

Lihle Miya – trained in South Africa in 2001

Lihle was just 22 years of age when she attended the DBSP's training programme in February of 2001. About a year or so before she attended the training, both of Lihle's parents died, leaving her and her brothers and sisters orphans. Since Lihle was the eldest in the family, she was forced to take on the role as the primary breadwinner. Having barely finished school, Lihle did not have many skills that would have found her employment. She and her family were in quite a desperate situation in January of 2001. When the opportunity of attending the DBSP's training came around, Lihle jumped at it. Whilst on the training, Lihle started selling drinks, one bottle at a time. Soon she was able to sell a crate of drinks. She made enough money whilst in training to open a small store, which she soon found to be quite profitable. In fact, she was able to acquire a piece of land close to the main road and put up a small brick structure with the money that she made from selling drinks. One day while she was operating this business, she overheard some of her customers say that they needed to



buy some food to take home to their family, but that the nearest tuck shop was far away. This gave her an idea and before long she had bought some grocery items, which she started selling to her customers who came to buy their drinks. Very soon, word got out that she was selling groceries, so the community around her started to buy from her. She then needed to expand her premises to house this emerging business, so built on a separate room for her shop. Children started to come and buy sweets from her and the community supported her more and more. This tuck shop business has grown a lot and Lihle has since built on another 2 rooms. In fact, she makes more money out of selling groceries, sweets and



other items of necessity, than she does out of selling drinks.

Lihle earns enough money so that her and her brothers and sisters can live well and the business pays for her brother & sister's schooling. She fully supports her family in terms of money for clothing, health care & food. She banks money on a regular basis thereby saving it. In her own words she



says "Thank you DBSP for giving me this opportunity. You have saved my life and the life of my family. We do not have to be dependant on anyone anymore, we are totally changed and we now have money. We do not have to be victims of poverty any more."

Whenever anyone from the management of DBSP visits her area, we make a point of visiting Lihle in her business and she never ceases to amaze us at her achievements. She is an independent and highly driven young woman who has literally turned her life around and will continue to do so for many years to come. We are very proud of her and consider it an honor to have provided her with the necessary training to give her a hand up in life. She is an exceptional example of someone who can make a life for herself out of almost nothing, simply by putting into practice what is taught on the training.