

Upendo Village

Life and Hope for Kenyans Living with HIV and AIDS



A CLIENT'S STORY

Dorcas Wanjiku's story in her own words

I am Dorcas Wanjiku, 41 years old, and the single mother of nine children. I separated from my husband in 2003.

I started getting sick now and then and tested for HIV, but when the results were positive, I went into a denial. By 2006, I was very ill. I was later admitted in Naivasha district hospital for three months. At the time I was extremely malnourished, had tuberculosis and oral thrush and weighed 35 kilograms. I had developed a very bad wound on my leg that took a long time to heal.

At the time I still did not accept my status but Upendo Village staff learnt about me and started visiting me even after leaving the hospital. Sr. Agnes, who is a nurse, came home often to clean and dress my wound and encouraged my mother so much who was the care giver to continue cooking for me the porridge which they were providing.

In 2007 I started walking with the help of crutches to the support group where I continued to get nutritional supplement. Towards the end of 2008 I had improved tremendously and started helping my parents and taking care of my children.

I received an Alpine German dairy goat so that I could continue to get milk for my nutrition and for the children, a beehive, chicken and solar cooker from Upendo Village. My dairy goat has kidded twins twice, not counting the number of chicken and eggs that my family use! Am quite healthy and strong and able to farm and grow more food for my family.

In 2009, I benefited again from improved housing as I was living in very tiny single room mud house with six children. I now have a three room house and have joined the craft project while my two youngest kids have been sponsored for their education. Long live Upendo Village for all what it has continued to do for us who initially felt after testing HIV+ the world around us had crumbled.