



microloan
foundation

South Africa
June 2026

MicroLoan Foundation South Africa is a subsidiary of MicroLoan Foundation UK
Registered charity number 1104287 (England and Wales); SC041941 (Scotland)

MicroLoan Foundation South Africa

MicroLoan Foundation South Africa (MicroLoan South Africa) launched operations in July 2025, marking the organisation's expansion into its fourth country of operation. Established in Phuthaditjhaba in South Africa's Free State Province, near the KwaZulu-Natal border, the programme builds on MicroLoan Foundation's proven model of providing responsible financial services, business training and financial literacy to women entrepreneurs in underserved rural communities.

During Q2 2026, MicroLoan South Africa continued to build momentum, reaching 2,545 active clients and an outstanding loan portfolio of R6.57 million. Operational Self-Sufficiency stood at 59%, while PAR30 remained at 3%, reflecting continued focus on portfolio quality. Arrears were largely cleared by the end of June and disbursements began to increase, supporting renewed momentum. As the young operation continues to scale, management expects to recover its growth trajectory and narrow the gap to budget by year-end.

Leadership Team

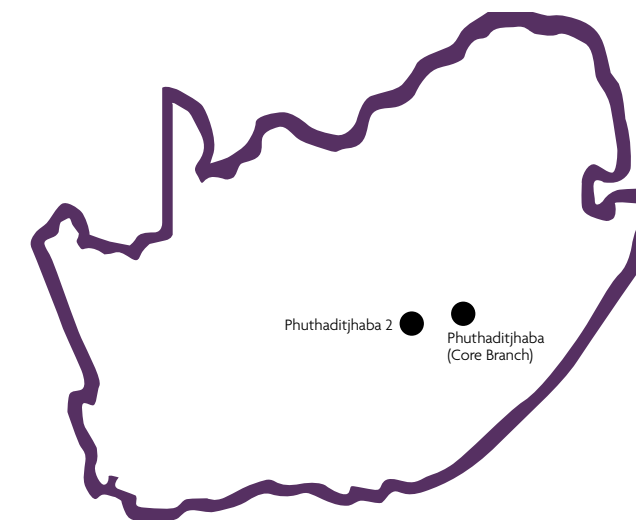
Mateo Zanetic

Regional Director, Africa/Chief Executive Officer - South Africa

As Regional Director, Africa, Mateo is responsible for the overall operational development, performance and strategic growth of MicroLoan Foundation's programmes across Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. He works closely with each country's senior management team to strengthen operational performance, drive sustainable growth and ensure the delivery of high-quality, client-centred financial services. Mateo also leads the Group's Social Performance Management function, embedding responsible finance and client protection across all operations.

As a member of the Boards of MicroLoan Foundation's subsidiaries in Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, he provides strategic oversight to ensure the organisation operates effectively, efficiently and in line with its mission. In addition to his regional responsibilities, Mateo serves as the Chief Executive Officer of MicroLoan South Africa, leading the organisation's newest country programme as it expands access to financial services for women entrepreneurs and establishes a strong foundation for sustainable growth.

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



Social Performance Management

Social Performance Management (SPM) ensures MicroLoan Foundation stay true to its mission of empowering financially excluded women to lift themselves out of poverty. It translates social goals into practice through ongoing measurement and improvement. Recognised by TrueLift as a best-practice model, our SPM approach in South Africa uses several tools including the internally developed MIS system for real-time data tracking; Outcomes Questionnaires to monitor client well-being; and Client Surveys for deeper insights into social impact and service delivery. Together, these tools enable MicroLoan to evaluate progress and adapt the support to meet clients' evolving needs.

Key Products and Services

£ Four month business loan

The Business Loan is designed to help women establish or grow income-generating businesses by providing accessible working capital to invest in stock, equipment and other business needs. The loan carries an interest rate of 7% per month and is repayable over a period of 4 to 6 months, depending on the loan term. No collateral is required, making the product accessible to women who may not qualify for traditional bank financing while supporting responsible entrepreneurship and sustainable business growth.

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.

£ Community Savings (Stokvels)

In addition to providing business loans, MicroLoan South Africa encourages clients to participate in Stokvels, community-based savings groups that have long been an important part of South Africa's informal financial system. Participation is voluntary, with women coming together to save regularly as a group while supporting one another in building financial resilience.

Members contribute savings into a shared fund and are able to borrow from the group's pooled savings at interest rates determined by the group. The interest earned remains within the Stokvel, increasing the value of the fund over time. At the end of each savings cycle, members receive a payout based on their contributions and the group's accumulated returns.

By bringing women together through its lending groups, MicroLoan South Africa helps create an environment where clients can establish and strengthen these community savings schemes alongside the organisation's financial services. This complementary approach enables women to access business finance while also building a culture of saving, mutual support and long-term financial security.

\$ 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.

MicroLoan South Africa News

Macroeconomic situation

South Africa's economic recovery remained uneven during Q2 2026, with inflation rising to 5.0% in June, driven largely by higher fuel prices. While economic activity continued to recover, unemployment remained a significant challenge, rising to 33.6% in Q2 from 32.7% in Q1. Renewed global energy and geopolitical pressures also contributed to uncertainty around household and business costs. These conditions continued to place pressure on low-income households and small businesses, reinforcing the importance of accessible financial services that enable women entrepreneurs to sustain livelihoods, manage financial pressures and build resilience.

Operational highlights



Source: MicroLoan Performance Report. Exchange rate based on Oanda at June 2026

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.

Email: contact@mlf.org.uk

Phone number: +44 (0)20 8827 1688