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FISCH BITES

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PROMINA IN HER SCHOOL UNIFORM

Promina's Story

My name is Promina; I was born in November

1998, and have two siblings Pronet and Prosper. When I was young my parents argued; they sold their house and relocated my siblings and I to another village, but little did we know that our father was going to disappear and abandon us. My mother did not have any formal education, so she did menial jobs, working as a farm labourer, house maid and waitress.

In 2006 my mother decided to look for my father and was able to find him and reconcile with him. Our family moved to Ipogoro, Iringa, where he was living. However they quarrelled and my father was rarely at home. Two years later I woke up to find that my mother had left. She never came back and I have never known where she is despite trying to find her. I don't even know if she is alive or passed away.



In 2010 my father asked me to drop out of school so he could send me to live with someone in Dar es Salaam, whom he claimed to be his relative. However schools do not allow students to be transferred at this stage of their education, so my father instead arranged for me to live with a lady called Mrs N. until I finished primary school.

In 2011 my mother's cousin came to Iringa to visit my mother, not knowing that she had left town long ago. She relocated to Iringa and decided to take care of me and my siblings. Although she had very little income, it was good that we had someone to call aunt. I still stayed with Mrs N. but she was finding it hard to feed us all and support me with my education. I passed Standard Seven to join secondary education but had no one to pay for it. I was on and off the streets but never lost hope.

One day Mrs N. met a member of the FISCH Team and explained to her my situation. The FISCH Team member took me to meet the FISCH social worker at that time, Mrs Magomba who interviewed me, counselled me and then registered me with FISCH. I also met Mrs Magomba's husband Pastor Mote Magomba, the FISCH Team Leader in Iringa. He offered me counselling, encouragement and prayers. I started attending the Youth Club and the Homework Help Club.



**PROMINA IN THE FISCH CHURCH CHOIR
(ON THE LEFT)**

I continued with secondary education but found I had so many household chores that I never had time to study on my own at home. I moved back to live with my aunt and my siblings, however we did not have electricity and often we would not have kerosene to light the lamp, and so I could not study or prepare for exams. I completed secondary education but my grades were not as good as I hoped they could be. During this time, tragedy befell us as my little brother Prosper suddenly fell sick and died. We never knew the cause of his death. At this stage my hopes for attending high school started to fade. I explained to FISCH about my desire to continue my education; they listened and helped me to join a High School within Iringa.

I want to study hard because I believe only my education will help me attain better later on in life. I still have to overcome life with no electricity, and my aunt cannot afford two meals a day for me. She works as a cleaner for little money. Studying on an empty stomach is tough, but I do not give up: I want to attain the highest marks, pass high school and go to university to become a secondary school teacher. I will try my best to achieve my goal. I appreciate the host families that have brought me up as one of their own; God will repay them.



I sincerely thank the FISCH Team for enabling me to reach this far; you have given wholeheartedly, you are raising me up in life. Thank you FISCH, and may God bless you all who are supporting in one way or another. Thank you a lot.