A Continuum of Care for Mothers Living with HIV

Since Nakato first tested positive for HIV in 1997, she has lost two husbands and one child to AIDS. Now, she is the only one left to care for her remaining four children, and she feels grateful for the chance to raise them.

When she became pregnant in 2005, Nakato wanted to do everything possible to protect her baby from contracting HIV. She found what she was looking for at the Kisubi Hospital Initiative for HIV Prevention and Care of People Living with HIV/AIDS (Kica).

At Kica, Nakato has been able to access a continuum of care, beginning with the prevention of mother to child transmission. Nakato gave birth to twins, and she is happy to report that both are HIV-negative.

Now a widow, Nakato is a member of Kica’s psychosocial support group for HIV positive mothers. Through this group, she has learned about nutrition for her children, gained self-esteem, and been able to make friends who help her when she is sick. Kica has started Nakato on antiretroviral therapy, which has restored her strength and renewed her ability to take care of her children.

“We are providing a comprehensive HIV/AIDS package – from prevention to care. We go to the community to test, then bring the positive people to the clinic, and from there they are supported throughout. It’s really a continuum of care. That is our major strength.”

- Dr. Bruce Kirenga, Project Coordinator

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