



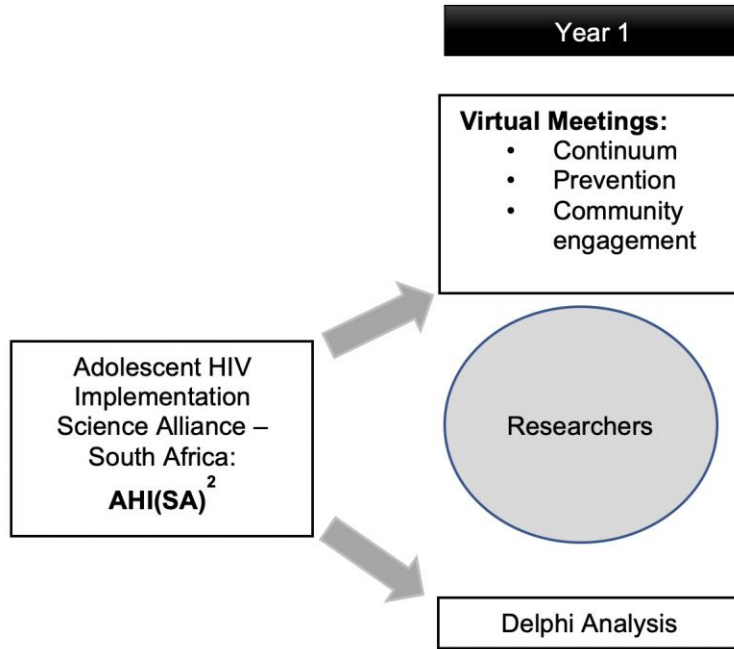
ADOLESCENT HIV IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE ALLIANCE (SOUTH AFRICA)
AHI(SA)²



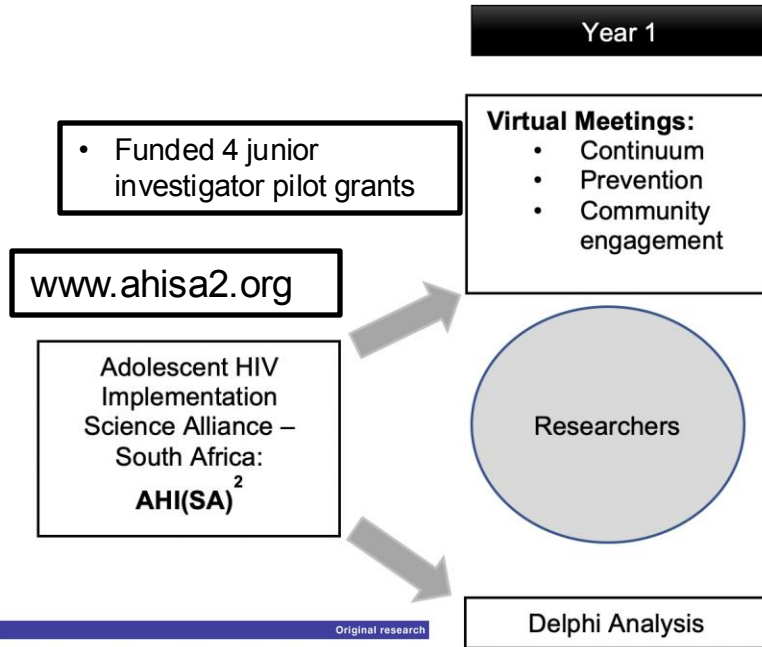
Research Collaborative Purpose

- Exchange ideas and information among researchers involved in adolescent HIV in South Africa
- Identify significant challenges to implementing interventions for prevention and treatment of HIV among adolescents
- Share approaches to implementation science
- Provide seed funding to establish collaborations for implementation science research projects

Year 1 AHI(SA)² activities



AHI(SA)² successes

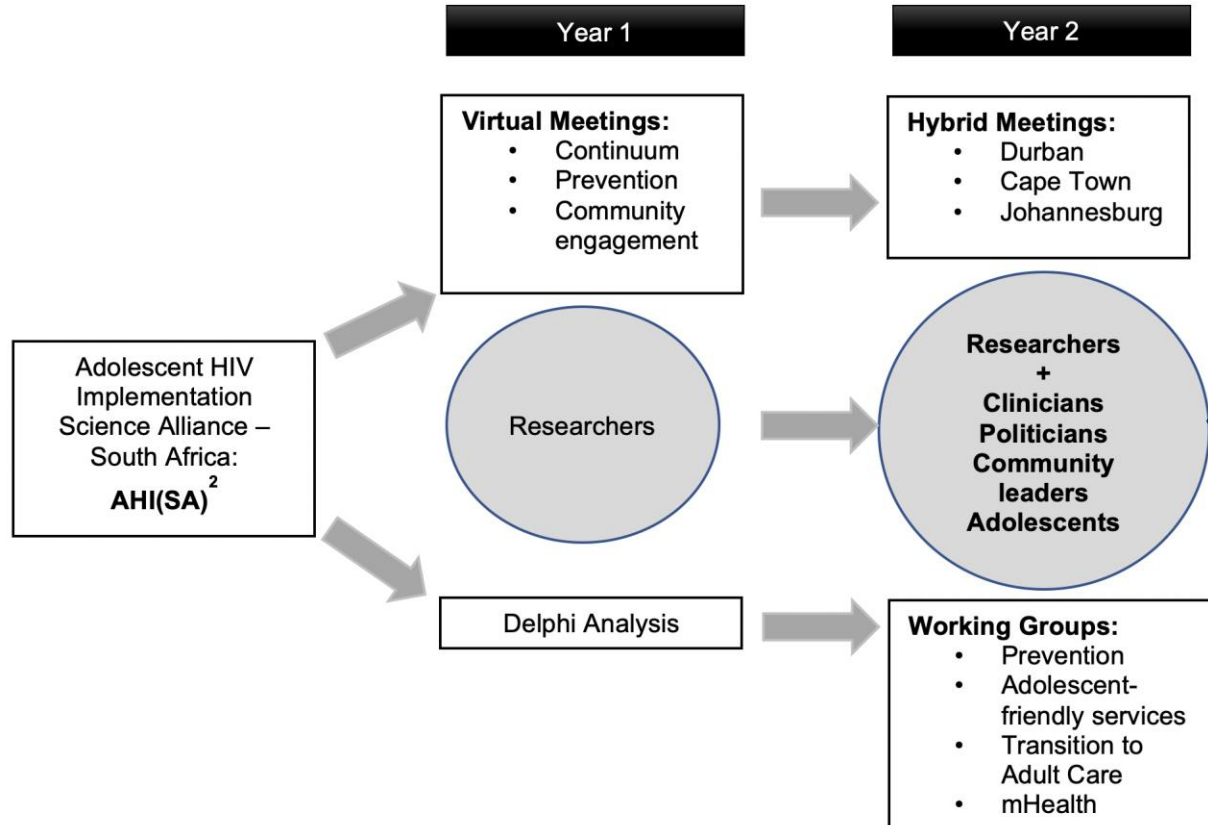


Open access

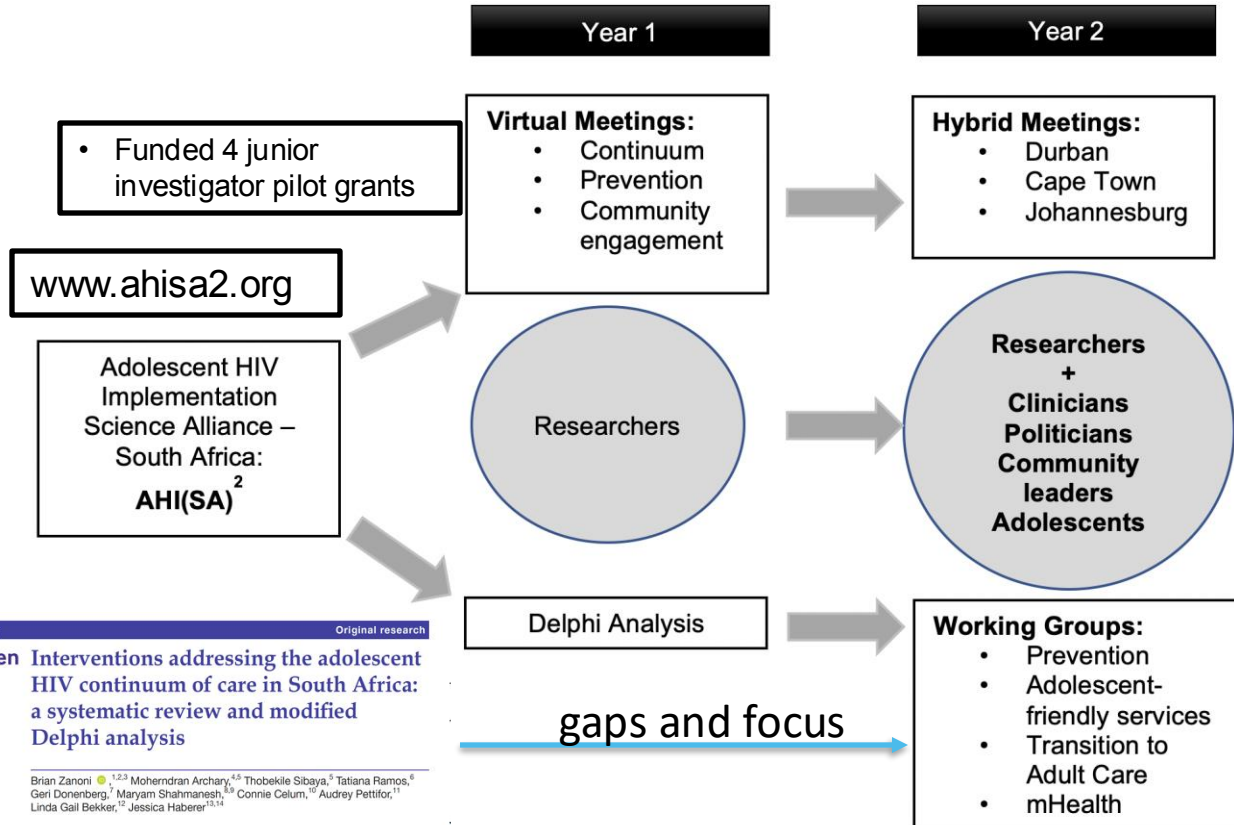
Original research

BMJ Open Interventions addressing the adolescent HIV continuum of care in South Africa: a systematic review and modified Delphi analysis

AHI(SA)² activities



AHI(SA)² successes

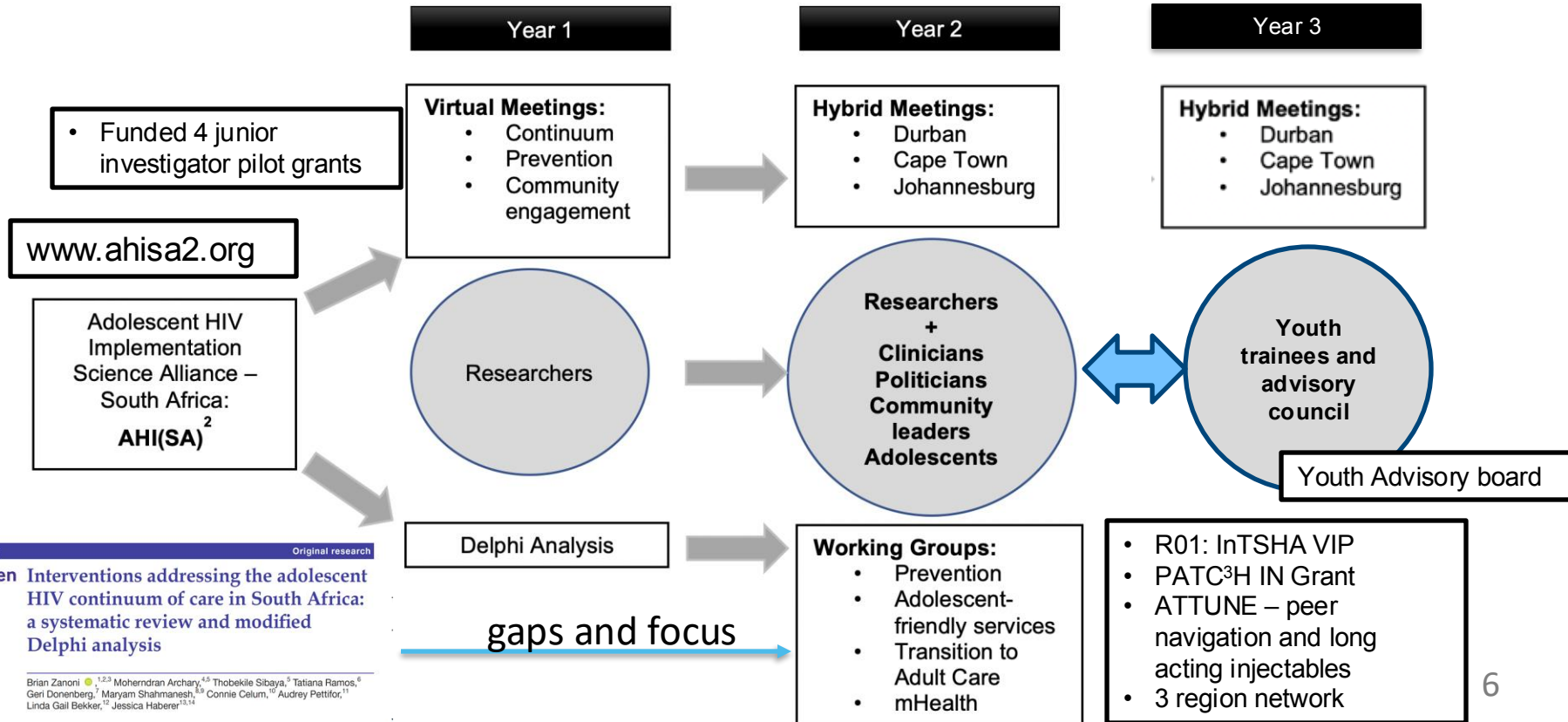


Open access Original research

BMJ Open Interventions addressing the adolescent HIV continuum of care in South Africa: a systematic review and modified Delphi analysis

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AHI(SA)² successes



AHI(SA)² the numbers

- **Meetings: 10**
 - Virtual: 3
 - Durban: 3
 - Cape Town: 3
 - Johannesburg: 1
- **AHISA Members:**
 - Attended meetings: 101 individuals
 - Registered but did not attend: 20
- **Attendees today:**
 - In-person: 47 registered
 - Virtual: 37 registered
- **Publications:**
 - Delphi Analysis of the continuum of care in South Africa
- **NIH Funded Grants:**
 - InTSHA VIP
 - ATTUNE
- **Training:**
 - Pilot studies funded: 4
 - Mentees: 4
 - Youth advisory board: 10 members

AHI(SA)² Future

- Next meeting
 - January 2025 in Johannesburg
- Please contact the AHI(SA)² leadership team:
 - If you are interested in presenting to the group
 - If you have topics you would like to explore
 - If you are interested in collaborating

Today's agenda

- **Two sides of the camera: Collaboration, Co-creation and Co-production in public health research**
 - Rizqah Dollie, anthropologist at University of Cape Town
- **ART adherence trajectories and correlates of treatment outcomes among adolescents in the Eastern Cape, South Africa**
 - Siyanai Zhou, biostatistician at University of Cape Town
- Youth Board discussion on disclosure and peer navigation

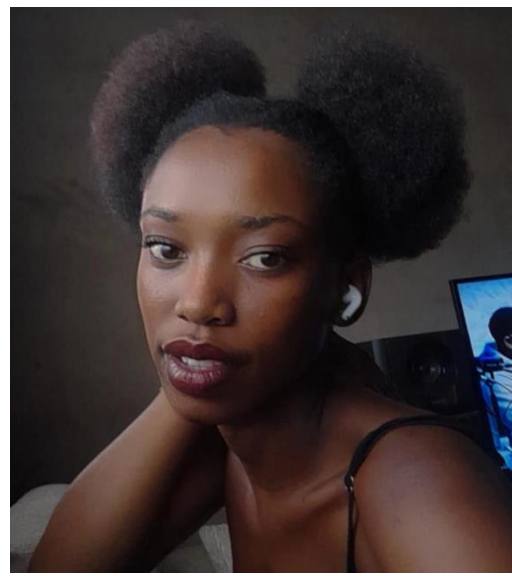
AHI(SA)²

Peer Navigation & Disclosure

13 September 2024



CRDFGLOBAL



Anele



Thandeka



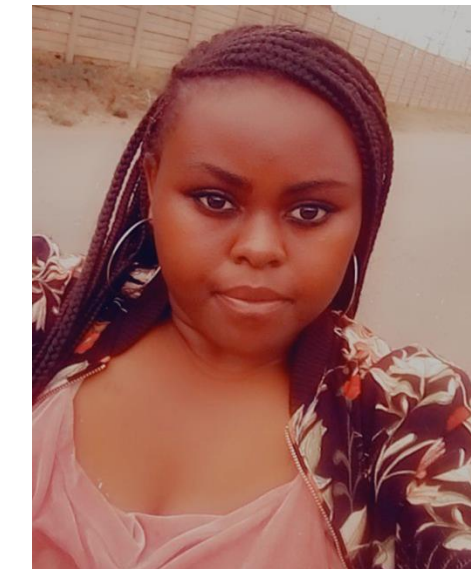
Simphiwe



Asanele



Kamva



Agnes



Ashlynn



Nhlamulo



Gopolang



Ayanda

What Is HIV Disclosure?

HIV disclosure refers to the act of informing someone, such as a sexual partner, health care provider, or family member, about one's HIV status.



Disclosure is a crucial step for individuals living with HIV for several reasons such as the following:

Personal Health
Management

Sexual Health
And Prevention

Legal
Requirements

Psychological
Support

PHASES & Types OF DISCLOSURE

Phases Of Disclosure

- Phase 1 – Before disclosure
- Phase 2 – Types of disclosures
- Phase 3- Challenges faced after disclosure
- Phase 4- Improving disclosure practices

Types Of Disclosure

- Direct disclosure
- Indirect disclosure
- Behavioural disclosure
- Basic disclosure



Challenges With DISCLOSURE

- Fear of stigma
- Rejection
- Discrimination
- Emotional and mental health impact
- Gender Based Violence





Questions?

- Who would like to share any of their experiences with disclosure?
- Does the person's environment affect their experiences with disclosure?



What Is Peer Navigation?



In peer navigation, trained members of the community, often with similar experiences, provide emotional and practical support to others. Relevance to adolescents and teens.



Young people are more likely to interact with peers, resulting in a reduction of isolation and a more positive attitude towards treatment.



The goal of peer navigation is to assist adolescents living with HIV in managing their health, including emotional support, adherence to treatment, and access to healthcare.

Role Of Peer Navigation In Disclosure

Role of Peer Navigation in Disclosure:

Emotional Support - peer navigators provide a safe space to discuss fears and challenges with disclosure

Guidance - peers help adolescents decide when, how, and to whom they disclose their status

Confidence building

Sharing lived experiences helps teens gain confidence in managing their status

Peer Navigator's Role In Peer Support During Disclosure?



Preparing for Disclosure:
helping the adolescent assess
readiness



Practicing conversations
about disclosure



Providing emotional
reassurance



Post-Disclosure support:
Helping to cope with
reactions (positive or
negative)



Offering continued emotional
support and linking to further
resources

Benefits Of Peer Education For Adolescents



Emotional Resilience: Support in reducing isolation and stigma



Improved Health Outcomes: Treatment adherence, regular medical check-ups, and better overall health




Increased Confidence: Ability to manage disclosure and cope with challenges

Peer Navigation Support

- Develop systems of care models
- Advocacy skills and interaction
- Prevention measures throughout pregnancy and baby feeding , and when having injectables
- Peer navigators support you in gaining knowledge and developing strategies through a series of supportive discussions , peers use everyday language which easier for the main program areas
 - ❖ connecting with institutional services in the community to have an integrated relationship
 - ❖ making means of survival and reality check through fundings and donations
 - ❖ create and distribute educational materials such as materials flyers , social media content
 - ❖ data collection and data analysing further to mapping



Peer Support Skills

- conflict resolution
 - occupational health
 - teamwork
 - role description
 - pathways of accessing resources
 - setting of program goals and objectives
 - content knowledge
 - referral of issues
 - navigation of support services like legal and health services
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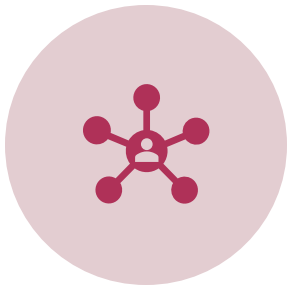
How we can better ensure our success with projects



Do more feasibility studies which will ensure the right channeling and meeting our objectives



Engage institutional services such as the Department of Health, Social Development and Government Officials



Educate peer navigators as well as the YRAB on writing reports, letters, marketing strategies which will assist in trace/tracking work – also for reflections



Have peer led initiatives such as camps and dialogues

Experiences Shared By Participants

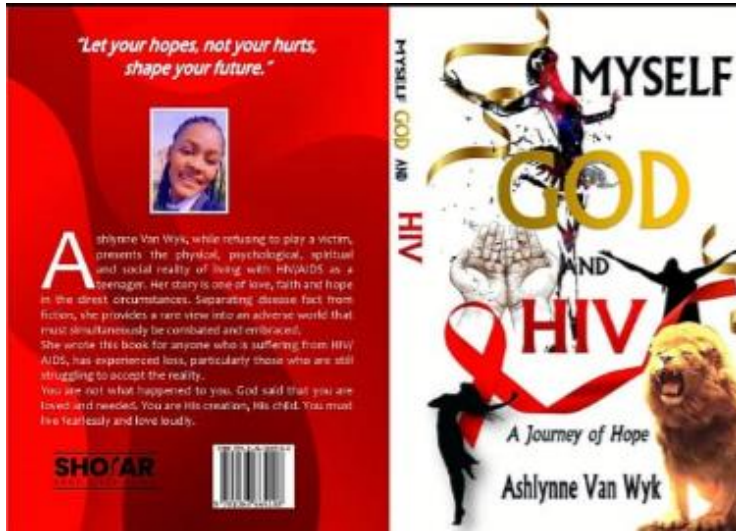
“Disclosing does not always go according to plan as most people usually take this the wrong way. This makes it very challenging to disclose as everyone is afraid of rejection. This leads to most people living with HIV not to disclose, this is all because people are failing to get educated or gain more knowledge about HIV.” [adolescent female from KZN]

“I was not taking my medicine on time but after disclosing I was comfortable enough to take medicine.” [male adolescent from JHB]

“I was shown [a video] about a boy who had been sick, with no parents and had HIV. With fear of being shamed by his peers he neglected his medication worsening his health, a few days he was admitted. He then after started taking his medicine, when I saw the video, I was motivated to take mine and ensure I was healthy.” [male adolescent from JHB]

“I was referred to this hospital where I was supported and counselled on how to cope with the post disclosure effect. I don't think of killing myself anymore but [rather] how to keep taking my pills well so that I can achieve my dream of being a productive person in life.” [adolescent female from Soweto]

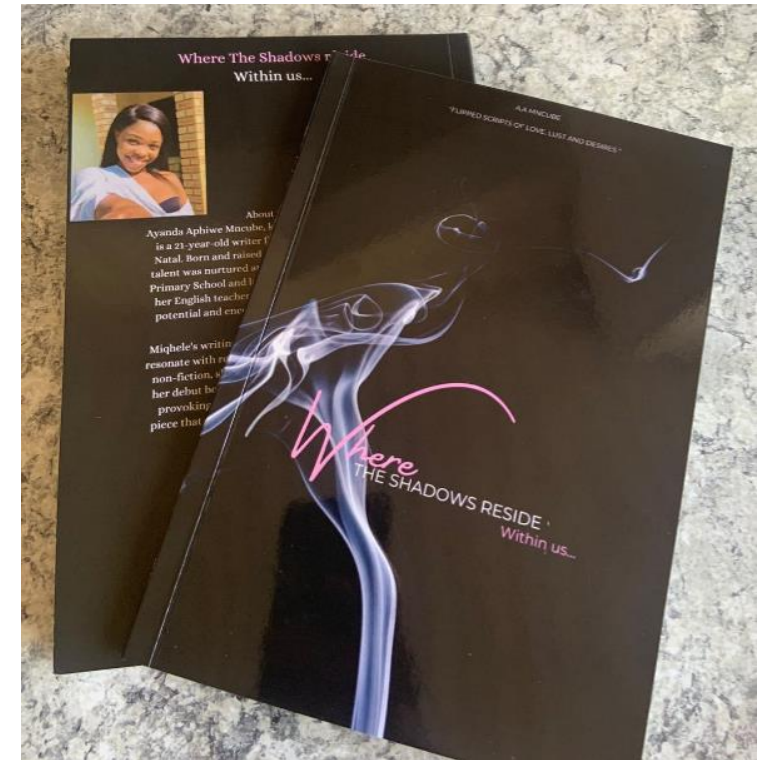
Sharing our achievements...



Myself, God and HIV – a journey of hope
Author: Ashlynn Van Wyk
Category: English, Non-Fiction, Wellness
Publisher Name: Shofar Books
ISBN: 9781063665108

Asanele Ndevu:

*Saving my mentee's life who wanted to commit suicide *Obtaining my LLB degree *Being part of AHISA program with like minded peers



Where the shadows reside within us
Author: Ayanda Mncube
In Print



Acknowledgements

- Fogarty International, the parent AHISA and CRDF Global the funders of AHI(SA)²
 - Profs Brian Zanoni and Moherndran Archary, our Principal Investigators
 - The AHI(SA)² Youth Research Advisory Board members
 - Thobekile Sibaya and Lee Sewnarain (YRAB coordinators)
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