

Chrispinus Mbuma

“Success comes from having a dream that is bigger than your fears.”

Chrispinus is an aspiring motor-vehicle mechanic, committed to using his story to raise awareness of and drive action towards SDGs 1 and 3.

Chrispinus was born in Iringa, a town in Central Tanzania. Living in absolute poverty, there were very few opportunities for education or work and, with little access to adequate healthcare, Chrispinus contracted malaria several times as a young child. He was lucky – he survived the disease – but his father did not. The impact of malaria on Chrispinus’s life was profound. What was already an incredibly challenging situation, with little food or clean water available, became almost unbearable following his father’s death.

At seven years old, Chrispinus was forced to live on the streets, as his mother could not find any work. With nowhere to sleep, and nothing to eat, Chrispinus was routinely subject to physical violence. Whilst he was able to make a little money from selling charcoal, it was barely enough to feed himself, let alone his mother and siblings. After three years of living on the streets, a local church stepped up to help and ensured Chrispinus could attend school.

This opportunity changed Chrispinus’s life. Going to school enabled him to get off the streets, to make friends, to learn and allowed him to dare to dream of a better life. He is now studying motor-vehicle mechanics at Don Bosco youth training center and plans to become an engineer. Chrispinus’s story is testament to the transformational power of education and the critical importance of eradicating malaria, so other children do not experience the childhood he endured.