

EMPOWER HER

This IWD, let's stand together for all women and girls — championing their rights, ensuring equality, and driving empowerment.

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: THE JOURNEY OF HLALISILE MNGOMETULU



As we celebrate International Women's Day under the theme: **FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS: RIGHTS. EQUALITY. EMPOWERMENT,**

The Swaziland Network of Young Positives (SNYP+) reaffirms its commitment to creating opportunities that empower women and girls to achieve financial independence. One such inspiring story is that of Hlalisile Mngometulu, a young entrepreneur from Siphofaneni Inkhundla, Shiselweni Region, who turned her aspirations into achievements through resilience, dedication, and the right support.

BREAKING BARRIERS THROUGH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Hlalisile was selected as a beneficiary of a transformative initiative led by SNYP+, with support from UN Women SA under the #HeForShe initiative. This program sought to empower Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) by providing capital and training to start their own businesses. Through this initiative, Hlalisile was given the necessary resources to launch

her broiler farming business, marking the beginning of her journey toward economic self-sufficiency.

During a field visit in July 2024, UN representatives and SNYP+ had the opportunity to hear firsthand about Hlalisile's journey. She shared how the five-day AGYW entrepreneurship training equipped her with essential business skills that have helped her navigate and

overcome challenges. "These past few months have been transformative. Running my own business has not only given me financial stability but also the confidence to grow and plan for a better future," she said.



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OVERCOMING CHALLENGES, EMBRACING GROWTH

One of the significant challenges Hlalisile has faced is ensuring her chickens stay warm during the cold nights—a task that requires her to wake up regularly to monitor their well-being. Despite these challenges, her determination remains unwavering. Growing up in a business-centered home gave her insights into financial management, which she has applied to sustain her venture. Her business profits have enabled her to purchase personal necessities, contribute to her family's food expenses, and save money in a bank account for future expansion.

Looking ahead, Hlalisile envisions expanding her business. Her plans include increasing the number of chickens she rears, investing in better infrastructure, purchasing a deep freezer to improve storage, and ultimately increasing her monthly harvest. Her aspirations reflect her strong business acumen and determination to establish a thriving enterprise.

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Hlalisile's success story highlights the transformative power of targeted investments in women and girls. When provided with the right opportunities, young women can break barriers, achieve financial independence, and

contribute meaningfully to their communities. SNYP+ believes that economic empowerment is a vital tool in fostering gender equality and ensuring sustainable development. As we commemorate the

International Women's Day, we celebrate Hlalisile's achievements and reaffirm our commitment to supporting more young women on their journey to empowerment. Through strategic partnerships and initiatives like #HeForShe, SNYP+ will continue to provide young women with the resources and mentorship they need to thrive.

ABOUT SNYP+ AND #HEFORSHE

SNYP+ is committed to supporting Young People Living with HIV, advocating for their rights, and empowering them through various programs. The #HeForShe initiative by UN Women SA is dedicated to advancing gender equality and creating opportunities for women and girls to achieve economic independence. Together, we strive to foster meaningful change and uplift communities across Eswatini and beyond.