

START STUDY GAVE ME HOPE



Omilia Moses poses for a photo while having fun on Safari after improving on Antiretroviral Drugs (ARVs)

Omilia is a resident of Tororo, who receives treatment at Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC). He recounts the benefits of The Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Treatment (START study), and can't stop smiling after surviving death by a whisk! He was one of the participants in "The Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Treatment (START) study," which was conducted at JCRC, one of the 220 sites in the world.

For a long time, Omilia was sickly and had less interaction with friends and family due to stigma and weakened immune system. He recalls being told about his status and considering it as a death sentence. "I enrolled on START study when I was seeking treatment for what

was otherwise tormenting me. The day I was given ARVs is when I started living a real positive life! he said.” The first medication required that I go to bed shortly after taking the drugs without first chatting with family or reading a book! With time, this was reversed. Thanks to START study; he was glad to have found supportive staff at JCRC, who encouraged him and built his self-esteem because they cared for his health. Omilia now boasts of a wife and two HIV negative children.

The START study, was a landmark clinical trial which informed the test and treat guidelines by the World Health Organisation (WHO), This trial established that people living with HIV should start taking antiretroviral treatment (ART) as soon as they test for HIV. This trial enrolled over 4000 people living HIV/AIDS.



A health looking Omilia recently, in 2022