



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

Impilo ngaphandle kukamama / Life without mum Sinenhlanhla, 15 years old, 2008

Sfx: Umculo - *music*

Sne: Sanibona igama lami nginguSnenhlanhla isibongo wakwaGumede. Ngineminyaka ewufifteen. Ngithanda ukucula izingoma nje zesiNgisi. Ngifunda ugrade 10. Ngihlala no Anti noMlungisi noSnethemba noThuthukani.

Hello, my name is Sinenhlanhla and my surname is Gumede. I am 15 years old. I like singing songs in English. I am in Grade 10. I live with 'Aunty' [an unrelated caregiver], Mlungisi, Snethemba and Thuthukani.

Sfx: Umculo - *music*

Sne G: Mina eyami impilo ishintshe kusukela ngo 2006 unyaka uphela lapho esashiywa khona umalo impilo yami yashintsha kakhulu ngoba lonyaka kade sesihlala nomunye uanti njena esiphatha kahle esenzela konke njengomalo nje. Sinogogo oyedwa thina ozala umalo ukuthi uhlala kude uhlala eThekwini futhi uhlala nezinyingane eThekwini ezingenabazali.

My life has changed a lot since the end of 2006. That year ended with us losing our mother. My life changed so much but then an 'auntie' [an informal foster carer] came to stay with us and she treated us well just like Mum did. We have one granny – our mother's mother, but she lives far away in Durban. She lives with other [grandchildren] in Durban who don't have parents.

Sne: Manje sengisekhaya nangu uSnethemba nangu uThuthukani ngisasendlini kaMlungisi kukhala iredo.

Here I am at home and here are Snethemba and Thuthukani. I am in Mlungisi's room and the radio is on.

SFX: Umsindo werediyo - *Sound of radio and laughter*

Sne: USnethemba uzizwa unjani ukuhlala noAnti angasisona nesihlobo sakho?

Snethemba, how do you feel about staying with someone ['Auntie'] who is not even related to us?

- Snethemba: Kumnandi ngoba, ngoba uyasiwashela usenzela zonke izinto uma sibuya esikoleni asisebenzi.
- It is nice because she washes our clothes and does everything for us. When we come back from school we don't have to start working.*
- Sne: Nami futhi ngizizwa ngiphatheke kahle ngoba nje ayikho into angasenzeli yona akahlukanga nokuthi akusona isihlobo sethu.
- I also feel so happy about this because there is nothing she doesn't do for us. It makes no difference that she is not related to us.*
- Snethemba: Thina ngenkathi singakahlali no aunt nemisebenzi enzima sasizenzela thina nje: siwasha sipheka siwasha nezitsha siphinde siclean nasendlini ukhona umehluko ngoba manje sesiyasithola isikhathi sokudadisha. Siphatheka kahle ngoba besingacabangi kakhulu ukuthi mhlampe uma asinaye.
- It was very tough when we were living alone before Aunty came to live with us. We worked hard: we had to do everything for ourselves – washing clothes, cooking, washing dishes and cleaning the house. Aunty has made a big difference because now we get time to study. We are happy because we don't think too much about not having our mum with us.*
- Sne: Ngicela ukubuza ukuthi uzizwa unjani ukuhlala nathi layikakhaya singezona kodwa ihlobo zakho?
- How do you feel about living with us here at home but we are not relatives of yours?*
- Auntie: Ngibe nokwesaba kakhulu (uyahleka) ngoba angikake ngise ngidibane nento lekanjekuthi ngingahlala nabantwana lekungesibo bami nalokungasitso tihlobo tami.
- At first I felt very afraid (laughter) because I had never experienced something like this – living with children that are not mine or are not related to me in some way.*
- Sne: Kodwa manje uzizwa unjani manje?
- But how do you feel now?*
- Auntie: Sengiwa ngokwetayela.
- Now I have got used to you all.*
- Sne: Ngicela ukubuza wena Anti usemncane ngabe mhlampe wakhula kanjani?
- Aunty, I want to ask you about when you were young, like how did you grow up?*
- Auntie: Shothi mina ngashonelwa ngubabe ngisemncane ngabo 75 ngimncane kakhulu kwabita ukuthi ngihambe ngiyohlala eSwazini ngakhulela emtini yebantu nami kepha ngagcina sengiphila lempilo ephilwa ngilabantwana ukuthi kugcina sesihlala sodwa site umuntu lomdzala.
- My father died when I was young in about 1975. I was very young. I had to go and live in Swaziland where I grew up in various people's homes. I ended up living with [my siblings] in a child-headed family. We lived alone as children, there were no adults with us.*

- Sne: Kwakunjani nje mhlampe ukuhlala nodwa?
What was it like living alone as children?
- Auntie: Kwakungasiko kahle ngoba sasingakhoni ukupheka ngalesisikhathile sidzingekele nokudla kwasemini sasingakutholi kwenteke sithi masibuya esikoleni sikhandze lokudla sekonakele size siyodla ntambama futhi.
It wasn't good because we were not able to cook in the afternoons when we got home from school. We would just eat the food that we had cooked in the morning – which had gone off a bit.
- Sne: Hawu Anti kuyangimangalisa ukuzwa lokhoke shuthi nawe ukuyiphile lempilo esike siyiphile.
Hawu Aunty! I am amazed to hear that you also lived exactly like we were living [before you came to stay with us].
- SFX: Umculo - music
- Sne: Into engithanda ukuba yiyo uma sengikhulile ngithanda ukuba yinesi ngisize abantu abagulayo.
I would love to be a nurse when I grow up so that I can help sick people.
- SFX: Umculo - music
- Sne: Bese kungokokugcina lokho nisale kahle bangani.
This is the end. Stay well, friends.
- SFX: Umculo - music



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