



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

Ukufunda ngaphansi kwezihlahla zomganu / Marula trees for classrooms Sibusisiwe, 9 years old, 2005

- SIBUSISIWE:** Phambili ngibona ingane zesikole ziyadlala. Esikolweni ngibona umuntu ohesha utshani ngomshini. Yisikhathi sebreyiki. Abantwana bayadlala... Sanibonani!
- TRANSLATION:** Ahead I see school children playing. At school I see someone cutting the grass with a machine. It is break time. The children are playing... Hello all of you!
- CHILDREN:** Yebo!
- TRANSLATION:** Yes!
- SIBUSISIWE:** Ninjani?
- TRANSLATION:** How are you?
- CHILDREN:** Siyaphila!
- TRANSLATION:** We are fine!
- SIBUSISIWE:** Igama lami nginguSibusisiwe. Ngihlala eMaranatha. Ngifunda Okhayeni, ngineminyaka engu 9. Umngane wami uKhululiwe noS'qinisiwe. Mhla ngifunda ugrade 2 sasifundela phansi kwezihlahla ngesikhathi kusenamaklasi amabili lalina izulu abanye bangene kwelinye iklasi abanye bangene kwelinye sigcwale. Kwakunzima.
- Ngikhumbula ngifeyilile esikoleni. uMama engekho ngafika ekhaya ngifeyilile ngakhala, ngikhalela ukuthi ngifeyilile. Waqhamuka uMama wathi ngiphasile, ngathi mina cha bo. Wathi yena angingakhali mangithathe incwadi angifundise. Ngathatha incwadi wangifundisa ngabuyela esikoleni sengikwazi ngaphasa ngaze ngayofika ka grade 5.
- TRANSLATION:** My name is Sibusisiwe. I live in Maranatha. I go to Okhayeni. I am 9 years old. My friends are Khululiwe and S'qinisiwe. When I was doing grade 2 we were learning under the trees, there were only two classrooms then so when it rained some children went into one classroom and others into the other classroom and they were very full. It was difficult.
- I remember when I failed at school. Mother was not there when I came home, I cried because I had failed. Mum came and asked if I had passed and I said no. She said don't cry and she took books and taught me. I went back to school and I passed until now where I have arrived in Grade 5.

- SIBUSISIWE:** Manje sengisekhaya. Ekhaya kunensimi enkulu, nezitini zokwakha nenkuni zesitovu. Inkuni zesitovu ziseceleni kwendlu. Indlu u-one room nekhishi.
Kwakhiwe ngeyintungo. Umama usendlini, sengizombuzaimibuzo. UMama unosisi wami omncane... Sawubona Mama.
- TRANSLATION:** Now we are at home. There is a big field, and blocks for building, firewood for the stove next to the house. The house is a one room with a kitchen made out of thin woven sticks and stones and mud. My mother is in the house, and I'm going to ask her some questions. My mother is with my little sister... Hello mother.
- MAMA:** Yebo ninjani Sibusisiwe?
TRANSLATION: Hello, how are you Sibusisiwe?
- SIBUSISIWE:** Nanti ikati lami elikhalayo... Ikati lisisiza ngokuthi lisibambela amagundwane. Inkukhu zisisiza ngokuthi sithole amaqanda. Ngicela ukubuza ukuthi igama lami lasukelaphi?
TRANSLATION: This is my cat mewung... The cat helps us to catch mice. The chickens help us to get eggs. I would like to ask where my name came from?
- MAMA:** Wukuthi phela wena ungowokuqala manje ke thina sinoBaba wakho sasilindele ukuthi ngabe sizothola ngane yentombazana noma eyomfana ngesikhathi ngikwethwelwe, kodwa ngesikhathi sowuvelile kwavela intombazana sasesithi oh iNkosi isibusisile ngentombazana, sowaba ke nguSibusisiwe usho ukuthi iNkosi yasibusisa ngentombazana ewuwe.
TRANSLATION: It came from you being the first born, and your father and I waited to see which sex child we would get – a boy or a girl – when I was pregnant with you. The time you were born you were a girl and we said Oh the Lord has blessed us with a girl and so you were called Sibusisiwe, which means the Lord has blessed us with a girl – you.
- SIBUSISIWE:** Ngicela ukubuza ukuthi uyajabula yini ukuthi ubenamantombazana odwa, umfana abeyedwa?
TRANSLATION: I want to know if you are happy that you have daughters and only one son?
- MAMA:** Yebo lokho kuyangijabulisa kakhulu kakhulu angazi ngingachaza kangakanani. Umfana eyedwa nje mina kimi enele mningi kabi njengoba namantombazana unodade wabo vele munye kuphela. Owesithathu yena, odadewabo bayi 2 abaphambi kwakhe nabangemuva kwakhe futhi babili, kuyangithokozisa kakhulu lokho. Futhi nje abafana esikhathini samanje abezwa, manje noma ngitholele lona oyedwa kimi wenele, ngikahle namantombazana ami.
TRANSLATION: Yes it makes me happy, I don't know how I can explain this. One boy is enough for me. The boy has two sisters born before him and two after him and I like this a lot. Also, a lot of the time boys don't listen, so having one boy is fine for me! I am fine with my girls.
- SIBUSISIWE:** UMama ngesikhathi ngipasile wangihlabela inkukhu.
TRANSLATION: When I passed mum slaughtered a chicken for me.
- MAMA:** Ngiyakhumbula kakhulu ukuthi ngayengabamba inkukhu egcekeni ngifuyile la ekhaya – ngifuyela khona ukuthi ingabe ingane zami zenze kahle ngiyakwazi ukuzijabulisa nokunye futhi ukumisele uma inkosi ingiphumelelisa ngibenzele khona okuhle baphasa kahle ngo Desemba emabangeni abo.
TRANSLATION: I remember I grabbed a chicken in the yard - we raise chickens here at

home for times when my children have done something good to make them happy. If God helps me, I do something wonderful for them. They passed well in December in their grades.

SIBUSISIWE: Ngiyabonga.
TRANSLATION: Thank you.

SIBUSISIWE: UMem Ndlovu esikolweni uyiqhawe ngoba wasakhela nesikole wasifakela amanzi esikolweni, wasitshalela ingadi nakho konke nje.
TRANSLATION: Mam Ndlovu is the hero of the school because she built the school and put water into the school, made a garden for us and everything.

MEM NDLOVU: NginguMem Ndlovu BPN. Ngisebenza esikolweni Okhayeni, nginguthisha omkhulu khona. Mmm kumnandi kakhulu nakuba zikhona izinselelo engibhekene nazo, kodwa ngiyakujabulela kakhulu ukuba nguthisha omkhulu wasOkhayeni.
TRANSLATION: I'm Mam Ndlovu: BPN. I work at Okhayeni where I'm the principal. Mmm, it's very nice, although there are minor challenges I'm facing, but I'm happy to be principal of Okhayeni.

SIBUSISIWE: Manje eklasini sesifunda kahle ngoba uma ufuna ukuphuza amanzi uyahamba uyophuza. Sifundela eklasini lethu, sesifunda kahle noma imvula ina asisanethwa, futhi nama exercise wethu akasanethwa, asisagcwali futhi emaklasini amabili, umuntu uba eseklasini lakhe.
TRANSLATION: Now in the classroom we learn well and if you want to drink water you can go and drink. We learn in our own classrooms, even if it is raining we don't get wet, also our exercise books don't get wet anymore, and we are not packed in the two classrooms – everyone is now in their own classroom.



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