



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

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### ***Isifundo sikaMama / Mother's lesson***

***Sfundo M, 12 years old, 2006***

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**S'FUNDO:** Igama lami nginguSfundo. Mina igama lami elithi Sfundo ngalithola ngoba ngisemncane ngangikade ngihlupha. Uma bebeke into endlini bayithole sengigange ngayo kanti futhi noBaba - wangizalayo ubaba wami - wayengasinaki sinoMama imali wayengikhulisa ngayo ile bekade eyithola uma washela abantu izimpahla ebaklinele ezindlini. Wasuka uMama wathola isifundo ngalokho sathi igama lami uS'fundo.

**TRANSLATION:** My name is S'fundo. I got my name because while I was still little I was very naughty. If [anyone] left anything in the house they would find I had fiddled with it. But [another reason for my name] was that my father didn't take care of us. My Mum made money to support me through washing clothes and cleaning houses for people. It was through this that my Mum learned a lesson and so she said that my name should be S'fundo ("lesson").

**S'FUNDO:** Bengizonixolela ukuthi kumnandi kanjani ukuhlala emndenini sibaningi. Shuthi ekhaya sibaningi kukhona indlu kaMama, indlu kaGogo, indlu kaMamkhulu, indlu indlu kaMamakhulu futhi omunye, bese kuthi kukhona kukhona nendlu yami futhi engilala khona nami. Siyahamba sesiyakuGogo wami manje. Uma usuka ngale koMamkhulu uza la 200 steps sesizoknocka endlini kaGogo.

**TRANSLATION:** I want to tell you about how nice it is to live in a big family. At home there are many of us. There is my mother's house, my grandmother's house, my older aunt's house, my other older aunt's house and then there is the house I sleep in. We are going to my grandmother's house now. If you walk from my older aunt's house to [my grandmother's house] it is 200 steps. We are now knocking on Gogo's door.

*[knocking on door]*

**S'FUNDO:** Sawubona Gogo.

**TRANSLATION:** Hello Gogo.

**GRANDMOTHER:** Yebo.

**TRANSLATION:** Hello.

**S'FUNDO:** Ngisacela ukuthi uGogo asichazele ukuthi ngabe yini lempesheni?

**TRANSLATION:** I'm going to ask Gogo to explain to us what a pension is.

**GRANDMOTHER:** Siyinkwa uhulumeni.

**TRANSLATION:** It is the money that we get from our government.

**S'FUNDO:** Yini umama angayitholi kodwa wena uyayithola?

*TRANSLATION:* Why are you getting it? Because my mother doesn't get it...

*GRANDMOTHER:* Kwenza ukuthi mina sengigugile. UMama wakho usemusha.  
*TRANSLATION:* Because I'm very old and your mother is still young.

*S'FUNDO:* Usondla kanjani ngalemali oyithola empeshenini?  
*TRANSLATION:* What do you do with your pension money?

*GRANDMOTHER:* Ngithenga ngayo ukudla.  
*TRANSLATION:* I buy food with it.

*S'FUNDO:* Kanjani?  
*TRANSLATION:* Like what [food]?

*GRANDMOTHER:* Ngithenga isaka nesishebo.  
*TRANSLATION:* I buy a sack [of mealie meal] and meat.

*S'FUNDO:* Ngicela ukubuza ugogo ukuthi usathanda ukuhlala nabazukulu abaningi kanje njengoba sibaningi?  
*TRANSLATION:* Gogo, I want to ask if you enjoy staying with so many grandchildren?

*GRANDMOTHER:* Ehe, kulungile kusiza nami emva kwesikhathi.  
*TRANSLATION:* Yes, it is good because it is going to help me as time goes on.

*S'FUNDO:* Yini uthande ukuhlala nabo?  
*TRANSLATION:* Why do you enjoy staying with them?

*GRANDMOTHER:* Kwenza ukuthi sengiphelelwa amandla ngibona ukuthi abazukulu yibona abazongilekelela.  
*TRANSLATION:* Because I'm getting old and I can see that my grandchildren are going to help me.

*S'FUNDO:* Wena Gogo uzizwa unjani ngokuhlala lapha ekhaya sibaningi kangaka nje njengoba sibaningi?  
*TRANSLATION:* How do you feel about staying here at home in a such a large family as this?

*GRANDMOTHER:* Ngizwa kulungile akukho nkinga.  
*TRANSLATION:* I feel fine, there is no problem.

*S'FUNDO:* Yini nje Gogo eyenza lokho?  
*TRANSLATION:* What makes you feel this way?

*GRANDMOTHER:* Kuyangijabulisa phela uma ngihlala nabazukulu ngibathume.  
*TRANSLATION:* It makes me happy to stay with my grandchildren because I can send them on errands.

*S'FUNDO:* Kukhona angakusho ngoba ngale mbuzo esimbuze yona?  
*TRANSLATION:* What can you say about questions that I've asked you now?

*GRANDMOTHER:* Ngingakhuluma nje ukuthi kufuneka nabo bangazi ukuthi ngibakhulisile nabo bangazi ukuthi ngingugogo wabo bangabi sebangibukela kude.  
*TRANSLATION:* All I can say is that they must know that I am raising them and that I'm their grandmother and not someone they don't know.

*S'FUNDO:* Eeeh, siyabonga.  
*TRANSLATION:* Yes, thank you.

*S'FUNDO:* UMama wami ngiyamthanda. Ngimthandela ukuthi akekho omunye uma ngingayeka yena akekho omunye engingahlala naye ngoba noBaba

- TRANSLATION:* sewashona shuthi nje ngihleli ngisele noMama kuphela.  
I love my mother. I love her because there is no one else. If I left her I would have nobody because my father passed away. I am left with only my mother.
- S'FUNDO:* Siyafika eBhambanana uMama lapho asebenza khona. Lapha endleleni sibona abafana abathathu bahamba badla iziqeda sihlangana nezinye izimoto, abantu baningi namatekisi.
- TRANSLATION:* We are arriving at Bhambanana where Mum works. Here on the way we see three boys walking, eating *iziqeda* (iced juice). We see other cars; there are many people and taxis.
- S'FUNDO:* Sawubona Mama.  
*TRANSLATION:* Hello Mama.
- MOTHER:* Unjani Ngane yami?  
*TRANSLATION:* How are you my child?
- S'FUNDO:* Siyaphila.  
*TRANSLATION:* We are fine.
- MOTHER:* Yebo.  
*TRANSLATION:* Yes.
- S'FUNDO:* Besisacela uzichaze.  
*TRANSLATION:* Please introduce yourself.
- MOTHER:* NginguMakhosi. Ngisebenza egarage lakwapetrol.  
*TRANSLATION:* I'm Makhosi. I'm working at the petrol garage.
- S'FUNDO:* Sizokubuza ke lana, sizoqala sikubuze ukuthi igama lami latholakala kanjani?  
*TRANSLATION:* We are going to interview you here; I will start by asking where you got my name from.
- MOTHER:* Mhh...igama lakho Mntanami ngize ngithi uS'fundo ukuthi nje kusukela kwasekuqaleni ngenkathi ngikuthola... mhh. Angiqale nje kusukela ngikuthola kusho ukuthi ngakuthola ngenxa yokwethemba umuntu nginethemba elikhulu ee..kuzobakhona ukuthi eh, sibambisane sikukhulise kamnandi. Manje ngeshwa sangakhona ukukhulisa kamnandi sihlangene soyi2 so then ke ngakukhulisa kanzinyana nje kusho ukuthi ngenkathi ngikuthola ngase ngacabanga ukuthi uma ngingathi uS'fundo lomfana lo kuzoba right ngoba eh... senginaso isifundo sokuthi uma umuntu mayekuthembise into sometimes uyayenza sometimes akayenzi. That is why sengize ngathola kungcono ukthi ngikubize uS'fundo uyabo...  
*TRANSLATION:* Mhh... I called you S'fundo my child, and it comes from the beginning when I first got you... mhh. Let me start from when I got you, it means you were born because I trusted a person. I had a lot of hope eh, that we would commit to each other and raise you well. We didn't stay together as a couple to raise you, so it was difficult raising you and this is why I gave you the name S'fundo: I have now learnt that if a person promises you something, sometimes he will do it and sometimes he will not fulfil [his promise].
- S'FUNDO:* Sengicela ukubuza ngisacela ukubuza ukuthi namuhla ngabe upetrol ukhona yini?  
*TRANSLATION:* Do you have petrol today?
- MOTHER:* Mh..awukho namhlanje upetroli.

- TRANSLATION:** No, we don't have petrol today.
- S'FUNDO:** Wena ufila kanjani uma upetrol uma ungekho ngoba imali uyithola kupetrol?
- TRANSLATION:** How do you feel when there is no petrol because you make your money through petrol?
- MOTHER:** Mh...ave ngiphatheka kabuhlungu yazi. Ikakhulukazi uma upetrol ukhona ngithola nanemali yamatip nje uthola ukuthi nelanga liyashona lishona sengiright ngamatip ngale ukuthi ngilinde imali yeholo.
- TRANSLATION:** Mh...I feel upset because if there is petrol I get money from people tipping me and at the end of the day I end up with some money instead of having to wait for my salary at the end of the month.
- S'FUNDO:** Usondla kanjani ekhaya njengoba sibaningi ngalemali oyithola emsebenzini?
- TRANSLATION:** How do you take care of us with the money that you get from your work?
- MOTHER:** Mhh... cha khona kunzinyana kakhulu njengalokhu nale mali engiyithola emsebenzini imadlana nje engatheni. Kodwa nje ngenxa yokusizwa iNkosi ngiyakhona ukuthi ene ngalokho okungatheni nisizakele.
- TRANSLATION:** It is a little hard because I only make a little money at work. Through God's help everything is possible.
- S'FUNDO:** Yebo. Ngiyakuthanda uyezwa?
- TRANSLATION:** Yes. I love you, do you hear?
- S'FUNDO:** Ngiyakuthanda nami Mfana wami.
- TRANSLATION:** I love you too, my boy.



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