

Connecting the dots

Stories of change: Young Women in Local Government

Confidence and inspiration

Summary

Colisile Dlamini, student, Hlatikulu, Eswatini

Project involvement: Young Women in Local Government network and mentoring

Following her studies in office management and technology, Colisile Dlamini joined the Connecting the Dots project to increase her skills and career prospects. The leadership skills and new self-confidence she has gained thanks to her mentor have changed the way she reacts to situations and inspired her to stand to become a councillor in future local elections.

Background and aims

Colisile Dlamini, from Hlatikulu, Eswatini, has been studying office management and technology and is now looking for a job. She is interested in entrepreneurship and doing business and joined the Connecting the Dots project to help increase her skills both for her career prospects and to help her think about getting into politics..

How the CtD project has helped

Colisile says she has learned many new skills from her Connecting the Dots project mentor, Maggie Thebete, including leadership skills and confidence.

Colisile is a member of a youth club she founded in Hlatikulu which deals with development. She says her new leadership skills have helped her with the leadership of the club. She now knows how to deal with different situations, and not react without thinking, thanks to the help of her mentor.

As Colisile's mentor is a councillor, Colisile has learned from her mentor's experience of being a councillor, and the qualities needed to be a councillor.

Despite Covid-19 being a challenge in being able to communicate with her mentor much of the time, Colisile and her mentor found ways of communicating online and in other ways which has helped them keep on track.

Impact

Colisile is now hoping to stand to be a councillor herself in the forthcoming 2023 local elections.

"I am confident and sure that I can take a position and be a great councillor

knowing what is expected of me in being a councillor thanks to the help my mentor has given me,” explains Colisile.

“She has seen so much change in me: in the way I react to situations and the way I do things - I am now more focused on community work rather than myself, I am self-motivated now, and do things more confidently than before,” she added.

