

Connecting the dots

Stories of change: Women in Local Economic Development

Benefits of bookkeeping

Summary

Thembisile Maziye , businesswoman, Siteki, Eswatini

Project involvement: Women in Local Economic Development training and network

After being selected to take part in the Connecting the Dots project, Thembisile Maziye has learned key business skills to put her chicken business on track. Better bookkeeping has enabled her to keep essential records so that she can now determine her profits and has money to spare not only to restock, but also for vital services to improve her family's quality of life such as connecting her home to the main water supply.

Background

Thembisile Maziye has a chicken farm. She has laying chickens that produce eggs which she hatches, and then she looks after and feeds the chicks until they grow to a size to sell.

Aims

Thembisile did not have any experience of business management. She used income from sales to spend as she wanted without any idea of how much she was making from her sales or a plan for the future. Thanks to Siteki Town Council, Thembisile was selected to attend the Connecting the Dots training to learn about some of the key skills in running a business.

How the CtD project has helped

Thembisile has learned how to manage sales, learned basic bookkeeping skills, and the importance of keeping records of sales and income and banking the income from her business to save money for future plans. Now she is keeping records of her amount of stock, operating costs, sales and can calculate the profits that have been made. From this she is able to see how much money she has for restocking and for paying bills.

“When we started learning our brains were stuck, but then as days went by we learned a lot, they have helped me,” says Thembisile.

“They also told us about the disadvantages of keeping money at home. And also that bookkeeping helps you see the work you have done; without the books you cannot.

“Before I would just spend the money with my kids, send them to school. I

really did not know what to do,” she added.

Impact

Thanks to the record keeping and improved money management, Thembisile can now see how much profit she has made and better manage the money she has to spend for herself. She has been able to fund the costs of having her home linked to the water system so she now has running water in her home. Before this they had to get water from a nearby river. This has been a big boon for the whole family.

Thembisile is now looking to save or access money to invest in her business for the future. She would like to be able to put better roofs on her chicken sheds properly to improve her profits.

