

IMPACT REPORTING



As part of our journey towards being more than a bank, **we identified TEN areas in which we can make a significant positive impact**, in line with our commitment to driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Africa.

To define these impact areas, we looked at the overlap between our core business as a provider of financial products and services and the needs of Africa's people, businesses, and economies.

We asked ourselves:
what challenges are Africans trying to solve?

The priority issues and targets contained in the UN's Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 and South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) informed our thinking. **This report provides a snapshot of our contribution in ten impact areas.**



Innovation, entrepreneurship and enterprise development

South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) calls for large-scale job creation in the small enterprise sector.

Across Africa, small and micro enterprises play a crucial role in employment creation. Many entrepreneurs and start-ups struggle to access finance to launch their businesses. Many fail within the first two years, making them a risky proposition for credit providers. Africa urgently needs innovative financial solutions for small and micro enterprises. Many of Africa's entrepreneurs and emerging business owners also need to develop their financial and business management skills, to build sustainable enterprises. We're working with our small enterprise clients to develop specific solutions that will enable them to grow, while minimising risk to depositors.



Inclusive economic growth

SDG 8 prioritises the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. We all have a role to play in building a more equitable and sustainable society, broadening economic opportunity and supporting job creation. Standard Bank's core business supports inclusive economic growth by providing financial services that will enable individual businesses to grow and expand into new markets, invest in innovation, improve productivity, **create jobs** and evolve to meet changing customer needs. Our financial solutions enable individuals to grow their savings, buy homes, invest in their futures and insure the things that matter to them.



TWO

ONE



Education, learning and development

SDG 4 calls for **inclusive, quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all**. At Standard Bank, we invest in developing our employees. Our people development programmes **drive continuous learning and development**, to ensure we're equipped to meet the demands of a rapidly changing, increasingly digital world of work. We create opportunities for learners and graduates to build careers with us. Our corporate social investment (CSI) programmes prioritise education, from early childhood development to tertiary level. We are working with clients in the education sector to address the challenge of affordable and accessible student finance.



Employment

Africa's prosperity and potential for sustainable growth depends on **creating decent work opportunities on a large scale**. Countries that fail to tackle high levels of unemployment, particularly among the youth, risk social instability and will miss the opportunity to capitalise on Africa's demographic dividend. **Standard Bank is a major employer in Africa**. We're committed to establishing a diverse workforce and an inclusive working environment, with personal development opportunities for all employees. This stance aligns with the **SDG 5 and South African NDP commitment to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**. We offer a variety of learnerships for school leavers and graduates, alongside in-house skills development and on-the-job training.



THREE



FOUR



FIVE



Financial inclusion

Across Africa, many people remain excluded from the formal financial system. They are limited to transacting in cash, rely on family and friends for credit, and have no personal or business insurance. **We are working to make the formal financial sector more accessible, attractive and affordable**. This requires low-cost, convenient, digital products and services accessible even without a bank account; alternatives to conventional systems of collateral; and consumer education to enable people to manage their finances more effectively.

...continues on the next page.

...continues from the previous page.

IMPACT REPORTING

continued

Combating financial crime

Effective anti-money laundering controls are essential to protect the integrity of the financial system, which in turn is crucial to economic and social development. The banking system is central to collecting and moving funds. Banks play a crucial role in identifying and preventing criminal activity, by detecting and reporting suspicious financial transactions that may be linked to fraud, corruption, criminal syndicates and terrorist organisations. As financial services become more digitised, cybersecurity is a growing concern. Standard Bank has robust controls in place to ensure the integrity of our systems and the security of our clients' funds.

SIX



SEVEN

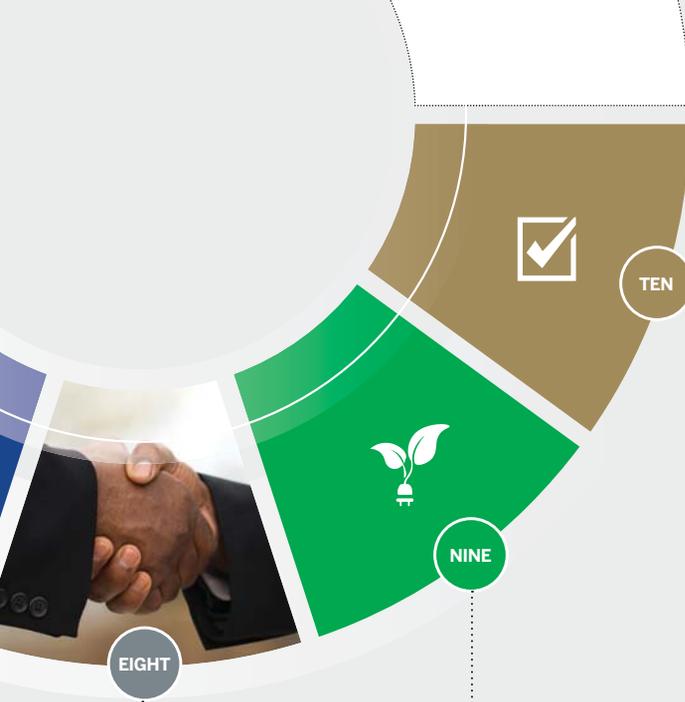


Infrastructure

SDG 7 prioritises access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all, while SDG 9 focuses on the development of resilient infrastructure to enable inclusive and sustainable industrialisation.

The African Development Bank estimates that Africa needs to invest at least US\$130 billion a year to address the infrastructure gaps that undermine economic growth and competitiveness across the continent. Most African capital markets lack the capacity to finance large-scale infrastructure projects. We're working with African governments and development institutions to enable funding for crucial developmental infrastructure in the energy, transport, telecommunications and health sectors.





Good governance

SDG 16 prioritises the building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Standard Bank aims to set an example by **doing the right business the right way** and embedding ethical decision-making across the bank. We engage with government and regulators where we operate to support evidence-based policymaking and constructive dialogue between the public and private sectors. We're also working towards developing a more systematic approach to stakeholder engagement as part of our **responsible corporate citizenship**.



African economic development

The AU's Agenda 2063 highlights the importance of infrastructure to connect Africa. The deepening of trade and investment flows between African countries and emerging markets such as China, can potentially drive economic integration. This requires expanding manufacturing and processing capacity within African economies, reducing administrative and transaction costs of cross-border trade, and improving transportation, logistics and communication infrastructure to support intra-African trade. We're working with our strategic partners, ICBC, **to grow and deepen trade and investment links between African economies** and Chinese investors and businesses. We are also working with African governments to support the development of enabling infrastructure.

Environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation

SDG 13 prioritises urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Africa is particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change – for instance, access to clean water, drought and flooding, and the impact of changing weather patterns on harvests. We're working with clients to develop appropriate solutions for mitigating the effects of climate change, especially in agriculture. **Standard Bank is a major investor in renewable energy technologies across Africa.** We have also invested in renewable solutions to reduce our direct carbon footprint.

