

Paul's Story

Less than half Ugandan children aged between six and fourteen complete primary school. With AIDS orphans accounting for around 7% of the total Ugandan population there are more kids than we can bear to imagine who need help. But we must at least begin to help, even a little, as every child who we assist can potentially change the quality of life for their family, and those around them. The ISIS Foundation is currently paying the school fees for 20 AIDS orphans, kids who have lost one parent to AIDS. Their other parent is often also infected. Paul is one of these kids.



From top left: Paul & Alfred Lleju, one of the AIDS Counsellors & District Co-ordinators; Samuel, a Dad with HIV (p.27); local family in Luwero; patients attend the Kiwoko Hospital AIDS Clinic.

Paul is twelve years old, and the second-oldest child in his family. If he was living in a developed country, he would probably spend most of his time thinking about cars, girls, sports or music. But Paul's life is radically different: he was born in rural Uganda.

Paul's father died of AIDS in 2004. His mother is HIV positive and receiving treatment and nutritional support through ISIS-funded programs at Kiwoko Hospital. Her health continues to deteriorate though, and there is no funding available to give her access to life-saving antiretroviral drug treatment.

This year, with the assistance of The ISIS Foundation HIV/AIDS orphans program, Paul joined Primary 6 in the local Church of Uganda Primary School. School brings him joy and lightness in a world that has been in the past focused on loss and illness. Each day Paul works hard and continues to achieve good grades, and he loves football with his mates during the breaks. With ISIS-funding for education, and ongoing support from Kiwoko Hospital, he has hope of a future different to that of his parents.

Without this education and support, the future for kids like Paul is bleak.

