



“ Campers sing and dance their way to their workshop on \*My Supporters\* – an interactive session for children living with HIV on the importance of support networks.

I am like a dog with two tails because I have found an opportunity to thank Sentebale's Camp for helping me so much. Considering how much my quality of life had deteriorated when I arrived at camp there has been a big change. I have learned the great value of taking my medication correctly; they gave us pillboxes and watches to help us ensure we take our medication correctly and at the right time. Above all I'm proud to have met other children living with HIV like myself and I've realised I am not the only one living with the virus. Thank you Sentebale.

CAMPER, FROM WINTER CAMP 2014

## Support for children living with HIV to live healthy and confident lives

### NETWORK CLUBS & CAMPS PROGRAMME

Sentebale runs week-long camps and monthly network clubs at local healthcare clinics across Lesotho to give children living with HIV the knowledge and the tools that they need to live physically and emotionally healthy lives. It seeks to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS through education and fostering child-to-child communication.

### Key statistics

- Lesotho has the second highest prevalence rate of HIV in the world.<sup>1\*</sup>
- HIV remains the number one cause of death in 10-19 year olds in Africa.<sup>2</sup>
- One third of all people living with HIV in Lesotho are unaware of their status.<sup>3</sup>
- 38,000 children under 14 in Lesotho are living with HIV.<sup>4</sup>
- Stigma and discrimination remain the biggest barrier to children and young people accessing care.<sup>5</sup>

### Programme activities

- Ran three week-long summer camps with 295 HIV-positive children attending in two locations, and four week-long winter camps attended by 202 children. This is an increase of 48% over last year.
- Seven new clubs were added in this financial year, bringing the number to a total of 18 clubs. Average monthly attendance at clubs of children living with HIV for the first six months of the year was 448 and for the last six months was 713.
- Doubled the number of caregiver days (for the children's carers) to 46 days. The average attendance for the first six months was 244 while the last six months was 498.

### Key achievements

- Seven new clubs were launched after partnerships were established with three hospitals and seven health centres.
- Established good working relationships with the district health teams and agreed on a clear and locally endorsed expansion plan.
- A proposal document to support community based healthcare in Qacha's Nek was signed by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Health.
- Two new coordinators were appointed in January and February 2014.

### Challenges to be addressed

- There is continued work with clinics to address the challenges of capturing clinical data to enable effective monitoring and evaluation.
- Sentebale is already receiving additional requests for support, which will have to be addressed as the programme grows.

\* all footnotes can be found on page 52.