



**Chripinus Muyaisa** is a 14-year-old OVC and a student in Form 2 at Kamuriai Secondary School. He is a bright student who aspires to be doctor and is among the top students in his class. The OVC assistance he has received has allowed him to concentrate on his class work and improve his grades.

Chrispin tells us, “APHIA II came in to help us and gave me some maize seeds that I took home. They have also helped me with uniform and school fees. My father and grandmother were very happy about this so they gave me a piece of land in which the maize was planted with their help. After a few months when the maize was ready but still green, my grandmother sold the maize and we made 15,000 shillings. Some of the money we got was used to buy a calf and the remainder was used for food and my secondary school uniform.”

**Fredrick** is a student in Kakamega High School and in Form Two. He is a total orphan having lost his two parents. Their death affected his performance in school and his grades deteriorated drastically. The Shibuye CBO team supported Frederick through the process of grieving for his parents and reassured him that this was not the end of his life. They encouraged him not to give up and have hope for his future. He sat his KCPE in 2007 and achieved a score of 402 out of 500, which won him a place at Kakamega High School. He has had help with his school fees and received continuous psychosocial support and his grades have improved to a mean score of A.

He tells us, “I could not have made it this far if no one had come to my support when I was feeling hopeless and at loss. They reassured me that I have a future and supported me emotionally and paid my fees.”

### 3.10 Livelihood Support

#### PLWHIV & OVC Safety Network – Promising Intervention

Poverty is an underlying factor affecting PLWHIV and OVC households and prevents them from meeting their basic needs. OVCs lack basic shelter and resources and struggle to meet their nutrition, health and education needs as a result of insufficient income. Many OVCs isolate themselves from their communities out of shame of not being able to provide for themselves. Adequate nutrition is a crucial element in maintaining the health of PLWHIVs, particularly those who need it to support them in their ART regimes.

The Livelihood support program aimed to support PLWHIV and OVC livelihood activities, with the specific objective of improving levels of household income and addressing nutritional requirements. A total of 40,000 OVCs benefited from the support.

The project followed the OVC care and support model approach of accessing target groups through CBOs. It provided support to a total of 50 PLWHIV/OVC groups throughout Western province over a two-year period. A total of 180 group leaders were trained in business skills, which they went on to share with their fellow group members. Farming projects were piloted in the four districts, whilst poultry projects were implemented across the entire province.

The project was implemented in close partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture who provided training and technical support for the agricultural and farming activities. Groups were also linked with microfinance and granting organizations to support them in their income-generating activities. This process of supporting PLWHIV/OVC support groups to link with organizations was important in ensuring that they were taken into consideration when training and financing opportunities arose through these organizations. Once support groups had been identified, the APHIA II Western team worked with them to identify their needs and decide which income generating activities they wanted to establish. Training and support were arranged through the supporting CBOs. CHWs working through the CBOs provided regular support and backup to the groups and reported on activities on a monthly basis.

Support was provided to the following initiatives:

- **Passion Fruit Farming** – seven PLWHIV groups were supported in establishing passion fruit farms. Passion fruit is a highly suitable crop for small-scale farmers due to its high market value and short maturity period. It is one of the most important commercially produced crops in Kenya and is the third most exported fruit from the country. It has excellent nutritional value, with high levels of vitamin C.
- **Poultry** – 40,000 OVCs were given poultry to raise in their homes (38,000 received two chickens each and 2,000 received one chicken each). The chickens used in this initiative were a local variety that was suited to the environment, easy to care for and had a ready market.
- **Kitchen Gardens** – 11,227 PLWHIV/OVC households were supported in establishing household kitchen gardens where they could grow foodstuffs to meet their daily food requirements.
- **Beekeeping** – 24 PLWHIV groups were supported in establishing beekeeping activities. Beekeeping is a low-input activity that produces high returns from the honey and beeswax produced.
- **Greenhouse farming** – 12 PLWHIV groups were supported in establishing greenhouse farms. The benefit of this is that crops are grown in a controlled environment that eliminates problems caused by weather conditions and pests. It is a high yield method of farming.