiative led by an Absa Group Limited country of operation, based on team participation, skills application, and measurable community impact.

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An individual who actively drives participation in Force for Good initiatives within their business unit or function, demonstrating leadership, coordination, and communication efforts.

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A business unit or corporate function, including Africa Regional Operations, that has delivered the most impactful volunteering activity.

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An individual who champions and creates an enabling environment for volunteering through active leadership.

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A non-profit organisation nominated by a colleague for its exceptional support in enabling impactful volunteering initiatives.

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An NPO leader who goes above and beyond to create meaningful impact. For eligibility the colleague must have volunteered at the organisation.

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This category recognises local and international development organisations who are clients of Absa that have effectively enabled impactful community initiatives and integrated volunteer efforts meaningfully.

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Colleague as a Force for Good

Samalie Ainebyona

Samalie has dedicated three years to driving meaningful change through Absa Bank Uganda's Corporate Citizenship initiatives. With 135 volunteer hours logged, she has become a catalyst for community transformation, focusing on environmental conservation, financial empowerment, and youth development across Uganda.

She enriches her volunteer work with creative, hands-on methods, using real-life case studies and digital tools to make financial literacy engaging, and integrating climate education into tree-planting initiatives. By introducing mentorship circles for youth, she has boosted participation, improved knowledge retention, and strengthened colleague engagement. Samalie's work has empowered thousands with practical skills and environmental stewardship, while her mobilisation of colleagues for causes like the KH3 7 Hills Run demonstrates her belief in collective action to create lasting change.



Uganda | **Africa Risk**



Ayanda Zondo

Ayanda has transformed workplace compassion into tangible community support, establishing the Service Operation CSI Forum in 2022 with just eight members. Today, the forum boasts 34 active consultants who have collectively raised R40,748 between January and October 2025, demonstrating how internal mobilisation can drive external impact. Her 55 volunteer hours reflect consistent, purposeful engagement with communities in need.

She pioneered the 'Charity Begins at Home' programme, providing food parcels and financial coaching to colleagues in need, which has strengthened internal trust and collective responsibility. Her strategic leadership in organising blanket, shoe, and food drives has directly supported numerous community organisations, transforming empathy into actionable support and creating sustainable systems of care that start within the workplace.

South Africa | **Personal and Private Banking**



Romaine Malan

Romaine's 16-year volunteering journey represents sustained commitment to community upliftment through the Collections Cares CSI Forum. Since 2009, she has been instrumental in creating structured, sustainable initiatives that address fundamental needs while building long-term capacity within vulnerable communities. Her leadership has generated approximately R70,000 in contributions for 2025 alone, with 21 volunteer hours reflecting focused, high-impact engagement.

She has established a sustainable CSI model with clear processes and annual plans, aligning initiatives with national awareness days for greater relevance. By expanding drives to include stationery, books, and sanitary packs, she removes barriers to education, while her hands-on agricultural projects promote food security. This structured, empathetic approach has ensured her work delivers long-term, transformative impact for both communities and volunteers.



South Africa | **Personal and Private Banking**





Edilson Afonso

Edilson has spent eight years volunteering with the Rotaract Club of Polana, actively serving under Rotary District 9400 and supporting community development projects aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. His 26 volunteer hours in 2025, combined with approximately MZN 3,000 raised through various fundraising initiatives, demonstrate sustained commitment to youth empowerment and community transformation in Mozambique.

He introduced an innovative model that integrates peacebuilding education with sustainable development actions, delivering holistic sessions on financial literacy, youth empowerment, and environmental responsibility. By focusing on mentorship and community-led initiatives, Edilson ensures his impact extends beyond his direct involvement, creating self-sustaining programmes that build a culture of resilience and collaboration for lasting systemic change.

Mozambique | **Human Capital**



Bobbie Kidwell

Bobbie has devoted six years to volunteering with SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds), contributing 55 hours in 2025 to the vital mission of rescuing and rehabilitating endangered African penguins and other seabirds. Her commitment addresses a critical conservation need, as SANCCOB operates 24/7, 365 days a year, and relies heavily on volunteers to fill gaps that paid staff cannot cover.

Bobbie ensures lasting impact by training new volunteers and promoting conservation through community beach clean-ups. She remains connected beyond her on-site duties by assisting with the remote rescue and transport of sick or injured birds. Her six-year dedication demonstrates that reliable, consistent service is invaluable to specialised conservation work, protecting Africa's precious wildlife for future generations.



South Africa | **Personal and Private Banking**

BRONZE

Ayanda Zondo



South Africa | **Personal
and Private Banking**

SILVER

Romaine Malan



South Africa | **Personal and
Private Banking**

GOLD

Samalie Ainebyona



Uganda | Africa Risk

Best Skills-Based Volunteering Effort

Crystabel Vorgbe & Team

Crystabel leads a dynamic 14-member team from Personal and Private Banking Ghana that has achieved remarkable impact over two years of skills-based volunteering, with the milestone of reaching 10,000 youth across 60 schools accomplished in 2025 alone. The team has logged 45 volunteer hours, delivering transformative financial literacy sessions that equip young Ghanaians with practical skills in budgeting, saving, and investing. - tools essential for lifelong financial independence.

The team launched a bold financial inclusion agenda, collaborating with retail and marketing units to execute a nationwide campaign. They introduced innovative partnerships with organisations like ALX Ghana and the National Identification Authority, which provided scholarships and enabled students to open bank accounts on the spot. This integrated approach tripled Absa's youth customer base and empowered a generation with the tools for financial independence.



Ghana | Personal and Private Banking



George Kaindoah

George began his volunteering journey in 2024 as a graduate trainee, participating in a blood drive. His first skills-based initiatives, 'Nje Ya Box' and 'Industry Learning' marked the beginning of focused efforts to prepare university students for life after graduation. With 15 volunteer hours invested, George has directly impacted an estimated 1500 to 2 000 students, contributing to the opening of over 1,000 accounts under Absa Tanzania's new youth segment.

He revolutionised traditional sessions by introducing interactive, experience-based learning, using gamification and relatable examples to teach financial habits. By organising panel discussions with young professionals and leveraging social media storytelling, he bridged the gap between theory and real-world readiness. This innovative approach has equipped students with essential financial and soft skills, leading directly to many securing employment and graduate trainee placements.

Tanzania | **Personal and Private Banking Products**



Zachariah Odegih

Zachariah brings 15 years of volunteering experience, with eight years specifically focused on skills-based initiatives that transform lives through financial literacy, work-readiness, and entrepreneurship training. His 18 volunteer hours in 2025, combined with a financial contribution of KES 10,000 (approximately R1 325), reflect sustained commitment to empowering young people and community members who often lack access to practical guidance and support.

Zachariah designed interactive, story-based learning sessions to make financial literacy and entrepreneurship relatable, moving beyond traditional lectures. To sustain engagement, he created WhatsApp coaching groups for ongoing support and developed short digital toolkits for budgeting and business planning. These innovations have empowered participants to secure jobs, start small businesses, and achieve financial independence, transforming uncertainty into confidence and self-reliance.



Kenya | **Corporate and Investment Banking**





Anneli Roux & Team

Anneli, alongside teammates Elri Marais and Reandri Ballot, has volunteered since 2017 to support language practice education and career development. The Language Services team from Group Marketing and Corporate Affairs has logged 18 volunteer hours in 2025, continuing their annual tradition of hosting third-year Language Practice students from the University of Johannesburg's Department of Languages, Cultural Studies and Applied Linguistics.

The team provides a holistic professional experience, covering entrepreneurship, brand management, and financial literacy. Their innovative approach involves dividing students into small groups to work on real marketing briefs, using Absa's style guides. The subsequent peer-review and discussion sessions generate valuable insights into editing and translation, providing hands-on experience that sparks genuine excitement about their future careers in the industry.

South Africa | **Group Marketing
and Corporate Affairs**



George Kasozi & Team

George, with teammate Majid Kyembe Abdul-Majid, has been involved in Absa's Financial Literacy Training Initiative for five years. With 9 volunteer hours logged in 2025, their ongoing commitment includes conducting financial education sessions, mentoring participants, and helping the programme expand its reach within underserved communities. Their efforts contribute to opening an average of 3 000 to 3 500 accounts annually through this initiative, directly promoting access to digital banking and strengthening the Absa brand.

George introduced digital learning tools and visual, multilingual materials to make financial concepts accessible to all literacy levels. By incorporating storytelling and real-life case studies, he increased engagement and knowledge retention. These innovations have empowered community members and small business owners to manage debt, improve savings, and implement better financial practices, thereby strengthening the overall impact of Absa's financial inclusion mission.



Uganda | **Retail and
Business Banking**

BRONZE

Zachariah Odegih



Kenya | **Corporate
and Investment Banking**

SILVER

George Kasozi & Team



Uganda | **Retail and
Business Banking**

GOLD

Crystabel Vorgbe & Team



**Ghana | Personal
and Private Banking**

Leading Country Volunteering efforts

Seychelles



Seychelles colleagues contributed meaningfully to environmental and community centred initiatives. Their volunteering included coastal clean ups, support for environmental partners and participation in activities that helped protect marine and natural spaces. Teams also assisted in community outreach efforts and collaborated with organisations focused on social support and local wellbeing. The pattern of involvement showed a strong connection to their surroundings and a willingness to contribute to cleaner spaces and healthier communities. Their consistent participation reflected a culture of care, stewardship and practical engagement that strengthened both environmental efforts and community relationships across the islands.



Mauritius



Mauritius colleagues supported a blend of environmental and community focused initiatives that reflected the country's strong volunteering culture. Much of the work centred on senior citizen welfare associations, social development groups and local community organisations through visits, support activities and collaborative engagements. Teams also contributed to heritage and environmental programmes, including work linked to natural and cultural preservation. Their efforts combined care for older community members with a commitment to maintaining Mauritius's unique environment. This mixture of social outreach and environmental stewardship demonstrated sustained involvement and meaningful relationships with the organisations and communities they served.



Uganda



Uganda colleagues engaged across a broad range of education, youth development and skills based initiatives. Volunteers delivered financial literacy training, ReadytoWork sessions, career guidance and coaching partnerships with schools, youth groups and learning institutions. Teams also supported tree planting and environmental activities as part of wider community projects. Their pattern of volunteering reflected a strong emphasis on sharing knowledge and building skills that contribute to long term opportunity. The combination of education support, youth empowerment and practical outreach demonstrated a collaborative commitment to strengthening local institutions and supporting communities across the country.



Ghana



Ghana colleagues contributed significantly to education, youth development and skills based activities. Volunteers supported schools and learning institutions through literacy sessions, empowerment programmes and career readiness engagements. They also participated in outreach with youth organisations and community groups that focused on strengthening learning environments and supporting social development. The volunteering footprint highlighted a strong emphasis on assisting young people to build confidence and gain practical knowledge for their future. Through these activities, colleagues demonstrated a sustained commitment to supporting educational progress, community collaboration and meaningful development across the areas they served.



Tanzania



Tanzania colleagues supported a combination of education, community and environmental initiatives. Volunteers participated in school related activities, youth engagement sessions and outreach programmes that strengthened learning spaces and supported local groups. They also contributed to environmental clean ups and tree planting initiatives that enhanced public spaces and promoted local environmental awareness. Their involvement reflected a balanced approach to volunteering, with teams offering practical support to both social and environmental causes. The pattern of activity showed a growing culture of collaboration and care, with colleagues working closely with community organisations to create positive and lasting impact.



Kenya



Kenya colleagues contributed across education, environmental and community support initiatives. Their volunteering included school engagements, youth empowerment sessions and activities that promoted learning and development among young people. Teams also participated in community care projects and environmental efforts such as clean ups and restoration activities. The combination of educational involvement, environmental action and practical outreach reflected a strong sense of responsibility toward their communities. Their participation demonstrated a commitment to supporting young people, strengthening community structures and contributing to cleaner and healthier local environments through consistent volunteer action.

Mozambique



Mozambique colleagues took part in community based and educational volunteering initiatives, contributing their time to support local organisations and youth groups. Activities included school related engagement, practical outreach and collaborative work that strengthened community relationships. Volunteers supported programmes aimed at improving learning environments and providing assistance to organisations that work closely with young people and vulnerable groups. Although smaller in scale, their involvement showed genuine commitment to contributing meaningfully where support was needed. The country's volunteering footprint reflected care, collaboration and a willingness to participate in initiatives that uplift their surrounding communities.



BRONZE

Ghana



SILVER

Mauritius



GOLD

Seychelles



Best Volunteering Champion

Katleho Mokoena

Katleho has led Fraud Solutions' Force for Good programme since 2017, demonstrating exceptional volunteering championship over more than five years. She has mobilised 400 colleagues within her department, contributed 38 volunteer hours, and raised R30 000 in 2025. Her leadership has transformed sporadic charitable acts into a structured, sustainable programme that delivers consistent community impact while fostering a genuine culture of giving within the organisation.

Katleho drives participation through a clear annual calendar of themed initiatives and a team of business unit representatives. By creating 'Force for Good Awards' and organising biannual home visits for colleagues to witness their impact first-hand, she builds emotional connections and sustains commitment. Her transparent financial management and regular reporting to leadership have embedded volunteering into the departmental culture, making it a source of collective pride and purpose.



South Africa | Personal
and Private Banking



Merna Mothapo

Merna has championed volunteering within the Information Technology Office (ITO) for almost one year, quickly establishing herself as a visible and consistent Force for Good ambassador. She has mobilised over 20 colleagues and contributed 33 volunteer hours in 2025, demonstrating that impactful leadership can emerge rapidly when driven by genuine passion and innovative thinking. Her approach has successfully embedded purpose-driven action within the ITO business culture.

Merna's key innovation is the internal Colleague Marketplace on the Engage platform, a digital space where champions can post donation requests. This tool allows colleagues to contribute meaningfully even if they cannot attend events in person, breaking down participation barriers and fostering a collaborative, purpose-driven community. By leveraging technology, she has created a scalable and inclusive system that sustains volunteer engagement across the organisation.

South Africa | **Information and Technology**



Dikeledi Makinda

Dikeledi has led volunteering activities for over one year, mobilising more than 20 colleagues and raising approximately R50 000 in 2025. With 22 volunteer hours logged, her leadership has transformed how colleagues perceive and participate in community service, building a culture where giving back is both meaningful and motivating. Her approach combines heartfelt philosophy with practical engagement strategies that make volunteering accessible and rewarding for all participants.

Dikeledi drives participation by identifying causes that resonate with her team and communicating their impact through compelling storytelling. She launched a 'Volunteer Spotlight' series on internal platforms and created accessible sign-up processes with clear roles. By aligning initiatives with shared values and emphasising the mutual benefits of service, she has transformed volunteering from a once-off activity into a meaningful part of team culture.



South Africa | **Personal and Private Banking**



Nothulasizwe Mokoena

Nothulasizwe has led volunteering activities since joining Absa eight years ago, mobilising more than 200 colleagues throughout this period and contributing 16 volunteer hours in 2025. Her consistent leadership has achieved full departmental participation in all Group-led volunteering initiatives, demonstrating how sustained commitment and strategic coordination can embed community service into organisational culture. She is deeply grateful to work for an organisation that not only encourages but actively supports employees in giving back.

Nothulasizwe co-designed sustainable initiatives like a food garden with Food & Trees for Africa, anchoring participation in long-term impact. By introducing themed campaigns and friendly team competitions, she created energy and enthusiasm around volunteering. Her strategic leadership in fundraising, including securing matching funds from the organisation, has amplified impact and enabled sustained support for community partners like Siyabonga Multipurpose Centre.

South Africa | **Information and Technology**



Tshilidzi Ratshalingwa

Tshilidzi has led and coordinated volunteering activities for over 10 years, with almost three years specifically at Absa. He has mobilised and inspired over 85 colleagues to actively participate in various Force for Good initiatives, contributing 22 volunteer hours in 2025. His leadership has built strong engagement across teams, ensuring colleagues not only volunteer but also feel personally connected to the causes they support, creating meaningful and sustained community impact.

Tshilidzi leverages digital tools like MS Teams and WhatsApp to create dynamic spaces for communication, sharing impact stories, and celebrating achievements in real time. This tech-enabled approach makes participation accessible and inclusive, strengthening team spirit and ensuring all colleagues feel connected and motivated to contribute to collective community impact.



South Africa | **Corporate and Investment Banking**



BRONZE

Dikeledi Makinda



South Africa | Personal
and Private Banking

SILVER

Nothulasizwe Mokoena



South Africa | Information
and Technology

GOLD

Katleho Mokoena



**South Africa | Personal
and Private Banking**

Best Performing Business Unit | Function

Personal and Private Banking

Personal and Private Banking colleagues contributed across a broad mix of community support, education and upliftment initiatives. They worked with key national partners such as the Nelson Mandela Foundation, as well as schools, youth programmes, children's homes and welfare centres. Activities included classroom improvement, empowerment sessions, financial literacy engagements, care focused drives and practical support for community facilities.

Teams also participated in environmental and community building projects where relevant. This balanced combination of large scale partnerships and hands on involvement reflected a strong people centred volunteering culture committed to strengthening families, supporting young people and uplifting vulnerable groups across their communities.

African Regional Operations

African Regional Operations colleagues contributed across multiple African countries and supported a wide range of education, youth development, skills based and environmental initiatives. Volunteers led financial literacy sessions, ReadytoWork training, career readiness workshops and mentoring activities with schools, youth groups and learning institutions across Ghana, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

Teams in Mauritius engaged with senior citizen welfare associations, and colleagues in Seychelles supported environmental partners and coastal care initiatives. Across the region, colleagues also participated in community care programmes, awareness activities and outreach with local organisations. This blend of youth empowerment, skills development and community partnership reflected a strong continent wide culture of service.

Corporate and Investment Banking

Corporate and Investment Banking Africa colleagues contributed to community upliftment, education and donation driven initiatives. Volunteers supported organisations working with children, youth and vulnerable groups through school engagements, literacy activities, awareness sessions and centre based outreach.

They also took part in large national volunteering campaigns and community programmes that mobilised teams across locations. Practical support including refurbishments, collection drives and care focused engagements formed a significant part of their contribution. This mixture of education support, community interaction and hands on assistance demonstrated a consistent commitment to helping strengthen social service organisations and improving the everyday environments that many community members rely on.

Finance

Finance colleagues delivered a strong combination of education focused volunteering and community support activities. Much of their work involved partnerships with schools, children's organisations and community groups, contributing to literacy support, classroom improvement, youth development sessions and practical care initiatives. Volunteers also supported organisations working with vulnerable families and children through collection drives, awareness activities and hands on outreach.

Through these engagements, colleagues helped strengthen learning environments, uplift community based institutions and respond to day to day social needs. The volunteering footprint of the Finance team reflected a reliable and steady commitment to service and a meaningful contribution to organisations improving opportunities for young people.

Business Banking

Business Banking colleagues contributed across environmental, community support and education related volunteering initiatives. They supported local organisations such as the Ikemeleng Women's Support Centre and also participated in national community mobilisation events and collaborative programmes that brought colleagues together around shared causes.

Activities included environmental clean ups, school engagements, youth empowerment sessions, community care support and practical outreach to welfare groups. The team demonstrated a broad and balanced volunteering footprint that combined hands on service with partnerships that strengthened social support networks and learning environments. Their involvement reflected a growing culture of participation and a commitment to uplifting the communities and organisations they served.

BRONZE

**Corporate and
Investment
Banking**

SILVER

**African
Regional
Operations**

GOLD

Personal and Private Banking

Force for good leader

Leon Spies

Leon has led the Absa Charity Golf and Padel Day for over 18 years, transforming a modest initiative into one of South Africa's most anticipated charity events. During 2025, Leon mobilised 120 colleagues, including 18 core volunteers organising and running the event, 32 colleagues participating directly or hosting clients, and 70 colleagues attending in support. In 2025 alone, the event raised approximately R1.7 million - the highest total to date - bringing lifetime contributions to over R14 million, which benefitted more than 50 charities across South Africa.

Leon has grown the event by introducing Padel to attract broader engagement and by leveraging client and colleague networks to combine business with purpose. Through interactive gala events and real-time impact storytelling, he shows volunteers the tangible difference of their efforts. His tireless personal commitment has created a lasting legacy of giving, uniting people around a shared purpose and delivering measurable benefits to charities nationwide.



South Africa | Personal and Private Banking



Romaine Malan

Romaine has championed volunteering through strong leadership and genuine passion for community service. She has mobilised 93 colleagues through structured CSI Forum initiatives, personally coordinating comprehensive programmes that address fundamental human needs with dignity and sustainability. Her work in 2024 and 2025 has demonstrated exceptional ability to organise, inspire, and execute high-impact initiatives that create lasting change in vulnerable communities across the Johannesburg area.

Romaine uses creative fundraising methods like raffles and events to generate excitement and resources. Her hands-on approach extends beyond coordination. She brings volunteers to schools to manage learners and identify those needing extra help, and runs daily aftercare and mentorship programmes. This deep, sustained community engagement ensures her work addresses immediate needs while building long-term capacity and hope.

South Africa | **Corporate and Investment Banking**



Brenda Mutesi

Brenda has been volunteering for five years, mobilising 103 colleagues during 2025 through her work with Absa's Girl for Girl Leadership Training and as an Absa Volunteer with Raising Hope International Friends (RHIF). Her leadership has impacted over 10 000 beneficiaries through Sickle Cell runs, conventions, and community outreaches in Kampala, Wakiso, Jinja, Kamuli, and Buyende. She has successfully mobilised colleagues to contribute UGX 15 000 000 (approx R75 377) through Sickle Cell run kit purchases, demonstrating exceptional ability to combine advocacy, fundraising, and community mobilisation.

Brenda introduced innovative approaches like using digital platforms to share caregiver success stories, inspiring colleague participation. By integrating financial literacy with health and environmental initiatives, she created a holistic model for community transformation. This strategy has empowered thousands of Sickle Cell caregivers with financial management skills, promoted environmental conservation, and strengthened Absa's reputation as a catalyst for sustainable empowerment.



Uganda | **Personal and Private Banking**



Ellen Ohene-Afoakwa

Managing Executive of Absa Corporate and Investment Banking Ghana, Ellen has been leading and enabling volunteering efforts for the past 10 years. During 2025, she brought 120 colleagues into volunteering, including 70 from CIB and 50 from Absa August Tribe. Her leadership combines compassion with scalable structure, having mobilised over R200 million equivalent in food aid nationally while personally driving initiatives that transform education and healthcare access for thousands of Ghanaians.

As executive sponsor, she plays a pivotal role in conceptualising projects, mobilising cross-functional teams, and championing internal fundraising. She drives volunteering through emotionally resonant strategies, such as producing call-to-action videos and establishing volunteer committees to create ownership. By embedding volunteerism into CIB Ghana's strategic agenda, she has cultivated a business culture where giving back is seen as a shared responsibility and a core pillar of purpose.

Ghana | Corporate and Investment Banking



David Kimani

David has served as Chairman of the Board at Sacred Heart Girls Secondary School, Mirithu, for the past eight years, mobilising 20 Absa colleagues during 2025 while contributing KES 25 000 in financial support. His exceptional leadership has brought passion, synergy, creativity, cohesion, and harmony to the girls' public secondary boarding school on the outskirts of Nairobi in Kiambu County, Kenya, transforming it from a neglected institution into a model of community-driven educational excellence.

He introduced innovative, self-sustaining projects including a school bread bakery and farming project that reduce costs and generate income. By mobilising parents and the community through transparent management and recognising every volunteer's effort, he built trust and unity. His leadership has secured significant support from Absa, including computers and mentorship, witnessing the school's remarkable transformation under his stewardship.



Kenya | Corporate and Investment Banking

BRONZE

Brenda Mutesi



**Uganda | Personal
and Private Banking**

SILVER

Ellen Ohene-Afoakwa



**Ghana | Corporate and
Investment Banking**

GOLD

Leon Spies



**South Africa | Personal and
Private Banking**

Leading Social Impact Partner

Dedan Kimathi University Of Technology – Kenya

Kenya |
Nominated
by Antoninah
Moturi



Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) has established itself as a leading education and technology partner in Kenya, with particular focus on youth empowerment, environmental conservation, and entrepreneurship development. In 2025, the institution mobilised 6 Absa colleagues for a career event that reached 2 000 students, demonstrating their capacity to create meaningful partnerships that bridge academic learning with real-world career opportunities.

DeKUT enables volunteering through career guidance, technical training, and large-scale environmental programmes like planting 20 000 trees. Innovation is driven by their Startup and Incubation Centre (DeSIC), which runs boot camps where students develop real-world solutions, and supports entrepreneurs through training and mentorship. This model addresses community challenges while building student-led, sustainable businesses, positioning DeKUT as a catalyst for regional development.



South Africa |
Nominated by
Nothulasizwe
Mokoena



Siyabonga Multipurpose Centre – South Africa

Siyabonga Multipurpose Centre has become a beacon of hope in Orange Farm, focusing on poverty alleviation, education and skills development, health and well-being, and environmental conservation and sustainability. Through partnership with Absa, the Centre has engaged 60 volunteers during 2025, reaching 600 beneficiaries including primary and secondary school learners, youth who have completed school, and specific programmes focusing on empowering girls. The main beneficiaries include vulnerable children, young people, and women seeking skills, support, and opportunities for personal development.

The Centre enables volunteering by transparently sharing success stories and pressing needs, helping volunteers understand their impact. They have introduced innovative, community-driven approaches like establishing a sustainable food garden in partnership with Food & Trees for Africa and launching a community library. By focusing on empowerment and community ownership, they ensure volunteering efforts contribute to long-term independence and pride, not just short-term aid.

SIYABONGA
Empowering people

Mamone Science Centre – South Africa

Mamone Science Centre focuses on educational development with particular emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers, digital literacy, and youth empowerment. The organisation has successfully engaged 22 Absa volunteers during 2025, reaching over 1 000 students as main beneficiaries. Their work addresses critical gaps in educational access and career preparation, particularly in underserved communities where exposure to STEM careers and digital skills remains limited.

The Centre benefits from Absa's structured Employee Volunteer Programme, which makes it easy for colleagues to identify and participate in high-impact opportunities. This support has led to better learning environments, improved academic performance, and greater student exposure to STEM career pathways. By integrating volunteering into its core citizenship strategy and using digital storytelling to share successes, Absa ensures the Centre's initiatives create lasting educational transformation.

South Africa |
Nominated by
Innocentia Mamose
Mamushi




MAMONE
Science Centre

South Africa |
Nominated by
Tammy Durman



IMBUMBA FOUNDATION

Imbumba Foundation focuses on Caring4Girls and humanitarian aid, providing comprehensive support that addresses both immediate needs and long-term youth development. Through successful partnership with Absa's P&R CoE, the Foundation enabled the team to meet 2025 CSI initiatives by engaging 23 volunteers who packaged and distributed support to 300 beneficiaries, primarily youth and female learners at school, across Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Durban. Their work embodies the African proverb central to their vision: 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.'

The Foundation enables hands-on volunteering through programmes like Caring4Girls, where Absa staff packaged and distributed thousands of sanitary packs. Their impact restores dignity and enables educational continuity for girls. Innovation is shown through programmes like the holistic Vision 20/20 youth development initiative and large-scale fundraising events, ensuring sustainable support for vulnerable communities through powerful partnerships.



AMREF HEALTH AFRICA

Amref Health Africa in Uganda focuses on gender mainstreaming, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Maternal and Reproductive Health, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

The organisation has engaged 300 community champions/ volunteers and 7 Absa volunteers during 2025, reaching 4 200 total beneficiaries including 2 140 girls aged 10 - 15 years.

Their primary focus serves adolescent girls and young women, addressing critical gaps in menstrual hygiene management, reproductive health education, and access to essential services in underserved communities.

Amref actively engages Absa colleagues in school health outreaches and facility engagements, amplifying impact through volunteer storytelling. Their initiatives have significantly increased school attendance for girls and improved community health resilience. They ensure sustainability by empowering Village Health Teams and local committees, using digital tools for data tracking, and embedding projects within national health systems to create lasting, community-led change.

Uganda |
Nominated by
Julius Busingye



**Dedan Kimathi University
Of Technology – Kenya**



Kenya | Nominated by
Antoninah Moturi

**Siyabonga Multipurpose
Centre – South Africa**



South Africa | Nominated by
Nothulasizwe Mokoena

GOLD

AMREF HEALTH AFRICA



**Uganda | Nominated
by Julius Busingye**

Leading Community Hero

Bheki Khumalo

Bheki leads Ikageng Home in Soweto with unique authority born from personal experience -he grew up in the very home he now manages. This lived experience gives him an extraordinary ability to connect deeply with the children who live there, lead with genuine empathy, and create a safe, nurturing environment that goes beyond just providing shelter. His story is a powerful example of hope and transformation, inspiring both the children and the 22 volunteers who have worked alongside him during 2025, supporting 423 beneficiaries. He has volunteered at the organisation for six months during this period, demonstrating unwavering personal commitment.

Bheki volunteers daily at a local school, coaching soccer, and partnering with Absa to bring former addicts from Ikageng to speak at schools about substance abuse. His hands-on leadership includes running daily aftercare programmes, mentorship sessions, and mobile HIV/TB testing. By collaborating with external partners, he creates meaningful opportunities for volunteers to engage, ensuring the home's work remains consistent, relevant, and deeply impactful.



Ikageng Home in Soweto, South Africa |
Nominated by Nonkululeko Nzimande

Patrick Ayota



Patrick serves as Managing Director of National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Uganda, bringing extensive financial leadership experience including previous roles as Chief Finance Officer at both NSSF and Barclays Bank Uganda (now Absa). Under his leadership, NSSF has engaged 245 volunteers during 2025, including 130 for EDRMS training, 62 for career expos, 15 for Absa collaboration activities, and 86 interns. Over 2 million Ugandans have benefited from NSSF's Financial Literacy Programme, with the Career Expo empowering over 450 000 students.

Patrick's leadership has driven remarkable growth, achieving UGX 20 trillion in assets ahead of schedule and launching the Hi-Innovator programme that created over 32 000 jobs. He enabled sustained volunteering by supporting a 3-year MOU with Absa, moving beyond sporadic engagement. His strategic, long-term vision has positioned NSSF as a key player in national development, using financial literacy and entrepreneurship to drive economic inclusion and empowerment.

National Social Security Fund, Uganda |
Nominated by Pamela Turyatunga



Susan Mbithe Muthoka

Susan leads Safaricom PLC's community engagement initiatives with distinctive vision on partnerships and target audiences. She has been volunteering for two years, and the number of volunteers mobilised reflects the extensive reach of Safaricom's programmes. During the Kenyatta University tour, for example, many departments were represented with each having more than 10 volunteers, including Women in Technology, Human Capital, Marketing, Foundation, suppliers, and agents. For the Girlcode hackathon, 8 volunteer mentors were available across all shifts for the 36-hour event. Safaricom Foundation has reached 4.9 million beneficiaries in the last three years alone.

Susan stands out for her collaborative approach, viewing partners not as service providers but as collaborators toward a common good. She ensures youth programmes offer tangible value like work exposure and start-up kits, not just merchandise. Her most innovative strategy is the 'Safaricom Hook circle,' a collaborative model where youth programmes from different entities join hands instead of working in silos, leveraging resources and building synergies to multiply impact for young people.



Safaricom PLC, Kenya | Nominated
by Antoninah Moturi

Bert Pretorius



Founder of the Mahlasedi Foundation, Bert has been leading volunteering efforts for 16 years, demonstrating exceptional ability to combine compassion with scalable structure. He has mobilised 300 community champions and volunteers while building a network of 15 000 churches through SACOFF (South African Council of Faith-based Organizations) that serves as a standing pool of volunteers nationwide. Through structured food distribution systems, more than 200 000 households have received aid delivered directly to their homes, supported by trained volunteer teams. The Foundation has mobilised over R200 million in food aid, reaching 850 000 people across South Africa.

Bert combines compassion with scalable structure, turning spontaneous relief into an accountable national operation. His innovation includes creating the SACOFF network of 15 000 churches and implementing structured home-delivery systems for efficiency and dignity. Through initiatives like Buckets of Hope and the Mercy Project, he emphasises hands-on service and partnerships, transforming ad-hoc charity into sustainable, transformative volunteer mobilisation that reaches millions.

Mahlasedi Foundation, South Africa |
Nominated by Romaine Malan



Margaret Christine Le Roux

Margaret has been volunteering with Golang Education Outreach for 10 years, mobilising 53 volunteers from CIB Citizenship during Mandela Month 2025, supporting 230 beneficiaries. Her leadership at Golang Education Outreach focuses on expanding digital literacy and technology access in underserved communities, particularly among youth who lack exposure to digital tools and skills. She leads with empathy and vision, ensuring that every volunteer and student feels valued and supported.

Margaret inspires by example, communicating clearly and encouraging collaboration to stay focused on the mission of expanding digital literacy. Under her guidance, the organisation has increased both the number of students served and the quality of its programmes. By forging partnerships with local businesses and institutions, she creates more opportunities for learners, ensuring every project builds a more confident, connected, and capable community.



Golang Education Outreach, South Africa |
Nominated by Madelaine Stassen

Bert Pretorius



Mahlasedi Foundation, South Africa |
Nominated by Romaine Malan

Bheki Khumalo



Ikageng Home in Soweto, South Africa |
Nominated by Nonkululeko Nzimande

GOLD

Patrick Ayota



**National Social Security Fund, Uganda |
Nominated by Pamela Turyatunga**

Client Development Organisations

WORLD VISION GHANA

World Vision Ghana is one of the country's leading development organisations with over four decades of experience driving community transformation through inclusive partnerships. Their programmes span clean water access, education, child protection, health, and livelihoods, improving lives across urban and rural communities. By combining volunteer engagement, faith-based values, and local leadership, World Vision Ghana continues to deliver measurable, sustainable impact that strengthens families and advances national development goals.

In 2024, World Vision Ghana's integrated programmes provided clean water to 252 000 people, livelihood support to 178 000, and child protection services to 766 000. In 2025, they expanded through flagship programmes like THRIVE 2030 and the BORDER Project, and launched Ghana's first national Creation Care Conference. Their partnership with Absa reflects a shared commitment to community-led development, combining volunteer engagement and professional management to achieve generational transformation.

Ghana



World Vision
Ghana

Uganda



AMREF HEALTH AFRICA

Amref Health Africa partners with Absa Uganda on menstrual-hygiene management programmes integrated into schools and communities, focusing on gender mainstreaming, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Maternal and Reproductive Health, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. In 2024, through the Run for Girls Campaign supported by Absa funding, 2 104 girls across 10 schools received reusable pads and training, while 12 500 adolescent girls nationwide benefitted from education and skills sessions. The partnership has mobilised 300 community champions/volunteers plus 7 Absa volunteers, reaching 4 200 total beneficiaries including 2 140 girls aged 10-15 years as primary focus.

The partnership extends beyond funding to active volunteer engagement, with Absa teams joining school outreaches and documenting success stories. This has led to more girls staying in school and making informed health decisions. Amref ensures sustainability by empowering Village Health Teams with digital tools and embedding projects within local government systems, creating community-led, lasting change in health equity and girls' empowerment.



SNV NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Mozambique



The BRILHO Programme, led by SNV Mozambique, is a flagship national initiative promoting renewable energy access and inclusive economic growth. The programme aims to strengthen Mozambique's off-grid energy market by connecting households, small businesses, and communities to affordable, sustainable energy solutions. Through a combination of private-sector engagement, innovation funding, and technical assistance, BRILHO has successfully expanded access to clean energy across the country, supporting renewable technologies ranging from solar home systems to clean cooking solutions that improve quality of life and enable economic participation in rural and peri-urban areas.

Key achievements include providing 2.2 million people with renewable energy access and creating 1 900 jobs in the sector. As a development partner, Absa Bank Mozambique collaborates with SNV to promote sustainable finance and inclusive growth. BRILHO's innovative, market-based approach includes developing financing mechanisms for low-income households and building local entrepreneurship capacity, creating conditions for lasting market transformation that drives comprehensive socioeconomic development.



South Africa



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SOUTH AFRICA

For nearly four decades, SOS Children's Villages South Africa has provided family-based care and stability for orphaned and vulnerable children. The organisation offers safe homes where children grow up within their own culture and faith, receiving access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and emotional support. Operating across eight provinces with 11 programme locations, SOS follows a family-based model that prioritises love, belonging, and long-term development. At the Ennerdale Village in Johannesburg, more than 300 children and families benefit from child-care programmes, family-strengthening initiatives, and youth development projects that promote stability and long-term growth. Nationally, over 700 children are cared for in SOS Villages, while a further 4 500 children are reached through community-based family-strengthening programmes.



Absa's partnership, including employee volunteering and hands-on engagement, helps amplify the organisation's outreach. The SOS model, where each mother cares for six to eight children, has resulted in stronger family bonds, improved safeguarding, and greater educational access. Their holistic approach ensures children can grow up with dignity, hope, and the opportunity to thrive within a loving family environment.

BAYLOR FOUNDATION UGANDA

Uganda



Baylor Foundation Uganda partners with Absa to advance girl-child education and HIV/TB awareness in Fort Portal and nationally. Absa Bank Uganda partnered with the foundation to support its mission of keeping girl children in school, particularly in underserved communities. The challenge was urgent - many schoolgirls were dropping out due to lack of school fees, early pregnancies, and exposure to HIV/AIDS, putting their futures at risk. Through exceptional client relationship management and leadership from Annet Kyoumuhangi (Head of Institutional Banking) and Ahura Michael (Relationship Manager), Absa secured funding for Baylor through rigorous, competitive process for two consecutive years: UGX 50 million in 2024 and UGX 50 million in 2025.

The programme provides 50 girls with tuition, materials, and meals, creating peace of mind and improving academic performance. It addresses critical contextual challenges, including Fort Portal's high HIV prevalence and Uganda's lack of national health insurance. The partnership's success in providing holistic support that integrates health education has informed Absa's national "KH3-7 Hills Run," demonstrating how targeted investment in education and health can break cycles of poverty and vulnerability.



AMREF HEALTH AFRICA



Uganda

SNV NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION



Mozambique

GOLD

WORLD VISION GHANA

The logo for World Vision Ghana is centered within a large, thick, gold-colored circular border. It features the text "World Vision" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "Ghana" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font directly below it. To the right of the text is a stylized orange and yellow graphic element resembling a corner of a flag or a sunburst with a small white star inside.

World Vision
Ghana

Ghana



Your story matters

