



Project Education Sweden

Micro-Business Support February 2019

All of the beneficiary grants have been paid out. There have been some good results from the beneficiaries who received their grants earlier in 2018 and three of the participants applied at the end of 2018 to join the project to grow small businesses and were accepted to join the programme. We have had very satisfying results from the new beneficiaries and they have used the grant money wisely in order to build self-sustaining businesses.

Phathiswa Tetyana

Phathiswa applied for an interest free loan to further grow her business and has used the money to buy fabric so that she can start producing items that she can sell quickly. She is still finding financial record keeping difficult, however she is learning how to manage her cash better so that she can ensure a minimum personal income from the business, can maintain her stock levels and can save a little every week to cover emergencies and grow her business. She has ordered sufficient soft drink stock to get a fridge from Coca Cola and expects to be able to increase her takeaway business and turnover considerably this year. She is feeling very positive about the year and her ability to support her family.

Nothandekile Ngalo

Nothandekile's vending business is stable and she has grown her stock considerably. She has also learned how to manage her cash and now ensures that she always has enough stock, has enough money to pay herself and is also managing to save money to grow her business further. She has applied for an interest free loan to further expand the sewing side of her business. She is specifically needing help with design and marketing and we are looking for a specialist who can help her with this. Currently her sewing business is the manufacture of traditional outfits for people in the community. The demand for this however is limited and she is looking to develop other products that will sell more frequently and are not as expensive to make.

Lindiswa Ngamlana

Lindiswa has found a market for her beaded products and is selling more of these as a result. Her sewing machine has been repaired and she is feeling more stable in her business. She is now working on designing items that will sell more quickly in the community and has incorporated beading into products that she buys from a factory shop (bags and scarves). We are currently investigating getting her on to another community project that will help her business to grow and assist with product design. She has displayed innovation and creativity with the products that she makes and will benefit greatly from more specialized mentoring.

Bulelwa Tito

Bulelwa's business is going very well. She is running the pattern cutting and dressmaking courses and has herself enrolled in an advance business course that will be taking place over the next 9 months. She is also investigating selling from a local market that will attract tourists so that they can develop a more regular income from smaller items and has also got a second client who is regularly ordering clothing items from them. We were able to refer two international students doing research in the community to her for dressmaking and they were very happy with the dresses that they ordered. We were also able to put her in touch with a Ugandan fabric artist who was exhibiting at the Stellenbosch Triennale recently and together with a few of the other seamstresses on the project they helped sew a fabric art installation that was exhibited in Stellenbosch. The women were paid for this work and this made a big difference to their monthly income.

Busisiwe Potelwa

Busisiwe has continued to grow her business and is now selling a bigger range of clothing as well as shoes. She did well through the winter and has managed to build her stock levels further and could supply a range of clothes for summer before Christmas when many people are looking for special outfits for themselves and their families. She is no longer selling the multi-level marketing products and is concentrating solely on clothes, shoes and accessories. Her business is stable and she is feeling more confident about being able to grow the business further in the future. Her financial record keeping is improving and she assures us that she is saving a little money each month in order to be able to handle emergencies that arise.

Nomhlokuqala Dino

Nomhlokuqala completed her business plan early this year and received her grant in early January. She is currently supporting her own two children as well as various other family members. She and Noluthando work together closely and both sell items at the local schools. In addition to sweets and

chips she is also selling baked goods and amagwinya and has revised her pricing on the baked goods as a result of learning how to work out profit margins. Whilst the profit margins on the amagwinya were good, she discovered that on the baked goods she was not taking all her expenses into account and therefore was making very little profit. Her profit has subsequently increased and she has been able to draw more money from the business to support her family as a result. She is a single mother of two children, both of them are still at school

Noluthando Krish

Noluthando also only completed her business plan early this year and used the money to increase the amount of stock that she carries. She has spent the money increasing her stock levels and was also able to supplement this with money she had managed to save during the course of the business course where we discussed cash flow and budgeting. The fact that she was able to manage her money better has given her a great deal of confidence and she is excited about putting some of the skills that she learned into practice. We will continue to monitor and advise her on her business during the course of the year. She is currently selling snacks and sweets to school children in the community and is looking at other options with a better profit margin.

Nompumelelo Madinga

Nompumelelo's business is still relatively small and she is only involved in it over weekends and in the evenings as she has now got a job working at one of the local schools. She has a stable monthly income and her small business supplements the family income. She is still selling paraffin and basic food items in Nkanini where there are no local shops easily accessible. Her husband has also managed to find more permanent work and so the families finances have improved considerably as a result. The fact that she is earning an income has also improved her confidence levels and she feels that this is a major reason for an improvement in her relationship which previously was looking precarious.

Margaret Jobela

Margaret is also selling snacks at the local school. She has used the money to expand into food items that she makes at home and then sells as she has worked out that the profit margins are better on these items. She now sells scones as well as fried chicken feet which are popular with the children. She is a pensioner that is looking after her grandchildren. The children's mother has died and Margaret is the sole breadwinner in the family. She is delighted that her business is growing and that it is bringing in more money.

Abonga Ncapa

Abonga is the son of one of our beneficiaries. He lives with his family and there are 11 people in the household. There was one person working but they recently lost their job and there is no money coming into the household. He is starting a small computer repair business and we have been assisting him to find suppliers and designing and printing a small flyer that he can hand out in the community in order to start building a business. He is using the money to buy computer parts as he has some old computers that he wants to repair and sell and has found buyers for them already. He is extremely motivated and delighted that he will be able to get his business up and running.

We are very pleased with how our micro businesses have been doing and their progress in growing their businesses and becoming more financially self-sufficient. We are currently looking for ways in which we can continue to support these small businesses and get them to the next level.

We are enormously grateful for the funding that has allowed us to assist these women and look forward to their further growth and having families that are self-sufficient and strong.

Thank you Project Education Sweden!

Photo Essay



Abonga Ncapa doing some research for his computer repair business



Nomhlokuqala Dino selling her snacks and amagwinya to school children



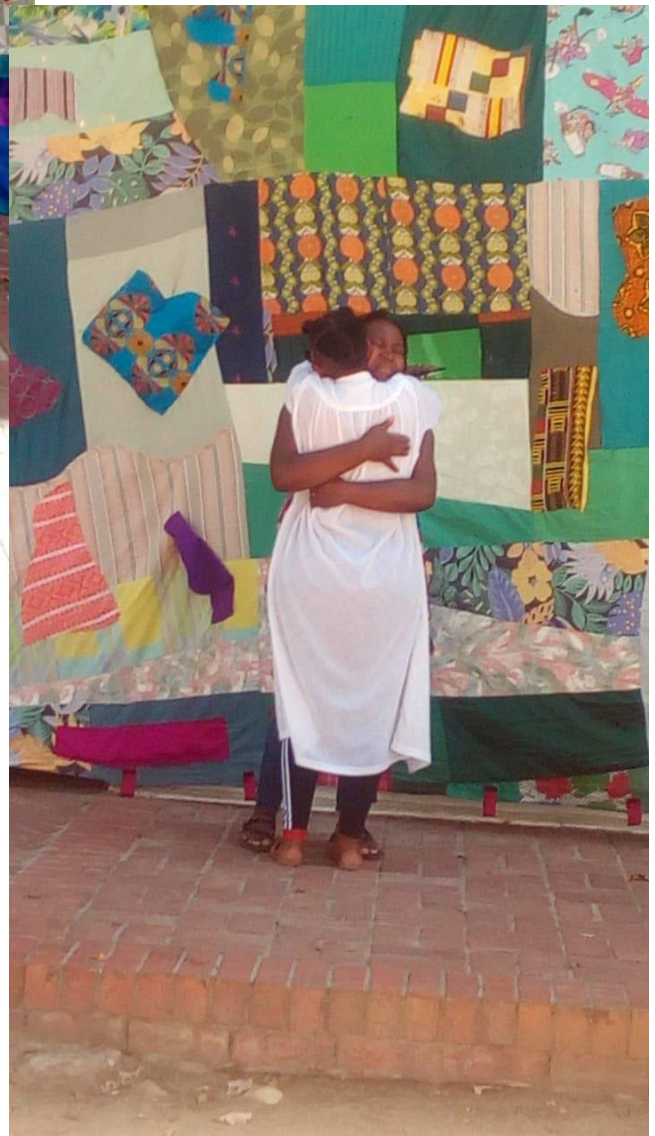
Margaret Jobela selling her snacks and chicken feet at a local school



The fabric art installation sewn by some of our seamstresses for the Stellenbosch Triennale



Bulelwa posing in front of the fabric art installation



One of the seamstresses with the Ugandan artist



Nothandekile selling her products at the local school