

Ntabiseng

My name is Nthabiseng. I am a girl of 17-years. I live in the village of Pitseng.

My mother died when I was 4 years-old and my father left when I was 5-years-old. I live with my grandmother and my younger sister.

My grandmother sells food at the bus rank. She leaves the house at 5am every morning and returns in the evening. She saved enough money to pay my school fees and I completed high school with a first class pass.

Through Help Lesotho I was chosen to be part of a group who is fighting AIDS in my community. The project I am a part of is called Youth Against HIV/AIDS. Thanks to Help Lesotho, I have met some good people.

I had three weeks of training and I learned a lot. 'Actually, this training changed my life very much and I regard it very important I ever attend. Really, before the training I knew nothing about governance, leadership and I was wondering about HIV/AIDS, also gender equity and communication. But now I know almost everything about these things.

I have learned that I can be a leader and that I can make a difference in my community.

I tell other girls like myself not to have sex and if they do they should use condoms.

I decided that I wanted to know my HIV status. I was very scared before I tested. I spent a long time talking with the counsellor and she explained about the HIV virus.

I am HIV negative and I want to stay HIV negative for the rest of my life. I have decided to practice abstinence until I get married and I will wait for a nice boy who will respect me and be faithful to me.

My country needs me to be strong and to fight against this terrible pandemic that is happening in my country. I know I can make a difference.