Setting your money goals

The second step is to decide on your money goals. These are the goals that will allow you to reach your dream goals and help you on your journey towards financial health. They should be specific and realistic as they will give direction to your money plan.

Making your money goals SMART

SMART goals are: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely.

For example, if your goal is, "I'm going to save up to buy a car" make this SMART: "I'm going to save R80 000 to buy a second-hand VW Polo Vivo in 3 years' time. To do this, I'm going to save R2 055 a month at an interest rate of 5.4%." Now you know exactly what you are working towards and can track your progress.

Break down your goals into: short-, medium- and long-term goals.

Money goals short-term goal 0-24 months Examples: pay off short-term debt, pay off student loan, emergency savings, furniture and appliances, home improvements, holiday, wedding money goals long-term goal medium-term goal 10 years + Examples: pay off house,

Look at Mandla and Thandiswe's money goals on page 12 to help you work out your own money goals.

retirement savings, child's college or university