

MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative Profiles of Cohort 4

Cheryl Kader (KZN)

◆Lerato Makhele (Free State)

◆Nsununguli (Walter) Mbongolwane (Gauteng)

◆Azwihangwisi (Helen) Mudzusi (Limpopo)

◆Lindokuhle (Lulu) Ngcobo (KZN)

◆Bongiwe (Bongi) Nxumalo (North West)

◆Jacqueline Pienaar (KZN)

◆Shomane Pillay (KZN)

◆Prim-Rose (Dudu) Shabane (KZN)

◆Lunga Sidzumo (Western Cape)

◆Ramadimetja (Kgadi) Thobejane (Limpopo)

◆Amelia Vukeya-Motsepe (Gauteng)



NAME: CHERYL KADER

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATOR, CRAWFORD COLLEGE NORTH COAST

LOCATION: DURBAN, KWAZULU-NATAL

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: EDUCATION

CHERYL KADER is an Information Technology Educator at Crawford College on the north coast of KwaZulu-Natal. She serves as a provincial as well as a national examiner in her field. In the classroom, Kader has incorporated HIV/AIDS education in technology lessons, such as developing an electronic document with questions about HIV/AIDS which are completed by students. She has been an “ambassador” to London and Manchester as part of the Afritwin project, which pairs UK and South African with similar profiles, through which she has delivered talks on the current status of schools in South Africa and conducted a comparative discussion with British teachers on HIV/AIDS education. Kader has submitted a proposal for a Ph.D. on the topic “an exploration of how female youth in ‘sugar daddy’ relationships construct their sexuality in the context of HIV and AIDS.”

Prevention Plan Description: *“Current life skills programs do not meet the needs of learners on issues relating to relationships, HIV prevention, and gender. My plan therefore is to provide a platform for youth, aged 15 to 16, to discuss these issues using audio and visual stimuli such as photographs, video clips and case studies so they may make informed choices to prevent HIV infection and practice healthy lifestyles.”*



NAME: LERATO MAKHELE

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, KOVSIE COUNSELING, UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

LOCATION: BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

From 2004 to 2007, Lerato Makhele worked as a clinical psychologist at public healthcare facilities, where she provided psychological support to HIV-infected clients as well as counselors who render HIV/AIDS services. Offering debriefing and support services to these counselors, she was often confronted with the question “who is the patient?,” since most of volunteer healthcare workers were also infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Makhele is now based at the University of the Free State's Kovsie Counseling Centre where she provides psychological counseling, including HIV counseling, to students. She is particularly interested in developing professional and personal skills training aimed at equipping counselors with the necessary counseling skills to allow them to provide professional care and support and deliver a quality service to patients with HIV/AIDS.

PREVENTION PLAN DESCRIPTION: *“People often avoid HIV counseling because it puts them in a position where they can potentially be judged. By providing professional and personal skills training to lay counselors, I hope to enhance the quality of HIV counseling. My plan focuses on providing HIV/AIDS information and counseling skills training and on engaging lay counselors to tap into internal and external means of support. All of these are necessary in creating a positive environment of care and support, for both lay counselors and their patients/clients.”*



NAME: NSUNUNGULI (WALTER) MBONGOLWANE

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER, TRAINING AND PROGRAMS IN HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, LOVE LIFE TRUST

LOCATION: KATLEHONG TOWNSHIP (JOHANNESBURG), GAUTENG

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: ECONOMICS

WALTER MBONGOLWANE is a Quality Assurance Manager for loveLife, South Africa's national HIV prevention program for young people. In the past three years, he has been part of a team that was responsible for the training of 15,000 young volunteers involved in HIV prevention in South Africa. He has been part of the development and design of loveLife's "Make your Move" life skills program, which is a new initiative to tackle the HIV/AIDS situation in South Africa. Mbongolwane is also a founding member of an NGO called Open Forum for Development, one of the main aims of which is research on the links between gender-based violence and HIV incidence. He has also collaborated with ten CBOs in Ekurhuleni region, Gauteng to present a proposal on how to support projects that integrate gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS and socio-economic development.

Prevention Plan Description: *"Men in South Africa have always used lekgotla discussion forums to pass gender norms from older men to younger men. My prevention plan adapts the lekgotla in an attempt to change prevailing notions of male roles and behavior through open dialogue and critical self examination by men themselves. It works with grandfathers to help young men in taking responsibility for their actions by questioning and rejecting gender stereotypes and roles that privilege men and oppress women. By convening groups of men to discuss how their behavior facilitates the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the plan will help to reduce high risk sexual activity."*



NAME: AZWIHANGWISI (HELEN) MUDZUSI

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: HIV/AIDS
COORDINATOR, UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

LOCATION: VENDA, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: NURSING

Helen Mudzusi has been working in the field of HIV/AIDS since 1989, when she was a hospital professional nurse in charge of surgical and medical units that were admitting patients with opportunistic infections at Siloam Hospital. She has also been in charge of maternity wards at Siloam Hospital in Vhembe, where she was actively involved in the roll out of single-dose nevirapine to prevent mother to child HIV transmission and was key in ensuring that health care professionals of Limpopo Province, Vhembe District were trained in Voluntary Counseling and Testing. As HIV/AIDS Coordinator at the University of Venda, Mudzusi, has conducted HIV/AIDS information workshops and trained and monitored peer educators and teachers on basic counseling skills. She also has responsibility for management and treatment of opportunistic infections. In addition, Mudzusi has done a study on experiences of nurses rendering HIV/AIDS counseling and testing at Vhembe district and organized community outreach programs to schools and churches, and has formed support groups for counseling and supporting those who are HIV-positive outside campus

Prevention Plan Description: *“Learners at rural-based schools are still getting infected with HIV despite Life Orientation education. My prevention plan focuses on developing HIV/AIDS education guidelines to be used in Life Orientation. Using learner-centered participatory approaches, the guidelines will address the challenges from a socio-cultural perspective in rural schools around Musing Municipality in Limpopo Province.”*



NAME: LINDOKUHLE (LULU) NGCOBO

POSITION/ORGANISATION: MANAGER , CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS SOUTH AFRICA

LOCATION: PIETERMARITZBURG, KWAZULU-NATAL

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: COMMERCE AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

LULU NGCOBO works for a humanitarian organization called Clowns Without Borders South Africa (CWBSA). The organization uses art-based methods to provide laughter and emotional support to children and communities affected by crisis due to poverty and HIV/AIDS. Over the past 6 years, Ngcobo has gained valuable experience working for Dlananathi and CWBSA, organizations that respond to the psychosocial needs of bereaved children and families. Her Bachelor of Commerce studies have helped her adapt management principles the effective implementation of programs by organizations as well as the good stewardship of the resources of the organizations. In her early years of involvement with civil society, she was an active representative of youth in KwaZulu-Natal churches, where she coordinated a program that tried to integrate HIV/AIDS programs into church settings.

Prevention Plan Description: “My prevention plan uses art-based methods and therapeutic play to respond to the psychosocial needs of bereaved teenagers and their guardians. The prevention plan builds upon the effectiveness of bereavement counseling, taking it to a new level by introducing HIV prevention and sexuality. Using art, story-telling, theatre and games both the teenagers and guardians will engage with HIV issues, and be given a space to also find solutions that will help them prevent HIV infections. The teenagers and guardians will be given bereavement support, knowledge of sexual health, and simple ways they can prevent HIV infections.”



NAME: BONGIWE SAMUKELISIWE NXUMALO

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: NUTRITION
COORDINATOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, NORTH WEST
PROVINCE

LOCATION: RUSTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: NUTRITION

By training a nutritionist, **BONGI NXUMALO** focuses on improving the quality standards of infant feeding, counseling, and health education in the context of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). As a chairperson and master trainer of infant and young child feeding and management of severe malnutrition for the Bojanala District, she prepares and facilitates training of any nutrition-related topics related to HIV/AIDS. She is also responsible for management, planning, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring of the Integrated Nutrition Program (INP). Nxumalo also assists community health workers who serve HIV clients and orphaned children by helping with development of business plans for funding and by linking them with the Department of Agriculture for technical assistance.

Prevention Plan Description: *"Infant feeding counseling plays a major role in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV after birth. My plan is to develop an infant-feeding flip chart that focuses on exclusive breastfeeding and exclusive formula feeding for babies; it will be used by health workers as a referral tool to assist HIV-positive pregnant mothers to make safe informed choices for feeding their babies. It also aims at improving community awareness and support mother's choice of feeding through clinic health education."*



NAME: JACQUELINE PIENAAR

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: RESEARCHER:
MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT AND CHILD HEALTH
(MATCH)

LOCATION: EDENDALE, PIETERMARITZBURG, KZN

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: PSYCHOLOGY

JACQUI PIENAAR is an HIV/AIDS researcher affiliated with the University of the Witwatersrand's Maternal Adolescent and Child Health syndicate. She has responsibility for regulatory, ethical and clinical oversight, as well as data management and statistics, for studies on topics including microbicides research and male circumcision. She currently serves on the District AIDS Council (Umgundgundlovu) and undertakes voluntary work in rural communities on improving knowledge of HIV prevention and treatment access. Her interests in the HIV research field includes efficacy of prevention methods and gender dynamics as the driver of the epidemic.

Prevention Plan Description: *“My plan, the S’KHOKHO program, is focused on educating men to act as community advocates for the reduction of STI and HIV infection as well as to facilitate general healthy behavior within their area through incorporating community-based HIV testing. The long-term objective is to influence sustainable behavior change towards increased health seeking behavior among men, in particular increased uptake of HIV counseling and testing and family planning methods through concurrent and dynamic educational strategies, with the mobilization of men acting as the medium of change.”*



NAME: SHOMANE PILLAY

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: HEAD OF BIOLOGY,
NORTHWOOD SCHOOL, DEPT. OF ED. & CULTURE
KZN

LOCATION: DURBAN-WESTVILLE

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: EDUCATION

As head of Life Sciences at Northwood School ex Model C School, **SHOMANE PILLAY** has initiated, coordinated, and facilitated workshops for educators on computer literacy and preparation for the new curriculum in Life Sciences, including reproduction and HIV/AIDS. As the coordinator at Northwood School for Afitwin, which pairs UK and South African schools, Pillay has embarked upon innovative projects that involve learners in communicating about healthy diets and HIV/AIDS. She has also engaged the services of medical students from the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine to work with students, including education about sexually transmitted infections. As a prospective PhD student, Pillay is interested in exploring the construction of sexuality of Indian female adolescents in the face of HIV/AIDS in KwaZulu-Natal, which is the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa.

Prevention Plan Description: *“The majority of Indians in South Africa are of the opinion that their community is not at any great risk to HIV infection. My program is to provide Indian female adolescents with an opportunity to understand how their cultural beliefs and attitudes impact on their gender socialization and hence vulnerability to HIV infection. Photos and computer technology would be utilized to tell their stories and create messages respectively to reduce risk behavior, thereby preventing the spread of the pandemic.”*



NAME: PRIM-ROSE (DUDU) SHABANE

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: POST LEVEL-ONE
TEACHER, J.G. ZUMA HIGH SCHOOL

LOCATION: KWAMASHU TOWNSHIP, DURBAN, KZN

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: EDUCATION

While still in Grade 12, **DUDU SHABANE** was a head prefect for girls, and later became involved in a number of community outreach projects through an organization called the Community Development Association. While involved in these projects, she was elected to be a director of HIV/AIDS and was later voted as the Chief Executive Officer. She was also elected by students of the University of KwaZulu-Natal to serve as the Student Resident Assistant. Since 2009, Shabane has been appointed as a post level-one teacher at J.G. Zuma High School near Durban, where her responsibilities include being a Teacher- Liaison Officer and a School Debating Coordinator.

Prevention Plan Description: *“Professionals in the educational field need to specifically address gender norms and roles, and in particular their influence on risky sexual behavior that often has serious consequences for women and girls. Also, gender inequality has a significant impact on the choices available to women and girls, which are often constrained by coercion and violence. My program seeks to raise awareness among grade 8 boys and girls about gender equality/inequality and will help them to develop the skills needed to adequately negotiate safe sex, avoid risky behavior and coercive situations, and maintain healthy relationships. This will be done through eight workshops with 14 grade 8 learners at a secondary school in a township in Durban.”*



NAME: LUNGA SIDZUMO

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: COACH COORDINATOR FOR GRASSROOT SOCCER AND COUNTRY DIRECTOR OF RAGBALL INTERNATIONAL

LOCATION: KHAYELITSHA (CAPE TOWN), WESTERN CAPE

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: ATHLETICS

LUNGA SIDZUMO'S professional work and personal interests focus on teaching young people about HIV/AIDS and encouraging gender equality. As an "11 for Health" (11FH) coach, he directly works with young people to help them develop knowledge and healthy behaviors related to the eleven most serious health problems in South Africa. By helping boys and girls develop strong communication skills, it is possible to address the inequality in power that leads to abuse, neglect, and discrimination as they grow older. Previously, Sidzumo worked for Treatment Action Campaign, which focuses on generating respect and compassion for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. He was also a co-founder, and is currently country director, for the Ragball International project, which helps young people develop money management and entrepreneurial skills. As a Grassroots Soccer and 11FH Coach, he has a platform to have a greater impact and reach more young people.

Prevention Plan Description: *"My prevention plan involves implementing Grassroot Soccer and 11FH activities throughout Khayelitsha, using the power of soccer to engage grade 7 boys and girls to fight HIV and AIDS and encourage young people to think critically about the way women and girls are treated in their community. I will work intensively with classes within Khayelitsha primary schools including 10 young people (girls and boys) from 10 different classes (one class per month). The program will include eight 45-minute sessions and a graduation."*



NAME: RAMADIMETJA KGADI THOBEJANE

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND SOCIO-BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST, UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO (MEDUNSA CAMPUS)

LOCATION: PRETORIA, GAUTENG

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

KGADI THOBEJANE is a lecturer in the Department of Clinical Psychology, teaching medical psychology, psychopathology, and community psychology modules. She also supervises research projects at masters' level, most of which are HIV-related. Thobejane has been part of a management team that established a clinical research unit at the University of Limpopo (MeCRU), whose main focus is clinical trials including HIV vaccine trials. She is currently also working part time as a sociobehavioral scientist at MeCRU where her main responsibilities include initiating sociobehavioral research, supervising and mentoring counselors, and playing an overall supportive role to staff members in the research unit. Her prevention work focuses on positive prevention with perinatally-infected HIV positive adolescents and their parents or care givers.

Prevention Plan Description: *“The effectiveness of antiretroviral treatment has enabled more children born with HIV to survive until their adolescent stage, during which they start to experiment sexually. My plan focuses on adolescents aged 15-17 years born with HIV, along with their parents/caregivers, to reduce HIV transmission by counseling them about safer sex, reducing exposure to risk, and improving adolescent parent communication on HIV and sexuality through role plays and support.”*



NAME: AMELIA VUKEYA-MOTSEPE

POSITION/ORGANIZATION: ATTORNEY/SENIOR ASSOCIATE, BOWMAN GILFILLAN INC,

LOCATION: JOHANNESBURG

BACKGROUND/DISCIPLINE: LAW

AMELIA VUKEYA-MOTSEPE is an attorney holding an LLB degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and an LLM degree from Georgetown University Law Centre in Washington, D.C. She completed her articles of clerkship at Deneys Reitz attorneys and worked as a Legal Researcher for Justice Kate O'Regan at the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Vukeya-Motsepe also interned at the American Bar Association's section on Individual Rights and Responsibility AIDS Coordinating Committee. On her return from Washington D.C she was employed as an attorney and researcher at the AIDS Law Project, a human rights organization that seeks to influence, develop and use the law to address the human-rights implications of HIV/AIDS in South Africa, regionally and internationally. Vukeya-Motsepe is currently a senior associate at Bowman Gilfillan Inc, one of the large law firms in South Africa. She is a volunteer attorney at Pro Bono.Org HIV/AIDS Legal clinic where she gives legal advice to people living with HIV/AIDS and people affected by it.

Prevention Plan Description: *“People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH) face a wide range of discriminatory practices. While South Africa has developed a progressive legal framework to protect human rights for PLWH, there is no specific guide targeted specifically to legal practitioners. My plan is to produce a guide on HIV/AIDS and the law in South Africa, with articles from a variety of legal experts. The guide will be a compilation and interpretation of legislation, regulation, policies, and case law that affects PLWH. The guide will be a useful resource for legal practitioners to provide efficient and professional legal advice to PLWH thus promoting access to human rights and justice.”*