

# Connecting the dots .....

## Stories of change: Women in Local Economic Development

### **Bigger piggery in Pigg's Peak**

#### *Summary*

Khethiwe Lukhele, entrepreneur, Pigg's Peak, Eswatini

Project involvement: Women in Local Economic Development network and mentoring

*With increasing demand for pig meat products, pig farmer Khethiwe Lukhele started in a small way but has been gradually growing her business. Thanks to the learning she received from the Connecting the Dots WLED workshops, Khethiwe has been able to raise the necessary finance and develop and implement a plan to increase her stock and then buy her own place to create a bigger piggery.*

#### *Background*

Khethiwe Lukhele is a pig farmer from Pigg's Peak. She started her piggery - Shalom Piggery - in 2019, beginning with five piglets; once these had grown and could be sold, they made her enough money to buy a female pig to move to breeding her own piglets to rear.

#### *Aims*

Business was going well, customer numbers increased as Khethiwe was supplying more and more butchers but with increasing demand for her pigs from more customers, Khethiwe realised she could not produce enough to satisfy all the demand and soon ran out of pigs to sell.

Khethiwe's challenge was to get funding to buy two more sows, so that her sows could be pregnant in rotation and at any time one would be pregnant while the other two would be suckling piglets so she could manage an ongoing supply for her market.

#### *How the CtD project has helped*

At this critical stage of needing to raise finance to expand her business, Khethiwe had the chance to participate in the Connecting the Dots workshops. She says this was a great help: the training and business skills she learned not only helped her with her own project in putting her plans into action, but she was also able to help other women starting their own businesses.

#### *Impact*

Thanks to the increased investment and increased sales, Khethiwe has been able to boost her income and this in turn has enabled her to buy her own

place and a bigger piggery, a big saving on what she previously paid in rent.

“I think I now have a viable business that will generate enough income to be able to continue with it and be of use to the community,” Khethiwe explained.

The income from the business is also helping her family. With the increased income from the business she has been able to pay for her children’s education, rather than the having to use the small income she gets from an additional salaried job.

*Looking ahead*

Khethiwe is not resting on her laurels but continuing to innovate, and has acquired materials to start to build new, bigger pigpens so that she will be able to produce enough pigmeat to supply all the butchers and individual needs in the area.

“The programmes that the project created for us have helped me a lot and opened my mind,” says Khethiwe.

“I am able to share the knowledge with other people so they can also get help,” she added.

