

CASE STORY

NAME: KEVIN MAKOKHA

AGE: 21

SEX: M

COURSE: MECHANIC



Background information.

Kevin's parents separated when he was 9 years old, he and his 4 siblings remained in the care of the mother. They lived in a small rental house in the slums where food and other basic needs were not assured. At that tender age, Kevin and his siblings started working as casual labourers to earn some money to buy food. He dropped out of school in standard seven (Primary level). His mother and siblings still work as labourers even after two of his sisters got married in the same slum by young men also trying to make ends meet. The whereabouts of his father is not known.

We met Kevin during our mobilisation sessions to form an association in his village (Slum), Forkland. This slum is well known for local brew making, there are no social amenities like mains water, electricity and no sewerage system. Garbage and poor drainage make this a serious disease trap for children growing up in the area.

During mobilisation, we found Kevin making bricks with his friends, they had been hired for Ksh 150 per day for almost 10 hours. After talking to them, they decided to form a group and later they called us informing us where we would meet for our first group meeting.

He was very committed to attending group meetings, and all activities organized for his group of 23 members. He was among the first to present us with a trainer where he wanted to be trained as a mechanic in Kitale town. After assessing the trainer's workshop, we paid the required levies and Kevin was ready to start a journey of 3km from home on foot to the garage and back in the evening. The trainer only provided him with lunch while he was not assured of any meal in the evening. All this did not deter his will to complete a 6-month training course.

After the training, the trainer retained him at his garage as an intern and later started giving him small assignments to handle on his own, he handled an assignment so well that the owner of the vehicle he was working on decided to be using him whenever he brought his school buses there.

Later, the owner of the school whose buses Kevin was repairing decided to engage him on full-time basis in his garage at the school compound where he is in-charge of repairing all school vehicles, preparing requisition for vehicle repairs, and sometimes calls in experts in different areas to repair their vehicles.

He earns Ksh. 15,000 per month, he moved from his mother's house and now rents two roomed house, he supports the mother with food and house rent, he is able to take care of his needs and support his siblings as well. He plans to enrol in a vocational school to further his studies and be able to do a national grade three exams which will propel him in his career.

Compiled by Youth Workers