

## **EPWP educates child**

Josephine Sondlana is a widowed mother of four. She matriculated in 1995, in the small village of Elim, near Giyani outside Polokwane. Little did she know that she would be unemployed for most of her life.

When she received her Matric Certificate, her hopes were high that she would find a decent job, as a Matric Certificate was highly valued back then. Unfortunately, nothing solid came her way.

One of her four children is currently studying at the Tshwane North College in Pretoria. This, she says, couldn't have happened if it wasn't for an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project she joined in 2009. "The Tivoneleni Bakery Project changed a lot of things in my life. Now I'm proud that my daughter is at a tertiary institution, studying towards a better future. I also picked up valuable skills like food preparation and hygiene, and general baking skills."

Sondlana says while other beneficiaries were buying new televisions sets and fridges, she was saving up for her daughter's education. "I saved almost all my stipend money for her registration fees.

"This was a relief, because without the EPWP project, she would be staying at home with us, doing nothing. I joined the project with the clear intention of saving for her education, and I'm grateful that this dream has been realised."

Before the project, she was selling wood in the community just to make ends meet. "I was also doing temporary jobs for people so my kids could eat. It was difficult, but I survived. I really hope EPWP can give us more projects, so my daughter can succeed."