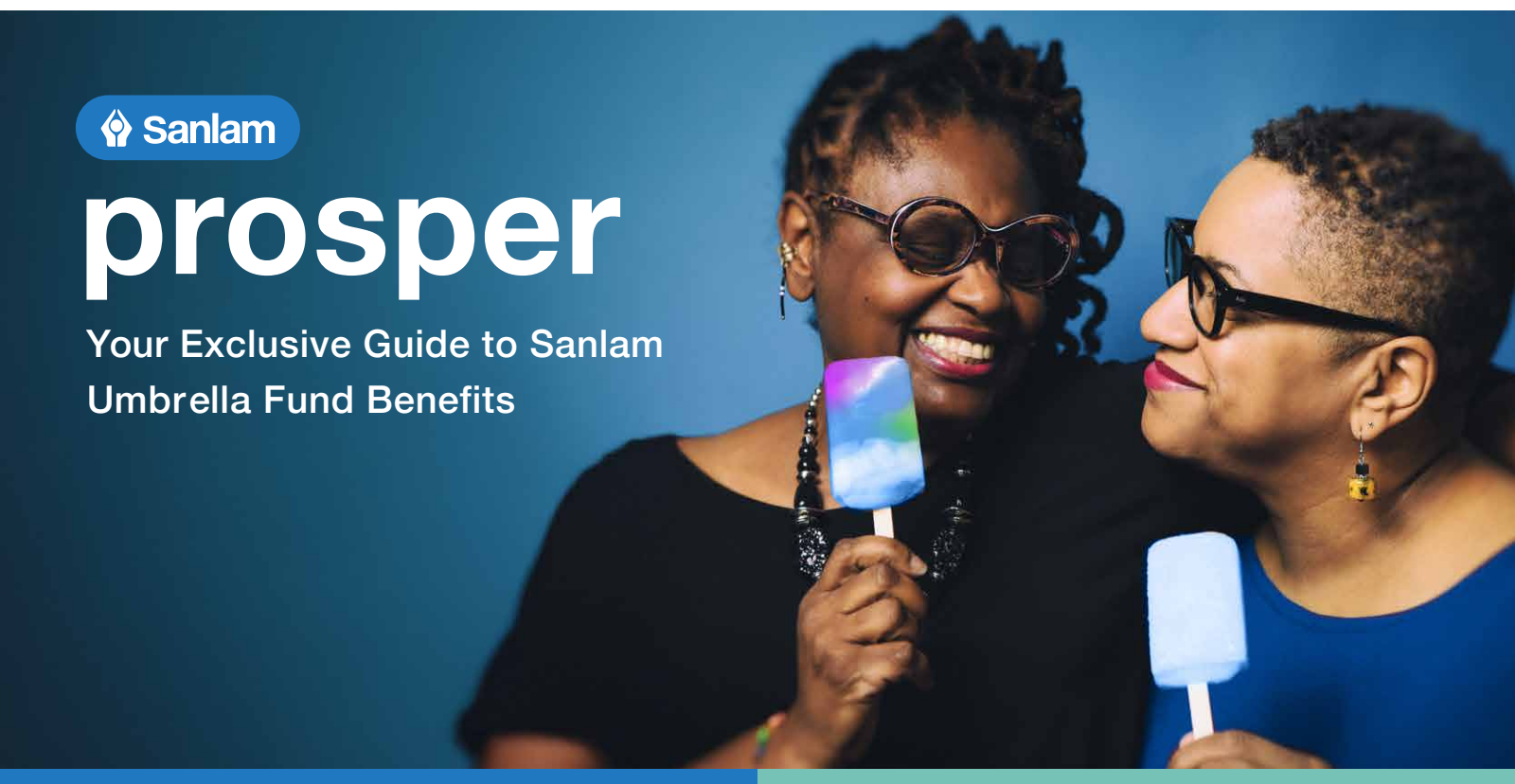
April 2025



Sanlam

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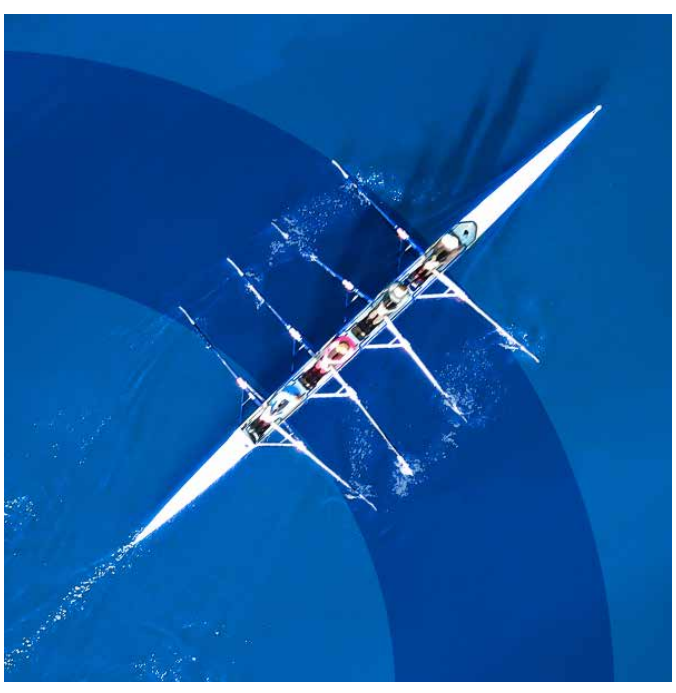
Your Exclusive Guide to Sanlam Umbrella Fund Benefits

Sanlam Member Portal | Knowledgebase

WATCH: Busting that bottleneck for a better way to claim

When the Two-Pot System launched in 2024, our Claims Department experienced a surge in withdrawal applications from SUF members, on top of managing daily claims. The overwhelming demand led us to streamline the process by moving withdrawal requests and claims online via the Sanlam Member Portal.



The Sanlam Lifestage Model: Safe waters secure growth

A long-term investment plan that's focused on growth and adapts to your needs over time can help secure a confident retirement.

Read more

A good retirement: Don't let debt steal the show!

Dreaming of living the luxe life at retirement? It's time to flip the script on dealing with debt so it doesn't ruin your plans.

Read more

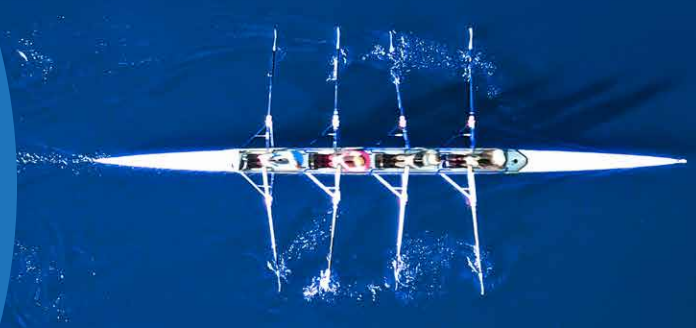
Did you miss the Imali Zam webinar?

This *Imali Zam* webinar kicked off the year strong by explaining the tax implications of making a Two-Pot System withdrawal, plus shared how you can access and manage your retirement savings effectively in 2025.

Learn more here

Financial Planning | Retirement | Insurance | Health | Investment | Wealth | Credit

Safe waters
secure growth



A long-term investment plan that's focused on growth and adapts to your needs over time can help you secure a confident retirement.

Not everyone is an investment expert, and that's totally fine. That's why the Sanlam Lifestage Model is designed to spread the risk of your retirement investment – and keep your money safe from market swings – by expertly adapting to your investment needs during every life phase, while helping you save for retirement.

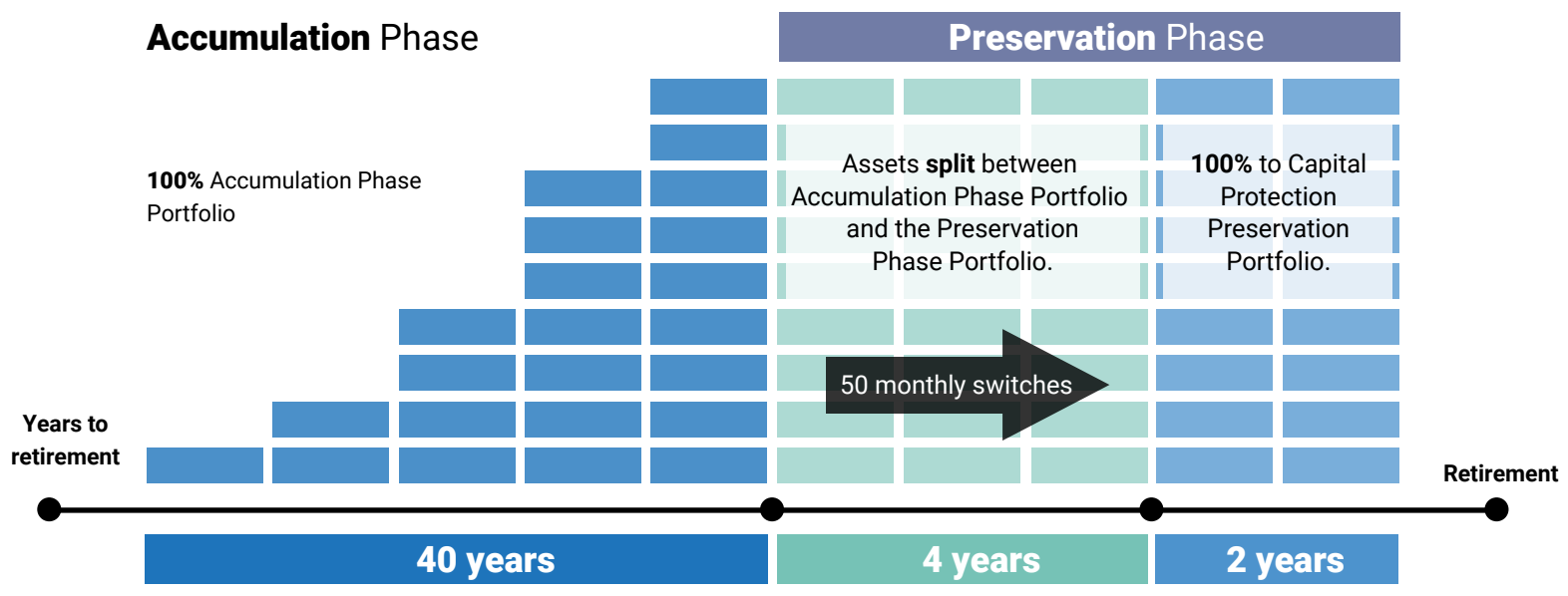
The Sanlam Lifestage Model is made up of two phases: the Accumulation Phase and the Preservation Phase. As you get closer to retirement, your investment strategy will shift automatically to anticipate the change in your needs.

The Accumulation Phase

If you have more than six years until retirement, your money's fully invested in the **Sanlam Accumulation Phase Portfolio/s**, focused on long-term capital growth, which can also take some short-term market ups and downs in its stride.

The Preservation Phase

Once you're within six years (72 months) of retirement, our de-risking strategy sees your savings automatically move across into the **Sanlam Capital Preservation Phase Portfolio** through 50 small monthly switches of 2% each to avoid market timing risks.



Why de-risking makes sense

When you're in your younger years and retirement is still far off, you have the benefit of time to consider your investment approach. That means you can take on more risk because there's still enough time for you to recover from any short-term losses that might happen due to market ups and downs.

But as you get closer to retirement, you have less time to make up any losses that occur from downturns in the market. This lack of recovery time is exactly why it's so important that your savings are switched to – and protected by – a more conservative investment strategy.

This is a vital part of your retirement investment journey, as it aims to ensure you enjoy the best outcome when you eventually retire.

The benefits of the 50 monthly switches in the Sanlam Lifestage Model

Preservation of gains: By gradually shifting your assets, the strategy helps you preserve the investment gains you achieved during the Accumulation Phase, before fully transitioning to the Preservation Phase.

Market resilience: If a market downturn happens during the transition period, the 50 monthly switches give your assets in the Accumulation Phase Portfolio/s time to potentially recover before being moved over fully to the Preservation Phase. This enhances the strategy's ability to withstand market volatility.

Reduced volatility: This steady monthly transition can give you a more consistent investment experience, unlike, for example, sudden and possibly jarring switches that happen quarterly or yearly.

Protection in the Preservation Phase: As your money moves to the Preservation Phase Portfolio, the returns and guarantees in this portfolio provide increasing protection against sudden market changes during the Preservation Phase as you get closer to retirement.

Don’t let debt steal the show!

Dreaming of living the luxe life at retirement? It’s time to flip the script on dealing with debt so it doesn’t ruin your plans.

Thousands of South Africans are retiring with significant debt, which means pensions are stretched wafer-thin to cover the most basic expenses. You need to have a solid debt-busting plan in place, but when you’re drowning in debt, even the best retirement plan can only do so much.

Here’s how you can break free from the debt cycle and flourish – whether you’re a fresh-starter, a builder or a finish-stronger.

Fresh-starters build habits early

Between the ages of 20 and 29, lay a solid foundation for good saving – and spending – habits to help shape your retirement future.

When you get your first job, prioritise chatting to a **Sanlam Retirement Benefits Counsellor** who will show you how your early financial choices will impact your retirement outcomes. If the company you’re joining offers you the option to contribute to the Sanlam Umbrella Fund from your first paycheck, consider it seriously – it’s easier to build wealth when time (and automation) are on your side.

Be mindful of ‘lifestyle’ debt. That dream trip to Europe, growing your designer sneaker collection or weekly sushi splurges might seem totally worth it now, but less so when you’re 30 and still paying them off.

It’s also the phase in which to start building – and maintaining – a good credit score! Not all debt is bad. By taking on a small amount of credit and managing it in a positive way, you can build a strong credit score. This good credit history can empower you to achieve your dreams, like starting a business, studying further or buying a home. **Sanlam Credit Solutions** can give you advice and access to a **free credit coaching service**.

‘Builders’ bust midlife debt

By now, you may have a young family, a bond, car finance or even personal loans, so it’s time to aggressively reduce your debt to invest in your future.

Between age 30 and 54 is the time to make use of **Sanlam’s Wealth Bonus® Lifestyle** through which you can enjoy value-added benefits, rewards and savings that are designed to make your life as easy as possible. Plus, through **Sanlam Reality**, a paid-for lifestyle benefit programme, you can gain access to exclusive lifestyle discounts – they’re like rewards for living a financially responsible life.

It’s also time to re-evaluate your spending habits, especially if you’re still splurging on expensive dinners, high-end gadgets or designer clothes and don’t have the cash to back up that spending. Rather redirect that money towards debt reduction and savings.

It’s also wise to kill off your high-interest debt first – pay off credit cards and personal loans that cost you the most in interest over time. Use any ‘extra’ cash for saving.

Finally, beware of the Two-Pot System temptation. Two-Pot may allow you to access part of your retirement savings once a year, but if you’re going to retire comfortably, this should only be used as an absolute last resort.

Finish-strongers lock in security

As you approach retirement, the focus should be on eliminating debt entirely – but that will take some smart decision-making and planning.

Pay off your bond long before retirement to eliminate a number of major monthly expenses.

If your house is too big and costly to maintain, consider downsizing, selling up and moving into a more manageable home – and invest any leftover cash.

Avoid ‘grey debt’. Many retirees take on debt to support adult dependents or to maintain a grand lifestyle. Know your financial limitations and be firm about your cashflow boundaries.

To withdraw from Two-Pot … or not?

While the Two-Pot System allows you to access a portion of your retirement savings long before you’re set to retire, using that money to pay off debt is risky.

Withdrawing from your fund now means you miss out on decades of compound growth, leaving you short of cash at a time when you need it most. Rather manage your debt wisely and leave your savings alone to grow.

Still unsure? Try our Age of Confidence Calculator here to show at what age you can retire, based on your current savings.