

FOR THIS WOMAN MOTHERHOOD IS A JOY



The mother in this photo was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS over 10 years ago. She was already widowed as a result of her husband's death due to HIV/AIDS. Her youngest child was also diagnosed with HIV. She is the most amazing woman who is full of life and very entrepreneurial. She remarried a man also HIV/AIDS but both attend a clinic for the same and are on Anti Retro Viral drugs (ARVs). Since then she has given birth to six more children, none HIV/AIDS. Thank God that a pregnant woman can be given medication these days so that the unborn child is in less risk of infection.



Children caring for children

Her reasoning for having so many children is that when she is old she needs to be taken care of. The mortality rate of children in Uganda has in the past been high and this still influences the thinking of uneducated people. She has been advised on a number of occasions to go to family planning but fears to do this because she knows of many men who have gone to other women to have more children.

She is blessed that at least six of the nine children are sponsored with two already in the ABC secondary school, Comprehensive College Kitetika. Another one should have been completing his primary education but due to a lot of illness he is currently repeating primary 6. The three youngest are currently at home but two will be eligible for nursery school next year, provided she can be assisted with their education.



One of the youngest children getting water containers to help fetch water

Mother and daughter cooking

“The kitchen”

For some life was not meant to be easy!!

The life of this family is not an easy one. They live in two small rooms; they have only two beds which are shared by all the children and those who don't fit sleep on the floor. They have no electricity, no running water, no kitchen and no bathroom to speak of. Bathing is done outside, preferably when it is dark.

Should a family like this receive assistance?

We could make a value judgment and say “no”, because why does she keep on having children when she can't afford to educate them? Or we can leave the value judgment aside and say for the sake of the children let us give them an education so that they have an opportunity where they can make a more reasoned judgment for their future and that of their children. Change comes slowly!