

STRENGTHENING UGANDA'S SYSTEMS FOR TREATING AIDS NATIONALLY

~ SUCCESS STORY ~

Overcoming Adversity: Christine's Story

Christine is HIV positive; despite her status, she has delivered three negative babies. The community which had at one time labelled her a walking coffin, has now recognized her as one of their own upon realizing that the battle against HIV&AIDS can be won.



Christine and her HIV-free children receive care at Moroto RRH

“My mother cried uncontrollably, lamenting how I betrayed her. It was no longer a secret because passersby, neighbours got to know. This was the hardest time for me especially dealing with stigma and discrimination.

I was called names such as “AIDS person, walking coffin and self-isolation was the only alternative to help me cope.”

Christine

Christine and her three children live in the outskirts of Moroto town, Karamoja sub region.

Her story began when she was discovered bed ridden in 2007 during an outreach. It was then that, she learned about her status. Despite having TB, she also was HIV positive. Christine started TB treatment and after 2 months was given ARVs.

Christine receives HIV care at Moroto RRH. Before (2008-2010), the hospital was grappling with challenges of frequent medicine stock-outs and long waiting times. However, this has changed and to-date, Christine no longer worries about missing her medication. Her hope was kept alive by a nurse at Moroto RRH

who consistently counseled and encouraged her to live a normal life as long as she had her medication.

“It is because of her counsel that I managed to deliver my three babies; all of them turning HIV negative until discharge from care.”

With this new dawn of HIV free generation babies, most women in her community who haven't disclosed find comfort in Christine's counseling and home visit sessions. This is because she volunteers with a community home based organization which works with Moroto RRH to empower HIV positive women with skills in counseling and craft making.

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