



## Nearly 835,000 Ugandans at the Frontline of HIV/AIDS Receive Integrated Care and Support Services

After burying many of her children who had died from AIDS Nakele, 62, faced the bleak prospect of raising her grandchildren as the sole breadwinner. The widowed grandmother from Bwaise, Kampala District, is herself infected with HIV and feared being driven from her community and facing starvation with her grandchildren due to the stigma associated with the disease.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has created an estimated 2.4 million orphans in Uganda, with the number expected to increase. Often deprived of basic needs such as food and shelter, many are exposed to abuse, violence, exploitation, and discrimination. The burden of care has fallen on grandmothers like Nakele, who are often stretched far beyond their means. To keep up with the demands of raising these orphans, a PEPFAR-funded project, implemented by USAID through the Association Francis Xavier Bagnoud (FXB), has helped household heads through integrated support networks. The FXB project offered Nakele a small amount of money to start a charcoal business to meet household needs and supported her two grandchildren with books and money for fees and uniforms. Encouraged by FXB staff, Nakele began to earn \$11 a day from her business and saved \$210 over the past few months. She has reinvested her income in chickens. With her expanding businesses, she is now making improvements to the house she shares with her grandchildren.



Among other skills, Nakele has learned to cope with grief through psychosocial support and community networks. She is one of 835,000 Ugandans directly benefiting from PEPFAR-funded care services such as this one during the past year. For the past three years, the FXB project has helped Nakele and others to build their resilience and turn adversity to their advantage. The support to orphans and other vulnerable children demonstrates the success of integrated services in bringing comfort to children and protecting their basic right to play and learn.

With a bounce in her voice, Nakele exclaims, “I plan to expand my business, and complete my house before the end of this year. I also hope to educate my grandchildren up to the highest level.”