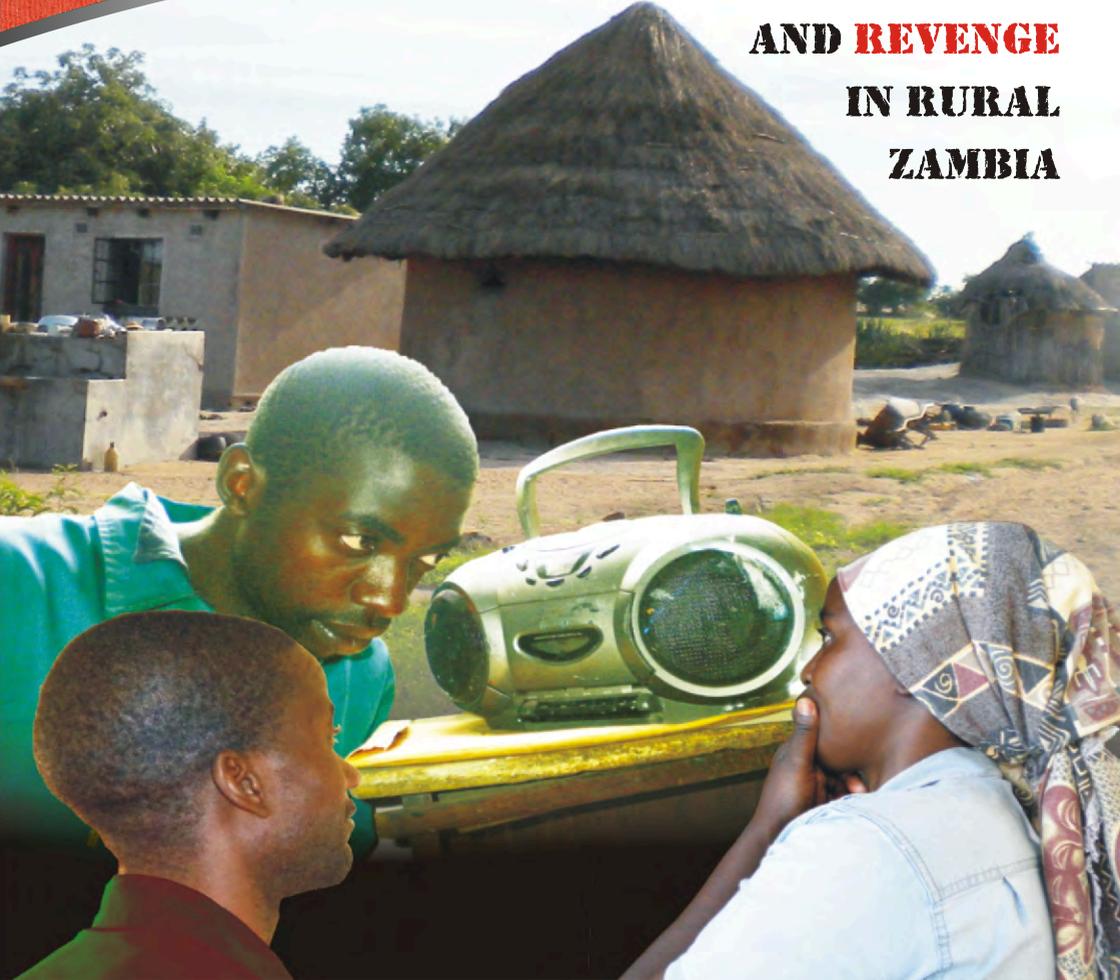




LIFE at the Turnoff

**A DRAMA OF LOVE
AND REVENGE
IN RURAL
ZAMBIA**

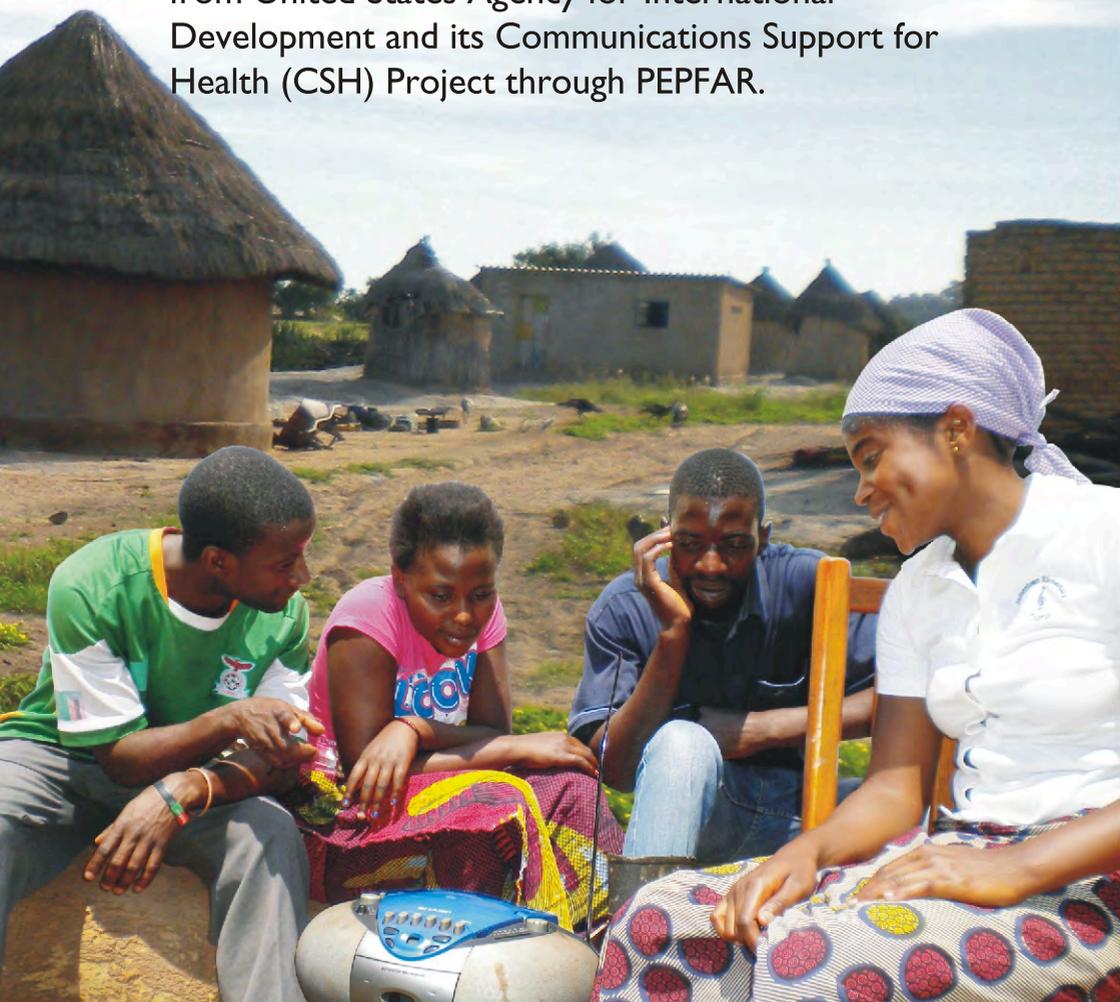


DISCUSSION GUIDE

Episodes 1 - 13



Life at the Turnoff is a 26 part story of life and love, rejoicing and revenge in two Zambian villages, Abelo and Zebron, and the truck stop on the main road called the Turnoff. Life at the Turnoff is part of the Safe Love campaign brought to you by the Ministry of Health and the National AIDS Council, with support from United States Agency for International Development and its Communications Support for Health (CSH) Project through PEPFAR.



Episode 1

THEME Multiple and Concurrent Sexual Partnerships

Summary: The story introduces two villages, Abelo and Zebron, and the truck stop on the main road, called the Turnoff. Bashi Chimbala returns to Abelo village and discloses to male friends that he tested positive for HIV. He believes that having multiple partners and not using condoms put him at risk. From now on he promises to stay at home.

Episode Review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What did Bashi Chimbala tell his friends?
- 3 What are the risks of having more than one sexual partner at the same time?
- 4 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 Is it difficult to talk openly about the risks of having more than one sexual partner at the same time? Why?
- 2 With what people do you feel comfortable discussing such things? Who should you talk with about such things?
- 3 What are the benefits of talking openly about the risks of having more than one sexual partner at the same time?
- 4 How would you encourage friends to talk openly about the risks of a sexual network?

Group Action:



- 1 As a group, what would you say to people in the community to break the silence about the risks of having more than one sexual partner at a time?
- 2 When could you share these ideas?



Episode 2

THEME
Condom use within
Multiple and
Concurrent Sexual
Partnerships

Summary: Teacher Lambi advises Isaac, a young single man, on the subject of girls and reminds him to get tested for HIV. Isaac then seeks guidance from his friend, Jairos, and they argue when Jairos recommends that Isaac use condoms if he cannot reduce the number of partners to one. Isaac becomes confused. Later Isaac's uncle, Uncle Luka, tells Isaac that his family has identified a girl for him to marry, named Faides. Men in the community are surprised that people are starting to talk about sexual networks, condom use and getting tested for HIV.

Episode Review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Why did Isaac argue with Jairos?
- 3 Do men here encourage their friends to use condoms with girlfriends? Why?
- 4 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 What are some challenges for a man who wants to use a condom with his girlfriend?
- 2 Are the challenges different for steady girlfriends compared to casual girlfriends? In what ways?
- 3 How can a man overcome the challenges?
- 4 What are the benefits to a man who uses condoms each and every time with all girlfriends?
- 5 What would you say about a man who uses condoms with all girlfriends?

Group Action:



As a group, what would you say to people in the community to encourage men to use condoms with all girlfriends?



Episode 3

THEME Sexual Networks

Summary: Isaac and Faides are starting to like each other. Bashi Luka feels surprised and jealous when he learns that his girlfriend, Gloria, has other visitors. Traditional healer Willy recognises a childhood friend as Pastor Ackson, a fake pastor who is leading a congregation in Abelo Village while the village awaits a new pastor.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Why did Bashi Luka feel jealous?
- 3 What is a sexual network?
- 4 What are the risks of a sexual network?
- 5 Like Bashi Luka, are some people in a sexual network surprised to learn that they are in a network? Why?
- 6 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 How can a man avoid a sexual network?
- 2 What would you say about a man who avoids sexual networks by sticking to one sexual partner?

Group Action:



- 1 As a group, what could you say or do to encourage men in your community to avoid sexual networks?
- 2 When and where could you share these ideas?



Episode 4

THEME HIV Counselling and Testing

Summary: Another strange event happens in Abelo village; there is a fire at the school. Bashi Chimbala escorts his wife for couple HIV counseling and testing, and she is in better health.

Bashi Chimbala is feeling healthy but worries about his wife's health. He says that it is not easy to talk with her about matters of the bedroom because of tradition. He seeks guidance from Teacher Lambi about how to go for couple testing and counseling to show how much he cares about his marriage.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 The narrator says that talking about HIV and sexual networks helps people to understand and make healthy decisions. Do you agree with this? Why?
- 3 How did Bashi Chimbala get his wife to go with him for HIV counseling and testing?
- 4 Do any couples here go for HIV counseling and testing together?
- 5 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 Do most couples here know where they can go for HIV testing and supportive counseling? Where?
- 2 At what point in the relationship would you recommend that couples go together for HIV counseling and testing?
- 3 Are there any benefits to a couple who goes together for HIV counseling and testing? What benefits?

Group Action:



- 1 As a group, what could you say or do to encourage couples to go for HIV counseling and testing together?
- 2 When and where will you do this?



Episode 5

THEME Talking about Condom Use

Summary: Faides and Isaac are thinking about their upcoming marriage and seek guidance from their married friends, Aida and Jairos. Aida encourages Faides to talk openly with her partner about HIV, counseling and testing for HIV, and sex. Isaac admits to Jairos that he ended relationships with all but two girlfriends. Isaac's relatives go to ask Faides' relatives for a marriage.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Do you agree that Faides can provide condoms for hotel guests and still respect the teachings of elders? Why?
- 3 Is it becoming more usual here for condoms to be provided so that people to take care of themselves? Why?
- 4 Why did Aida advise Faides to talk with Isaac about and HIV testing, sex and condom use?
- 5 Do some couples here talk together about HIV testing, sex and condom use?
- 6 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 Some couples find that talking together about HIV testing, sex and condoms is difficult at first, but actually makes them love and respect each other more in the long term. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- 2 How might a person start talking with a long-term partner about sex and condom use?
- 3 How can a woman start talking with her partner about sex and condoms?

Group Action:



As a group, what could you say or do to encourage couples to talk more together about things like HIV testing, sex and condoms?



Episode 6

THEME Seeking Advice on Relationships

Summary: A quiet revolution begins in Abelo with Bana Luka seeking advice from Sister Rebecca who works at the clinic and Teacher Lonika, a lay HIV counselor. Another strange thing happens in Abelo when Bashi Luka is attacked by an unknown beast. The fake Pastor Ackson is plotting revenge for a past incident.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Do you agree that Bana Luka is sitting at home defenseless if she does not try to talk with her husband about the dangers of his multiple sexual partnerships? Why?
- 3 Who did Bana Luka seek advice from to learn how to talk with her husband about multiple sexual partners?
- 4 Do you agree with the advice from Teacher Lonika about how a woman can start talking with her husband about multiple sexual partners?
- 5 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 What does a woman risk or give up if she stays quiet when her husband has multiple sexual partnerships?
- 2 What are the benefits for a woman who talks with her husband about issues related to multiple sexual partners?
- 3 What could help a woman talk with her husband?

Group Action:



- 1 As a group, what could you say or do to encourage women to start talking with their husbands about being safe in the context of multiple partnerships?
- 2 When and where will you do this?



Episode 7

THEME Condom Use Negotiation

Summary: Bana Luka waited up all night to talk about condom use with her husband, but he came home very late. In the morning they argued about her request to use condoms. Later Bashi Luka goes to ask Jairos for free condoms. Jairos tries to persuade Bashi Luka and Bashi Rebecca that condoms are important to use every time, all of the time and even at home, if they cannot stay at home with their wives. Bashi Rebecca and a Church Elder prepare for an upcoming clinic health day.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What does the Church Elder say about using condoms? Do you agree? Why?
- 3 Why did Bana Luka ask her husband to use a condom?
- 4 Do you think she could have said anything different to be more effective? What?
- 5 Imagine that you are Bana Luka's friend. What would you advise her to do now?
- 6 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 As a woman, what are the benefits of asking your husband to use condoms every time?
- 2 How would you encourage women to feel proud about talking about condom use with their husbands?

Group Action:



As a group, what would you say to people in the community to encourage women and men to negotiate condom use with their partners?



Episode 8

THEME Condom Use Understanding

Summary: Everyone attends the annual Clinic Health Day in Abelo. The Sister In-Charge explains HIV prevention and sexual networks to the participants. Men and women break into groups and discuss condom use, sexual networks, and what they can do to stop the networks.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Is it surprising that Amai Elder told people to stick to one partner, and insists on condom use?
- 3 What did the women's group discuss?
- 4 What did the men's group conclude?
- 5 Do you agree with their conclusions? Why?



Discussion:

- 1 Do some people here know the importance of condom use, but still not use them each and every time?
- 2 If some people already know information about condoms, what would help to encourage men and women to use condoms with all partners?
- 3 Who should decide on condom use: men or women? Why?

Group Action:



As a group, how could you increase understanding of condoms and HIV prevention in the community?



Episode 9

THEME

Relationships

Summary: A fight breaks out in the health centre between two women over a man they are both in a relationship with. Bana Rebecca takes the opportunity to talk with her husband about condom use and safe love. Bana Faides seeks a traditional marriage counselor for her daughter and is surprised that the counselor will also talk about safe love with her daughter.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Why were the two women fighting at the health centre?
- 3 Do you agree with how Bana Rebecca raised the issue of condom use with her husband?
- 4 Is she part of a sexual network?
- 5 Do you think Bashi Luka should have informed his wife earlier that he had other partners?
- 6 Do you agree with the traditional marriage counselor that things are changing so teaching young people about HIV prevention is for the best? Why?



Discussion:

- 1 What are the mutual rights and responsibilities of partners in a committed or long-term relationship?
- 2 How can a person talk about sex and condom use with a long-term partner in a respectful way?

Group Action:



- 1 As a group, what could you say or do to encourage people in your community to have only one partner?
- 2 When and where could you share these ideas?



Episode 10

THEME Being a Good Friend

Summary: While waiting at the Abelo Chigayo, Bana Rebecca tells her friends that she talked with her husband about condom use and went for an HIV test. Bana Luka decides to do the same. She visits Bana Rebecca at the health centre and receives condoms. The narrator says, 'now she must begin climbing the mountain.' Meanwhile, Pastor Ackson blackmails Bana Faides for part of the bride price.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 How do you think condoms reduce the risk of HIV infection?
- 3 Do you agree with how Bana Luka reacted when she learned about her husband's plot 2's?
- 4 Do you think it was safe for her to wait until she learned of her husband's plot 2's to get condoms?
- 5 When should women get condoms?
- 6 Do you think that Bana Rebecca and Teacher Lambi were being good friends by teaching Bana Luka and Bashi Rebecca about condoms?



Discussion:

- 1 What would you say to a friend who tries to help you protect yourself and your family from HIV?
- 2 What kind of friend will you be to people who are about to “climb mountains” to protect themselves and their families from HIV?
- 3 How would you feel if you taught a friend about the risks of more than one sexual partner and the importance of condom use to help them protect themselves against HIV infection?

Group Action:



Bana Rebecca said, “Help is always at hand. You just have to know where to go for it.” Where could someone go for help in our community? Could we as a group provide some help?



Episode 11

THEME Showing Respect in Relationships

Summary: Isaac seeks the answer to a very important question. Teacher Lambi advises Isaac to be faithful to Faides and end relationships with his remaining two girlfriends. Pastor Ackson betrays Bana Faides and continues to blackmail her for part of the bride price to keep the secret that he is the father of Faides. Jairos hosts a youth group meeting and talks with them about an upcoming event at the hotel and about sexual networks and condoms.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What did Teacher Lambi mean when he told Isaac, 'a hyena died with its legs apart'?
- 3 What is the risk in Isaac's indecision to himself and to Faides?
- 4 Do you think that it is too difficult for men to control their sexual urges? How could Isaac learn self-control?
- 5 Do you think that Isaac is showing respect to Faides by maintaining girlfriends in order to avoid talking to her about sex and condoms?
- 6 Like Isaac, are there people here in our community with more than one sexual partner because they are afraid to ask their long-term partner for certain things?



Discussion:

- 1 Do you respect men who recognize the risk of having more than one sexual partner and decide to stick to one partner?
- 2 How can you show respect for yourself and your partner, and have a satisfying relationship?

Group Action:



As a group, can you encourage people in your community to show respect for themselves and their families by sticking to one partner, and using condoms?
How?



Episode 12

THEME
Confidence to talk
about Condom
Use

Summary: The Sister In-Charge of Abelo Health Centre conducts a health talk on condom use with grade 12 students. Then, Faides' Uncle Levison, a long-haul truck driver, comes to town and meets his girlfriend Gloria. He is surprised to learn that Gloria is no longer shy to talk about condoms or safe love. A strange sacrifice is discovered at the Chigayo.



Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What topics are the Elders planning for the Church counselling of Isaac and Faides? Do you agree with these topics? Are there other topics you would add?
- 3 How is HIV different from other sexually transmitted infections, according to the Sister In-Charge?
- 4 How did Gloria surprise Levison when he met her at Jairos' bar?
- 5 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 What are some risks to keeping quiet about condom use?
- 2 What are some benefits for the whole community when we talk more openly about condom use?
- 3 What could make talking about condoms easier for couples in a steady relationship? In a non-regular relationship?

Group Action:



What are some ways this group could encourage couples to talk openly with each other about sex and condom use?



Episode 13

THEME Sexual Networks

Summary: Bashi Luka visits Gloria but leaves when she tells him her new policy of no condom, no sex. Bana Luka also tells her husband, no condom, no sex. Her husband also disagrees. Fake Pastor Ackson continues to plot revenge and spreads a rumor about Faides having been pregnant in the past.

Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What did Gloria and Bana Luka say to Bashi Luka when he refused to use a condom?
- 3 Do you think that Bashi Luka thinks that he is at low risk of HIV, although he is part of a sexual network with more than one partner at the same time?
- 4 What would you advise Bana Luka if you were his friend?
- 5 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



Discussion:

- 1 Could using a condom with a spouse or long-term partner show love and respect? How?
- 2 What are some challenges a woman may face when she demands to use condoms?
- 3 How can the challenges be overcome, and the discussion happen safely?

Group action:



- 1 As a group, what could you do to encourage women to demand condom use?
- 2 When and where will you do this?





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