



## **Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio project**

---

### ***Yithi sodwa / Just us***

***Hleziphi, 11 years old, 2007***

---

- SFX                    Iselula iyakhala - *cell phone ringing*
- Bandlalethu:        Yebo, unjani? Ngiyaphila baba. Yebo. Hhayi siphila kahle. Akukho okushodayo. Yebo. Siyabonga. Sharp!
- Hello, how are you? I am fine father. Yes, we are fine. We are not short of anything . Yes thank you. Sharp!*
- Hleziphi:            Lomfowethu uBandlalethu kade ekhuluma nobaba. Wasishiyela i-cell phone kuze sikwazi ukuxhumana naye.
- That was my brother Bandlalethu talking to our father. He left us a cell phone so that we can contact him.*
- Hleziphi:            Igama lami nginguHleziphi. Mina ngibukeka nginobuso obuwu-round futhi ngifana nomama. Ngimfishane kodwa hhayi ukuba mfushane engathi utikoloshe. Futhi angisona i-slender kakhulu kodwa ngiyiso. Mina ngazalwa ngo1996. Mina ngithanda ukudlala ibhola. Into engiyinyanyayo ukuthi uma ngilungisile endlini kufike umuntu bese eyangcolisa mina ngiyanyanya ukubuye ngiqale phansi ngilungise.
- My name is Hleziphi. I am round-faced and I look like my mother. I am short but not as short as a ,tikoloshe'. I am slender but not too slender. I was born in 1996 . I like to play netball. I hate it when I have cleaned the house and someone comes and messes it up again: I hate having to start cleaning again.*
- Hleziphi:            Ekhaya sihlala yimi, umfowethu omncane uMandisa, uKhumbuzile omdala kimi bese kuba uBandlalethu omdala futhi nje owokuqala. Abazali abekho abahlali nathi.
- Umama akekho ukubo ngoba uyagula and futhi ubaba uyasebenza eMpangeni ngoba ngeke aze ahlale ekhaya ngoba vele uyasebenza kuze nathi sizothola into esingayidla. Mina ngineminyaka ewu-11, kuthi uMandisa uneminyaka ewu-7, uKhumbuzile uneminyaka ewu-13 uBandlalethu uneminyaka ewu-16.
- At home I stay with my little sister Mandisa, Khumbuzile who is older than me and Bandlalethu who is the eldest of us all and the first born. My parents are not at home: they do not stay with us.*
- My mother is sick so she is staying with her family and my father works at Empangeni: he can't stay at home because he needs to work to support us..*

*I am 11 years old, Mandisa is 7, Khumbuzile is 13 and Bandlaletu is 16 years old.*

SFX: umsindo werediyo – *radio playing*

Hleziphi: Indlu yasekhaya iwu-two room kunesivalo esisodwa bese kuthi lapha kulenye esingekho isivalo ifulelwe ngothayela. Ikhwicwe yaplastelwa ngosimende kodwa uyahhohloka usimende.

*Our house is two-roomed. One of the rooms has a door and the other not. The roof is made of corrugated iron. The house is made of sticks and has been plastered with cement, but the cement is falling off.*

Ngibona uKhumbuzile uwasha izimpahla. Nangu uBandlaletu uhleli phansi.  
*I can see Khumbuzile washing clothes. Here is Bandlaletu. He is sitting.*

Bandlaletu: Mina ngiwuBandlaletu ngingowakaMthembu ngihlala eBhambanana esigodini saseMganwini. Ngifunda ePhungaza High Standard 10c.

*I am Bandlaletu Mthembu. I stay in Bhambanana in Mganwini area. I go to Phungaza High. I am doing Standard 10c.*

Khumbuzile: Mina ngiwuKhumbuzile Mthembu. Ngifunda u-Grade 6.

*I am Khumbuzile Mthembu. I am doing Grade 6.*

Hleziphi: Kukuphatha kanjani ukuhlala nathi lapha ekhaya kuwuwena omdala?

*How do you feel, being the oldest staying with us here at home?*

Bandlaletu: Kungiphatha kabi. Uma akekho, nobaba akekho.

*It makes me feel bad. Mother is not here and father is not here.*

Hleziphi: Baphi?

*Where are they?*

Bandlaletu: Umama usekhaya kubo ubaba usemsebenzini.

*My mother is at the home where she was born and father is at work.*

Hleziphi: Kuqale nini ukuthi singahlali nabazali?

*How long have we been staying without parents?*

Khumbuzile: Kuqale ngoJune mhlaka 23.

*Since June 23.*

Hleziphi: Akukuphazamisi yini esikoleni ukucabanga ukuthi sihlala sodwa?

*Are you disturbed in your studies by the fact that we stay alone (as children)?*

Khumbuzile: Chabo.

*No*

Hleziphi: Akukuphazamisi ngani?

*Why does this not disturb you?*

Khumbuzile: Ngoba akubi nankinga ngiyabhala nje kahle ama-test ngiyaphase.

*Because it's not a problem for me. I write tests well and I pass.*

- Hleziphi: Uphatheka kanjani ngokuhlale usiphekela njalo?  
*How do you feel about cooking for us all the time?*
- Khumbuzile: Angiphatheki kahle ngoba angiphumuli ngezinye izinsuku.  
*I do not feel good because I don't ever get a rest.*
- Hleziphi: Angikuphumuzi yini mina?  
*Don't I relieve you?*
- Khumbuzile: Chabo, awungiphumuzi.  
*No, you do not.*
- Hleziphi: Musa ukuqamba amanga!  
*Don't lie!*
- Bandlalethu: Yebo kuyangiphazamisa, kodwa kuya ngokuthi uma ufunda ufundela ukuthi uzazi ukuthi uzoba yini.  
*Yes, I am disturbed [in my studies], but I try to focus and keep in mind what I want to be.*
- Hleziphi: Kukuphazamisa kanjani?  
*How are [your studies] disturbed?*
- Bandlalethu: Ngoba ngibuya nje kufanele ngenze nama-homework ekhaya uyabo kufanele ngisebenze futhi uyabo ukuxuba izinto eziningi ngesikhathi esincane akukahle lokho manje kuya kufike kukuphazamise kancane.  
*By the fact that when I come home I have to do homework and housework, you see. There is so much to do and it's all mixed up in a short space of time and this makes things a bit difficult.*
- Hleziphi: Asikuwasheli yini thina ngezinye izikhathi?  
*Don't we do your washing for you sometimes ?*
- Bandlalethu: Niyawasha phela.  
*You do.*
- Hleziphi: Kukuphatha kanjani ukugula kukamama?  
*How do you feel about our mother being sick?*
- Bandlalethu: Kwangiphatha kabi ngoba wasishiya sodwa ekhaya.  
*It upsets me because she left us alone here at home.*
- Hleziphi: Sawubona.  
*Hello*
- Mandisa: Yebo  
*Hello*
- Mandisa: Mina nginguMandisa Mthembu. Ngifunda Okhayeni u-Grade 1. Ngithanda ukuhlala nomama.  
*I am Mandisa Mthembu. I go to Okhayeni Primary, I am doing Grade 1. I like living with my mother.*

- Hleziphi: Kukuphatha kanjani ukungahlali nomama?  
*How does it make you feel living without mother?*
- Mandisa: Kungiphatha kabi.  
*It makes me feel bad.*
- Hleziphi: Ngoba?  
*Why?*
- Mandisa: Ngoba akekho.  
*Because she is not here.*
- Hleziphi: Ukuhlala nje sisodwa umzali angekho kubabuhlungu. Noma sivelelwa yinkinga kuba nzima ukuthi singamtshela angeke aze afike manje ngoba uzothola ukuthi usuke asesemsebenzini.  
*Living alone as children without a parent is difficult. If something happens to us it is not easy to tell our father because he isn't able to come at once because he is at work [far away].*
- Hleziphi: Ngelinye ilanga ngigula ngiphethwe izibhobo, kwangiqala ebusuku. Kwathi ekuseni ngavuka bathi ngingayi esikoleni ngathi mina ngiya esikoleni ngoba layikhaya akunamuntu ongangiyisa esibhedlela. Ngageza ngaya esikoleni  
*One day I was sick with piercing stomach pain. It started at night. In the morning my siblings told me not to go to school. I said I am going to school because there is no one at home to take me to hospital. I had a bath and went to school.*
- SFX: umsindo wokukhala kwensimbi yesikole - *School bell ringing*
- School principal:Ngazizwa ngiphatheke kabuhlungu ngoba wawungasakwazi ukufunda sewulokhu wehla wenyuka uzibhonqabhonqa uzwa izinhlungu. Ngaphatheka kabi.  
*I felt very upset because you weren't able to go to class and learn. You were rolling around in agony, I was very concerned..*
- Hleziphi: Zandile yini izingane ezihlala zodwa?  
*Are there many children [in this area] who stay alone?*
- School principal:Noma zingandile kakhulu izingane ezihlala zodwa kodwa zikhona.  
*There are some, not many. .*
- Hleziphi: Isikole senzani ngalokho?  
*What does the school do about those children?*
- School principal:Isikole siyazivakashela lezongane emakhaya siyobheka ukuthi amakhaya azo akanjani, bese-ke kuba nohlelo oluthile lokuthi labobantwana labo bacingelwe usizo noma-ke sithintane nabanye abangabanikeza usizo abasuke behlala bodwa emakhaya.  
*The school visits those children at their homes to see what their homes are like. There is a programme of seeking help for them and we communicate with other people who can give them some help, who can help those who stay alone at home.*

Hleziphi: Umlayezo wabazali ukuthi izingane zabo bathande ukuhlala nazo zingaphazamiseki esikoleni, ukuze izingane zingaphazamiseki esikoleni.

Mina umlayezo wami ezinganeni ezingahlali nabazali zingalilahli ithemba zifunde ziqikelele ukuze nazo zibe umuntu ebantwini.

*My message to parents is that they should want to stay with their children so that their studies are not disturbed, so that they are not distracted at school.*

*My message to the children who do not stay with their parents is that they must not lose hope: they must study so that they can become something in the future.*



**For further information contact:**

Helen Meintjes  
HIV/AIDS Programme, Children's Institute  
[helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za](mailto:helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za)  
+27 21 689 5404



Bridget Walters  
Zisize Educational Trust  
[bridgetw@iafrica.com](mailto:bridgetw@iafrica.com)  
+27 35 572 5500



Web: [www.ci.org.za/depts/ci/prg/radio\\_project/index.htm](http://www.ci.org.za/depts/ci/prg/radio_project/index.htm)