

HIV STATUS



KALOKE WORLD

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This comic book is produced for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) by Communication for Development Foundation (CDFU) and Straight Talk Foundation (STF) as part of the implementation of the Peace Building and Social Transformation project.

Who is who in Kulu?



Lagum- 23years old mechanic
Captain of Omega FC



Trudy-20 years old Girlfriend of Lagum



Ocora- 22 years old. Lives with sister
Teddy and wife



Aleng Suzie- 18 years Old. Bar maid
and married to Ocora



Pimpiano- Police officer and member of Omega FC



Rwot -Omia - 25 years old.
Counselor in the
government main
hospital.
Lives in Te-got



Teddy- Sister to Ocora.
Student of Kulu
Secondary School.



Oola- 19 years old. Honest and
hard working school drop out.



Dr. Onen- works at the government
hospital

IT'S BEEN A SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WITH OMEGA FC WALLOPING ACHOLI FC IN THE FINAL. THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM ARE CELEBRATING THEIR VICTORY BY HAVING DRINKS AT KANO-KODI'S BAR



LAGUM IS A CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM AND HE AND HIS TEAM MATES ARE TALKING ABOUT THE MOVES THEY MADE IN THE GAME.



JUST THEN TRUDY, LAGUM'S GIRLFRIEND WALKS INTO THE BAR.... SHE IS NOT A HAPPY GIRL.



LAGUM IS DOING QUITE WELL FOR HIMSELF. HE HAS A SMALL ELECTRICAL SHOP WHERE HE REPAIRS RADIOS, CHARGES AND REPAIRS PHONES.

TODAY HE IS AT HIS SHOP REPAIRING SOME MOBILE PHONES. TEDDY ABER, A STUDENT FROM KULU SECONDARY SCHOOL COMES AROUND TO HAVE HER PHONE FIXED.

Hello Teddy,
what brings you
today?

It's my phone - it is not
working. I think my
brother Ocora bought
it second hand!

It's because you are
always using it to send
text messages.

But it's the cheapest way
I can keep in touch with my
friends... unless off course
you want to sponsor me?

You know all
you need is to
ask!!!

JUST THEN, TRUDY, LAGUM'S GIRLFRIEND COMES INTO THE SHOP.... TEDDY AND LAGUM QUICKLY CHANGE THE CONVERSATION.

So when do you
think I can come for
the phone?

Pass by tomorrow,
it should be ready.

Come on sweetie,
this is a shop... she
is just my customer.

What was
she doing
here?

TRUDY SPENDS THE NIGHT AT LAGUM'S HOUSE BUT IS UP EARLY TO MAKE SURE SHE GETS BACK TO WORK IN TIME. SHE WORKS AT DR ONEN'S CLINIC IN CERE TOWN.

Why don't you stay
for one extra day?
I will miss you.

When you make enough
money and open a clinic
I can work at in this
town, I will stay.

I think I am
getting a
headache!

After all that
talking last night,
what do you
expect?

I am sure it was more
than talking that kept
us awake last night!

Come on!
I'm not like
that! Bye.

LITTLE DID LAGUM KNOW THAT WOULD
BE THE LAST TIME HE SEES TRUDY.

A FEW DAYS LATER THERE IS SOME TERRIBLE NEWS FROM CERE TOWN. TRUDY, LAGUM'S GIRLFRIEND FELL SICK AND DIED AT THE LOCAL HOSPITAL IN CERE.... SHE WILL BE BURIED AT HER PARENTS' HOME. LAGUM AND HIS TEAMMATES ARE ALL AT THE FUNERAL.

I really loved
Trudy.... I don't
know what I will do
without her?

Very sorry Lagum...
none of us expected
it; she was always
"very healthy"

From dust
to dust

Amen!

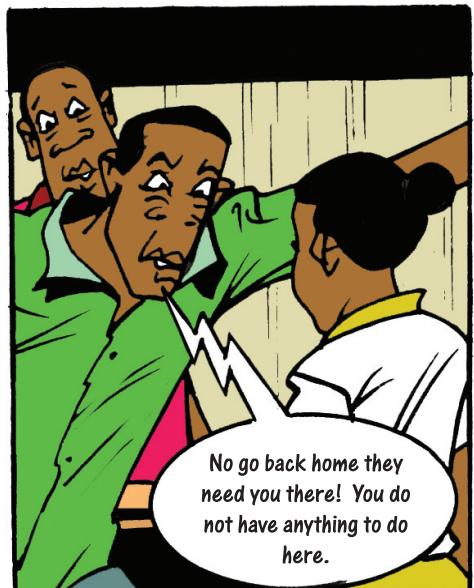
AFTER TRUDY'S BURIAL, LAGUM DOES NOT GO FOR FOOTBALL TRAINING FOR ALMOST 2 WEEKS. HE IS STILL MOURNING HER DEATH BUT HIS TEAM MATES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM.



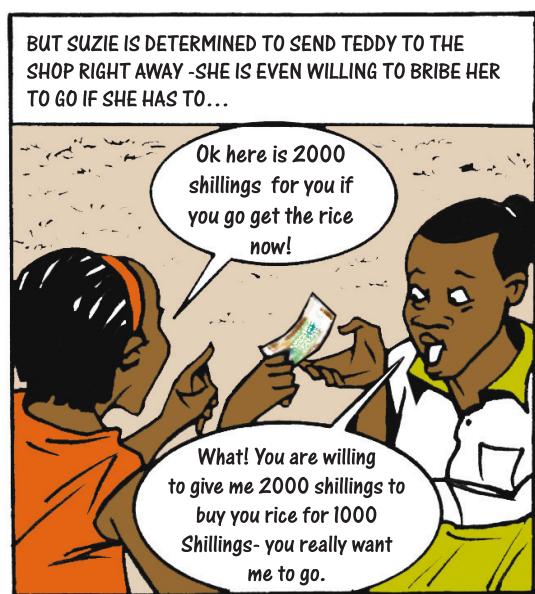
OCORA IS LEAVING FOR WORK AND SAYS BYE TO HIS WIFE ALENG SUZIE BUT BEFORE HE GOES SHE ASKS HIM FOR SOME MONEY SHE NEEDS TO BUY FOOD AT HOME.



ON HIS WAY TO WORK OCORA DECIDES TO PASS BY LAGUM'S SHOP. TO HIS SURPRISE HE FINDS HIS YOUNGER SISTER TEDDY AT THE SHOP.... HE IS NOT HAPPY!



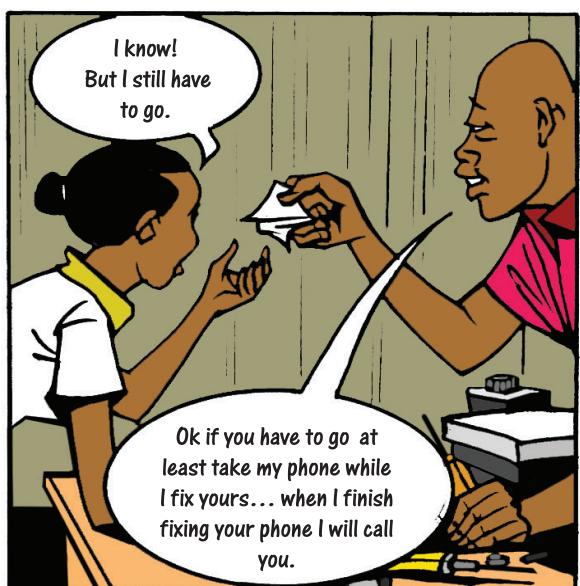
TEDDY GOES BACK HOME AND IS QUITE UNHAPPY ABOUT HOW OCORA CHASED HER FROM LAGUM'S SHOP. SHE SHARES HER FEELINGS WITH HER SISTER IN LAW... SUZIE WAS NOT EXPECTING HER HOME SO EARLY.



TEDDY FINALLY GOES ... LITTLE DID SHE KNOW THAT SUZIE HAD PLANS OF HER OWN... BEFORE LONG THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.



DAYS GO BY. LAGUM IS SLOWLY GETTING OVER THE DEATH OF HIS GIRLFRIEND TRUDY. ONE PERSON WHO IS HELPING HIM DO THIS IS TEDDY WHO CONTINUES TO GO BEHIND HER BROTHER'S BACK TO VISIT LAGUM WHENEVER SHE HAS THE CHANCE.



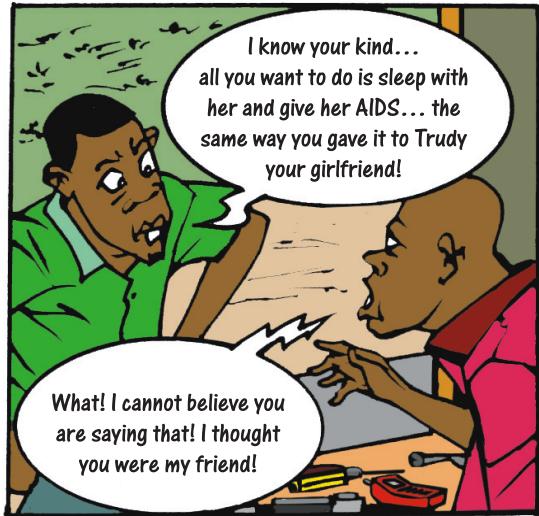
LATER THAT DAY OCORA COMES HOME. HE WANTS TO TALK TO TEDDY AND TRIES TO CALL HER. TEDDY CANNOT HEAR HIM BECAUSE SHE HAS EARPHONES ON AS SHE LISTENS TO MUSIC OFF LAGUM'S MOBILE PHONE.



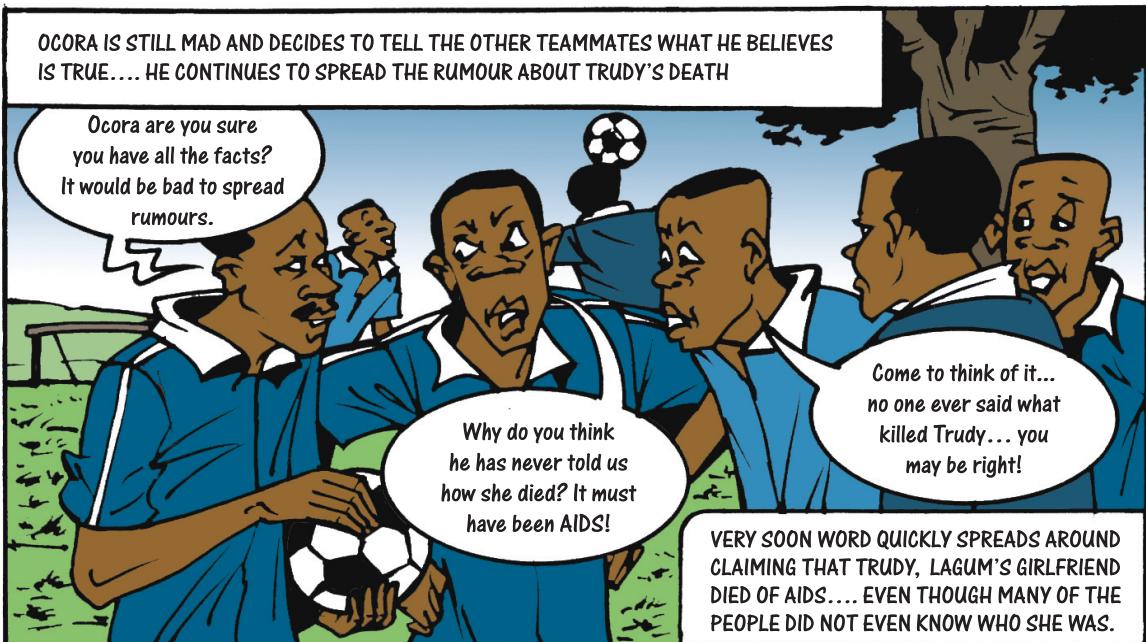
OCORA GETS UP TO CHECK ON TEDDY AND FINDS HER SHAKING HER HEAD AS SHE LISTENS TO MUSIC!



THE NEXT DAY A FURIOUS OCORA GOES EARLY TO LAGUM'S SHOP.....



OCORA IS STILL MAD AND DECIDES TO TELL THE OTHER TEAMMATES WHAT HE BELIEVES IS TRUE.... HE CONTINUES TO SPREAD THE RUMOUR ABOUT TRUDY'S DEATH



THE RUMOURS START TO AFFECT LAGUM'S DAILY LIFE.
HIS FRIENDS ARE ALL TALKING ABOUT IT. OOLA IS LOOKING FOR A
JOB AND WOULD LIKE TO WORK FOR LAGUM..



THEIR DISCUSSIONS NOW TURN REALLY SOUR....



LAGUM DECIDES TO CONSOLE HIMSELF
BY GOING TO VISIT TEDDY ... THOUGH
HE IS IN FOR A REAL SURPRISE...



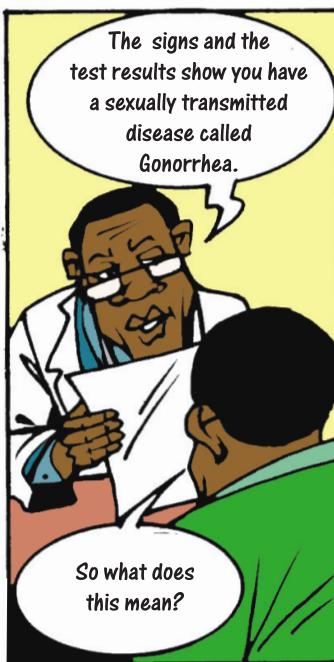
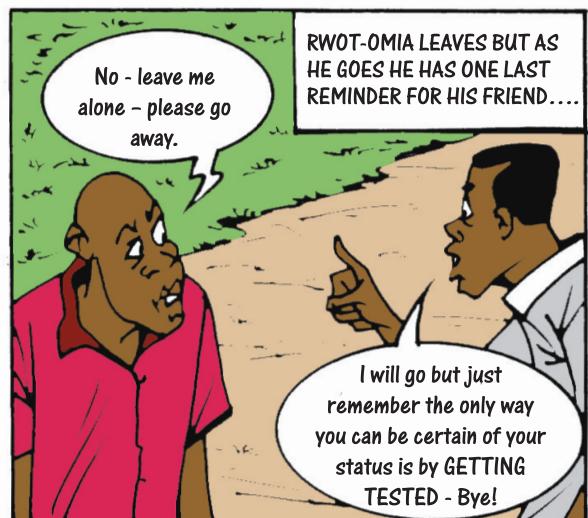
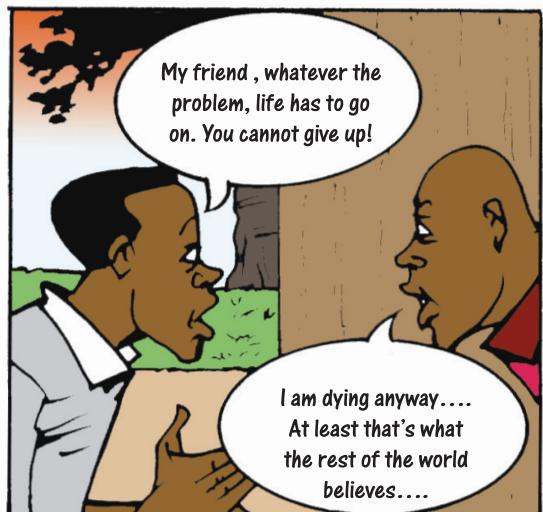
LAGUM CANNOT BELIEVE WHAT
HE IS HEARING... EVEN TEDDY
HAS TURNED AGAINST HIM.



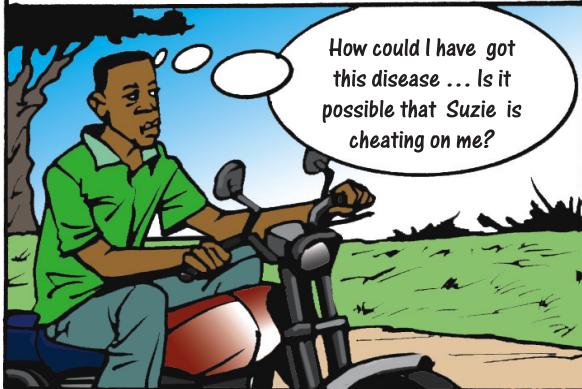
LAGUM DECIDES TO SORT THIS OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL; HE GOES TO THE FOOTBALL PITCH TO LOOK FOR OCORA WHO HAS BEEN SPREADING RUMOURS...



LATER IN THE WEEK RWOT-OMIA VISITS LAGUM. HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO KEEP THEIR FRIENDSHIP EVEN THOUGH LAGUM FEELS HE HAS BEEN BETRAYED BY MANY OF HIS FRIENDS.



DR. ONEN GOES TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK PEOPLE WHO HAVE STD'S FOR HIV AND THAT THE ONLY WAY HE CAN STOP HIMSELF FROM GETTING GONORRHOEA AGAIN IS BY GETTING HIS PARTNER TREATED.....



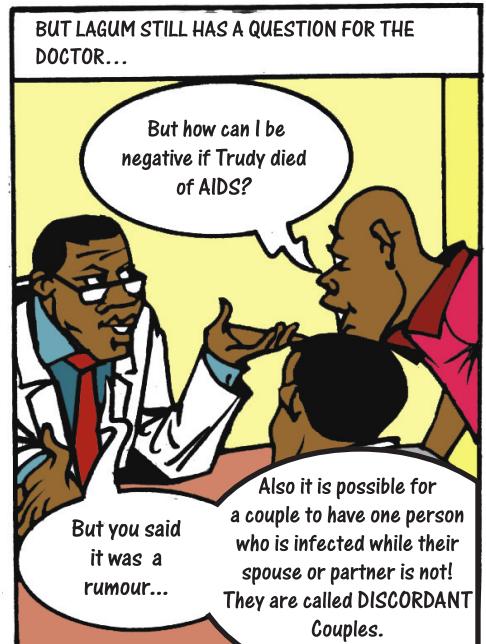
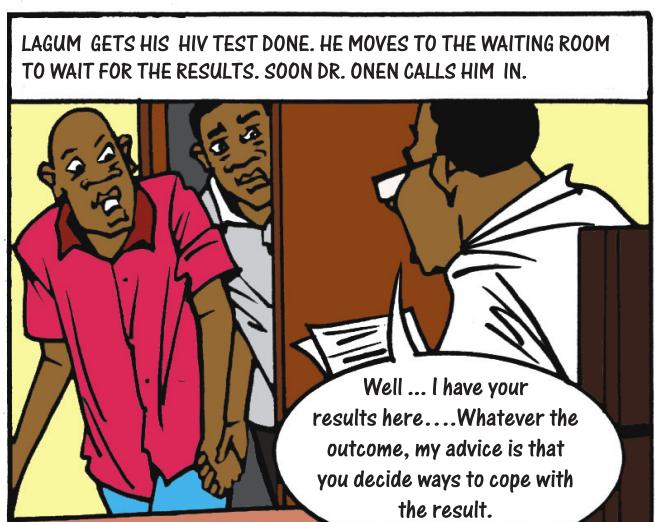
THAT SAME EVENING LAGUM IS HAVING A DRINK AT THE BAR... SUZIE IS FLIRTING WITH HIM.



THAT NIGHT WHEN SHE GOES BACK HOME, SUZIE FINDS A VERY UNHAPPY HUSBAND....



A FEW DAYS LATER LAGUM DECIDES TO FOLLOW RWOT-OMIA'S ADVICE. HE TRAVELS TO CERE TOWN TO GET TESTED FOR HIV AT DR ONEN'S CLINIC. HE ASKS RWOT-OMIA TO GO WITH HIM FOR SUPPORT!



LATER LAGUM MEETS TRUDY'S FRIEND WHO TELLS HIM THAT TRUDY DIED OF MALARIA - SHE HAD BEEN TESTED AND FOUND TO BE HIV NEGATIVE.

LAGUM THANKS HIS FRIEND PROFUSELY FOR THE GOOD ADVICE HE GAVE HIM.... HE FEELS A GREAT WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED OFF HIM.



Let's have a drink on me!

From now on I am going to take extra care about my relationships.

THE TWO FRIENDS START TO TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE AND MANAGE TO CONVINCE THEIR FELLOW TEAM MEMBERS TO GO FOR THE HIV TEST.... UNFORTUNATELY OPENY, OCORA AND SUZIE TEST HIV POSITIVE! HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED!



I am very sorry!
But your life does not
have to change. You just
have to live positively.

And to imagine I was the
one spreading rumours
about you!!!



Forget about that now –
I forgave you! What you
need now is for you and
Suzie to support each
other.

QUESTIONS....for discussions

1. Why do you think some people believed that Trudy had died of HIV?
2. Is the spreading of rumours about HIV common in your community?
3. Is HIV counselling and testing available in health facilities near you?
4. Why are girls like Teddy vulnerable to HIV?
5. What lessons does one learn from Lagum's story? What about Ocora's story?
6. What are some of the risky behaviours that can cause one to acquire HIV?
7. What should someone who has HIV do to keep alive and healthy?





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Development
Foundation
Uganda*

The logo for the Straight Talk Foundation. It features the word "Straight" in a black, sans-serif font above the word "TALK" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below "TALK" is the word "FOUNDATION" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.