

# STARTING EARLY



In the early morning in Olifantshoek - South Africa's Northern Cape, excited children between the ages of one and four gather to attend school. In a humble classroom, dedicated, professionally trained teachers are transforming the children's life opportunities through foundational education.

The children's classroom is part of an Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre - a hub for teacher training, parental involvement programmes, education materials and food for the children.

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The ECD centre at Olifantshoek is just one of the 13 ECD centres we oversee alongside our investment in the REISA Solar Farm. By the end of last year, over 1 800 local children had benefited from the training of ECD teachers, which was made possible by REISA's commitment of around R4.7 million towards education projects in 2018.

As one of the largest and most experienced private alternative investment managers in Africa, Old Mutual Alternative Investments (OMAI) plays an influential stewardship role that supports positive outcomes for the communities in which we invest. The benefits from our investments might include raising living standards, better education, more employment opportunities and the protection and active management of local ecosystems.

Our investing model is based on making sustainable, risk-adjusted returns that can be achieved over the longer term. We also build environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk management into each investment, and ensure we meet the requirements to

achieve sustainable performance. Of course, meeting these objectives requires the dedicated stewardship of investors' capital through our portfolio companies.

## GLOBAL GOALS

OMAI has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the high level goal-orientated framework that drives both the achievement and the reporting of positive outcomes in our portfolio companies.

There are 17 SDGs in total, and we have selected the ones most likely to influence outcomes across our broad portfolio or the ones that apply best to particular projects. Our guiding philosophy is to focus on areas where we can practically make the most positive difference. Within each of the SDG categories selected, we have chosen specific metrics that guide our efforts in these areas. From a risk management perspective, OMAI adopts a framework of adhering to local legislative requirements, Equator Principles, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards and IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines, while also using sector specific guidelines where applicable.

Today, through OMAI's responsible investment stewardship practices, we have contributed to a brighter future for the children of Olifantshoek. But this is only the start; there is so much more work to be done to drive positive outcomes. 🌱