

**M·A·C AIDS FUND LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE
at Columbia University and UCLA**

PROFILES OF COHORT I



Name: Somaya Latief

Position/Organization: Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Location: Cape Town

Background/Discipline: Psychology; child and family studies

Somaya Latief is a founder of a local branch of a faith-based organization that aims to promote moral regeneration in society by imparting life skills to young people through dialogue with representatives of various cultures. She also teaches early childhood skills to child care providers at a community after-care center in Kayamandi and runs workshops on mosaic art to the same women as a means of economic empowerment skills training. Additionally, Latief is a researcher in the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development Program at the Human Sciences Research Council. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan is focused on the Muslim community in the Western Cape, providing support to people who are positive and combating stigma and taboos that inhibit HIV prevention. The prevention outreach will work with numerous “gatekeepers,” notably Muslim clergy and teachers, to develop a well-tailored, culturally appropriate approach to HIV prevention among a population that is not always well reached by HIV prevention messages.



Name: Ntokozo Madlala

Position/Organization: Program Coordinator, Gender AIDS Forum

Location: Durban

Background/Discipline: Journalism, gender and AIDS advocacy

Ntokozo Madlala is a young gender and HIV/AIDS activist working primarily with the Gender AIDS Forum as the Knowledge and Advocacy Coordinator. Her focus is on human rights issues, particularly women's rights. Based in KwaZulu-Natal province, she has also worked on studies with marginalized groups including HIV-positive women, farm dwellers, HIV activists, and lesbians. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan focuses on laying effective groundwork among women for the time when an effective microbicide becomes available and, more generally, on strengthening prevention advocacy work at the Gender AIDS Forum.



Name: Constance Mamogobo

Position/Organization: Director, Makhuduthamaga Umbrella

Location: Makhuduthamaga (Limpopo Province)

Background/Discipline: Non-governmental organizations, psychology and education

Constance Mamogobo is founder of Good Hope, a non-governmental organization (NGO) working with HIV-positive parents, caregivers, and patients. She is now Managing Director of the Makhuduthamaga Umbrella, which assists 28 emerging NGOs – as well as a traditional healer – with project planning and implementation, voluntary testing and counseling, and support groups in 148 villages around Makhuduthamaga Municipality. She also coordinates 60 lay counselors in 38 facilities and hospitals. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan calls for establishment of teams composed of a variety of stakeholders from Sekhukhune District to build capacity, to create and support an enabling environment, and to strengthen families' ability to understand gender inequality. Mamogobo's plan involves using existing family-oriented values in the rural South African context to promote HIV prevention among women, girls, and boys.



Name: William Mapham

Position/Organization/Location: Medical Edutainment and Communications

Location: Houghton (near Johannesburg)

Background/Discipline: Medicine (MD)

William Mapham, M.D., is a medical doctor who produced Soul City Series 8, a multimedia social intervention aiming to create behavior change with regards to HIV, maternal health, and alcohol abuse. Incorporating television, radio and booklet components, the goal of this multimedia campaign was to inform people of the dangers of having multiple concurrent partners and to inspire them to change their behavior patterns. Mapham is also the Vice Chair of the Rural Doctors Association of South Africa. His MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan will explore the use of mobile technology and mobile media with an emphasis on gender and relationships. This medium of intervention has thus far largely been overlooked in the area of HIV prevention.



Name: Joyce Busisiwe Maseko-Mbele

Position/Organization: Chief Executive Officer, Vukani Kusile

Location: Johannesburg

Background/Discipline: Education, home-based care, drop-in centers, skills development

Joyce Maseko-Mbele founded Vukani Kusile Community Development, a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Bapsfontein, a squatter camp just outside Pretoria. She has also formed alliances with traditional healers, HIV-positive religious leaders, and the local teachers' union. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan seeks to intervene with young girls who are at risk of HIV infection because they seek "sugar daddies." Her plan will involve the economic empowerment of vulnerable young women as well as the distribution of female condoms, which have been proven effective yet remain an underutilized technology. Maseko-Mbele intends to integrate economic considerations into HIV prevention, organizing this work around HIV-related issues even in the highly disadvantaged setting of a squatter camp.



Name: Nobuntu Matinise

Position/Organization: Western Cape Education Department

Location: Cape Town

Background/Discipline: Business and education

Nobuntu Matinise is a teacher in a primary school in a semi-formal settlement on the outskirts of Cape Town, where she also serves as HIV/AIDS Coordinator and organizes workshops at the school for teachers and for mothers. She also works with the local Community Policing Forum, which teaches youth about HIV and steers them away from crime. In addition, she has been a trainer for "Women for Peace" a non-governmental organization in Mfuleni township of which she is now Chair of the Board of Directors. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan is to work with Women for Peace to reach large numbers of women and adolescents through schools, networks with other community based organizations, and contacts with area residents. Her focus will be on women's empowerment, challenging stigma, promoting mother-child communication about sex and HIV, promoting voluntary testing and counseling, and developing peer education for teenagers. Matinise's plan goes beyond a conventional focus on condom negotiation and use to propose a holistic approach to empowering women to protect themselves against HIV.



Name: Sybil Nandi Msezane

Position/Organization: Counter Trafficking Programme Manager, Thandeka Home

Location: Gauteng Province

Background/Discipline: Youth development, HIV counselor

Sybil Nandi Msezane is a child-rights activist particularly focusing on girls who have been trafficked as part of the sex trade in South Africa. Currently completing a law degree, she has become deeply involved with legal approaches to curtailing the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and has worked as an advisor to the First Lady of South Africa on human trafficking. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan calls for outreach that is not only targeted to children but also managed and driven by young people. It will focus on improving their understanding of relationships and providing them with the skills and resources they need to become empowered and to avoid HIV infection.



Name: Mantombi Nala-Preusker

Position/Organization: School Principal, Department of Education

Location: Bishopsgate

Background/Discipline: Education

Mantombi Nala-Preusker is a school principal with 20 years of experience as a teacher. In her community, she serves on a committee dealing with gender inequality and transformation, holding workshops and seminars for school managers on issues related to gender awareness and sensitivity in their workplaces, as well as addressing gender biases in curricula and textbooks. Nala-Preusker has also been a Gender Convenor within her labor union, conducting an annual audit of issues relating to girls and women in the education sector. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan entails training educators, parents, community leaders, education planners, educational policymakers, and curriculum designers about HIV/AIDS issues. Her work will focus on the context of gender inequality as well as increasing gender equity in HIV/AIDS activities and services provided in schools. Nala-Preusker is also a Master Trainer of HIV/AIDS within the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal Province.



Name: Padmani Patsy Pillay

Position/Organization: Director, New Beginnings Training and Development Organization

Location: Durban, KwaZulu-Natal

Background/Discipline: Education, training and development

Padmini Patsy Pillay graduated as a professional Social Worker and holds a Master in Education. She has worked in the field of development, including early childhood development (ECD), for the past twenty-five years. In 1987, she was detained for her activities as an anti-Apartheid activist during the Second State of Emergency. She co-founded the non-governmental organization, New Beginnings Training and Development Organization, in 1994, and currently serves as its Director. Pillay's work involves training women in both rural and urban areas in ECD, which includes the promotion of gender empowerment. She is also involved in advocacy work and currently serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Standards Generating Body. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan will focus on the challenges ECD practitioners face around HIV and AIDS, for example values clarification, gender inequality, stigmatization, and sexuality issues. It is envisaged that insight gained in the program will have a positive impact on their personal selves and professional work with young children and parents.



Name: Jabulisile Tugwana

Position/Organization: Media Communications Assistant, UNICEF

Location: Johannesburg

Background/Discipline: international relations

Jabulisile Tugwana is a Media and Communications Assistant in the Johannesburg-based hub of the UN Children's Fund, which has counted her among 60 "UNICEF Heroes" for making valuable contributions to the organization. In 2005, she coordinated a Christmas party for small children who were living in prison with their mothers. Based in part on this experience, she has proposed a prevention plan to create a two-part training program for un-sentenced juvenile offenders to curtail the spread of HIV by using plays, music and poetry. A major focus of her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan will be on countering two elements of gender inequality: stigma and sexism, with the goal of extending this work throughout Gauteng Province. Tugwana's plan will serve an underserved and overlooked population in need of HIV prevention outreach, and the commitment that she has already demonstrated to vulnerable children in South Africa.



Name: Wessel Van den Berg

Position/Organization/Location: Abalingani Gender Program, National Program
Manager; Hope Worldwide SA

Location: Stellenbosch

Background/Discipline: M. Phil. in sustainable development

As national manager of the Abalingani Gender Program, Wessel van den Berg supports nine national sites with teams totaling 54 staff. His particular area of focus is the vulnerabilities that women experience with regard to HIV due to power imbalances between the genders. Van den Berg's MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan will focus on developing a tool to reduce women's vulnerability to HIV and gender-based violence by improving their economic independence through the use of microfinance programs. The plan will include formative research, a pilot phase with intervention activities such as establishing a savings scheme, and evaluating the effectiveness and potential for replication of the intervention.



Name: Lesley Wood

Position/Organization: Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education, Nelson Mandela Metro University

Location: Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape

Background/Discipline: Health and education, social work

Lesley Wood, D.Ed., is a member of the faculty of education at the Nelson Mandela Metro University, where she developed and instituted the Advanced Certificate in Education, HIV, and AIDS in Teaching, as well as a number of related short learning programs. She is also a researcher and project leader in a number of projects relating to the promotion of HIV/AIDS literacy. Wood is manager of the Action Research Unit, which will enable prevention plans to be integrated into ongoing research objectives. Her MAC AIDS Fund Leadership Initiative HIV prevention plan is to involve teachers in the design and implementation of gender education and prevention strategies as an important part of HIV and AIDS prevention, particularly within a human-rights context. Her work will include issues related to gender inequality and HIV/AIDS in teachers own lives.