



**micr****loan**  
foundation

Zimbabwe  
March 2024

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



## MicroLoan Foundation Zimbabwe

MicroLoan Foundation Zimbabwe (MicroLoan Zimbabwe) launched in April 2017. The operations have two branches in the North East of the country with Harare serving as the Head Office.

MicroLoan Zimbabwe provides pro-poor financial services and focuses on clients living in the 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 2024, the institution had 2,338 active clients and the outstanding loanbook was USD \$347,466.

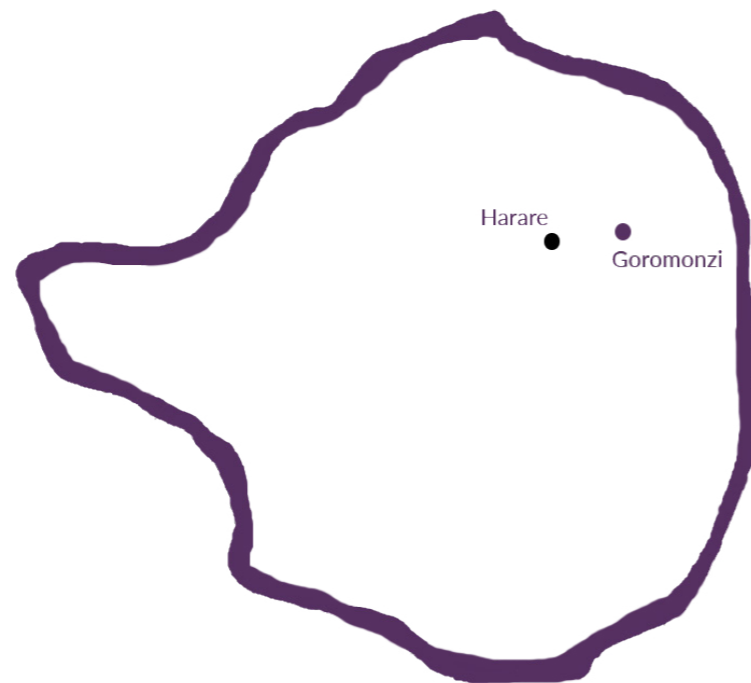
### Leadership Team

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.



## 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 10% 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 annual inflation rate in Zimbabwe continued to climb in the first quarter of 2024, hitting an over one-year high of 55.3%. A new currency backed by gold and foreign currencies was introduced by the Zimbabwe Reserve Bank. The aim is for Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) to be more stable and help bring down inflation. At this stage the new currency will not impact MicroLoan Zimbabwe as the loan book is held in USD and the new currency will circulate alongside parallel foreign currencies.

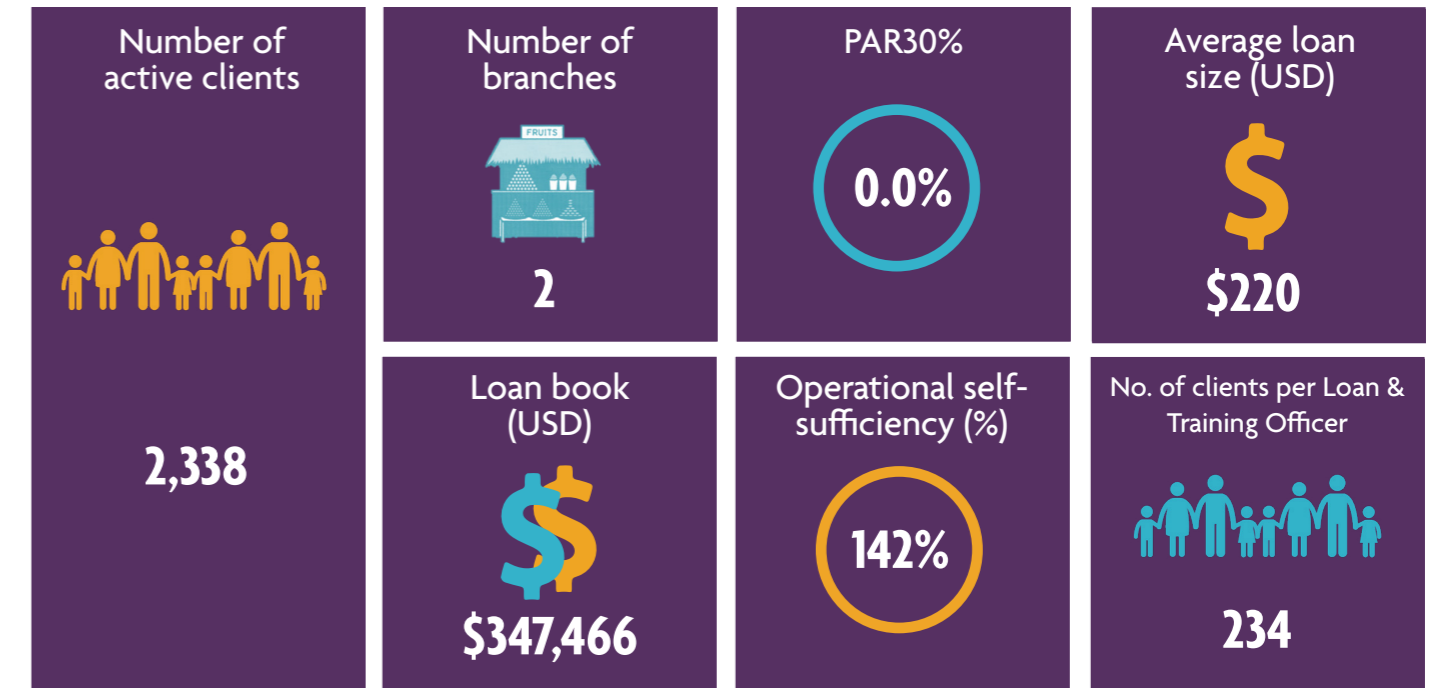
### State of Disaster

Zimbabwe declared a State of Disaster on the 3rd of April, following the devastating impact of erratic weather patterns and drought. The drought has also affected electricity production as Zimbabwe is highly reliant on hydroelectric power.

### Expansion into new area

In line with our expansion plan, MicroLoan Zimbabwe is preparing to start a new branch in Rusape, located approximately 200km outside of Harare. Three new trainee Loan & Training Officers are currently undergoing a four month trainee programme. They will be moving on to the new branch set to open in the third quarter of 2024.

## Operational highlights as of March 2024



Source: MicroLoan Performance Report. Exchange rate based on Oanda at March 2024

## 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** is a grant giving trust and social impact investor. Their generous grants were instrumental in launching MicroLoan Zimbabwe operations and come to a total of £120,000. In 2022 they provided a donation of £41,000 for operational expenses and loan book growth. The Paul Foundation made a loan of \$100K at the end of 2023 and we drew down on 50K in 2023, with the second tranche being drawn down in 2024.

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](mailto:contact@mlf.org.uk)  
Phone number: +44 (0)20 8827 1688