IZIMPILO ZETHU / OUR LIVES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WOMEN OF KENNEDY ROAD, FOREMAN ROAD & JADHU PLACE, DURBAN

20 women living in Durban's Kennedy Road, Foreman Road and Jadhu Place settlements participated in a writing and photography workshop at Kennedy Road Community Hall on 8 and 29 April, 2006. Their photographs and captions are featured in the following pages and will also be displayed at various Durban venues.

The workshops were supported by the Centre for Civil Society and the Centre for Visual Methodologies (UKZN) and facilitated by Amanda Alexander, Andile Mnguni and Shannon Walsh.

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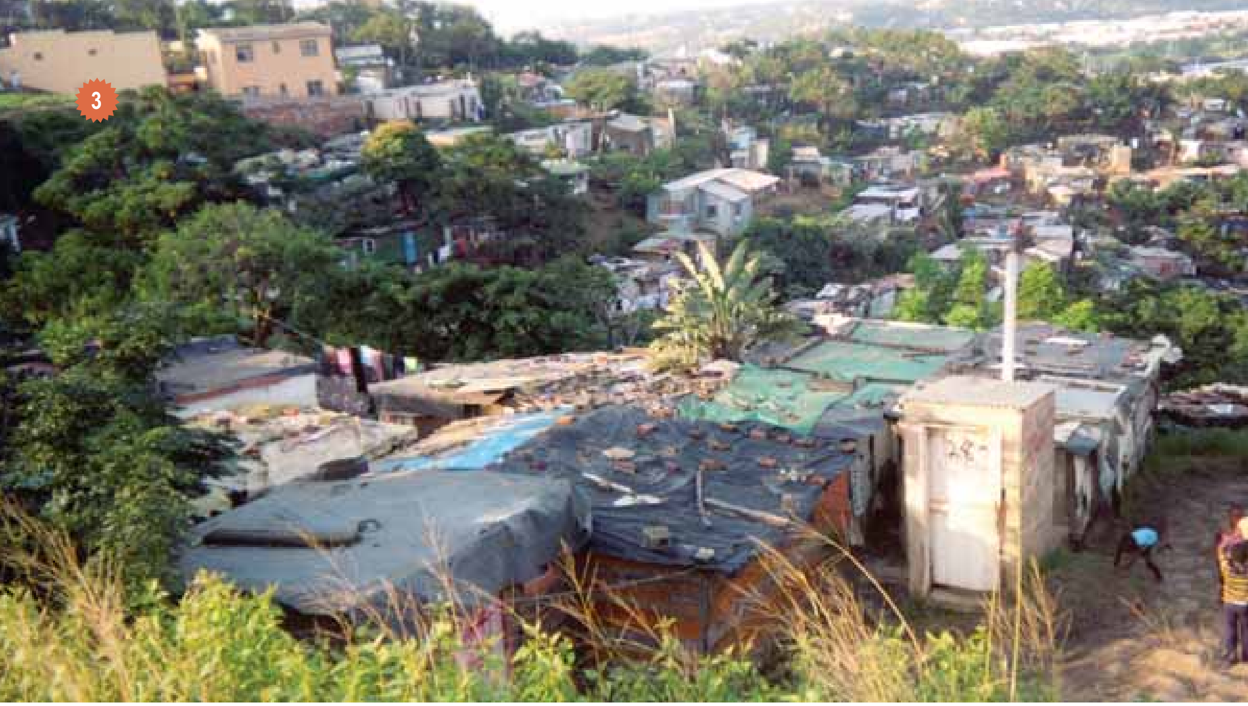

1 Nozuko Lulama Hulushe

2 Zama Ndlovu

Igama lami nguZama. Ngihlala emjondolo eKennedy Road. Umgqibelo ulona suku olunzima kubahlali balendawo. Kungoba umgqibelo ususku okugezwa ngalo izingubo zokugqoka. Abantu bama ulayini belindele ithuba lokukha amanzi. Babaliselwa ku 7000 abantu abasebenzisa ompompi abahlanu kulendawo. Ngiyazi ukuthi akukholeki, kodwa kuyiqiniso. Abantu besifazane namantombazane bathwala o25 litha emakhanda.

Leli hlathi elisemva kwabo lisetshenziswa njengendlu yanga sese ngoba zine kuphela izindlu zangasese ku le ndawo. Sisebenzisa zona sonke manje uthola ukuthi uma ulayini uma sekusukile lo. Lendawo ayiphephile ezinganeni naku bantu besifazane. Amantombazane asedlwengulwa njalo. Okubuhlungu ukuthi akukho onendaba ngalokhu. Ngisho namaphoyisa namakhansela imbala. Umthetho walelizwe awubasizi abantu abahluphekayo. Abadlwenguli bayazihambela nje. oTsotsi nazo zonke izigebengu zikhululekile, kodwa uma abantu ongenacala bebhikishela intuthuko eza kancane bayaboshwa.

My name is Zama. I am a shack dweller at Kennedy Road. Saturday is one of the hard days for all the residents of Kennedy informal settlement because Saturday is known as the washing day. People have to stand in a queue for hours waiting for their turn to get water. About 7000+ people are sharing five taps. I know it is unbelievable but this is true. Women and young girls have to carry 25 litres of water on their heads.

The bush behind them is used as the toilet because this community has only four toilets. We are sharing four toilets so you can't stand on the queue for the toilet when nature is calling you. This place is not safe for children and women. Young girls are getting raped more often. The worst thing is nobody cares about that, neither the police nor the councilor. South African law is against the poor people. Rapists are walking free. Tsotsis and all the criminals are free, but when innocent people are protesting against slow service delivery they are getting arrested.

3 Nozuko Lulama Hulushe

Le mijondolo yase Kennedy Road yakhiwe ngamapulastiki nanabhokisi, Ngaphezulu ibanjwe ngamatshe ukuvikela uma kunomoya.

The shacks in Kennedy Road are built with plastic and boxes on top (the roof is covered with stones to protect from winds).

4 Nonzwakazi Miriam Sivuku

Lona umama ozikhulisela abantwana bakhe yedwa. Uphuma emsebenzini. Akuve emuhle kodwa cabanga ukuthi uhamba kulamastebhisi naphakathi kwemijondolo.

This is a single mother. She is on her way to work. She looks so cute but imagine she is walking along the steps and in between the shacks.

5 Zodwa Nsibande

Impilo inzima la eKennedy Road, Hhayi nje kuthina esibadala nasezinganeni impela. Izingane zethu azinayo indawo efanele yokudlala. Zidlala maduze nendawo yokulahlela udoti, okunobungozi kuzo ngoba ayinayo impilo lendawo ngexa yodoti onobungozi kulendawo.

Yize kuyingozi kuzo ziyazijabulisa ngoba sezisijwayele isimo. Siyazikhalela kuhulumeni nabasisi bakhe ukuthi basakhele amapaki nezindawo zokudlala abantwana bethu, eziphephile ezingenabo ubugebengu.

Life is too hard here in Kennedy Road, not only for adults, even for children.

Here are our children. They don't have proper places to play. They are playing near the dumping place which is very dangerous for them, as well as unhealthy, because there are toxic things in that dumping place.

But even though it is dangerous to them they are happy because they are used to this situation. So we are appealing to the government as well as his officials to build parks and playgrounds for our children so that our children can be safe and crime free.

6 Nozuko Lulama Hulushe

Lendoda ya yifuna ukuzi siza ehlathini, kodwa-cha, u Rafique (I phoyisa eli hlala duze ne hlathi) u thi lomhlaba ngowakhe. Indodda ayikwazi ukusebenzisa ihlathi ukuzisiza.

This man is running to the bushes for nature's call – to an open space, but no chance! Rafique (local police officer who lives nearby) is claiming that the land is his. The man can't use the bushes for relieving himself.

7 Gugu Nthembu

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8 Delisile Goodness Gwala

9 Vuyisiwe Mvula

Lo owesilisa uziphumulele endlini yakhe phezu kombhede. Ngiyawuthanda umhlobiso wakhwa Fruit Tree osodongeni lwakhe. Umhlobiso ufana njengopende eMjondo. Kahle kahle umhlobiso wephepha wenza izinto ezahlukene emjondolo. Usetshenziswela ukuhlobisa nokuvikela abantu. Ngoba awuboni ngaphakathi uma ungaphandle. Emjondolo sisebenzisa iphepha ukuhlobisa. Iphepha liba nezinto ezahlukene njenge Fruit Tree, Coca-Cola, omango nezithelo.

This gentleman is relaxing in his room, sitting in the bed. I like the decorating paper on the wall, for Fruit Tree. You know that wallpaper is like paint in a shack. Wallpaper does different things in the shacks. It is used to decorate and also to protect people. Because you don't see inside the house from outside the house. In the shack we use wallpaper designed with different things like Fruit Tree, Coca-Cola, mangoes and vegetables.

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10 Nozuko Lulama Hulushe

11 Christinah Zizile Ngwazi

Kunodoti oyixhaphozi lamanzi elihamba eduze kwendlu yami. Ngendlela okunuka yona kube sengathi kuqhume isitamkoko. Kumanje sonke sineTB ngenxa yokuhlale sihogela lodoti onuka kabi kangaka. Omunye wethu useze wadlula emhlabeni ngenxa yesifuba.

There is rubbish that has settled in a pool of stagnant water that is close to my house. The way it stinks is as if a sewerage tank burst. Right now all of us have TB because we breathe in all this rubbish that stinks so much. One of us has even passed away because of TB.

12 Christinah Zizile Ngwazi

Ngihlala kuKennedy emjondolo. Sengineminyaka eyishumi ngihlala khona kodwa akukho ntuthuko eyenzekayo. Sixavuza udaka uma siya empompini siyokha amanzi ibanga elingango 5km. Nalompompi uwodwa, sima ulayini omude umasikha amanzi. Isikhathi esingamahora amabili singaphela uzokha amanzi, kakhulu ngesikhathi sekubuye abasebenzi emsebenzini, kubancono ngesikhathi sasemini.

I live in Kennedy Road in a shack. I have been living here for ten years but I have seen no progress. We tread in the mud when we go to the tap to get water which is 5 km away. There is only one tap and so we have to stand in line and wait our turn. You can wait for about two hours to get water, especially at the times when the workers are coming home from work. It is better to go during the day.

13 Christinah Zizile Ngwazi

Asinawo amathoyilethi . Siya ehlathini uma sifuna ukuzikhulula. Abanye bethu bazama ukuzenzela amathoyilethi angenayo impilo. Nami ngase ngibona ukuthi angizenzele elami ithoyilethi kunokuya ehlathini.

We don't have toilets. We have to go to the bush if we want to relieve ourselves. Some of us try to build ourselves toilets, but they are unhealthy. I also saw that I had to build myself a toilet instead of going to the bush.

14 Nomvula Mdlalose

Sihlala emijondolo siyanethwa umakunetha, amanzi angene endlini. Lesisithombe sibonisa indlela esihleli kabuhlungu ngayo. Eduze kwezindlu zethu kugcwele udoti nomasikito. Isimo lesi esihleli kuso. Indawo engahlala abantu le? Wena ungahlala nje endaweni enje?

We live in shacks that leak when it rains and the water gets inside the house. This picture shows the terrible way that we live. Next to our houses there are loads of garbage and mosquitoes. This place we live in is not suitable for people. Would you live in a place like this?

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15 Nonzwakazi Miriam Sivuku

16 Nonzwakazi Miriam Sivuku
Lapha indawo lapho sikha khona amanzi siphinde siwashele khona izingubo zethu ngamanzi ompompi.

This is the place where we get our water and it is the sink for our washing/laundry; the running tap water.

17 Nolusindiso Ntshangase

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18 Delisile Goodness Gwala

Ho. He ukujabula kimi kuncane isikhathi esiningi esokuhlukumezeka ngikhuluma nje ngiyagulelwa angazi ukuthi kumele ngenzenjani pho ngingathini nge HIV ngobaphela iyazenzela lapha kimi ngikhuluma nje ngiphethe izintandane izingane ezingena bani uyadela owaziyo ngalesifo ngoba siyabusa asinqeni umuzi owodwa sithathe abantu noma bathathu njengami nje ngizwa ubuhlungu ngoba ngo 2003-12-07 sathatha udadewethu kwabanzima kwabanzima kukhulu ngoba wabe esemncane ku khona esasisakulindele kuye kodwa akubange ku senzeka ngathi kusenjalo ngo. 2005-01-04 kwaphi nda kwashona ku magcino wakwethu kwabamnyama emehlweni ami ngoba yena washiya umntwana enezinsunku ezimbili emzele naye uyangihlupha ngempilo kodwa konke ngikubeka enkosini iyona eyaziyo ngiyakhala ngezingane zakwethu ezithathwe iHIV ukube nginawo amandla ngabe ngisishaya ngesando lesifo siyiqhawe eshi HIV ngomndeni wami.

Oh god. There are few chances of me being happy in my life. Most of the time I am abused. As I speak to you now my sister is sick and I don't even know what to do. So what can I say about this HIV? Because it just does its own thing. I have orphans as I speak to you. Who knows about this? This disease? Because it can finish the whole family. Like me, I'm in pain because on 2003-12-07 my sister passed away. It was so hard because she was young. We are still waiting for something from her. While I was still mourning that on the 2005-01-04 our last born passed away too. Everything was so dark because my sister left a baby who was only two days old. And the baby is sickly. But I put all my trust in God because He is the one who knows everything. I am crying about my siblings who died of AIDS. If I had all the powers I would have destroyed this HIV. It's HIV that's finishing my family.

19 Delisile Goodness Gwala

20 Mildred Chiliza

Ngingugogo ohlala nabazukulu. Sihlala endlini eyodwa encane. Izingane zigula njalo ngoba indlu incane. Indlu yangasese ila, ikhishi lila. Angikhululekile ngempela. Ngihlala nezingane ezine, siyisikhombisa umasesiphelele. Uma kukhona okhohlelayo sigcina sonke sesikhohlela. Silala embhedeni owodwa.

I am the granny who's staying with grandchildren. We are staying in a very small one room house. The children are getting sick more often because the house is so small. The toilet is here, the kitchen is here. Really I am not free. I am living with 4 children. We are 7 in total. When one is coughing we all ignite that cough. We are all sharing one bed.

21 Zandile Nsibande
Lena indlu yangasese esiyisebenzisayo la emjondolo yaseKennedy Road. Ibanga uma usuka endlini yami uza la ngu 2Km. Ngathatha lesisithombe nomfana wami uBongo, ofunda ibanga lesibili ePalmiet Primary. Kunzima ezinganeni nabantu abanengculazi ngoba uma ukhishwa isisu kukude ukuya endlini encane. Ngakhoke izidakwa nesingane ezincane siyangcolisa ngokungcola kwazo.

This is our toilet we are using in our Kennedy Road informal settlement. The distance from my shack to the toilet is 2 km. I took the photo with my son Bongo, who is in grade 2 at Palmiet Primary. It's very hard for the children and the people with AIDS because when you are suffering from diarrhea; it is too far to go to the toilet. As a result the drunkards and small children are messing all over their shit.

22 Lungile Mgube
Nawu umndeni kaLungile. Odade wethu ababili, izingane zami ezintathu kanye nengane kadade wethu.

Here is Lungile's family. My two sisters, my three children and the child of my sister.

23 Nonzwakazi Miriam Sivuku
Lomama ukhulisa abatwana bakhe yedwa. Kubukhuni ukuthola indawo ecreshi. Ugada izingane . Uma egodola uphumela ngaphandle athamele ilanga.

This is a single mother. She is struggling to get a space in the pre-school/ crèche. She is looking after children; when it's cold she went out for the sun.

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24 Nontobeko Ngcobo
Lokhu akuphephile.
Angiyithandi lempilo. Wonke amasonto ingane iyagula.

This is not safe.
I don't like this life. Every week a child becomes sick.

25 Nozuko Lulama Hulushe