



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

---

### **Ukulala ntofontofo / Sleeping comfortably**

**Khethiwe, 11 years old, 2006**

---

**KHETHIWE:** Manje sengisendlini, ngibona uNozipho noCebile noSenzo noSikhulile.  
**TRANSLATION:** Here we are in the house, I see Nozipho and Cebile and Senzo and Sikhulile.

**KHETHIWE:** Mina igama lami nginguKhethiwe. Ngihlala eMathayini. Ngifunda ugrade 6 eOkhayeni Primary School. Ngineminyaka ewu11. Ekhaya ngihlala nomama, nobhuti oseGoli owokuqala, noSenzo lowesibili, noNozipho owesithathu noGcina owesifo besikuthi mina ngowesifive.

**TRANSLATION:** My name is Khethiwe and I live at Mathayini. I am in grade 6 at Okhayeni Primary School. I am 11 years old. At home I live with my mother, my brother who is in Joburg is the firstborn and Senzo is the second and Nozipho is the third and Cebile is the fourth and then there is me.

**KHETHIWE:** Ekhaya sihlala noMama yedwa. UMama ubalulekile kimi ngoba uyangithengela izinto engizifunayo empilweni yami, futhi usinakekela sonke ekhaya. Futhi singalala singadlanga uma uMama engekho. Kodwa kuba ukhona siyalala sidlile sithole nokulala kahle. Uyasigcina nathi siphephile, nathi uyakwazi asenze sijabule sibe ngabantwana bakhe.

**TRANSLATION:** We live only with our mother at home. My mother is very special to me because she buys me things I need in my life. She also looks after all of us at home. We never go to sleep hungry if my mother is away and if she is there, we eat and sleep well. She keeps us safe and we know how to make her happy to have us as her children.

**KHETHIWE:** Manje sesisekamereni likaMama sihleli phezu kombhede, umnyango uvulekile.

**TRANSLATION:** Now we are in my mother's room, we are sitting on the bed. The door is open

**KHETHIWE:** Mina ngilala lapha phansi. UMama yena ulala embhedeni, akafuni ukuthi ngilale naye embhedeni.

**TRANSLATION:** I sleep on the ground. Mum sleeps on the bed. She doesn't want me to sleep with her in her bed.

**KHETHIWE:** Laphaya kunoMama laphaya uhlezi ecansini.

**TRANSLATION:** My mother is over there on the mat.

**KHETHIWE:** Sawubona Mama.

<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	Hello Mama
<i>KHETHIWE:</i>	Yebo.
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	Hello.
<i>KHETHIWE:</i>	Unjani?
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	How are you?
<i>MAMA:</i>	Ngiyaphila.
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	I am fine.
<i>KHETHIWE:</i>	Mama ngizothanda ukukuqopha, nawe uzwakale ereyidweni. Ngizokubuza imibuzo ke bese uyangiphendula.
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	Mina ngiyakhanya nje kancane kodwa ebusweni. Ngifisa ukwazi ngoBaba ukuthi wayenjani? Mama, I would like to record you; you will be heard on radio. I will ask you questions and you answer.  I am a little bit light in complexion: I want to know about my father, what was he like?
<i>MAMA:</i>	UBaba wakho mntanam wayengumuntu nje, ungumuntu nanamanje uyaphila. Ukuphila kwakhe lobaba wakho kodwa selokho ngakuzala akakaze nje akondle.
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	Your father, my child was a black person, he is still alive. But his life is such that since I gave birth to you he has never supported you.
<i>KHETHIWE:</i>	Wayenjani nje? Emnyama? Anjani?
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	Oh, what was he like? Was he dark? How dark?
<i>MAMA:</i>	Umntyama uthe kwishi yena sekuwubaba nje omdala.
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	He is very dark. He is quite old
<i>KHETHIWE:</i>	Oh, minanje akakaze angibone?
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	Has he never seen me?
<i>MAMA:</i>	Akakaze nje aze akubone.
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	He has not seen you yet.
<i>KHETHIWE:</i>	Manje uyathanda yini ukuthi angibone?
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	Now would you like him to meet me?
<i>MAMA:</i>	Ngiyathanda.
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	I would like that.
<i>KHETHIWE:</i>	Angangibona kanjani?
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	How can he meet me?
<i>MAMA:</i>	Ngaphandle kokuthi sihambe simfuna size simthole, abe seku uyakubona ke. Kodwa manje mina anginandaba nje naye ngoba vele ngiyazibambela ngiyithwalela umthwalo, nawu umuzi ngiwakhile, u6 room ingane zami zihleli zithokomele azinankinga, lokho kuncane engikuholayo ngiyakwazi ukuthi ngondle ingane zami zikhona ukufunda.
<i>TRANSLATION:</i>	We would need to go and look for him and find him so he can meet you. But now I don't mind about him because I have carried this load alone and built a homestead, a six room, my children live well and don't have problems. I am able to support my children with the little that I earn so they can go to school.

- KHETHIWE:** uMama usanda kusakhela indlu enkulu eyethu. Futhi kimi uyiqhawe ngoba uyakhe ayedwa. Futhi sihlale sikhululekile endlini yakhe silala ntofontofo ngoba amakhanza awangene kulendlu leyi.
- TRANSLATION:** My mother built our big house. She is my hero because she built it alone. We feel relaxed in her house and sleep comfortably because the cold doesn't come into this house.
- KHETHIWE:** Mama wathatha iminyaka emingaki ukuze uqede lendlu engaka?
- TRANSLATION:** Mama, how many years did it take to finish this huge house?
- MAMA:** Yheyi mntanam kudala ngayiqala lendlu ngo1999. Ngacobongozela imali, ngacobokozela imali kancane kancane nala ngisebenza khona imali incane konompilo.
- TRANSLATION:** Yey my child, I started this long ago – in 1999. I saved money little by little – the little money I get from being a community health worker.
- MAMA:** Ngibeka ngoR50, R100, mhlambe R500 ngelinye ilanga nani niyafunda nalaba bafowenu bayafunda bafuni imali zokuya esikolweni. Ngacongobezela, ngacongobezela kusukela ngo 2000 kwaba wu2001 kwaba wu2003. Kuthe ngo2004 ngabona ukuthi ngeke phela kulunge ngoba nendlu ebesilala kuyo bekuwumhlanga kuwu2rooms kukuncane.
- TRANSLATION:** Again I saved money – I would put aside R50, R100, maybe R500. Some days all of you and your brothers needed money for school fees. I saved and saved from 2000 until 2001 and 2003. In 2004 I saw that the house we were sleeping in was no good, it was made of reeds, a two room, it was small.
- MAMA:** Kuthena ngo2005 ingakapheli, njengoba ingakapheli nje kahle vele, bakhonka phansi yonke indlu, sakhona ke ukuthi singene silale. Inhliziyo yami ibeyi... ithanda ukuthi izingane zami noma ngifa ngizishiye endlini ephaphile nendlu ebukeyayo ngoba abanabantu.
- TRANSLATION:** By 2005 it still wasn't properly finished. They did the floors and we were at least able to sleep in the house. My heart's desire is that even if I were to die I will leave my kids with a safe house, even if they have nobody.
- KHETHIWE:** Eh Mama, sinjani isimo salapha emphakathini?
- TRANSLATION:** Eh Mama, what are the conditions like here in the community?
- MAMA:** Hayi siyaphila thina mntanam lapha ekhaya siyambonga uNkulunkulu ngoba sisaphila, kodwa nje emphakathini engisebenza kuwo kunzima kakhulu. Ngoba abantu bayagula and bagula nje bafuna ukunakekelwa.
- TRANSLATION:** Here at home we are fine my child. I thank God because we are still well but in our community where I work it is very tough because people are sick and they need help.
- KHETHIWE:** Siye siyikhandle ngempela ngoba eyi kunzima kakhulu kakhulu lapha emphakathini ngedlela emangalisayo abantu bayagula yile zizifo ezingelapheki.
- TRANSLATION:** Truly at work we do our best to survive. *Eyi*, it is very difficult here the way people are so sick with this disease that cannot be cured.
- KHETHIWE:** Mama uzizwa unjani ukuthi thina njengabantwana bakho sikhule ngalesi sikhathi sengculazi?
- TRANSLATION:** Mum, how do you feel about us as your children growing up in this time of AIDS?
- MAMA:** Manje nje ngizizwa ngingaphathekile kahle kulesi sikhathi saleminyaka sesibona kahle ukuthi sizalela iphutha nje, abantwana bethu bazosifela ngaleligiwane. Eyi ngizizwa ngihlukumezekile mntanam, ngoba

- ngineqiniso lonke ukuthi nina nisezukufika kuleminyaka esisike sengiyiphilile mina.
- TRANSLATION:** This makes me feel really bad in these times. Our children are dying from this disease. *Eyi*, I feel devastated my child, because I don't believe that you will reach the age that I am.
- MAMA:** Ngiyajabula ngoba emndenini wakithi akekho ogulayo; futhi akekho oshonile.
- TRANSLATION:** I am also happy because in my family there is nobody who is sick; and that there is nobody who has died.
- KHETHIWE:** Uyazi nje Mama ukuthi uyiqhawe lami?
- TRANSLATION:** Do you know Mum that you are my hero?
- KHETHIWE:** Ngiyazi mntamam.
- TRANSLATION:** I know my child.
- MAMA:** Kumnandi yini ukuthi mina ngifunde yibe ngumqophi waseOkhayeni?
- TRANSLATION:** Is it nice that I am learning to be an Okhayeni reporter?
- KHETHIWE:** Kumnandi kakhulu mntanam ngiyajabula nami.
- TRANSLATION:** It is wonderful! I am happy my child.
- MAMA:** Oh, nami ngiyajabula
- TRANSLATION:** I am happy too...



**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



**Zisize  
Educational Trust**  
Working Towards a  
Brighter Future in South Africa

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)