Children with HIV can have a bright future

I lost both my parents to HIV and my own status was unknown until I became very gravely ill. My brother, who took care of me, was so afraid of getting me tested. Luckily, I was diagnosed and put on treatment just in time. Parents and caregivers, don’t underestimate children’s capacity to deal with HIV, and please don’t forget that children put on treatment as early as possible can grow up healthy like me!

Juliana, HIV positive, adolescent and spokesperson

Get in touch for support in Kenya!

National Empowerment Network of People living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya (NEPHAK) Call 0720209694

International Community of Women Living with HIV Kenya Chapter (ICW-K) Call 0713963106

Kenya National AIDS & STI Control Programme (NASCOP) Call 0202630867 or send an email to: info@nascop.or.ke

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Where should I go to get my child tested?

Go to your nearest health facility with no delay! Someone will explain to you how the test is done, tell you when to expect results, and help you to understand the results.

Could my child have HIV?

HIV prevention has done a lot of good, but some children are still infected at birth or become infected later through breastfeeding. Others become infected from mothers that do not know their HIV status, or who become HIV positive after giving birth.

Children that are infected with HIV can appear healthy or ill early in life.

Children can grow up healthy especially when they are tested and treated early.
Treatment will quickly help the body to become stronger by fighting the virus. Some children can have some side effects, depending on the medicines, such as a rash or diarrhoea. The side effects are generally mild and go away with time. The important thing is to speak to a nurse or doctor about anything you notice. They are there to help, and make sure your child is safe and gets the right treatment as he or she grows!

Children with HIV get sick easily because their bodies cannot fight off other diseases that attack them. Some children with HIV can appear healthy, but when they start to appear sick, it may already be too late. Without treatment they will die.

While it may seem stressful, it is important to retest your child, according to the doctor’s advice. It is important to test children right away and start treatment with no delay. So don’t wait until it’s too late, a lot can be done to help!

Your child will be given treatment for free and will be followed by doctors and nurses to ensure he or she is doing well, grows well, and stays well. The earlier children with HIV are tested and put on treatment, the greater their chances are to grow up healthy. Children with HIV can live happy and healthy lives. Get your child tested and treated with no delay.

What will happen if my child tests positive for HIV?

What will the treatment actually do to my child?

What kind of treatment is out there and how much does it cost?