

Abaqophi bakwaZisize Abakhanyayo – The Shining Recorders of Zisize – Children’s Radio Project



A participatory project that provides children with the opportunity to portray their lives, insights and concerns through the production of radio programmes

Now in its sixth year, this project aims to develop public awareness and appropriate responses to children in the context of poverty and HIV/AIDS by involving children themselves in depicting their lives for a broader audience. The project is a collaboration between the Children’s Institute, Zisize Educational Trust and two primary schools in rural northern KwaZulu-Natal province.

It also aims to provide children with life skills as well as to enable their stories and interests to reach a large audience.

During 2010, three groups of children, each at different levels of technical expertise, participated in weekly after-school sessions and holiday workshops to produce personal radio diary and current affairs programmes. The children – who named themselves the *Abaqophi BakwaZisize Abakhanyayo* – the Shining Recorders of Zisize – also presented a regular slot on the local Maputaland Community Radio station (MCR), where they aired their pre-recorded programmes, facilitated related live discussions in studio and with listeners, and reported on news collected from schools in the area.

In November 2010, MCR was awarded UNICEF’s International Children’s Day of Broadcasting Award on the basis of the *Abaqophi* children’s contribution to their programming.

The project website was revamped in 2010 and the collection of children’s radio programmes updated – visit www.childrensradioproject.ci.org.za to listen to a selection of the programmes.

Funding and human resource challenges hindered the growth of the project in 2010, and instead required a focus on maintaining programme production throughout the period. The awarding of two separate grants at the end of the year will enable a more productive 2011.

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