



the **YOU**nitate
Journey

the YOUnitiate Journey

Life is a journey that we design. Younitiate is not a once off programme, Younitiate shapes individuals to change an entire community. Younitiate is therefore based on a systemic approach, placing children and young people at the centre of every decision. The example of Nomsa and her mother Dineo will shed some light on the support systems that Younitiate has woven together.

Younitiate has a special interest in understanding how a community works and what holds it together. For our journey, we are looking for initiative, responsibility, and creativity in a community that is eager to take on our initiatives. Once the community and Younitiare have found one another, Younitiare is committed to accompanying the community on its journey. The following story is an example of one young woman's journey.



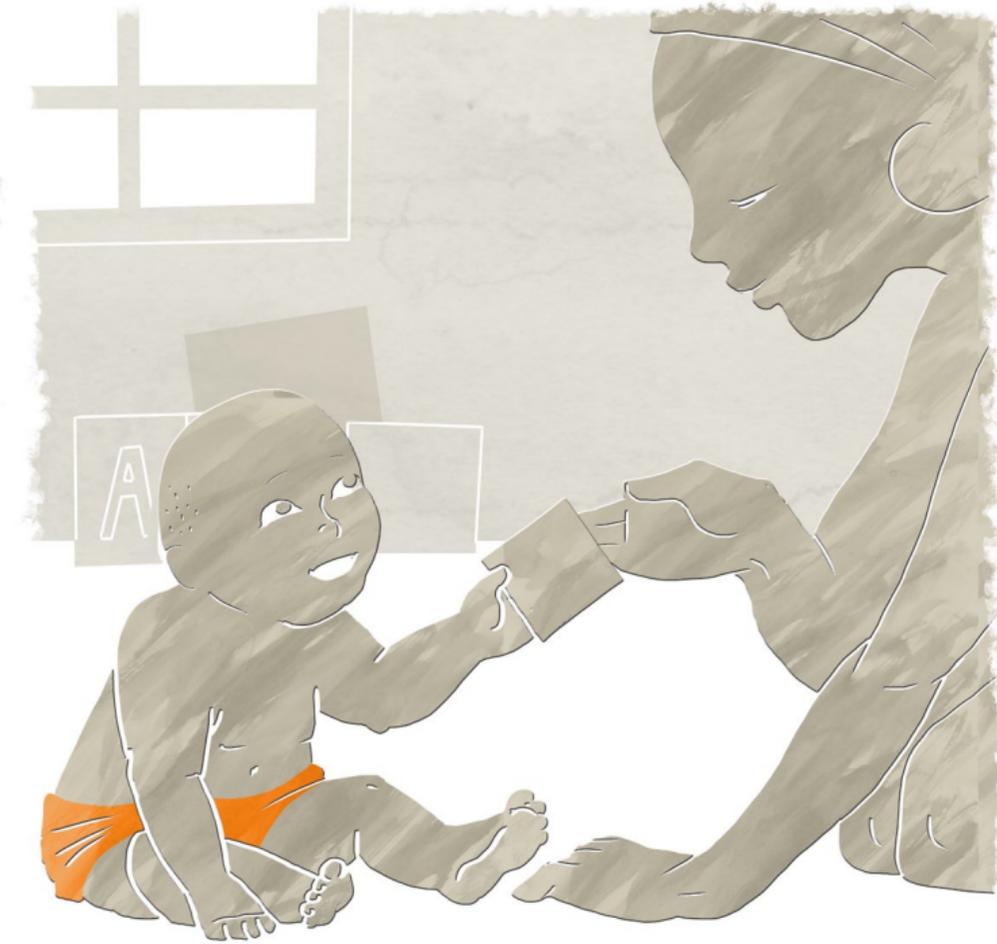
Dineo is 19, didn't finish high school and is now pregnant. Her neighbour, who is volunteering at the local crèche, told her about the new Younitiare Prenatal Programme that takes place once a week.



Dineo actually goes to the prenatal course and is surprised to find seven other young pregnant women in the room. Here, she gets prepared for the birth and learns the basic principles of raising and taking responsibility for her child. For the first time, Dineo also talks about her fears with the other women.



Dineo's daughter Nomsa is born. Younitiante supports Dineo as she grows into her role as a young mother. When Nomsa is six months old, Dineo joins the Younitiante Mother & Child courses, where Nomsa really enjoys playing with the other children and Dineo continues to learn more about parenting.



At the age of two, Nomsa goes to the crèche and since she has already been there so many times, she doesn't have a problem with staying. Because the crèche works in close cooperation with the Youniti Primary School, it uses many new creative learning methods for the children. Dineo is also actively helping out at the crèche and at events.



Dineo has to go for an interview with the Younitate Primary School principal. Interestingly, the school rather selects the parents and not the children. They consider the parents' level of initiative, interest in learning, and willingness to contribute to a high-quality education for their children.



Dineo and the principal find a great solution for paying the school fees. Dineo is going to pay by working in YounitiAtE's community programme for young, pregnant women. Hence, she now gets trained to support young women in the community who are in a similar situation than she was a couple of years ago.



Nomsa enjoys walking to school, which doesn't look like a school but rather like a nice family house. She always finds something interesting along the way and her teacher will directly react to it. Nomsa especially enjoys the individual working time, where she can decide whether to do Maths or English. Often she finishes ahead of time and starts working on the computer or her art project.



Nomsa successfully finishes the seventh grade and with her good marks she is accepted to a good high school. As she attends the Younitiatie Holiday Programmes as well as some community events, Nomsa doesn't really lose the beautiful environment of the Younitiatie Primary School. She sometimes even goes there on a Saturday to enjoy the pool.



From Grade 10 onwards she joins the Youniti Grade 13 Programme. The first step of the programme is the annual Career Week. In the eleventh grade, Nomsa decides that she will not study after finishing her matric. She rather wants to start earning her own money and contributing to the household.



The Grade 13 Programme is her stepping stone. She hands in a really creative letter of motivation – and gets accepted. She begins with one month of voluntary service at the Younitiare Grade 13 Programme and then works for the Younitiare's mobile shop.

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Nomsa becomes an integral part of the Younitiare mobile shop team. She learns to coordinate the logistics and gains basic accounting skills. She is very good at decorating the shop and advising the customers. She likes the smiles on their faces when they leave with high-quality baby products and clothes for their children.



The constant feedback and motivation from her Youniti team leader helps her a lot. She applies for a job in the fashion industry and the 10th interview finally works out. She gets a job in a big clothing shop.



Nomsa still remains a Younitiante member. She becomes a community ambassador for the Life Skills Programme. Here, she talks to students about her experience in applying for a job and being an employee. She soon becomes a valuable mentor to other young people in the community.



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You initiate the future.