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Q *Where did your financial markets journey begin, and how did you end up where you are today?*

A I did my CA articles, auditing financial institutions and investment management entities, and enjoyed the technical aspects of how these institutions work and their impact on the overall economy. Post articles, I joined Standard Bank and held several roles in credit risk, corporate banking and global markets. I found global markets to be the most fulfilling, and over the years I have gained extensive exposure in executing global markets solutions on the continent. At present, I am the lead for corporate structured derivatives for the African Region operations at Absa.

Q *Did you have a mentor at any point in your career? If so, who were they and what did you learn from them?*

A I have had several mentors, both within my organisation

and outside. I have always looked for a mentor whose experience is aligned with what I require for growth. The one consistent lesson from my mentors has been the importance of ensuring that you accumulate valuable pockets of experience and exposure in such a manner that it differentiates you in the marketplace. It is also very important to build a network of people who will mention your name in a room full of opportunities.

Q *What, if any, hurdles have you had to overcome in an industry that has traditionally been male-dominated?*

A It was very important to have meaningful engagements with senior individuals (often males), with whom I often had very little in common – both culturally and experience-wise. I found that I had to make very deliberate efforts to connect and network with senior individuals while retaining my authentic individuality.

Q *What are some of the most memorable deals you have worked on?*

A Currency and Interest rate risk management pertaining funding of Port Infrastructure Development;

Currency risk management of Central Bank Eurobond Obligations;

Long Term Interest rate risk management pertaining to Energy Projects in Mozambique.

Q *What advice would you give to young women who are looking to enter to financial markets?*

A Focus on cross-skilling yourself as much as possible in the first few years of your career, and build a good toolbox of experiences to draw from in the future. In the beginning, promotion is horizontal, with increased scope of clients, asset classes and portfolio sizes. Vertical growth (i.e. leadership and people responsibility) should not be your priority when you start in the industry. 

