

# HUMANS OF YearBeyond

● ● ● BE INSPIRED.

## Small business owner to big change maker

A society prioritising youth fosters a community with abundant potential, promising a future brighter than its most challenging issues

23-Year-old former Catch-Up YeBoneer, and young businesswoman, Luchulumanco Ndzuzo, grew up in Mbekweni. A small Paarl-based township she fondly describes as "diverse and rich in culture". Despite growing up in an environment dedicated to nurturing youth, Luchulumanco has witnessed the hidden struggles beneath the vibrant facade of her community. Living with her mother and four brothers she faced the realities of living with a single and unemployed mother. Being the eldest child and starting her own journey into motherhood she became determined to create a life her mother and her daughter could be proud of.

In her hometown, young people are often lured into a world of violence and alcohol abuse, with many of her peers succumbing to the harsh realities of early parenthood. In response, the community has worked hard to focus on youth-driven initiatives, with community members making their own cultural, sports, and entrepreneurship programmes. Becoming a mother at 20, she was intent on avoiding these challenges and aligning herself with positive interventions. Struggling to land an opportunity after completing her HR college practical, she participated in youth programmes until she was drawn to YearBeyond, a youth service programme providing 3,000 youth in the Western Cape with a bridge to their future.

She also started her own online clothing store, making fashion accessible through a WhatsApp boutique, using the stipend she made in the programme to meet the demands of her business. Determined to empower herself by being independent, she thought this to be an entry into the working world as youth have had to find various ways to make financial means and enter the economic network



***Future mentor Luchumanco aspires to create a lasting impact in her community for her daughter and the generations that follow.***

Joining the programme in 2023 marked a pivotal chapter in her life. This transformative experience led her to explore the depths of her emotional intelligence, providing profound insights into her identity as a young person living in South Africa. YearBeyond became a space where her untapped potential was unveiled, sparking a newfound love for mentorship as she witnessed its positive impact on herself and others in the programme. She feels the programme cultivated her creativity and strong passion for people, "being part of the programme has allowed me to not only give back to learners but to make a larger impact in the community".

Today Luchulumancho is a student in the YeBo Academy, a new initiative by YearBeyond to invest in growing the pipeline of skilled mentors, Luchulumanco's involvement in the YearBeyond programme signifies more than just a fleeting chapter, it symbolises her enduring commitment to youth, her community, and the YeBo community.