

A more sustainable Africa

How Helios Towers supports the SDGs through infrastructure and connectivity

October 2020

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

helios towers

The global goals

In 2015, the United Nations launched 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 – a universal call to action to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and halt climate change.



“ Mobile technology is already supporting sustainable development around the world, opening up pathways to vital information and services, including health and education. The mobile industry is unique in that it makes a contribution to all 17 Goals, helping more of Africa to access connectivity and the benefits it brings.”

Kash Pandya Group Chief Executive

Data included in this document is as at 30 September 2020.

For full-year data and for performance against our KPIs and targets, please see our Sustainable Business Report due to be released in March 2021.

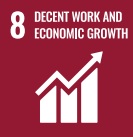
Helios Towers is committed to playing its part – delivering reliable infrastructure and enabling mobile connectivity in support of the SDGs.

Our sustainable business strategy

Our strategy and business model reflect our social and environmental impacts and the value we create for our stakeholders.

By driving our strategy, we help to advance the SDGs. **SDGs 8 and 9** are where we can make the greatest positive contribution, while also supporting seven other Goals.





**PRIORITY SDG:
8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.



**CHAMPIONING LOCAL
EMPLOYMENT**

We are committed to creating local employment, both directly through the construction, maintenance and security of towers and indirectly through providing network access.

400+
employees

8,700
partners and contractors

100%
African employees in our
operating companies

**PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS
AND IMPROVING RESPONSIBLE
BUSINESS PRACTICES**

We do not tolerate forced, bonded or compulsory labour, human trafficking, child labour and other kinds of slavery and servitude within our own operations or within our supply chain. Working with our suppliers, partners and peers, we drive responsible, ethical behaviour and high standards, including doing our utmost to keep everyone working in our operations safe from harm. All partners are required to adhere to the Helios Towers Third Party Code of Conduct. We expect all our third parties to respect and promote universal human rights as stated in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Business target

- Assess all key suppliers against sustainability criteria by the end of 2022.



**INVESTING IN TRAINING
AND DEVELOPMENT**

Over 45%

of employees have been trained in Lean Six Sigma methodology – a toolset of skills and techniques to drive efficiencies and eliminate waste.

SDG targets we contribute to:

- 8.2** Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors.
- 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.
- 8.8** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.



PRIORITY SDG:
9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.



**PROVIDING RESILIENT,
QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

We provide high-quality infrastructure services to leading mobile network operators in our markets. With only minimal fixed line telephony in Africa, mobile is the main communications gateway. We are part of a vital enabling chain: using our infrastructure, mobile networks can roll out their services and bring transformative improvements to businesses, economies and everyday lives.

Business targets

- Expand to 12,000 towers in eight markets by the end of 2025, and increase the number of sites in rural and underserved regions by 1,500 in the same period.
- Achieve an average one-minute weekly downtime per tower by 2025¹.



**INCREASING ACCESS TO
MOBILE CONNECTIVITY**

Reliable access to mobile and mobile internet can unlock sustainable development. Today, schools are discovering global access to information and learning; farmers can track prices for their crops; tourism services are expanding; 'mobile money' already outnumbers old-style branch banking; and online medical consultations are now a reality.

106 million
people are covered by our towers

SDG targets we contribute to:

- 9.1** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.
- 9.4** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.
- 9.a** Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
- 9.c** Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the internet in least developed countries by 2020.

¹ The Group has five years to achieve this milestone for any new network acquisition.

Our other goals



IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY

Road accidents represent the biggest safety risk for our people. Our employees and contractors drive over 15 million kilometres a year for maintenance and refuelling visits to tower sites. To help safeguard them, we have an extensive programme of defensive driving tuition in place.

SDG target

3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.



ENABLING EDUCATION AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Career and skills development for our colleagues and within our supply chain is a key priority. We support work experience placements and internships for young people locally. We're also committed to advancing gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and our communities.

SDG targets

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions.

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.



DRIVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Our colocation business model, through which multiple operators share each of our towers, delivers reduced environmental impact compared to the traditional operator-owned model. We are taking steps to optimise our sites for energy efficiency and looking to implement low-carbon solutions across our operations wherever possible.

SDG targets

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. According to the GSMA², mobile technologies enable huge carbon reductions – saving emissions almost ten times greater than the global carbon footprint of the mobile industry itself.

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.



TACKLING BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

We operate in countries where there is an elevated risk of bribery and corruption and by the nature of our business, we work with a range of third parties and interact with government officials to obtain construction and operational permits. We have zero tolerance for any form of bribery and corruption and have robust policies and procedures to ensure compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

SDG target

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

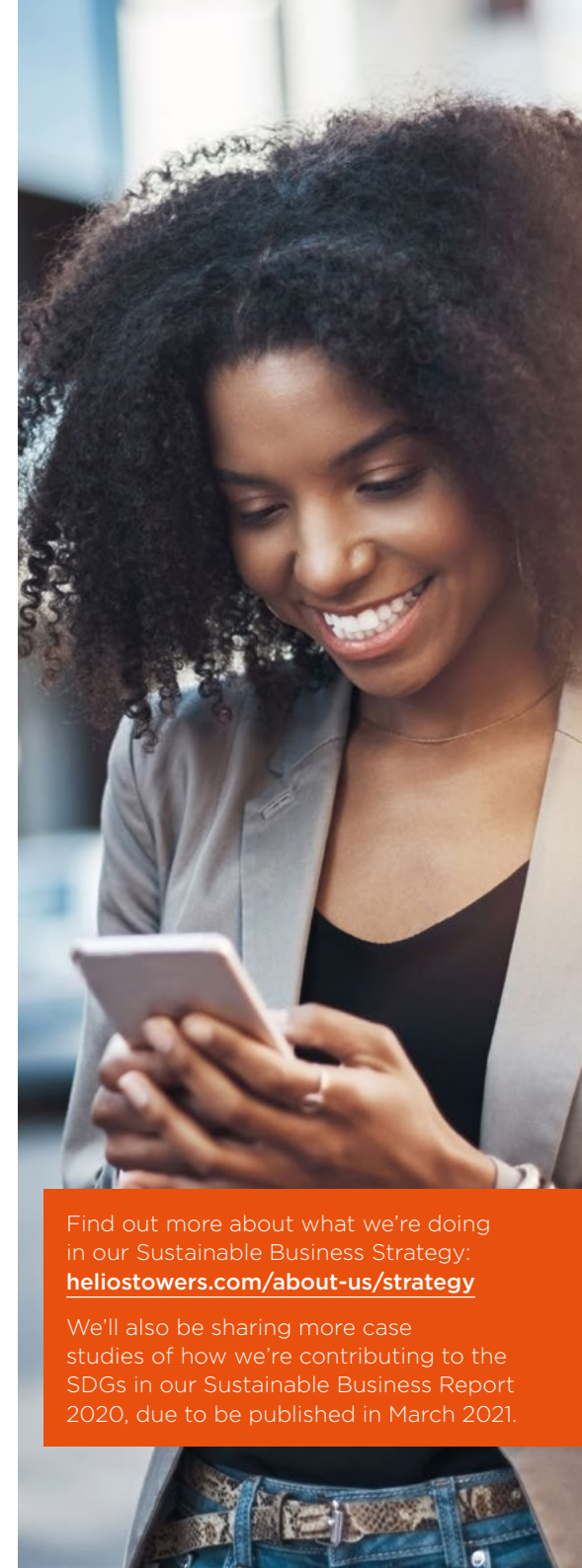


PARTNERSHIPS FOR SHARED VALUE

With the governments in our markets keen to ensure that communication is accessible to more of the population, we are helping our customers to increase coverage. We are also developing partnerships to improve digital inclusion and support communities with lack of access to energy.

SDG target

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.



Find out more about what we're doing in our Sustainable Business Strategy: [heliostowers.com/about-us/strategy](https://www.heliostowers.com/about-us/strategy)

We'll also be sharing more case studies of how we're contributing to the SDGs in our Sustainable Business Report 2020, due to be published in March 2021.

² GSMA - [Mobile Technologies Enabling Huge Carbon Reductions in Response to Climate Emergency](#)