

76^{of} 100**Leanne
Emery-Hunter**

Here to be Progressive

**From youth
unemployment to social
impact:** Redefining what
capital can do.

Leanne Emery-Hunter has spent her career turning big, hard problems into workable solutions and she isn't finished yet. As Chief Commercial Officer at the Youth Employment Service (YES), she helped rally corporate South Africa around one of the country's most urgent crises: youth unemployment. Working at the intersection of business and social need, she built the partnerships that gave YES the scale to place hundreds of thousands of young people into their first year of work experience, proof, she says, of "what is possible when business rallies around a shared social challenge."

Today, as Chief Executive Officer of Tshikululu Social Investments, Leanne leads one of South Africa's most influential social investment firms, managing impact funding on behalf of major corporates and mining groups including Anglo American and De Beers. She has taken on the role at a pivotal moment for the sector, pushing Tshikululu to rethink how capital, technology, evidence and partnership can be combined to tackle complex social challenges at scale.

"Social investment cannot simply be about spending money well," she says. "It has to be about solving problems better."

For Leanne, that means bringing together funders, business, government and communities and, critically, listening to the people closest to the problems being solved. Collaboration isn't a nice-to-have, she concedes, the scale of South Africa's challenges makes it a necessity. That conviction extended to the TEDx stage, where Leanne delivered a talk at TEDxJohannesburg arguing that resilience must become a core measure of value in a financial system still built for predictability.

Leanne is also a committed advocate for women's leadership. A GIBS MBA graduate (with distinction) now completing an MPhil in Leading in New Economies, and a 2022 TransUnion Rising Star Awards finalist, she

continues to build a career defined by translating ambition into measurable change for young people, for women, and for the communities Tshikululu's partners serve.

As she puts it: "When women have a genuine voice in shaping the decisions that affect their lives, we don't just improve outcomes for women, we strengthen families, communities and economies. But giving women a voice has to mean more than inviting them into the room. It means listening, sharing power and ensuring that women are able to shape solutions

Your
story
matters

