

Connecting the dots

Stories of change: Young Women in Local Economic Development

Cleaning up with new business skills

Summary

Zandile Dlamini, business woman, Lavumisa, Eswatini

Project involvement: Pigg's Peak conference, Women in Local Economic Development network

Zandile Dlamini was not able to continue her boiled egg business due to the impact of Covid-19, but not deterred she looked to set up a cleaning business instead. The business skills she learned from taking part in the Connecting the Dots project, not only helped her to better manage and plan her new business, but helped her develop as a business woman, with ambitious plans for the future.

Background and aims

Zandile Dlamini is a business woman working in Lavumisa, She started off with a business boiling eggs and selling them. However, when Covid-19 hit it made it difficult for Zandile to sell her produce as the places where she usually sold them had been some of the busiest places.

Looking to start an alternative business that she could sustain throughout the pandemic, Zandile hit on the idea of starting a cleaning business but needed help to learn about business management and develop business skills.

How the CtD project has helped

Lavumisa town council nominated Zandile to take part in the Connecting the Dots project, including attending the conference at Pigg's Peak to learn about business.

Attending the Pigg's Peak conference, Zandile learned about bookkeeping, good record keeping, and how to manage her finances, including separating the money for the business, to cover business costs such as restocking, and money to pay herself to spend on herself and her family.

"They taught me how to do this in Pigg's Peak," says Zandile.

"I was a person who worked to fill the tummy. I did not know that when you are in business you should allocate money to pay yourself. Previously when I sold something I would just spend all the money. I learned that records are supposed to be kept.

Impact

The cleaning business that Zandile set up - Mzaza's cleaning - helped her a

lot during Covid-19 as she was able to continue working and the skills she acquired from being part of the Connecting the Dots project helped her to develop as a business woman.

Looking forward

Zandile would like to grow and diversify her business to offer more services. Her ambitions include branching out into office cleaning, and setting up a car wash.

“I wish to end up being a company and being able to hire other people who I will work with” explains Zandile.

“I am trying to improve my business to the standard that will impress the community and all my customers,” she concluded.

