

Alex's Story

Alex was born in Iringa in 1988 but his parents abandoned him when he was a little child, so his exact birthday is unknown. His grandmother took him in and looked after him. Whilst in primary school, he started to go onto the Streets of Iringa do to menial jobs in order to earn some income to support himself and his grandmother. He attended the first FISCH Saturday Feeding Project in September 2007 and was officially registered with FISCH on 28/2/2008. Alex is amongst the first Children to be support by FISCH from its onset in 2007, and one of the first Kids to be supported through carpentry training. After his training, Alex returned to Iringa town to set up a carpentry workshop, which he did through the support of FISCH and FISCH's supporters. Alex worked hard and saved well; whenever he earned 10,000 TSH (Tanzanian Shillings) from his carpentry business, spend 2,000 on food and saved 8,000 (approximately £2.60 at today's exchange rate). He did this for ten years. He worked with focus, saving what little money he accrued, and the first thing he decided to do with his income and savings was to build a low-cost house. After he managed to save more money, he started a business in the main fruit market in Iringa, selling all sorts of produce such as rice and beans, and his business continued to thrive.



Alex is now married with two children; Samuel, 8, and Rachel, 2 months. His son Samuel is able to go to one of the good schools in Iringa. Alex's business continues to do well and he has invested in a car and house. He is grateful to FISCH Ministries for supporting him right at the very beginning, and he now says he has a good life. He prays that FISCH will continue to support orphans and vulnerable Children from the Streets of Iringa, Tanzania and all Africa, so that they may experience the Goodness of God in their lives.



These lockers at the old Drop-in-Centre were crafted by Alex and a Team from the UK several years ago.

Happy's Story

Happy was born on Christmas Eve in 2000 in Iringa. She was so-named because the birth of a girl brought joy and happiness to her family, but sadly her mother passed away when she was four, and her father when she was six. After becoming an orphan, her grandmother Anna took her in. Anna works as a gardener, growing vegetables next to a river in nearby Kihesa suburb, and sells the produce to support Happy and five other children and grandchildren.

Happy started receiving support from FISCH when she was eight, through from when she started Primary School education to when she finished Secondary School in 2017. Her favourite subjects were Geography, English, History, Civics and Kiswahili. Happy was successful in joining the Social Work & Social Development College in Iringa, studying Social Development Studies in order to become a Social Worker upon completion. Alongside her studies, Happy has assisted her grandmother with the gardening work and helping Anna to sell the vegetables in local suburbs of Iringa.

Happy has admitted that since the passing of both her parents, life has been full of challenges, the main one being an empty belly. Anna could only afford to provide the kids and grandkids with one modest meal a day. Consequently Happy began attending the FISCH Saturday Club and so enjoyed a decent meal once a week, helping her to focus a bit more on her education.

Happy is grateful for the Education Support and prayers of the FISCH Team and Supporters in Tanzania, UK and elsewhere, which have enabled her to proceed with education through into college. During the college holidays she still likes to help her grandmother in the garden, and other days she comes to the FISCH Drop-in-Centre to learn some sewing skills.

During an interview with Rev. Mote Magomba, she said "*FISCH imebadilisha maisha yangu!*" which means "FISCH has transformed my life!" Through your prayers and support, lives of orphans and vulnerable children and youth in this part of Africa are being transformed every day!