

# United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We strongly support the aims and objectives of the SDGs which seek to address the world's most urgent economic, environmental and social challenges. As a universal agreement to work towards a better and more sustainable future, the SDGs closely align with our new purpose - *enabling a more resilient future*. Our sustainability agenda continues to align to and support the advancement of the SDGs.



We acknowledge that all of the SDGs are relevant to our business in some way. However, we can contribute to the achievement of some SDGs more directly than to others. In 2021, we continued to address our five priority SDGs, which reflect the areas that most closely align to our purpose and strategic business priorities. This is where we believe we can

have the greatest impact given our role as an international insurer and reinsurer, and these SDGs are also reflected in our material topics.

Our five priority SDGs, the initiatives we are undertaking to address them and their relationship with our material topics, are described on the next page.

**i** Refer to our [website](#) for further information about our SDGs analysis.

**i** Throughout this Report, we have included a range of case studies and examples to demonstrate how we continued to further contribute to the SDGs in 2021.



# Our five priority SDGs



## GOAL 1 No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Building the financial and risk resilience of our customers is core to our purpose. We protect people, businesses and communities against risks – contributing to their long-term financial wellbeing. An accident, illness or disaster can quickly plunge customers into financial distress. Providing insurance protection for customers and communities helps aid recovery, preventing them from falling into, or deeper into, poverty. In 2021, we launched our new QBE Foundation strategy focused on creating strong, resilient and inclusive communities.

**Material topics:** Climate risks and opportunities, Affordability and accessibility, Responsible underwriting, Human rights and modern slavery



## GOAL 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

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

With operations in key markets internationally, we believe that inclusive and sustainable economic growth is fundamental to our business and our success. Our strategic focus on innovation and technology enables us to promote economic growth that is impactful. We provide insurance products supportive of decent work, such as our workers' compensation and accident and health solutions. A continued focus on protecting labour and human rights within our business, and across our supply chain, is essential to ensuring that we remain a responsible employer and business partner. In 2021, we released our Group Human Rights Policy outlining the guiding principles we are committed to adhering to as part of our role as an employer, insurer, investor, and business partner.

**Material topics:** Affordability and accessibility, Human rights and modern slavery, Innovation and technology, Corporate governance and compliance



## GOAL 10 Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

QBE is committed to an inclusive culture as part of our QBE DNA and aligned to our updated Inclusion of Diversity Policy. We seek to empower and promote equality and the inclusion of all, irrespective of age, gender, ability, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status. Wherever we operate, we respect internationally recognised human rights principles. We retain a strong strategic focus on inclusion of diversity across our business. In 2021, we increased the participation of women in leadership and are on track to achieve our leadership target of 40% by 2025 and our focus on fair remuneration. In addition, our Reconciliation Action Plan solidifies our vision for strong and enduring relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customers, partners, communities and charities.

**Material topics:** Affordability and accessibility, Inclusion of diversity, Culture, Leadership and talent, Innovation and technology, Human rights and modern slavery, Trust and transparency



## GOAL 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

We understand that cities are rapidly changing and under pressure due to increasing urbanisation, changing transport and energy systems, building codes and exposure to climate and health risks. We are committed to building on our existing data, products, services, initiatives and advice, and collaborating with industry, government and other stakeholders to identify sustainable solutions to reduce risk and enhance inclusion, safety and resilience. In 2021, we partnered with AcceliCITY, one of the largest smart and resilient city startup accelerators in the world, to help drive achievement of this goal.

**Material topics:** Climate risks and opportunities, Innovation and technology



## GOAL 13 Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

As a general insurer, we are acutely aware of the risks and opportunities presented by climate change. We are well-positioned to use our industry expertise to help customers, partners and communities mitigate these risks, and support the uptake of new ideas, opportunities and technologies in the transition to a net-zero economy. We are committed to being a net-zero emissions (Scope 1 and 2) organisation across our operations by 2030 and through our investment and underwriting activities by 2050.

**Material topics:** Climate risks and opportunities, Accessibility and affordability, Responsible underwriting, Innovation and technology