# Vodacom

# A social contract with our stakeholders from 1994 to 2024





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# **Vodacom –** a social contract with our stakeholders

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Over the past three decades, Vodacom has cemented its position as a pioneer and leader in the telecommunications industry, shaping the digital landscape of South Africa and beyond. From humble beginnings to groundbreaking innovations, Vodacom has consistently pushed boundaries, driving digital inclusion and transforming lives.

# Foreword



As we commemorate the remarkable journey of Vodacom over the **past 30 years**, we find ourselves reflecting on the **transformative impact** this company has had in **the communities** we serve."

# Since its inception in 1994, Vodacom has continually evolved, adapting to the ever-changing landscape of the needs of our country.

Since our inception in 1994, Vodacom has not only shaped the telecommunications landscape in South Africa, but also transformed millions of lives in the communities we serve. From enabling access to voice services in remote areas for the first time, to today's digital services that enhance education, healthcare and financial inclusion, our purpose has always been clear – to connect everyone for a better future.

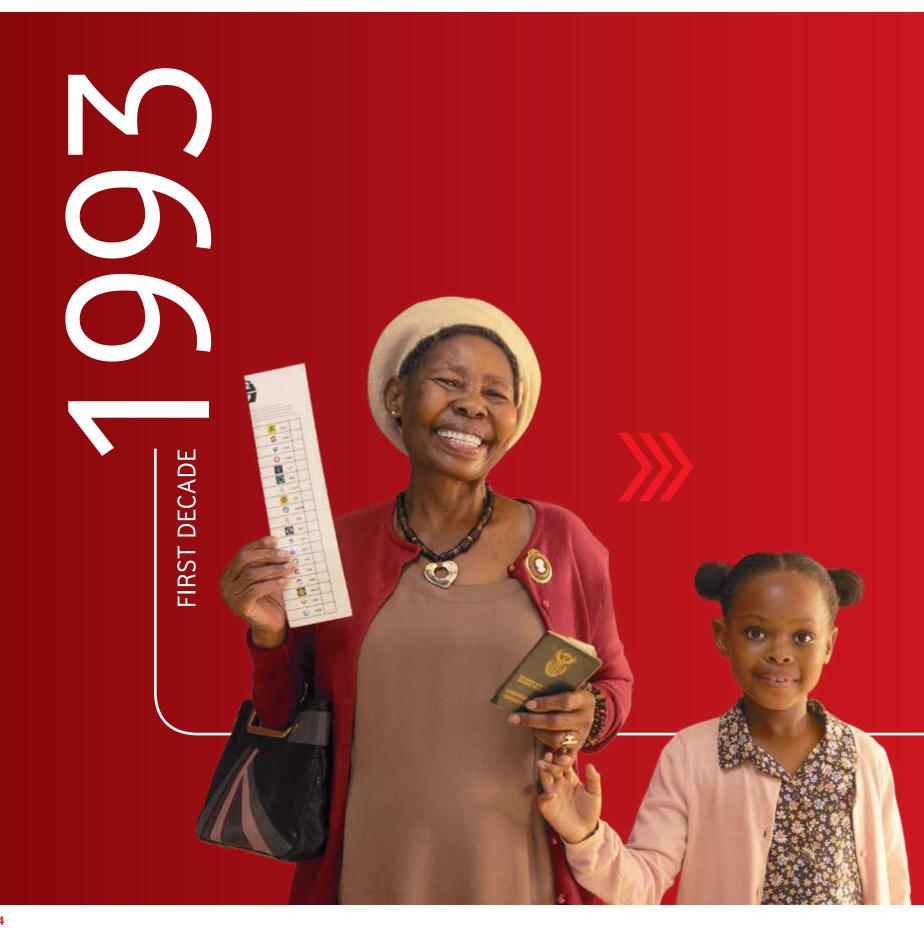
As South Africa has evolved from its early days of democracy, we have remained steadfast in this commitment. Our social contract demonstrates our ambition to empower people, protect the planet and enhance trust with our stakeholders through our connectivity and technology. Using our innovative capabilities, we are helping to address the country's most pressing needs while supporting sustainable socio-economic growth.

In our purpose-led initiatives, we are increasing access to quality education and healthcare, combating gender-based violence, enabling small businesses to thrive in a digital world and uplifting communities through inclusive digital financial solutions. Equally, we recognise our responsibility to reduce our environmental footprint to safeguard our planet for generations to come. This includes reducing our carbon emissions, promoting the use of renewable energy, using technology to enable our customers to reduce their emissions and ensuring responsible water and waste management.

To make a meaningful impact requires collaboration. I would like to extend my gratitude to our customers, partners and employees for playing an essential role in our success over the past 30 years. Together, we have been able to accomplish these remarkable milestones and drive positive change for South Africa. Thank you.

Looking ahead, we are excited about harnessing the potential possibilities of this new era of technology but also aware that there is still much to do if we are to achieve an inclusive and sustainable digital society. As we continue to fulfil our purpose, we affirm our commitment to our social contract and creating a connected future for all.

Sitho Mdlalose CEO of Vodacom South Africa

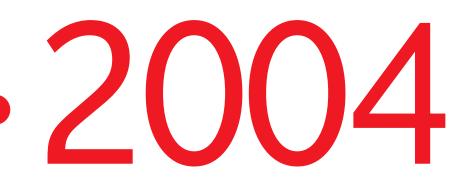


















Vodacom published its first annual report, in which the CEO notes that **Mr Nelson Mandela**, **Mr Thabo Mbeki**, **Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and Mr Jay Naidoo** were among Vodacom's first customers.

Vodacom partners with Pick n Pay and Teljoy and commits to put **22 000 cellphones** 



valued at >R56 million, into the hands of black entrepreneurs.

Named the **fastest-growing telecoms company in Africa** by various media publications.

South Africa's first democratic elections are held, during which the government agrees to a limited test phase before commercial switch-on.

# **1 250 cellphones** are distributed to election officials.

# Expansion outside South Africa – and the 1995 Rugby World Cup

### **Empowering people**





Vodacom sponsored the South African national rugby team, **the Springboks, who go on to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup.** 



Launched Vodacom bursaries and trainee schemes in the disciplines of electrical engineering, IT and accounting at both university and technikon level. Vodacom was the first network to offer a commercial cellular fax/data service and the first to offer a cellular **pay-as-you-use access to the internet with Yebo!net.**  Vodacom introduced several affordable bundled tariff packages, such as the Weekender (free calls over weekends), with the objective of driving digital inclusion.

# Vodacom Community Services

In 1995, a year after the election, the new South Africa was driving the objective of improving the lives of millions of excluded and disadvantaged communities. One of the challenges was the significant backlog in infrastructure. While the country had great roads, electricity and telephony, most of the population was excluded. When Vodacom's licence was issued, the company was determined to address the imbalance. As cellphones grew popular, Vodacom Community Services was working hard in disadvantaged communities to enable many people to make their first phone call ever.



The Community Services concept was aimed at deploying



# Prepaid service democratising connectivity

**Empowering people** 

First in the world to launch a prepaid service. Vodago connected 60 000 customers in the first month.



Introduction of GSM technology, a digital network standard for second-generation (2G) cellular networks, enabling a high volume of voice calls, SMS and data transfer, among others.

Launched a **multidisciplinary training academy** that offers accredited courses, including handset and product training programmes.

Vodafone and Venfin sold a 5% stake in Vodacom to Hosken Consolidated Investments,

# a B-BBEE\* company, for R118 million.

# Protecting the planet

**First cellular mast camouflaged as a palm tree,** in Durbanville, Western Cape, to reduce visual impact on the environment.

\* Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment

1997

# A commitment to the National Environmental Policy

### **Empowering people**

**Expanded network coverage to rural areas** and introduced the first community phone programme.

The South African market reached the one-million customer mark, of which

606 000 were Vodacom customers.



## Protecting the planet

Vodacom publicly **committed to the National Environmental Policy** and launched an environmental awareness campaign, promoting sustainable practices among customers.



# **1998** — World's first cellular shopping mall

Empowering people

March 1998, opening of Vodaworld

- world's first cellular shopping mall.

Vodacom **launched an initiative to enable the public to blacklist stolen devices** and to discourage the purchasing of those devices.

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1 And Charles

# The launch of the Vodacom Foundation

### **Empowering people**

Launched internet and data services for mobile customers.



**Vodacom Foundation**, the corporate social investment (CSI) arm of Vodacom, was established to drive social development initiatives.



The Vodacom

Foundation contributed

>R10.5

million

towards various community development programmes focusing on areas such as education and health.

## Protecting the planet

We **received ISO 14001 certification** for our environmental management system, a first for mobile operators.

# Vodacom launches South Africa's cheapest cellular package

In August 1999, Vodacom made cellular services accessible to anyone who could afford R10 per month with the launch of R120 Vodago incomer voucher, dropping the entry level to its lowest level ever and making cellular accessible to low-income users. This product provided the subscriber with a one-year airtime window for free incoming calls and free calls to voicemail and emergency services. Vodacom network covers 92% of South Africans

**Empowering people** 

### Our network covers

# 92% of South Africans.

Started funding the African Children's Feeding Scheme (ACFS) with a total contribution of R9.5 million (from 2000 to 2024). ACFS provides daily meals to schoolchildren in and around Meadowlands.

Former president Nelson Mandela officially opens the Cangci Comprehensive Technical High School and the Daliwonga Clinic built with R10 million funding from Vodacom.

## Protecting the planet

Vodacom funds the Wildlife Breeding Resource Centre, a working group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Vodacom Social Contract 1994 to 2024 11

# Launch of Vodacom4U

### Empowering people

Mount Kilimanjaro, highest point in the world to be covered by GSM.



# Vodacom completes its **R124 million Century City regional headquarters** in Cape Town.



**Launch of Vodacom4U**, an affordable package for the youth (16-24 years), with 1.3 million customers in the first six months.

# Partnerships for a better future

# Empowering people

Vodacom constructed an automated warehouse and distribution facility to ensure efficient distribution with a total spend of

# R35 million.



to the Women & Men Against Child Abuse non-governmental organisation (NGO), which is committed to fighting for the rights of children.

Vodacom launched its first **e-Learning resource centre**, where redundant personal computers were refurbished and installed in schools.

# Protecting the planet



Vodacom **joins the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF),** South Africa, as a corporate member.

Vodacom becomes a **corporate member of the Peace Parks Foundation** linking transfrontier conservation areas into "peace parks".

# - The network covered 900 000 km of SA's roads and reached 95% of the population

### **Empowering people**



Adopted a different, more comprehensive approach to data and **launched MyLife**, our GPRS and MMS data offering, which also included photo messaging.

# Contributed **R2 million**

towards the Cell-Life project, an HIV and AIDS initiative.



Vodacom Customer Care becomes multilingual.



A Vodacom Community Services programme was published by the World Resources Institute in partnership with Columbia Business School, the University of Michigan Ross Business School and the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School in 2003.

"Vodacom Community Services, a programme of Vodacom, South Africa's largest cellular phone company, is a successful example of how business and government can work together to achieve significant social and economic goals. Community Services began, under a 1994 government mandate, to provide telecommunications services in under-serviced, disadvantaged communities. Vodacom's development of an innovative way to meet this mandate, via entrepreneur-owned and operated phone shops, provided both affordable communication services to millions of South Africans and empowered thousands of previously disadvantaged individuals with income-generating opportunities and lasting business skills."

### Protecting the planet

Re-certification of Vodacom's Environmental Management System to the ISO 14001 standard. **Commenced with the management of bird species** nesting on our towers. Vodacom implemented a digital system to monitor the consumption of resources with a monthly view.

# First 3G network in Africa

**Empowering people** 





Vodacom launched the first 3G network in Africa.



Launched the first speaking phone for blind persons to enable them to use the phone independently.



Launched the first dedicated call centre for consumers living with disabilities.



Initiated programmes supporting SMEs\* in the supply chain sector.



# **25 000** Community Services phones

deployed, empowering 1 962 previously disadvantaged entrepreneurs.

\* Small and Medium-sized Enterprise



By 2004, the Vodacom Foundation had invested more than

**R142 million** in various initiatives aimed at addressing social skills since 1999.

# Contributed >R19 million

that facilitated lifesaving cardiac interventions and surgery for children coming from poor households from 2004 to 2020.

# 2004 continued



### Contributed

# R3.1 million

Little

Riding Hood

towards the building of a children's section at the Jabavu Library in Soweto, fully equipping it with books and information and communication technology (ICT) equipment.



To drive digital inclusion in Madombidzha in Limpopo, this area becomes the home of the

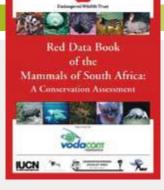
# first of Vodacom's 25 000 community phone shops

upgraded to a communications centre offering internet, email, fax and scanning services.

### Protecting the planet



Vodacom awarded the Raptor Conservationist of the Year award for protecting nests of the endangered martial eagle on Vodacom's infrastructure.



0.45

Actively involved and participated in the compilation and **publication** of the Red Data Book of the Mammals of South Africa in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust.







# Launch of the 46664 branded prepaid product

# **Empowering people**

Since 1999, the **Vodacom Foundation had contributed more than R180 million** cumulatively until 2005, towards numerous community upliftment programmes.



Vodacom **launched the 46664 branded prepaid** starter packs in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

**Vodacom Talking Points,** a loyalty programme exclusively for Vodacom prepaid customers was launched.

On 1 December 2005, Vodacom became the **first South African** cellular network to bring its customers mobile TV.



Vodacom **becomes the first to market the "pocket office", BlackBerry**, with more than 1 million users that year.

## Protecting the planet



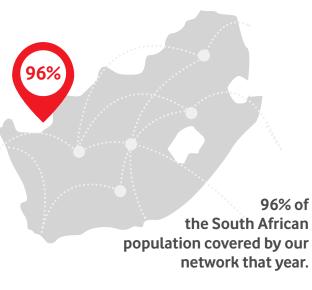
Sustainability Management and Reporting functions established.

> Vodacom established a council to adopt environmental management framework best practices.

Vodacom **repairs more than**38000
devices per month.

# 96% of the South African population

# **Empowering people**



We launched the **first 3G HSDP** (High-Speed Downlink Packet Access) network in South Africa.



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In 2006, Vodacom became the first African operator to provide billing information access to all its customers.

In 2006, Vodacom launched its **Graduate Programme Females in Technology,** and by 2009, 48 women had been empowered in the ICT industry with a total spend of

# R25 million.

The Films and Publications Board (FPB) established a hotline to report the dissemination of images of child sexual abuse and Vodacom sponsored the FPB officers with 3G Mobile Connect cards and 3G SIM cards, enabling the hotline to perform at optimal speed and efficiency.



a programme to drive employee volunteering and payroll giving to CSI programmes.

## Protecting the planet

Vodacom South Africa again unconditionally retained International Standards Organisation **ISO 14001 re-certification** as audited by accredited auditors DEKRA.



# A SMILE for the future

Empowering people



# Contributed **>R25 million towards the Smile Foundation**,

which helps children in need of surgery for treatable facial ailments and anomalies, with 797 beneficiaries to date.

Vodacom has partnered with the Smile Foundation since 2007 to provide surgery to children with facial anomalies.



### Vodacom spent **R1.6 million on the** renovations of paediatric surgery ward **32** at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital.

The Vodacom Foundation purchased **ICT equipment to the value of R1.4 million** for the Reakgona Disability Unit of the University of Limpopo.

### Protecting the planet

Vodacom repairs more than **75 000** devices per month.



# The launch of Vodacom Business

Empowering people

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# Vodacom Business is launched

as part of our plan to reposition Vodacom as a leading provider of converged information and communication solutions.

Vodacom launched an adult content management system, the first and to date only mobile system that enables parents to "opt out" their children from receiving mature content.

# Launched **YeboTradas**, which enabled the distribution of airtime in rural areas

by customers, recruiting thousands of young people to form part of the channel. The system required no physical stock as airtime was traded via SMS.

# Lest

# Vodacom South Africa announces its **R7.5 billion** B-BBEE transaction

**(6.25% of VSA),** one of the largest B-BBEE transactions in the local industry, making the share available to strategic partners, black South Africans and Vodacom staff.

# YeboYethu Limited was formed with the acquisition of 3.44% of Vodacom South Africa shares.

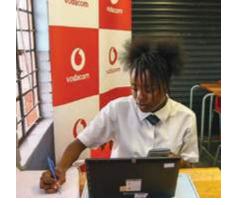
The black public held 55% interest in the company, with the balance held by Vodacom employees.

# Expanded the Speaking

**Smartphone** range for visually impaired persons. Provided a range of Speaking phones, thus increasing access to devices.

### We launched the **Vodacom** Foundation Mobile Education programme and connected nine teacher centres

and connected nine teacher centres with technology and connectivity.



# Between 2008 and 2024, Vodacom donated:

# >R10.3 million to the South African Council for the Blind,

for its cataract programme, which provides cataract operations to previously disadvantaged individuals. More than 14 500 individuals having benefited to date.



# **R6.4 million** towards New BeginningZ Haven – helping to house

**New BeginningZ Haven** – helping to house abandoned, abused and neglected babies and toddlers, assisting >1 700 children since 2008.

# **R7.9 million** spent on the upkeep of children residing at Orlando Children's Home in Soweto, supporting 960 children.



**Vodacom launched Yebo4Less**, a service that allows Vodacom prepaid customers to benefit from up to 99% discount on calls made to other Vodacom numbers.



### Vodacom announced **Pieter Uys** as Vodacom Group CEO, replacing Alan Knott-Craig, from 1 October 2008.

# Protecting the planet

## Vodacom achieved a rating of

**90.8%** following an external audit for compliance with the South African environmental legislation, as conducted by Lexis-Nexis-Butterworths in February 2008.



# Listed on the JSE

### **Empowering people**



Launched the very first user-friendly phone for elderly persons, with a big-button keypad for an enhanced experience.

### The Vodacom Foundation announced a contribution of R450 000 towards the

start-up costs and upkeep of the New Beginningz Baby Haven's new premises, which was donated by the Joosub Jamaney Khan Family Trust. The much-needed premises are used by New Beginningz to house orphans and abandoned, abused and neglected babies and toddlers, giving them the opportunity to experience love within a nurturing environment.



Mama Albertina Sisulu, was honoured by the Water Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa (WSPCCA) and the Vodacom Foundation at a Mother's Day function in Johannesburg for her legacy of care for underprivileged children. At the same event, the Vodacom Foundation handed over a cheque of nearly R2 million to the WSPCCA. Approximately half of this donation was used to enable the centre to provide training and development to doctors and nurses from all over Africa in the early diagnosis, management and delivery of paediatric cardiac services.

One of the nation's best-loved mothers.

# Protecting the planet



Awarded Sustainability Leadership Award by the WWF

# Vodacom **launched a handset recycling programme**, with 12 400 handsets recycled.



### Vodacom trials using renewable energy sources (fuel cells, solar and wind power) and initiates greening activities at selected office buildings.

A greener, healthier and more beautiful environment ensued from the outcome of a tree-planting session by **Vodacom and Johannesburg City Parks in Tennessee Park, Cosmo City**, on 26 February. Vodacom staff from the Midrand campus joined Cosmo City residents to plant 150 trees in the area.





### The Vodacom Beach Clean Up Campaign received a boost from uShaka Sea World, in Durban, when the 120 cleaners and 12 supervisors who executed the campaign were educated about the negative effects of litter on the coastal environment.

Sea World Education Centre director Jone Porter and her staff compiled a short yet informative document for the 132 staff employed by Vodacom for the campaign. Ten cleaners and one supervisor deployed at 12 of South Africa's busiest beaches, worked with municipal cleaning teams to keep the coastline clean and safe between 15 December 2009 and 7 January 2010.

# A year to discover graduates

# **Empowering people**

Launched the **Discover Graduate Programme** to identify and nurture future talent.



Vodacom Foundation celebrated its 10th birthday, donating over **R500** million since inception until 2010.



Vodacom introduced several new ultra low-cost handsets offering basic functionality and retailing for around R200.

Launched **Night Owl**, which provides a free allocation of data for use between midnight and 5am, with the amount of data depending on the customer's data bundle.

**Launched Mobi Jobs**, a solution that enables customers to access over 20 000 jobs on their mobile phones, allowing them to create a mini-CV, browse jobs and subscribe to job alerts. Vodacom, in partnership with Nedbank, **launches M-Pesa in South Africa.** 





### Heart surgery youngster joins Boks in making history

On August 2010, 10-year-old Brenden Cook joined the Springboks in making history when he ran onto the field with the team for their first ever international rugby match played in Soweto. That the youngster was able to do so in good health is due to life-changing cardiac ablation surgery he underwent in 2008, made possible through a partnership between the Vodacom Foundation and the WSPCCA.

### Vodacom is changing the world

Vodacom launched an initiative called Change the World that gave 10 people the opportunity to work at one of 10 South Africanbased charitable organisations, for six months and receive a salary.

### One hundred children received life-saving heart surgery at Red Cross Children's Hospital

One hundred children in the Western Cape received life-saving heart surgery and a new lease on life, thanks to a partnership between the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Foundation, Vodacom and the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital.



# 2010 continued



In May 2010 **Vodacom announced the arrival of Linkbook** – a low-cost compact computer designed specifically to provide users with simple and affordable internet access. The Linkbook's operating system was geared primarily towards a user-friendly web experience.

In December 2010 Vodacom announced that it would spearhead an integrated platform for the development of mobile technology solutions in the management of HIV and Aids. **The Vodacom mHealth Alliance for HIV/Aids** was a consortium of several

consortium of several organisations working directly in the field of HIV/Aids and providing support services to reduce the spread of the disease.



### Protecting the planet

Vodacom adopts King III.



Participated in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for the first time.



In May 2010 Vodacom launched a technologyenabled disaster fundraising platform, **Vodacom Red Alert**, which enabled its customers and employees to donate money to large-scale humanitarian disaster relief efforts using an SMS or USSD number.

Two weeks into the Vodacom **Beach Clean Up campaign**, South Africa's beaches were getting busier as the New Year period approached. To ease the pressure, 190 unemployed people assisted municipalities along South Africa's coastline to keep litter from entering the ocean, along with efforts to educate the public on litter prevention.



In a bid to use South Africa's abundant sunshine more effectively and reduce reliance on electricity, Vodacom **launched the VF 247 low-cost solar-powered cellphone.** Developed by Vodafone, this device had the unique ability to charge on the go and made it possible for consumers to benefit from mobile communications even in areas where electricity is scarce.



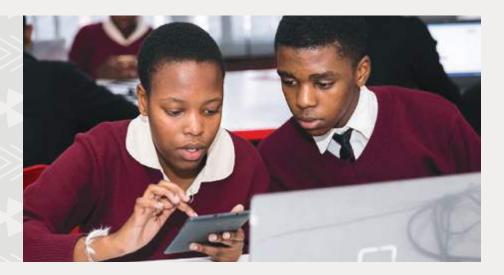
# The year we rebranded from blue and green to red

Our purpose was identified as Connecting YOU, creating possibilities and changing lives.



vodacom

com



To democratise education through technology, Vodacom partnered to launch the Mobile Education Programme, giving schools access to mobile technology and ICT resources.

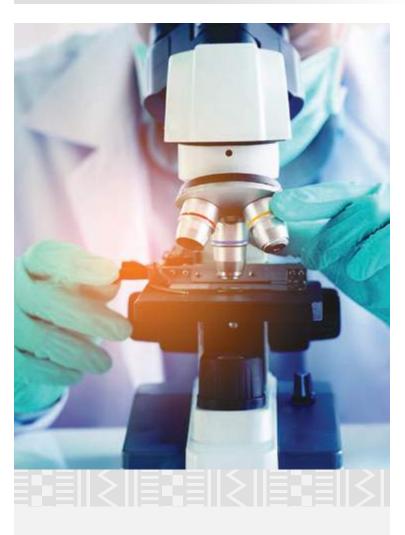


# Launched Airtime Advance

which gives qualifying prepaid customers R10 credit when their airtime runs out.

In 2011 Vodacom's Airtime Advance service helped more than 200 000 people to remain connected – in less than two weeks since it launched. The service enabled prepaid customers to access R10 worth of airtime, which is repaid in the next recharge.

### **Empowering people**

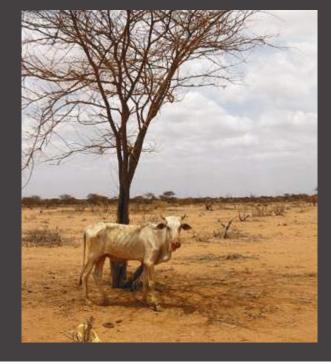




## **R14 million** investment in the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV research unit.



The United Nations (UN) reported that, more than 3.7 million people in Somalia – around a third of the population – were on the brink of starvation. In response, **Vodacom launched a donor relief campaign** enabling its customers to donate towards relief efforts via SMS.



Vodacom Business successfully secured a deal in which its LiveTrack vehicle tracking system, a **machine-tomachine managed service solution**, was used to assist Santam in launching its Safer Driver campaign. The campaign enabled fleet owners and individuals to have the LiveTrack device installed in their cars to monitor driver behaviour.



### Protecting the planet

Through the **first Community Power initiative**, the residents of Emfihlweni benefited from excess electricity produced by over-provisioned solar power that also recharged the batteries of the local base station.

Aligned our sustainability reporting with the **Global Reporting Initiative for the first time.** 

**Introduced free cooling to save electricity** and reduce emissions at our cellular masts.

Ranked 6th among the JSE Top 100 companies in the 2010 Carbon Disclosure Project.

Participated in the **Climate Change Conference of Parties** in Durban, showcasing Vodacom's climate change innovations.



A small Karoo farming community situated in the Vleiland Valley, between two mountains, struggled to receive adequate network coverage. To address the problem Vodacom **installed a solar- and wind-powered base station** – reportedly the first of its kind on the African continent.



# Shameel Joosub appointed CEO

### **Empowering people**

### First to launch LTE/4G in SA.





We launched the MyVodacom app, giving customers a range of self-service capabilities.



Shameel Joosub appointed as Vodacom CEO, taking over from Pieter Uys.



Launched **mHealth** to improve the efficiency and quality of healthcare through the innovative use of managed services.



Piloted the supplier **development** preferential payment terms for SMEs (≥51% black-owned, exempt micro enterprise (EME) and qualifying small enterprise (QSE)). The spend started off small but has grown annually to >R2 billion, with >200 SMEs benefiting to date.





### Following the launch of Woza Online in January 2012, a partnership between the Department of Trade and Industry, Google, Vodacom and the Human Resources Development Council, 30 000 SMEs were registered for

websites. More than 10 000 requested their own co.za domains from Vodacom.

Vodacom announced

implementation of phase 1 of a library project. After completion, almost 300 community libraries were connected to Vodacom ADSL services.

the successful



Vodacom hosted the first women's developer workshop. This initiative was part of the Vodacom Developer Programme, which aims to encourage local developers to develop apps that are relevant to the South African and global market.

Thirty female participants gained an understanding of mobile application development from the workshop.

# Protecting the planet

Best Performer in the low-impact environment category of the JSE socially responsible investing (SRI) annual review.



# A partnership to prevent GBV in SA

Empowering people

# Launched a partnership with the Department of Social Development to support the GBV Command Centre.

Vodecom

Break

silence

The GBV Command Centre is a comprehensive, integrated system that provides support to victims of GBV.



**Launched the Youth Academy** – a programme that trains unemployed young people in ICT skills and recruits them into appropriate jobs.

Launched an accredited ICT programme aimed at skilling out-of-school youth with >R57 million (inclusive of a learnership programme) spent on 1 700 beneficiaries to date.



Against

Unite

Against GBV

#HearMeToo

Launched both handset and funeral insurance. Vodacom, through its Mobile Education Programme, introduced a video-based learning platform for teachers to receive lectures in mathematics and physical science aimed at improving the quality of education in previously disadvantaged schools. Through this initiative, 320 teachers received training from the University of Stellenbosch at the Vodacom ICT resource centres.

### Protecting the planet

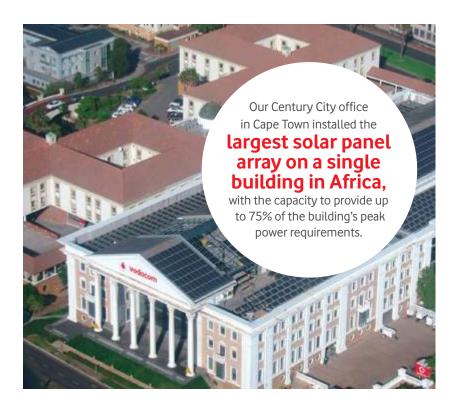


### Vodacom builds a rainwater harvesting dam

in Midrand to cool down the company's air-conditioning system and irrigate the extensive gardens on the Vodacom campus. The rainwater harvest project has a storage capacity of one mega litre and harvests about 12 million litres per annum on average.



During the **Cape Town Jazz Festival** Vodacom invited tertiary students to host stakeholders. In the week building up to the event, the students were exposed to job shadowing in line with their various disciplines of study, engaging professionals on empowering programmes such as financial planning, pitching for business and personal branding. Some of the students had the opportunity for further work experience such as working in the Western Cape Regional Office, volunteering for the Vodacom Foundation Youth Academy and internships resulting in full-time employment, while some joined the Innovator Trust.



# Launch of Stock Visibility Solution

**Empowering people** 

Vodacom covers 99.8% of the population in South Africa. Vodacom launches Just4U Town





Launched a new mobile application, the Stock Visibility Solution, a mobile application in partnership with the Department of Health to improve access and availability of essential medicines in clinics by reducing drug stock-outs.



Vodacom was the anchor sponsor of Wi-Fi connectivity of the day at the 2014 Presidential Inauguration, at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. Established a loan facility of R750 million over five years at a lower-thanprime interest rate. This funding was used to equip black entrepreneurs in the ICT sector with the necessary business skills to work in the sector.

### Protecting the planet

Vodacom retains its leadership position in the **CDP and** again receives the JSE SRI Best Performer award in the low-impact environmental category.





2024

# R70 billion in investment since 1994

# Empowering people

Our cumulative investment in our networks amounts to about **R70 billion between 1994 and 2015.** 





As of 31 March 2015, **the Innovator Trust** had acquired more than **540 000 YeboYethu shares** and successfully incubated 18 SMEs as part of a two-year business training programme.







Accessible features built into the MyVodacom app, enabling visually impaired persons

Education.

to use the app independently.

# Protecting the planet



# Launched energy reduction

**initiatives** like retrofitting of LED lighting, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning optimisation and redesigning offices to incorporate open-plan working, with an estimated energy savings of 1.3GWh – translating to R1.8 million in a year.

# Launched water saving

**measures** like water reticulation system in offices and planting water-wise, indigenous plants in our facilities.



# UN Sustainable Development Goals

# **Empowering people**

Launched **the Connecting For Good online platform** to enable our employees to volunteer their time or skills and donate goods.

Spent R103 million on skills development and R841 million on ICT SME development.



Vodacom recognised as the top employer in the telecoms industry and in the top ten across all industries by the Top Employers Institute.



In June 2016, Vodacom partnered with the country's most reputable career websites to launch NXT LVL, a zero-rated career website, enabling job seekers to browse job sites, upload their CVs and apply for available positions.

Vodacom won the **South African Disability Alliance Award for Change Agents and Disability Champions among South Africans.** The award recognised Vodacom for driving accessible and affordable products and services.

# Spent **R1.2 million** (from 2016 to 2024) on the Ubuntu Education Fund

to provide education and health services benefiting 4 500 children.



Second Community Power solar site at Vuvu, Eastern Cape





Published its first standalone sustainability report.

Initiated **the phasing out of CFCs** in most of its buildings.

Launched a project to **remove polystyrene containers from our waste bins,** bale them separately and pass them on to a third party that repurpose them and create photo frames.

Vodacom adopts and supports the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** as part of its sustainable business strategy focusing on democratising connectivity, access to free education, and health solutions among others.

# Introduced the baling machine to reduce waste sent to landfill.



Vodacom explores opportunities for Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to enable a low-carbon economy.

**Code of Ethical Purchasing** drives sustainable practices in supply chain activities.



# Innovative and transformative platforms with Siyakha and Mum & Baby

**Empowering people** 



Vodacom **launched Mum & Baby**, which provides subscribers with maternal, neonatal and child health and wellbeing information.





**Launched the Siyakha platform** to promote digital inclusion, offering zero-rated content to customers using basic services, as well as a free, text-based version of Facebook.

Vodacom, through Mezzanine, introduced eLabs,

a pathology management solution to provide visibility in the value chain of testing, analysis and reporting in the laboratory.





Vodacom, through Mezzanine, **launched Connected Farmer, a platform** that connects thousands of smallholder farmers in South Africa to the commercial agriculture value chain.

### Rural coverage programme

Vodacom accelerated plans to expand network coverage for people living in deep rural areas of South Africa. In practical terms this meant that Vodacom would be bringing faster data services to tens of thousands more people living in rural areas who at that time only had voice and EDGE data services.



Vodacom announced **free internet access** for university students.

**Launched the Disaster Relief Fund** in response to natural disasters such as droughts and floods across the country. To date Vodacom has spent more than

# **R80 million** responding to disasters across the country.



## Launched the

# retail transformation

**programme** to include black ownership of our franchise channel, supporting black-owned entrepreneurs with a loan of up to

**70%** of the value of the business.



The **Vodacom Foundation's education programme** provided quality ICT equipment and internet connectivity to more than **2 500 schools, trained over 300 000 teachers, and equipped and connected 86 teacher centres** that provide teacher development from 2017 to 2024.

Since 2017, the **Vodacom #CodeLikeAGirl initiative has gained immense popularity**, inspiring young girls to venture into STEM fields. To date thousands of girls have benefited from the programme, which teaches coding and other technology and life skills.



**Vodacom and the Innovator Trust unveiled the Youth Entrepreneurship Programme,** aimed at equipping local unemployed youth with the requisite set of skills to become cutting-edge entrepreneurs. The tailor-made youth development programme drives innovations and creates job opportunities that could bring significant changes to the local economy.

# Protecting the planet



Installed the **diesel tank monitoring solution, which** provides early warning of leaks. This enables enterprises to act timeously to limit diesel loss and avoid the environmental impact of diesel



Implemented a **building management system** for national facilities.

flowing into the ecosystem.



Complete **removal of single-use plastic cups** and purchased reusable glass water bottles for staff.



### Vodacom used its technology to help the fight against rhino poaching. The scourge of rhino poaching remains problematic in South Africa. To help combat this challenge, Vodacom and Celcom introduced an innovative security measure for the Addo Elephant National Park. This includes the provision of mobile devices that have been programmed with software to help protect the park against poachers.



Vodacom partnered with the University of Cape Town to launch a free smartphone app to help small-scale fishers monitor their catches. **The app is called Abalobi, inspired by the isiXhosa phrase** *abalobi bentlanzi, meaning "someone* who fishes".

# 2018

# Pledges its commitment to education and gender empowerment

**Empowering people** 



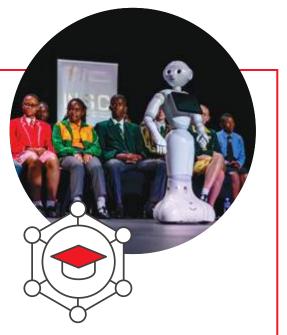




Vodacom's technology was used to support service delivery in South Africa by developing mobile platforms to promote civic communication in the Eastern Cape via the **Thetha Nathi platform.** 

Launched the ICT in Agriculture programme, which focuses on empowering female farmers. More than **3 900 female farmers** have been trained to date.





# The Vodacom Foundation launched its education ecosystem, with six pillars

supporting the government's comprehensive approach to delivering on the Education Vision: 2030. It now has 30 schools of excellence and 32 early childhood development (ECD) centres.





Launched Future Jobs Finder portal to provide career guidance and access to training content to enhance the prospects of South Africa's youth in the digital economy.

Launched text-based emergency services for D/deaf and hearing-impaired persons, enabling them to access emergency services.

Vodacom committed an **investment amount of R50 billion over five years in South Africa.** 

### Launch of Schools of Excellence.

In April 2017, we were **awarded the contract to supply a school management solution to the Eastern Cape Department of Education** to help with the administration of over 5 000 predominantly rural schools across the province.



Vodacom becomes the first African mobile network to exceed 80% population coverage on 4G. It provided 80.12% 4G coverage, with 99.78% of the population covered by 3G and 99.97% covered by 2G in South Africa.



# Protecting the planet

Vodacom receives another energy accolade for its **Green Building – Vodacom Innovation Centre.** 



First certification audit in accordance with the new ISO 14001: 2015.

Vodacom committed itself to assisting government in alleviating the water crisis in the Eastern Cape and in the Western Cape through technology, access to JoJo water tanks, donating bottled water to schools and driving water conservation education and awareness. The City of Cape Town grappled with the worst drought in over a century due to insufficient rainfall and fast declining dam levels.



# Digital inclusion through ConnectU and B-BBEE Level 1 status

**Empowering people** 



Vodacom announced a **R2.7-billion initiative to reduce the price of data** and increase access to free data services. 1GB of data valid for 30 days

- reduced by 34% from R149 to R99 - was made available across all channels.

Vodacom becomes the first South African telco to be listed in Fortune's 2019 top 25 list in the Change the World category for its Stock Visibility Solution, which helps hospitals to effectively monitor their stocks of medicines.





Vodacom **zero-rated** over 900 government websites, including online application sites for IDs and passports.

Vodacom consolidated all existing zero-rated data services with new essential services aimed at social upliftment into a single platform **called ConnectU.** 

Vodacom enabled SMEs to qualify for short-term funding within 10 minutes **through VodaLend.** 



President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed the Vodacom CEO, Mr. Shameel Joosub, as a member of the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



# 2019 continued



To prevent GBV in the workplace, Vodacom introduced a policy aimed at protecting employees against GBV.

O Nodecom Nethal Man up and stand up Against GBV Introduced several SME development initiatives like **iThuba and vouchering, supporting > 200 SMEs.** 

To further close the digital divide, Vodacom introduced one of the cheapest 4G smartphones, **Vibe**, which costs as little as **R299**.



Vodacom introduced the concept of **smartphone-only town in Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga, moving all farm workers in the area using 2G feature phones to 3G devices.** This move opened a new world of the internet and technology, empowering them with tools to be part of the digital revolution.

# Protecting the planet

First telco in SA to secure an environmenta social and governance (ESG) loan with Standard Bank. Vodacom's purpose-led strategy includes ambitious planet targets for 2025. Installed BiobiN at our canteens, which converts organic waste into compost.

Vodacom supported the ThumaMina Good Green Deeds campaign on good waste management principles for communities. Vodacom L becomes the first telco in SA to ban plastic bags in retail stores.

# Vodacom achieves B-BBEE status

In 2019, Vodacom achieved the highest B-BBEE contributor score of Level 1. This accomplishment was a demonstration of our commitment of being part of the transformation of South Africa and its people, particularly those in poor communities. As a company with strong local roots, it has always been our resolve to help our government towards its vision of achieving a substantial change in the racial composition of ownership and management structures in our economy.

LEVEL



# Our social contract comes alive through our response to the pandemic

**Empowering people** 



# Vodacom donates 20000 smartphones,

100 terabytes

# 10 million

**voice call minutes** to the National Department of Health in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Vodacom partnered with Discovery to provide **free virtual Covid-19 consultations** 





Vodacom zero-rated the COVID Alert SA app, an exposure notification tool that enabled people to know when they have been in close contact with someone who had tested positive for Covid-19.



Vodacom partnered with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and the Free State Department of Health to analyse as well as model generalised and anonymised data of citizen movements.



# Vodacom **launched and zero-rated Bright Sky SA**,

which provides support and information to anyone in an abusive relationship.



# The Vodacom Group CEO donated 33% of his salary

to the Solidarity Fund in South Africa for a period of three months.

# Protecting the planet

Vodacom joins the **UN Global Compact** and contributes further to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.





United Nations Global Compact

# 2021

# A year of financial inclusion

**Empowering people** 



# Vodacom pledged

to fund the private sector-led, multi-sectoral Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund1 to support the implementation of the National Strategic Plan and the wider GBVF response in the country.



Vodacom launched its psychosocial support programme in partnership with the Department of Basic Education, to address psychosocial issues faced by learners in schools.

**4 500 learners were reached and R30 million was spent** (from 2021 to 2024).



Vodacom introduced the **VodaLend Business Cash Advance**, which provides finance to smaller unregistered businesses in need of quick access to short-term cash advances. Offering finance between R3 000 and R350 000 to customers using VodaPay point-of-sale devices, Business Cash Advance complements VodaLend's range of lending products aimed at the SME sector.

# ny gat free, impartial and actionable rise excise your business digitally. mm. Const systemet.

V-Hub: Digital Advice

# Vodacom introduced V-Hub,

a platform to empower SMEs through training in areas such as digital skills, efficiency, company registration and business growth.



**Vodapay 2.0 (a super app developed in partnership with Alipay)** was officially launched in September 2021, with over 1 million registered customers. VodaPay is a powerful all-encompassing platform aimed at driving digital and financial inclusion in South Africa and the rest of the continent.



### VodaLend Voucher Advance

Vodacom customers can now access vouchers from two leading brands thanks to the introduction of Voucher Advance, an innovative lending proposition and the first of its kind for South African consumers. Through Voucher Advance, Vodacom customers can choose to 'pay now' and buy vouchers at a discounted rate, or get an advance and 'pay later'.

### Easy20wn to drive smartphone penetration

To drive smartphone accessibility, Vodacom launched the Vodacom Easy2Own proposition. Through this initiative, customers on the Vodacom network can purchase a smartphone and, after a once-off deposit, pay it off in affordable monthly payments over 11 months.



Vodacom **launches Eco-SIM** cards, made from recycled plastic, to reduce the impact on the environment.



Vodacom to sell mobile handsets **with new pan-industry Eco Rating** to reduce negative impact caused by e-waste on the environment. Vodacom **partnered with the WWF** on SASSI, a project to help restore and conserve oceans and ensure the sustainable production and consumption of seafood.

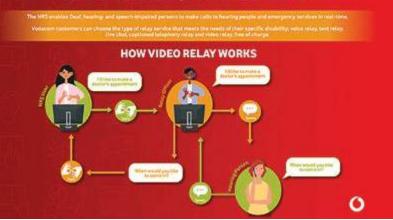
# Vodacom outperforms on ESG goals, ranks first in Sustainalytics report

Sustainalytics – one of the largest independent providers of ESG research and ratings – ranked Vodacom Group as the world's number one telecommunications service company based on ESG performance.

# Harmonisation of planet and CSI programmes

# **Empowering people**

# **Vodacom launches National Relay Service (NRS)**



Launched the virtual classroom solution in schools, which enables remote learning as part of the ICASA obligations.



### Launched the National Relay

Service (NRS) inclusive of the Video Relay Service for SA Sign Language users, enabling SA Sign Language users to communicate with hearing persons on the phone.

The NRS enables Vodacom customers who are D/deaf. hearing or speech-impaired to communicate in real time with hearing family or friends, or hearing members of businesses or organisations. The service, available across all channels, is free for Vodacom customers using a Vodacom SIM card. D/deaf South African Sign Language users can now make an appointment at a doctor via Vodacom's NRS Contact Centre with the support of an SA Sign Language interpreter.





## Vodacom and Vodafone donated 74 million R

and partnered with the Department of Health to fund multimillion-rand new cold chain equipment to boost Covid-19 vaccine storage and distribution around the country.

# 2022 continued

Sitho Mdlalose appointed as Vodacom South Africa's Managing Director.



Vodacom Group announced the appointment of Sitho Mdlalose as Managing Director of Vodacom South Africa, effective 1 July 2022.

# Protecting the planet

Implemented Green ECDs equipped with vegetable gardens, solar panels and water tanks. Greening of ECDs is a programme that significantly improves sustainability knowledge as well as children's quality of life in the communities where it is applied. Through this programme, we installed solar panels to provide a sustainable energy source, water tanks to provide water access and security, and planted food gardens and donated planting materials to create spaces for children and other community members to learn more about sustainable farming.







Vodacom **publishes its first Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures report** identifying climate risks and opportunities. Vodacom introduces Good as New, to preserve the planet and accelerate smartphone penetration.



GOOD AS NEW

# On-site generation of renewables at the Midrand offices

Empowering people

At the 2023 South Africa Investment Conference, Vodacom pledged to invest

**R60 billion** in South Africa

over the next five years, after having delivered on its promise in 2018 to invest R50 billion over five years.



# Vodacom Foundation has spent **>R1.7 billion**

on various CSI programmes and an additional >R80 million on disaster relief since 2018 to date.

78% of its employees are black.

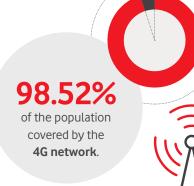






Reached >27 million smart devices in SA.

Reached **R5.1 billion** in spend, supporting 2 038 QSE and EME suppliers.





# Vodacom launched

**PowerFlex**, a solution that offers customers unlimited voice minutes, SMS messaging and customisable data allocation.

## Protecting the planet

Vodacom completes the first phase of our Midrand campus solar project. This **6MWp solar installation will yield 10.8GWh/year** of renewable energy, **saving 11 448mtCO\_e.** 

Vodacom, in partnership with the WWF, **launched an Al early-warning system** to help protect marine mammals.







The City of Johannesburg, in partnership with the Johannesburg Roads Agency and Vodacom South Africa, works to keep traffic lights working during loadshedding.

### Virtual wheeling platform

Vodacom not only responded to the country's power crisis with an increased investment in network resilience, but also concluded a landmark agreement with Eskom in the form of a virtual wheeling platform that aims to drive private sector investment in new energy generation. Given our commitment to having a positive impact on the country's power grid and renewable energy mix, our agreement with Eskom serves as a blueprint for other corporates to adopt.



Vodacom **launches** 

eSIM support for

plastic waste, and lower

carbon emissions

and distribution.

from manufacturing

**smartphones** eliminating the need for physical SIM cards, which translates to reduced

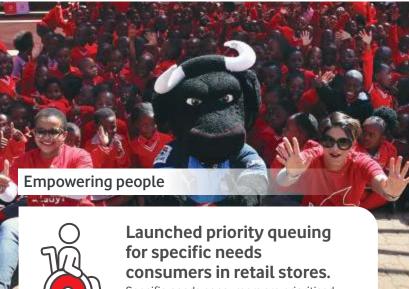
# CLDMUTUAL

Vodacom implemented **Tweak, an innovative carbon calculator powered by Old Mutual,** to empower its employees to reduce their carbon footprint and be more



Launched a **recycling pod on the Midrand campus** to enable recycling of items from employees' homes.

# Number 1 employer in Africa



Specific needs consumers are prioritised

in the queue management system.



# Vodacom, through its partnership with Upskillist, has trained 1 million customers

since inception by means of certified free courses that include leadership, coding, AI and financial planning. This forms part of the Vodabucks Rewards programme.

In 2024, Vodacom launched a cloud-based phone, retailing at an affordable price of R249. This phone leverages cloud computing to deliver a range of features typically associated with entry-level smartphones, at a more affordable cost.

In a move designed to help reduce the 44% youth unemployment rate among South Africans, Vodacom South Africa and Microsoft South Africa have joined forces to provide free access to digital training courses on the Mzansi Digital Learning platform.

Vodacom took the



spot for the **eighth** consecutive year in the developmental impact category of **Top Company Ranked** by Other Companies, based on research conducted by Trialogue.

# Vodacom's R10 million pledge is used to build TCCs in communities that

**need them the most.** TCCs offer a holistic approach that allows survivors to safely report GBV and receive immediate medical attention and counselling in one location. In this way, survivors receive the appropriate support without secondary victimisation. So far, Vodacom has built two TCCs, one in the Eastern Cape and one in Mpumalanga.



# Vodacom and Smile Foundation celebrate a legacy of smiles in children's lives

Since 2007, the Vodacom Foundation has proudly partnered with the Smile Foundation to support Smile Week, an initiative that provides life-changing reconstructive surgery to children with treatable facial anomalies. To date, the partnership between Vodacom and the Smile Foundation has benefited 797 children, with the shared goal of enhancing their overall quality of life and wellbeing.



# 2024 continued



## Vodacom Business and Unisa launch Anani Call Centre, empowering youth and SMEs

Vodacom Business, in partnership with Anani Technologies and Unisa, launched a call centre designed to respond to the severe unemployment crisis plaguing the country. Through this partnership, much-needed jobs will be created, resulting in the upliftment of families and communities, while serving the staff and students of Unisa. The launch kicked off with more than 50% female employees, a milestone that aligns with Vodacom's purpose pillar of Inclusivity.

Implemented the **AI and Big Data Digital Transformation initiative** which provided SMEs with training, as well as a tailored strategy aimed at transforming and optimising their use of digital tools.



The Logistics as a Service initiative supports **female-owned SME** with skills and tools to manage and handle warehouse activities.



Job Jack is a zero-rated jobs portal initiative on ConnectU, aimed at **connecting young people to job opportunities,** with over

# 100 000 unique visitors.

Vodacom placed 41 psychosocial professionals in the 30 Vodacom-supported schools of excellence. The social workers are reaching approximately 30 000 learners across all provinces. Vodacom, through Mezzanine, developed the **Safe School app which allows members of the public to report any school that still has pit latrines.** The functionality of the app will enable participants to upload pictures and geolocate the school to ensure that the Department of Basic Education has an updated database of the number of affected schools. The list will assist the department in reaching the target of decommissioning all pit latrines in schools by 30 March 2025.



The Vodacom education ecosystem now comprises **27 ECD centres (serving >1 800 children)** and 30 schools of excellence aimed at enabling academic excellence and quality education in previously disadvantaged communities. Of the 30 schools of excellence, nine have virtual classroom solutions which offer end-to-end e-learning solutions and internet connectivity.



## Vodacom is expanding its fibre reach in lower-income areas through the Vuma Reach Product,

a prepaid fibre service designed to make high-speed internet accessible in these communities, bridging the digital divide. The focus is on low-cost prepaid fibre in high-density, low-income communities. The purpose of this initiative is to outline a comprehensive plan for assessing and developing SMEs working with Vodacom to enhance their ability to sell Vuma Reach prepaid fibre to the home.

# 2024 continued

# Maintaining trust



Facilitated engagements with traditional leaders and the South African Police Service provincial commissioners to initiate possible collaboration with key stakeholders to address challenges of theft, vandalism and access at our base stations.



Engaged with various political parties to foster relationship building in the context of the 7th Administration, the Government of National Unity in South Africa.







In November 2024, Vodacom and Mezzanine hosted a showcase event featuring **cutting-edge digital solutions** aimed at solving socio-economic and environmental challenges. This meeting was attended by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who has encouraged members of his government to visit Mezzanine to experience these innovative solutions.



Vodacom hosted **several strategic engagements with Minister Solly Malatsi** in the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies to understand his priority focus areas and to appraise him of some of the key policy challenges and issues in which the sector seeks guidance and decisions.



Protecting the planet

Expanded Vodacom's marine protection ecosystem into schools.

Vodacom achieved ISO 50001 certification for energy efficiency. Vodacom South Africa celebrates 30 years of loving the planet with a sustainabilitythemed cookoff.



**Electric vehicle charging station** at the Vodacom Midrand campus.

## Vodacom South Africa ranked Africa's Top Employer

Each year, the Top Employers Institute certifies organisations that are focused on putting their people first through exceptional human resource (HR) policies. The Top Employer survey covers six HR domains consisting of 20 topics including People Strategy, Work Environment, Talent Acquisition, Learning, Diversity and Inclusion and Wellbeing. While Vodacom Group has been listed as a Top Employer for seven consecutive years prior (2017-2023), this is the first time the company has attained first position in the overall Top Employer on the Continent category.





The Green Building Council of South Africa accredited Business Park and Corporate Park buildings at Vodacom in Midrand with a **5-Star Existing Building Performance certification.**  As the demand for the latest technology increases, e-waste has become one of the fastest-growing waste streams in the world. To help counter this challenge, **Vodacom partnered with Circular Energy, a not-for-profit producer responsibility organisation**, to divert e-waste from

landfills into recovery and recycling programmes. The collaboration supports Vodacom's commitment to promoting a circular economy by reducing its environmental

impact and promoting employment opportunities in the green economy. It includes the integration of informal waste, thereby creating jobs and income for unemployed young people. It prioritises SMEs, with an intentional focus on women, youth and people living with disabilities.





On Wednesday, 24 April 2024, **in celebration of Earth Day and our 30th birthday, Vodacom invited customers and partners to participate in its sustainability immersion and cookoff** focused on consuming and living sustainably. The day formed part of Vodacom's RedLovesGreen drive, challenging employees, customers and communities to create healthy and sustainable choices for healthy bodies and a healthy planet. Partners that participated included Tweak, the WWF, the ACFS, Empact and Mezzanine.



As a member of the UN Global Compact, Vodacom was invited to contribute to the South African Government's Voluntary National Review (VNR), a five-year progress report by countries on their implementation of Agenda 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The VNR assists in understanding the impact of policies and programmes aimed at realising sustainable development and developmental challenges.

On World Environment Day (5 June 2024) Vodacom shared our love of the oceans with the schools we support. The theme on World Oceans Day 2024 was **Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing,** which aims to **uncover hidden facets of planet Earth and create a fresh enthusiasm for preserving and safeguarding the ocean and the planet.** The Sustainability and Regional teams in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape introduced environmental awareness and literacy into Vodacom's education ecosystem.

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