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

Awungitshele Gogo… / Tell me, *Gogo…*
By Lindokuhle, 11 years old, 2005.

LINDO: *[singing]* Ngiyakuthanda ntombazana, no matter what they say…
TRANSLATION: I love you girl, no matter what they say…

LINDO: Sanibonani. Igama lami nginguLindokuhle. Ngihlala eMaranatha. Ekhaya ngihlala noBaba noGogo nobhuti bami abathathu nosisi oyedwa, oyedwa uyafunda kude nendawo. UMama wami wangishiya ngineminyaka eyishiyagalolunye. Sihlala kahle ekhaya ngoba uGogo uyahola, noBaba sowuthole umsebenzi.
TRANSLATION: Hello my name is Lindokuhle. I live at Maranatha. At home I live with father and granny and my three brothers and one sister. Only one learns *[goes to school]* far away from us. My mother left *[died]* when I was nine years old. We live well at home because granny gets a pension and my father has found work.

LINDO: Sisegcekeni la ekhaya. UGogo lona uganda ummbila la.
TRANSLATION: We are now in the yard at home. Granny is here crushing mealies.

LINDO: Sawubona Gogo.
TRANSLATION: Hello Granny.

GOGO: Yebo.
TRANSLATION: Yes [=*hello*].

LINDO: Ninjani Gogo?
TRANSLATION: How are you Granny?

GOGO: Ngiyaphila gogo.
TRANSLATION: I am fine.

LINDO: Gogo ungangitshela ukuthi igama lami lasukela kuphi kwakutheni futhi?
TRANSLATION: Granny, can you tell me how I got my name and also what it means?

GOGO: UKhethani. Unina wamsutha wambeletha amkhulelwe. Msukwana kokhetho kuthiwa ngokhetho abaneshumi leyinyanga umama wakhe enenyang'eyodwa. Manje ke wasewamteta ngesikhathi sikhetha. Sesithi wuKhethani ngoba waphuma ngesikhathi sokhetho.
TRANSLATION: The name of this child is Khethani. His mother became pregnant and gave birth to him during [South Africa's first democratic] election time when she was eleven months pregnant. We said he is *Khethani* [choose], because he came out during the time of the elections.

LINDO:	Manje kunamathuna amane nawaboMkhulu, nawoMamkhulu, nelikaMama nelikaAnti. UGogo uzosichazela.
TRANSLATION:	Here there are four graves – of my grandfather, my mother's older sister*,* my mother, and my auntie. Gogo will explain.
GOGO:	Amangqwaba abantwabami lapha, omalokazana bami babili nengane yami yesigcino nozakwethu omunye. Njengokuba ngihleli kulelikhaya leli umoya wami awuphilile ngithanda ngikhale uma ngibheka amangqwaba kanje sengihleli ngihlupheka kanje. Anginalutho nokuthi ngingamlungisa ngani. Nemali yomholo ngondla izintandane. Ngangithenga into noma yini ngikwazi ukuthi ngimbule ithuna lakhe. Angilimbulanga nje linjeya.
TRANSLATION:	These are the graves of my two daughters-in-law and my last-born child and my husband's other wife. As I am living here at home my spirit is troubled, I feel like crying when I look upon their graves like this, and I am living in difficult circumstances like this. I don't have anything to make the grave nice with *[ie tombstone]*. My pension money is for supporting the orphans. I haven't unveiled her tombstone as it is like this.
LINDO:	Gogo, uMama akazange akutshele ukuthi wayegula yini?
TRANSLATION:	Gogo, did my mother not tell you what she was suffering from before she died?
GOGO:	Wabagula wayekhwehlela kubuhlungu isifuba akhwehlelela asheka ehlanza waze washona uMaGumede umalokazana wami.
TRANSLATION:	She was sick and coughing, her chest was sore, she had diarroeah and vomiting and then she died, MaGumede, my daughter-in-law.
LINDO:	Kwakuphatha njani ukushona kukaMa?
TRANSLATION:	How did you take the death of my mum?
GOGO:	Kwangiphatha kabuhlungu namanje nje kusebuhlungu emoyeni wami. Kwangiphatha kabuhlungu impela nje ukushona komalokazana wami ashiye izintandane. Ngizengibe la ngigade lezizintandane ngoba zingenanina.
TRANSLATION:	I took it very badly, and it is still painful in my spirit. It was very painful for me, the death of my daughter-in-law, who left orphans. I now look after these orphans because they have no mother.
LINDO:	Gogo ukhona kanjani ukusikhulisa laphane ekhaya?
TRANSLATION:	Gogo, how are you managing to raise us here at home?
GOGO:	Ngikhona kabuhlungu nje ngiyathola okunqane. Ngibakhulise okungasho njengokuba leyomadlana kantandane engike ngisizwe yiyo.
TRANSLATION:	I struggle, I only get a little. I am raising them with the little that I have from the grant money.
LINDO:	Ukushona kukaMama kwangiphatha kabi ngoba mhlampe ebusuku nje masefanele siyolala silala singadlanga. Bengivele ngicabange ukuthi besinoMama nasesidlile besekule kuthi angikhale. Besengizwa abantu bakhuluma ukuthi, ukuthi mhlampe siyadlala athi umufi uyabukela nje izingane zakhe isekuthi angivele ngikhale. Uma bekhuluma ngaye kuvele kube sengathi ngiyambona nangu eduzane kwami. Bengisaba ukumbuza uBaba ukuthi mhlampe uMama ebephethwe yini ukuthi sikhulume ukuthi sikhulume ukushona kukaMama.
TRANSLATION:	The death of my mother affected me badly, because perhaps at night when we were going to sleep, we would sleep without eating. I thought

that if we still had our mother we would have eaten and that made me cry. Then when I heard people saying, like perhaps when we were playing they would say the dead one is watching her children, and then I would cry. When they talked about her it was as if I was seeing her right next to me.

I was afraid to ask father about what mum had suffered from, and about her death.

[sounds of cars passing on a road]

LINDO: Ngamaholidi ngihlala lapha ngibukela izimoto. Imoto isaqhamuka. Sibona izinkomo le. Nayo ke imoto, mangicabanga iprivate le eqhamuka ngapha. Cha akusiyiyo iprivate yiToyota. Seyidlulile ke iToyota. iToyota eyiveni. Phesheya komgwaqo ngibona izinkomo ezidlala egroundini.

Kuze eyinye ke imoto ngapha, yiKZN. Ile esiyidlule imile ngapha. Ngale komgwaqo kunezinkuni ezidayiswa ngabantu bakwaMsweli. Abelungu mabaya ebhishi badlula lana bazithenge lezi zinkuni angazi noma abelungu bayasaba yini ukuyotheza ehlathini.

TRANSLATION: During the holidays I sit here and watch cars. A car is coming. We see cows there. Here is a car, it is a private car I think. No, it is not a private, it is a *bakkie [a truck]* – a Toyota. It is going past. Over on the other side of the road, I can see cows playing on the soccer field.

A KZN car is now coming. It has passed us and has stopped over there. Next to the road is firewood sold by the Msweli people. White people going to the beach pass here and buy this wood. I'm not sure but I think they are afraid to collect their own firewood in the forest.

LINDO: Igama lami nginguLindokuhle. Ngihleli lapha nomngane wami uSandile. Kunjani ndoda?
TRANSLATION: My name is Lindokuhle. I am sitting here with my friend Sandile. How are you man?

SANDILE: Eyi sonny kuyaphileka.
TRANSLATION: Hey sonny, things are fine.

LINDO: Hayi uzizwa unjani esikhathini samanje?
TRANSLATION: *Hayi*, how are you feeling right now?

SANDILE: Eyishi esikhathini samanje ngizizwa ngiright.
TRANSLATION: *Eyishi*, at this time I am feeling alright.

LINDO: Kanjani? uchaz' ukuthini ma uthi uzizwa uright?
TRANSLATION: How? Explain what you mean when you say you are feeling right.

SANDILE: Ngoba manje eyishi sengifundile manje heyi akusekho kungihlulayo.
TRANSLATION: Because now *eyishi*, I have learnt now, hey there is nothing too difficult for me.

LINDO: Sesiqedile!
TRANSLATION: Now we are finished!

For further information contact:

Helen Meintjes
HIV/AIDS Programme, Children's Institute
helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za
+27 21 689 5404

Bridget Walters
Zisize Educational Trust
bridgetw@iafrica.com
+27 35 572 5500

Web: www.ci.org.za/depts/ci/prg/radio_project/index.htm