



CASE STUDY:

Profile of a Tanzanian street youth

Sebastian's story:

Sebastian (name changed for confidentiality) comes from a broken home. His father lives in Katesh in a small grass hut and appears to be a drunk. We are unsure of his mother's whereabouts.

Sebastian became ill when he was very young and was disabled as a result. Specifically, one of his legs is deformed, and it causes him to have trouble walking.

Sebastian attributes his disability to witchcraft. His father apparently had a fight with a woman when Sebastian was young who in turn "cursed" Sebastian.

Sebastian's father did not enroll him in school and forced him to care for the few goats that they had. However, Sebastian had a strong desire to study.

In 2000, Sebastian ran away from home and came to Arusha town to look for someone to sponsor him for school. While on the streets, he slept at the Arusha bus stand and begged during the day.

One day, he met Adaria Watts who offered to help enroll him in school. He was enrolled in grade 4 at Salvation Army Boarding School in the Disabled Unit.

Unfortunately, several years ago, Adaria fell ill and was no longer able to support Sebastian in school. Through the street-based feeding program offered by the Arusha Referral Service for Street Children (ARS), both Friends of KIDS and Mkombozi encountered Sebastian and took it upon themselves to support him through school and follow-up on his progress.

As of 2004, Sebastian was attending school with support of Mkombozi and Friends of KIDS.