

# Connecting the dots .....

Stories of change: Women in Local Economic Development

## **A growing business**

### *Summary*

Jabulile Nkhambule, business entrepreneur, Ezulwini, Eswatini

*Project involvement:* Attended Women in Local Economic Development conference in Pigg's Peak

*After attending CLGF's women's LED conference in Pigg's Peak, Jabulile Nkhambule has been able to make a step change in her approach to managing her vegetable business. With a better understanding of how to run a business, she now has big plans for the future to make her business more sustainable by growing her own so she does not have to rely on supply chains.*

### *Background and aims*

Jabulile Nkhambule owns a successful vegetable business in Ezulwini – Mliba Green Leaf Ezulwini. She set up the business after she realised that there were few local farms in Ezulwini that offered fresh produce to local shops. Her vegetable business offers bulk purchase of pumpkin leaves and spinach for local supermarkets.

However, Covid-19 had a big impact on Jabulile's business. Supply shortages were compounded by a drop in sales as people stayed at home because of Covid restrictions. Jabulile needed to make changes to make her business more sustainable and not be so reliant on supply chains.

### *How the CtD project has helped*

After attending CLGF's women's conference at Pigg's Peak, Jabulile has been able to make a step change in her approach to business and the future looks bright despite the difficulties brought on by Covid-19.

At the conference Jabulile learned more about how to manage a business, including accounts, marketing and branding. As a result she opened up a business bank account to start saving and plan for the future.

"The conference really helped me learn how to run a business," says Jabulile.

### *Impact*

Now Jabulile has a new approach to business management. Identifying supply chains as one of the barriers, she now has big plans to grow her own vegetables so that she does not have to rely on other farms for supplies. This not only means that she does not have to rely on supply chains, but will also lead to less wastage from ruined or rotten crops as she can harvest as and when needed.

She is now seeking financial and other assistance to develop this, including

erecting a fence to enclose the land she is now farming.

“If I stock vegetables and they end up getting ruined or rotten, then I can’t make any profits,” she explains.

