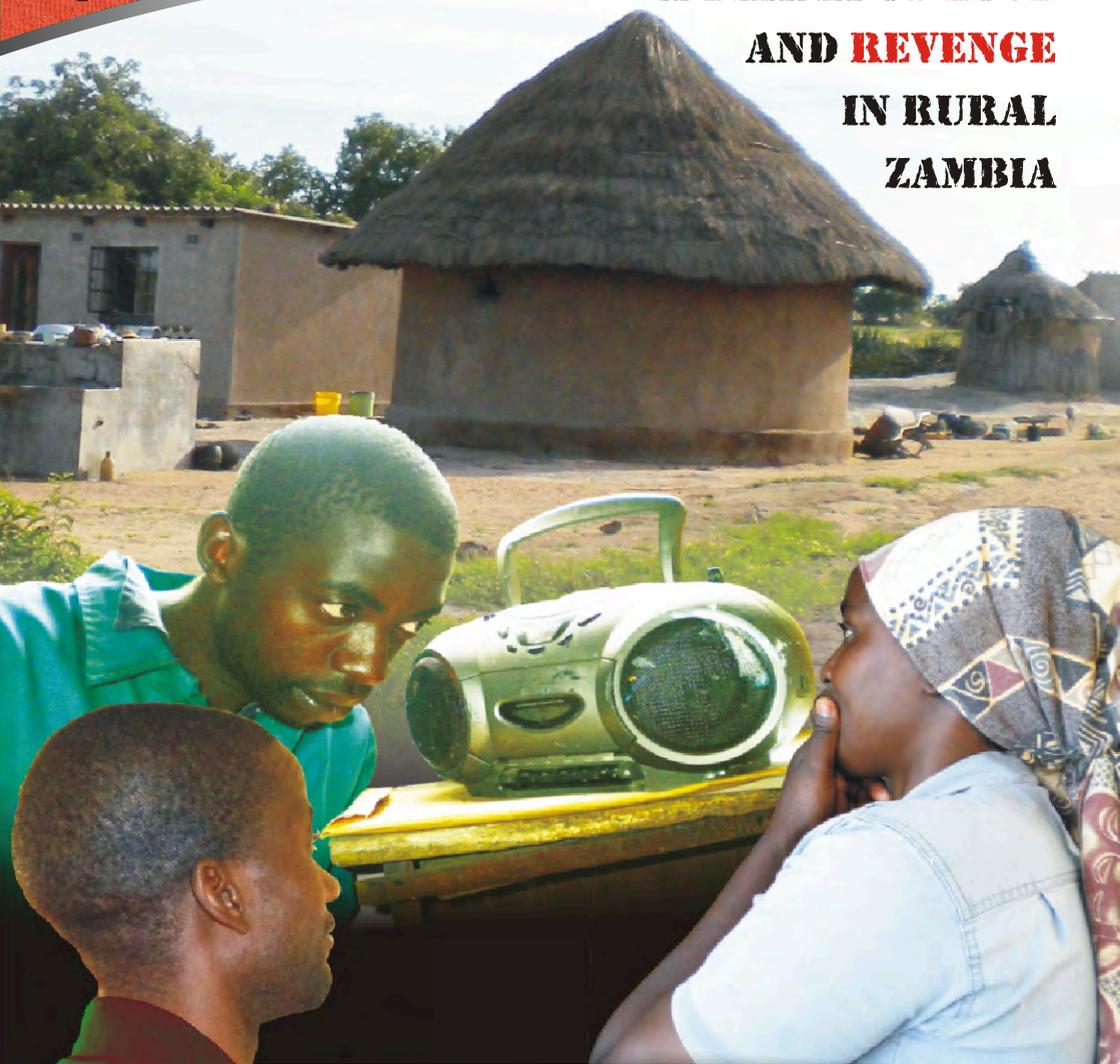




# LIFE at the Turnoff

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

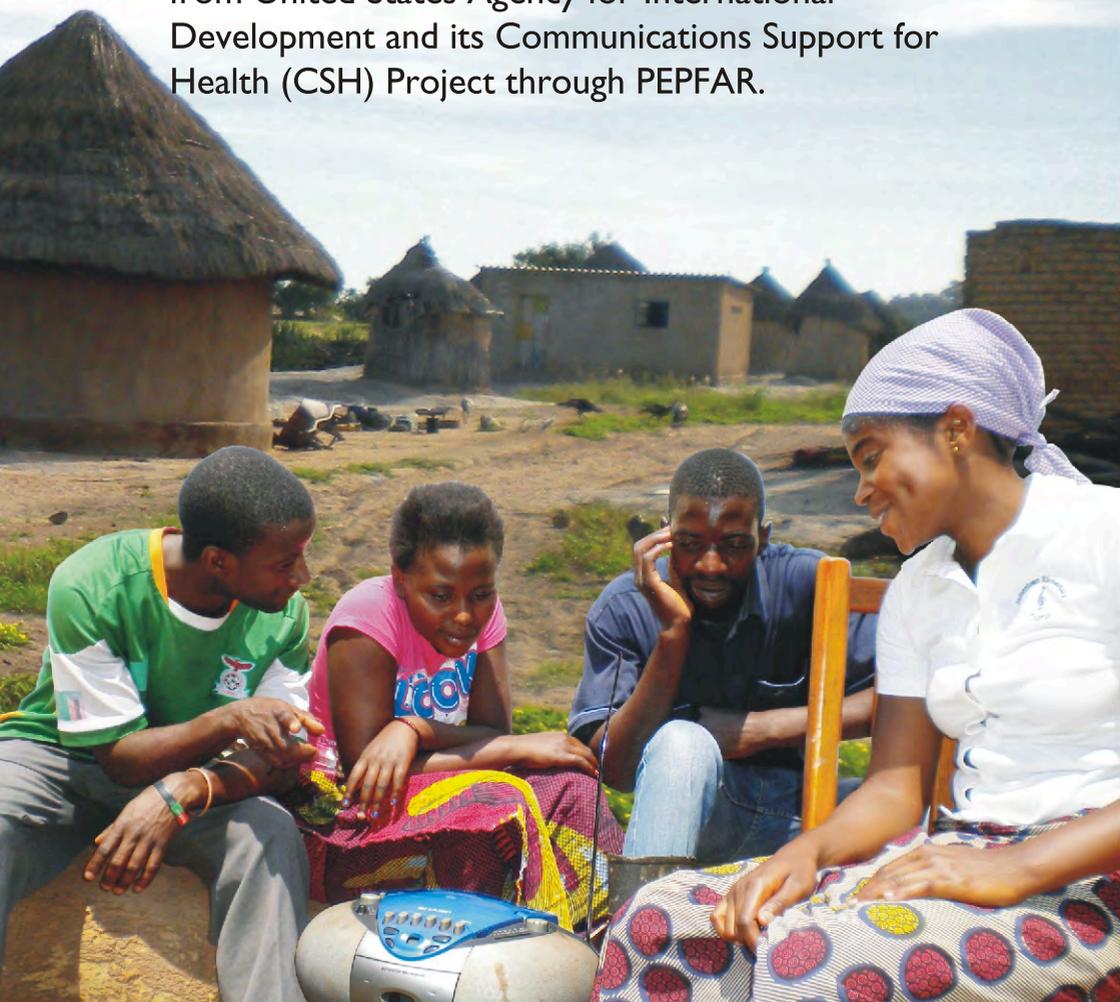


**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Episodes 14 - 26**



**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 14

### THEME Couple Dialogue on Condom Use

**Summary:** Pastor Ackson's rumor about Faidesi results in the engagement of Faidesi and Isaac being called off by their families. A quiet revolution is happening in Abelo. With a little determination, both Bana Luka and Bana Rabeca succeed in getting their husbands to talk about their relationships, and agree to use condoms at home to have a better, safer relationship.

### Episode Review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 How do you think Bashi Rabeca's wife feels when her husband sleeps away from home?
- 3 Could there be any connection between Bashi Rabeca not talking with his wife about sexual issues and his sleeping away from home? What?
- 4 What do you think helped Bashi Luka and Bashi Rabeca to agree to use condoms at home?
- 5 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



### Discussion

- 1 What does a person gain from talking with a spouse about sexual issues? Is it the same for men and women?
- 2 What does a person miss out on if they cannot talk with their spouse about sexual issues? Is it the same for men and women?
- 3 How would you recommend that couples start talking together about sexual issues such as condom use?

### Group Action:



- 1 As a group, what would you do to encourage couples to talk together about condom use?
- 2 When could you share these ideas?



## Episode 15

### THEME Condom Access

**Summary:** Elder congratulates Bashi Rabeca for now being willing to use condoms at home, and counsels him to also reduce his sexual partners and seek HIV testing with his wife. Bashi Rabeca asks for more time. People in the villages discuss plans to make condoms more accessible; Bashi Chimbala and Bashi Rabeca decide to sell condoms in Abelo while Jairos and Idah plan to provide condoms to Zebron villagers in the hotel in a location away from the bar.

### Episode Review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What do you think of the plans of Bashi Chimbala and Bashi Rabeca to sell condoms in Abelo, and of Jairos Motel to make condoms available to people of Zebron?
- 3 Would you support one of the plans more than another? Why?
- 4 Do you agree with the narrator who says that when condoms are readily available there is no excuse not to use them? Why?
- 5 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



### Discussion

- 1 Where can someone get condoms in this community?
- 2 Does everyone know where these places are located and when condoms are available?
- 3 Are the places friendly to everyone to get condoms, even young people?

### Group Action:



- 1 As a group, what could you do to make condoms more accessible in this community?
- 2 When could you act on these ideas?



## Episode 16

# THEME

## Condom Use and Relationships

**Summary:** Bana Chimbala counsels Bana Luka to use condoms, even during her pregnancy, to help make the bedroom more enjoyable. Pastor Ackson and Willy steal a cow from Bashi Luka to get revenge for something that happened to Ackson's relatives long ago. Gloria has disappeared from the village.



### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Do you support Bana Luka's discussion to continue to use condoms during pregnancy?
- 3 How does condom use protect the baby?
- 4 Do you agree with Bana Chimbala that sometimes both partners would want peace of mind from using condoms but do not realize it? Is this a realistic situation in this community?
- 5 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



### Discussion:

- 1 How can using condoms show love and care to a spouse (husband or wife)?
- 2 Do you think that using condoms with a spouse (husband or wife) could improve the relationship? How?
- 3 What are some ways you suggest that a woman can do to convince her husband to use condoms?

### Group Action:



- 1 As a group, what could you suggest or do to women to help them use condoms with their partners?
- 2 When could you share these ideas?



## Episode 17

### THEME Talk Openly About Sexual Issues

**Summary:** People gather for a meeting at the Headman's house called by the Elder, but realize that the Elder did not call the meeting; he was also summoned. The Headman turns the gathering into an opportunity to promote community health. Bashi Luka tells everyone about changes he has made at home and Teacher Lonika and Teacher Lambi share their story about living with HIV. Isaac and Faidesi decide to try to reinstate their engagement.

### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What happened to make Faidesi agree to reinstate her engagement?
- 3 Do you agree with Bashi Chimbala who said, "One person's pleasure is another person's pain"? Why?
- 4 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



### Discussion:

- 1 How can both partners in a relationship feel peace of mind and pleasure without pain?
- 2 Do you think that it helps people who have made changes that protect them and their families to get encouragement from friends?
- 3 How would you like to be encouraged by friends when you make a change that protects you and your family?
- 4 How would you encourage friends who have made changes that protect themselves and their families?

### Group action:



- 1 As a group, what could you do to encourage people who have made positive changes to protect themselves and their families (such as using condoms, talking with their partners about condom use, and/or reducing the number of partners)?
- 2 When could you share or do these activities?



## Episode 18

### THEME Seek PMCT Services

**Summary:** Teacher Lonika and Teacher Lambi want to have another child so they seek information about how to have a baby that won't have HIV. Isaac convinces his relatives to attempt reconciliation with Bana Faidesi so he and Faidesi can get married. However, when he and his uncles take cows to Bana Faidesi to ask for reconciliation they find she is not home. Gloria returns to Zebron after a bad experience traveling with a truck driver across the border.

### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What do you think about Teacher Lambi and Teacher Lonika seeking information about a healthy pregnancy before being pregnant?
- 3 What does Sister Chimbala recommend that Teacher Lonika do to have a healthy pregnancy?
- 4 Did you learn anything new in this episode? What?



### Discussion:

- 1 In this community, where do you suggest a couple go to get information and support to have a healthy pregnancy?
- 2 At what time in the planning or pregnancy do you recommend that a couple go for information and support for a healthy pregnancy?
- 3 What would you say about a man who supports his partner by going together with her to the health center for information and support for a healthy pregnancy?

### Group action:



- 1 As a group, what could you do to support couples to get services for a healthy pregnancy early, before getting pregnant or early in pregnancy?
- 2 When could you share or do these activities?



## Episode 19

### THEME Couple HCT and PMTCT

**Summary:** Bashi Luka and Bana Luka, now seven months pregnant, go for an HIV test together. They learn that they are living with HIV. They get upset but Sister Rebecca helps them feel calmer and tells them about prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV services that can increase the chances of bringing a healthy child into the world free from HIV. Fake Pastor Ackson and Willy continue to plot revenge.

### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Is an advantage of going for HIV tests together as a couple?
- 3 Do you agree with the narrator that testing together can make a couple stronger?
- 4 How did the Sister help Bashi Luka and Bana Luka feel calmer after getting the positive HIV test results?
- 5 When a pregnant woman has HIV, what can be done to increase the chances of a baby being born free from HIV?
- 6 Did the episode teach us anything new about how to prevent HIV transmission to babies? What?



### Discussion:

- 1 Where can a couple here go to learn more about preventing HIV transmission to an unborn baby?
- 2 What would you say to a couple who is expecting a baby to learn about HIV and how to protect the baby?

### Group action:



- 1 As a group, what could you do to encourage couples to go for HIV testing together, especially those who are pregnant?
- 2 When could you share these ideas?



**THEME**  
Male Involvement  
in ANC and  
PMTCT

**Summary:** Bashi Luka is seen with Bana Luka at the antenatal clinic. Many of the men are not sure if it is a good idea, but Bashi Luka feels like a real hero as he supports his wife and family. Gloria gets tested for HIV. Her test result does not show HIV, but she is advised to continue to protect herself and return in three months for another test. Neighbors in Abelo and Zebron are fearful that what happened to Gloria could mean more frightening things to come.



**Episode review**

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What services did Bana Luka get at the antenatal clinic?
- 3 Why did Bana Luka say it is important for pregnant women to go to the antenatal clinic early in pregnancy?
- 4 What could happen in case parents do not go for antenatal care during pregnancy?
- 5 What did Bashi Luka say he would do to support Bana Luka to have a healthy pregnancy and childbirth?
- 6 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



**Discussion:**

- 1 What does a father miss out on if he does not support his partner to have a healthy pregnancy?
- 2 What are the benefits to a father who supports his partner to have a healthy pregnancy?

**Group action:**



- 1 As a group, what could you do to encourage all fathers to support a healthy pregnancy and childbirth?
- 2 When could you share these ideas?



## Episode 21

### THEME Male Involvement in PMTCT

**Summary:** Bashi Luka is trying to figure out his role as a responsible husband and father. After another antenatal care visit, Bana and Bashi Luka make a birth plan for childbirth at the health center. Bana Faides seeks counsel from the Headman of Abelo about Pastor Ackson's threats, while Pastor Ackson reveals his secrets to the Elder. The District Chief begins a search for Gloria.

### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What is the role of a responsible and caring father?
- 3 Why is giving birth at the health center important for the mother and baby?
- 4 What is included in the birth plan that Bana Luka and Bashi Luka prepared?
- 5 Did the episode make you think about anything in a new way? What?



### Discussion:

- 1 When couples here discuss and agree on plans that ensure delivery at the health centre, are these plans similar or different to the birth plans of Bana and Bashi Luka?
- 2 If a couple here needed extra support on how to prepare a birth plan, from whom could they get that support?
- 3 What would you say about a father who fully supports his pregnant partner to make a birth plan for delivery at the health center?

### Group action:



- 1 As a group, what could you do to encourage all couples who are expecting a baby to have a birth plan for delivery at the health center?
- 2 When could you share these ideas?



**Summary:** The Abelo Village Council gathers for a special meeting where Ackson confesses his secrets. Bana Luka looks after her pregnancy and seeks support and advice from Teacher Lonika. Gloria seeks protection from the men searching for her at the home of the Headman of Abelo.



**Episode review**

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Why do you think that people are searching for Gloria?
- 3 Do you agree that Bana Luka can have peace of mind about her pregnancy because of care she can receive from the clinic? Why?
- 4 Why does Bana Luka expect that people will talk about her?
- 5 What is the reason Bana Luka intends to give the baby breast milk only, and no other food, water or drinks for the first six months after birth?
- 6 Did the episode make you think about anything new or in a new way? What?



**Discussion:**

What would you say if someone gossips about a parent who gives their baby breast milk only, and no other food, water or drinks, for the first six months?

**Group action:**



- 1 As a group, what would you do to encourage families to learn more about how to feed babies so they grow well?
- 2 When could you share these ideas?



## Episode 23

# THEME

## PMTCT

**Summary:** Bana Luka has labour pains while out in the field, three weeks earlier than the expected day of childbirth. Bashi Luka follows the birth plan to arrange transport to the clinic. Ackson gives up his evil ways and asks the village of Abelo for forgiveness. When the villages learn his story, they welcome him to stay.



### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Do you agree with the decision of Abelo villagers to welcome Ackson and his siblings to make their home in the village? Why or why not?
- 3 What is the reason for Bashi Luka to give Bana Luka medicine to drink when her labour pains started?
- 4 Did the episode bring up any new ideas or strengthen ideas you already held? What?



### Discussion:

- 1 Would you want to be like Bashi Chimbala or have a husband like him? Why?
- 2 Do you think a man who shows care to his partner is a true man? Why?
- 3 What are ways that a father can show that he cares for his partner during pregnancy and childbirth?

### Group action:



- 1 As a group, what would you do to encourage all fathers of pregnant women to know how to show care?
- 2 When could you share these ideas?



## Episode 24

# THEME

## Fatherhood

**Summary:** Isaac and Faidesi are married. The wedding party was supported by neighbors since Bashi and Bana Luka have a new son, born at the health centre. Bashi Luka is especially proud to be a father this time. He and his friends agree to not stray from home anymore and to use condoms responsibly. Headman Abeló and Headman Zebron are called for an audience with the Chief for a mysterious reason.



### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 Why was Bashi Luka happy that the baby was born at a health centre?
- 3 Why do you think Bashi Luka was so proud to be a father, although it is his seventh baby?
- 4 What are the qualities of a caring father?
- 5 Do you agree with Bashi Luka, Bashi Chimbala and Bashi Rabeka that they can protect their families by not straying from home and using condoms responsibly?



### Discussion:

- 1 How can fathers in the community learn to be caring and protect their families much earlier than these characters did?
- 2 What does a father miss out on if he is not caring to his family?
- 3 What are the benefits to fathers who show care to their families?
- 4 Who benefits the most when a father is caring?

### Group action:



As a group, what could you do to encourage men who are caring fathers to be role models in the community?



## Episode 25

### THEME Male Involvement in ANC and PMTCT

**Summary:** To everyone's surprise, Bana Faidesi and Elias announce marriage plans. Bana Faidesi tells Faidesi about her father, Elias, but Faidesi is shocked by the news and cannot accept it yet. Bana Luka meets Teacher Lonika and talks about child care, including how she manages exclusive breastfeeding. Teacher Lonika reveals that she is now four weeks pregnant, and has already started going for antenatal care. Gloria learns the reason people have been searching for her; she is a Princess.

### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this episode?
- 2 What do you think about Elias wanting to reconcile with Bana Faidesi?
- 3 What does exclusive breastfeeding mean, which Bana Luka is doing for her baby?
- 4 Are you surprised to learn that now health workers recommend exclusive breastfeeding until a baby is six months of age for all children, because it is the best nutrition and protection against illness?
- 5 Do you agree that Teacher Lonika is wise to start going for antenatal care when she is four weeks pregnant? Why?
- 6 What advice did Bana Luka give to Teacher Lonika who is pregnant? Would you add any additional advice to pregnant women?



### Discussion:

- 1 Where can men and women here go to ask questions about antenatal care and child care?
- 2 What are some challenges to following recommendations for good child care, such as exclusive breastfeeding? How could these challenges be overcome?
- 3 What would a caring father do to support good child health and development?

### Group action:



As a group, what will you do to help men and women here get informed about antenatal care and child care, and go early and often for antenatal care?



## Episode 26

# THEME

## Conclusion

**Summary:** Faidesi and her father, Elias, get to know each other and Faidesi forgives him for leaving. Abelo Village welcomes Elias and his brothers, and bring their sister to see them. Chief Zakeyo introduces Gloria to Zebron Village as a Princess in Chieftom across the mountains. This story of revenge and rejoicing, love and new life comes to an end. The people of Abelo and Zebron have been through tough times, but they have been strong to overcome their problems and turn their lives around.

### Episode review

- 1 What happened in this final episode?
- 2 Do you agree with the Abelo Headman when he said that when something bad happens to someone in the community, bad air settles on everyone? Why?
- 3 Which character overcame the most challenges to turn their life around?
- 4 Which character could be a good role model for people here? Why?
- 5 How did the characters get free from sexual networks, which put them and their families at risk?
- 6 How did the community members come to accept condom use within marriage?



### Discussion:

- 1 From what you have learned and discussed from the drama, what advice would you give to a young woman? To a young man? To a married couple?
- 2 From what you have learned and discussed from the drama, what advice would you give to any pregnant woman? To the partner of a pregnant woman?
- 3 From listening to the drama, and discussing the episodes together, is there any change you can see or experience in your own life or in the community?

### Group action:



What can you do, as a group, to help others in the community learn and discuss these issues?





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