



ALIVE MEDICAL SERVICES (AMS)

Creating a world of love and dignity through provision of state-of-the-art medical services to the needy

Bashir's Story: The Miracle of Comprehensive Care

The inspiring story of Bashir Bukenya's fight against HIV/AIDS, includes an incredible journey from nearly losing his life to reestablishing his health and strength while building a better future for his family.

A Scary Beginning

Today, Bashir Bukenya is a healthy and productive 39 year old man who lives in Jinja, a small city two hours east of Kampala, with his family. However, when Bashir first came to Alive Medical Services (AMS) in 2009, he was extremely sick with an advanced state of AIDS, weighed only 28 kilos, and had a CD4 count of only 2 cells! Bashir was too weak to walk or even sit-up on his own.



Left: Bashir arrived at AMS very sick and emaciated in 2009



Below: Bashir began to regain his health, strength, and hope after just one month at AMS



Dr. Pasquine Ogunsanya with a happy and healthy Bashir

Bashir had been referred to AMS when family members were unable to afford care at another clinic in Kampala. By the time he arrived at AMS, Bashir had to be carried into AMS' critical care ward and many staff and family members doubted his ability to even survive through the night. At the time, Bashir was suffering from multiple opportunistic infections that had been afflicting him on and off for the past 6 months. He arrived at the clinic with severe dehydration and chronic diarrhoea.

Before falling ill, Bashir had earned a living as a boda boda rider (providing paid transportation on a motorcycle). Bashir had used this income to support his wife and seven children, however for the 3 months before coming to AMS Bashir had been bed-ridden with severe and persistent diarrhoea and vomiting, putting a severe economic strain on the family. Dr. Pasquine Ogunsanya remembers seeing Bashir when he first arrived at AMS, and had thought it would take a "miracle" for the new patient to survive.





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The Miracle of Comprehensive Care

As soon as Bashir was admitted into AMS' clinic he began receiving the critical medical care that he needed to stay alive. Bashir was provided with a comprehensive treatment plan that combined emergency treatment for his infections and poor nutrition with his antiretroviral treatment. After receiving this complete care for just two weeks Bashir's health had already begun to improve: he was able to walk without support and his diarrhoea and vomiting had subsided. After 30 days of treatment life had returned to Bashir's eyes, he had gained 7 kilos, and he was ready to be discharged from the clinic. After seeing the dramatic improvements in his own health, Bashir was once again filled with the determination and hope to fight for his life and well-being.

Unfortunately, Bashir continued to be plagued by more opportunistic infections and serious health complications over the coming year, including TB, Kaposi's sarcoma, liver failure, and kidney failure. But by dutifully following his medical plan and adhering to his treatment, Bashir was able to triumph once again, having his cancer cured and regaining his health.

Building a Healthy Future

Bashir has utilized the full range of AMS' broad services to address his and his family's health concerns. Shortly after Bashir was diagnosed, his wife, Farida, tested positive for HIV. Since being diagnosed, Farida has also adhered to her treatment plan and remained healthy. After becoming pregnant with their 8th child, she carefully followed her prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) program. As a result, Bashir and Farida gave birth to a healthy, HIV negative baby!

Beyond receiving medical care, the family has benefited from AMS' nutrition and safe drinking water programs, which have allowed Bashir and the rest of his family to continue becoming stronger. Particularly important, the family is no longer plagued by the chronic diarrhoea that they used to suffer from water-borne illnesses. By receiving proper nutrition and remaining free from diarrhoea, Bashir and Farida's bodies have been able to properly absorb their medications and continue fighting against the illnesses.

After regaining his strength and health, Bashir obtained a small private grant from an AMS donor, which enabled him to start a boda boda parts shop. Since opening the shop, Bashir has successfully grown his business and measurably increased his income. Bashir now makes more money to support his family than he had even before being struck by HIV, allowing him to open a second shop, send all of his children to school, and even make renovations to their home.

And what a difference comprehensive, state-of-the-art medical care makes! Today, Bashir weighs 45 kilos and has resumed living a healthy, happy, and productive life. He calls himself "Bashir of Alive" and he is proof that a joyful and meaningful life is possible for people fighting HIV/AIDS. These days Bashir walks around his community with his head held high, proud of his health and his ability to once again care for his family.



DONATE TO ALIVE MEDICAL SERVICES AND HELP CREATE MORE SUCCESS STORIES!

Donate money to Alive Medical Services during GlobalGiving's June 2015 Open Challenge and help us reach our goal of raising \$10,000 in 30 days!

AMS is looking for dedicated supporters to make financial contributions during the month of June for our first online fundraising campaign. Donations will allow AMS to continue providing high-quality, comprehensive HIV treatment to a growing number of clients. Learn more about the campaign and our progress by following AMS on Facebook, Twitter and our website (www.amsuganda.org).

Beginning on 1st June go to

**<http://globalgiving.org/projects/comprehensive-hiv-treatment-for-12000-ugandans>
to make a donation!**

