



## CASE STUDY:

### Yusuf, Mkombozi youth

#### In his own words:

My name is Yusuf (name changed for confidentiality). I am 16 years old. My parents died when I was just a small boy, and I lived with my grandfather at Chekereni. During my stay with him, he never wanted to send me to school, rather, forced me to go grazing his cows. Later, I was taken by my uncle (my grandfather's son) to Magugu, and when I was there, I was given much hard and heavy work to do. One day my uncle asked me to carry a full sack of maize, it fell over me and I broke my shoulder and hand and thigh. They left me inside a house for one month without sending me to the hospital, blaming me for being lazy and spoiled for not working. My body was swollen and part of it turned grey. When they saw this, they got scared and returned me back to my grandfather, but my grandfather didn't do anything either.

The neighbours discovered my predicament and took me to KIWAKUUKI (local NGO giving community support to AIDS victims, women and orphans) where they were given a referral letter to the hospital. That was in December 2005; I was admitted at KCMC for 3 months and was operated 3 times. During that period, my condition got worse, I was smelling stinky and the broken hand looked hopeless. I thought I was going to die. None of my surviving relatives ever once visited me. I think they hoped that I would just die and so could forget me. But at last I got better. The neighbours who first helped me sent me back to KIWAKUUKI where I was given a letter to stay at Mkombozi. They took me in and began to care for me.

Since then I have been living at Mkombozi. I am very grateful to Mkombozi because now I can attend school in NFE (non-formal education) class, and they continue to give me good and close medical care. I get all basic needs, food, accommodation, clothes and other items. At Mkombozi, I learned drawing and am now a good artist. I am very happy here with my friends, they have helped me forget my predicaments. I now have hope for my life and am looking forward to a bright future. Although not healed completely, I consider the friends at Mkombozi to be like family since I have no one else that I can turn to.

#### By Jerome Mwaya (Mkombozi Social Worker):

When we first saw Yusuf, after having received a referral letter from KIWAKUUKI, we immediately decided to intake him as he showed potential for our service. He was so thin and appeared to have come out of long and severe illness. He looked scared and hardly spoke anything unless prompted to answer a question by a Social Worker. For several weeks after coming, he was forlorn and constantly stayed by himself. We did an immediate home visit to his grandfather and found that besides an abusive grandfather and uncle, he lacked relatives. Both parents had died earlier.

At Mkombozi, we enrolled the boy to NFE as per his aspirations. He has shown great academic improvement so far. We have quality one-on-one time with him, and both staff and peers like him. He is kind and models good behaviour. He enrolled himself into our art club and has become talented at drawing. In fact, last year he won a competition of drawing among kids of his age. This had made him proud. Yusuf believes that he can and will nurture his talents for future self employment. Mkombozi continues to ensure that he gets a proper medical care from time to time.

Yusuf has changed a lot ever since he came into our care. He is happy, can express himself well, makes friends easily, and so continues to look forward to a bright future.