



microloan
foundation

Zimbabwe
March 2025

MicroLoan Foundation Malawi is a subsidiary of MicroLoan Foundation UK, registered charity number 1104287 (England and Wales); SC041941 (Scotland)

MicroLoan Foundation Zimbabwe

MicroLoan Foundation Zimbabwe (MicroLoan Zimbabwe) was launched in April 2017. The organisation operates in the northeast of the country, with Harare serving as the Head Office.

MicroLoan Zimbabwe provides pro-poor financial services, focusing on clients living in rural areas to reach financially excluded and underserved communities. There is high demand for appropriate financial products and services, and a real need for capital, business support, and financial literacy training. At the end of Q1 2025, the institution had 2,740 active clients and an outstanding loan book of USD 311,349.

Leadership Team

Mateo Zanetic Regional Director Africa and Chief Executive Officer Zimbabwe

As the Regional Director Africa, Mateo is responsible for overall operational development and results, specifically across Zambia and Zimbabwe. He works closely with the senior management teams and he leads the Social Performance Management function for the group. As a member of the Boards across all three of MicroLoan Foundation's subsidiaries in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe he ensures operations are working effectively and efficiently. As of February 2019, Mateo serves as the Chief Executive Officer of MicroLoan Zimbabwe.

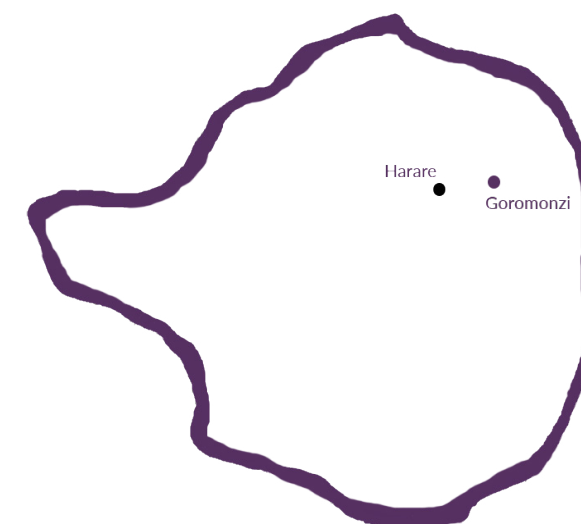
Mateo holds a degree in Management Accounting and Corporate Finance from Wits University.

Samson Songore Chief Executive Officer Zimbabwe

Samson Songore, CEO of MicroLoan Foundation Zimbabwe, brings 20+ years' experience in microfinance leadership across Southern Africa. Formerly with Futuro Micro Banco and SEF, he excels in operations, training, and financial inclusion. He holds banking and microfinance qualifications and is dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs through sustainable services.

Ruvimbo Makoni Finance Manager, MicroLoan Zimbabwe

Ruvimbo leads financial strategy, compliance, and operations of MicroLoan Zimbabwe. With 15+ years' experience in Zimbabwe and the UK, she's an FCCA Fellow known for strengthening finance functions, mentoring teams, and driving efficiency. She also contributed to public finance standards through the ACCA Zimbabwe Public Sector Sub-committee.



Social Performance Management

MicroLoan Foundation works towards achieving a long-term outcome that permits poor rural women to cope better with the challenges and stresses they face. We monitor activities and progress towards social and economic goals for our beneficiaries using rigorous and globally recognised systems. Our Social Performance Management model is often cited as an example of best practice, and is recognised by TrueLift, a global initiative pushing for accountability and learning in pro-poor programmes.

Key Products and Services

£ Four month business loan

This product is offered to women to help them start income generating businesses. It has a 7% interest rate per month and is repayable over 8 fortnights. No collateral is required.

Customer Hotline

This is to provide customers with ongoing support on any operational issues. It is monitored monthly to analyse any common issues coming from clients.

£ Savings

In addition to loans, MicroLoan facilitates savings among clients. Since we are a non-deposit taking microfinance organisation, we facilitate savings for clients through accounts with third parties such as traditional banks or mobile money providers. Clients can withdraw savings at any time required with consent from the group.

Financial literacy and business training

We offer pre and post loan disbursement training modules. They aim to help clients understand the purpose of the loans and ensure they are equipped to run and manage their businesses. Training modules include: market research, profit analysis, budgeting and the importance of savings.

MicroLoan Zimbabwe News

Macroeconomic situation

The Government has begun transitioning to calculating inflation using the new local currency, the ZiG, with official rates expected from April. Preliminary annual inflation remains extremely high at around 182%. The ZiG experienced a modest devaluation, moving from 25.80 to 26.77 against the USD. However, the Government’s decision to continue allowing the use of the USD until at least 2030 is a stabilising move, helping MicroLoan Zimbabwe to sustain the economic landscape and support operational continuity and growth.

Climate and agricultural outlook

Following a prolonged drought in 2024, Zimbabwe experienced a very good rainy season beginning at the end of the year. Above-average harvests are forecasted for maize and cereals, improvinweg food security and contributing to a more optimistic business outlook across rural communities. This recovery is expected to support better loan repayment and economic activity.

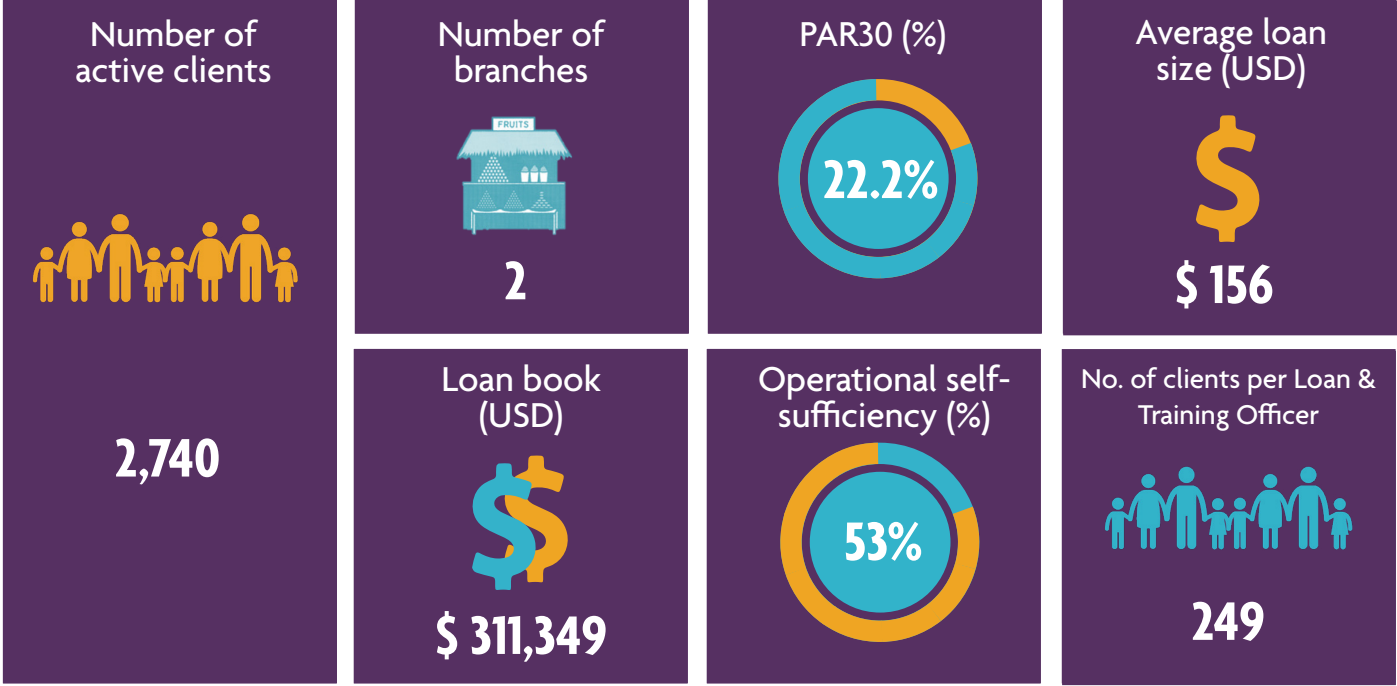
Reduced Interest Rate to Support Client Recovery

In response to improving economic conditions and a strong anticipated harvest, MicroLoan Zimbabwe has reduced its monthly interest rate from 10% to 7%, easing the financial burden on clients as they rebuild following the 2024 drought. To help offset the reduced income from interest, a one-time flat disbursement fee of USD 5 per loan was introduced in March 2025. This adjustment ensures continued operational sustainability while maintaining a more affordable borrowing option for clients.

Expanding digital financial inclusion with EcoCash

In March 2025, MicroLoan Zimbabwe began disbursing loans through EcoCash, offering clients an additional safe and convenient option alongside the MyCash platform and cash. This digital channel enables faster, more secure access to funds while supporting our broader shift away from cash handling toward fully digital financial services. We are also working to enable loan repayments via EcoCash, expected to launch within the next two months pending regulatory approval.

Operational highlights



Source: MicroLoan Performance Report. Exchange rate based on Oanda at June 2025

Key Partnerships

Whole Planet Foundation is part of the Whole Foods Market and is dedicated to poverty alleviation around the world. They partner with MicroLoan Zimbabwe across all three countries of operations to facilitate growth. In Zimbabwe, they are providing a grant of \$350,000 to grow the loanbook and outreach between 2023 and 2025.

The Paul Foundation FoundationThe Paul Foundation is a grantmaking trust and social impact investor. Since 2016, their generous support has been instrumental in the launch and growth of MicroLoan Zimbabwe. Initial grants helped establish operations, while subsequent funding supported operational expenses and loan book expansion. The most recent grant of £19,350 was received in March 2025, bringing their total grant contributions to £223,351. In addition to grants, the Paul Foundation provided a USD100,000 loan at the end of 2023. The first tranche of USD50,000 was drawn down in 2023, with the remaining amount disbursed in February 2025.

If you would like any further detail about the information included in this document please contact MicroLoan Foundation’s Group Chief Executive Officer, Medha Wilson.

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