

Providing families with livelihoods

Dorah Mako lives in Limpopo with her sister-in-law, her two children and her husband, whose salary isn't enough to support the family. When she heard about an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project in her area, she couldn't let the opportunity pass her by.

"I'd heard people in the community talking about the EPWP project, and didn't waste time in joining. My husband is working but he doesn't earn very much, so I have to help him around the house."

She's involved in a project that deals with digging trenches and aftercare. She believes that the community has benefited from the project, as more people are earning a living. "I just hope EPWP can extend their projects, so we can have better lives."

Having matriculated in 2000, the 29-year-old Mako says she has never worked before, and that this was her first job. "Before the EPWP project, I was relying on my husband's salary and social grants for the children. Thanks to the EPWP project, my family has managed to live a little more comfortably and afford some luxuries. I even bought a television set; if it was not for the EPWP project, I never would've been able to afford it."

Mako says she remembers times when they barely scraped by, because the little money they had was used for her husband's transport to work. "It was tough, but the project changed a lot of things. There were also times when it was difficult just to put a meal on the table; we had to rely on neighbours and good Samaritans for food. Those were challenging times, but I'm pleased to say the EPWP project have made my life easier."