

SHARIF

Sharif was the first born of the family of 7 children. His mother divorced when he was 7 years old. His father was a bicycle cyclist earning little money per day but could not care for his family. During family challenges, Sharif was taken to his grandmother for care but could not afford to take him to school.

They were living in a two roomed temporary house. One room for his grandmother and the other for all the children. ***“Our room also served as the store; the goats were also sheltered in the same room at night which was leaking during rainy seasons Sharif narrates.”***

In 1992, Sharif was enrolled on sponsorship program. Sharif’s family received support from JIACOFE which enabled him to complete tertiary education. The support included trainings in life skills, micro business management, positive parenting, animal husbandry and were given goats for rearing. The goats multiplied which they used to sell and meet school requirements for Sharif. After senior four given the level of vulnerability, Sharif was supported with tuition to pursue a certificate in laboratory technology.

Currently, Sharif is working as laboratory technician in a government health center III. He upgraded and pursued a diploma course in Ophthalmologist (eye specialist).

He constructed a permanent home where he is happily settled with his family. He also takes care of his siblings who are at school.

Sharif’s dream is to pursue a bachelor’s degree in medicine specializing in Ophthalmologist to support young people with sight problems to get treated at an earlier stage.

