



# Person Affected Journey: Mavolo D. Korte

I am Mavolo D. Korte, 26 years old and I live in Police By-pass, Voinjama, Lofa County. The photovoice is helpful to me, I have knowledge from the training on how to take picture to tell a story. The photovoice makes me explain my story and think about things that used to happen to me and how I went to the hospital. The key message I would like to share with others is that people should provide treatment for people with the same sickness I have and family and friends should support them to help them recover.



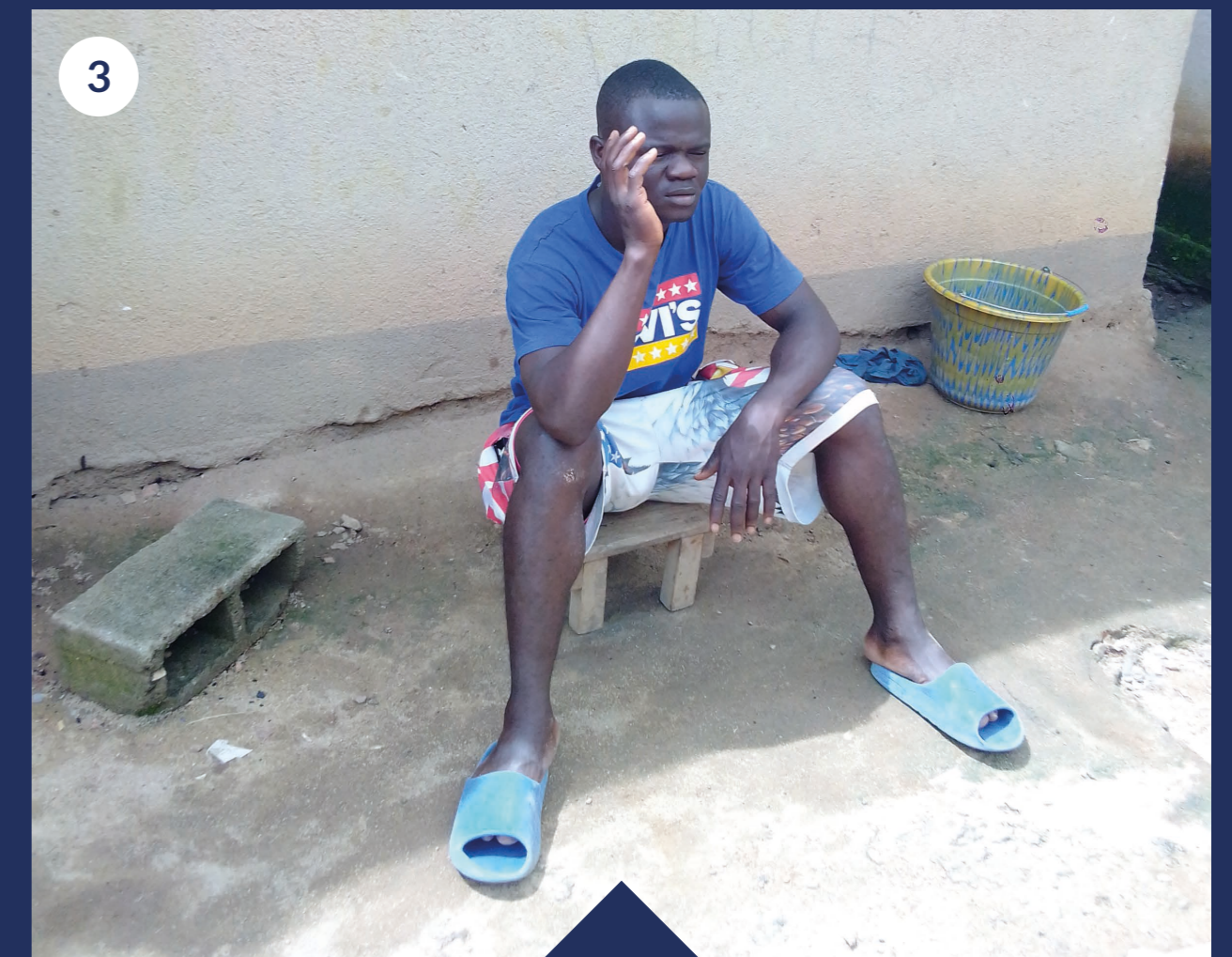
## Physical impact, loss of mobility & lack of support

This picture shows that the time that my story started, when I spent all almost two weeks in the house... before the month could end, how I almost got paralyzed. I was in the house. I could not even come outside. To even wake up and stand up no way. Sometimes when I want come outside, I had to crawl on my knees or crawl on my foot to get outside. And I was having my two little brothers that was there... each time when I tell them say y'all please give water they will say, will not give you water, it's not our work. So that's why I had to crawl on my foot to come outside to do what I was supposed to do and go back inside.



## Self-care

This photo shows the time I was not feeling alright, the foot got swollen up at the end of the day it bust, when it bust that's how every day, I used to be washing it... because each time, when that water drop in that trouser, when I did not wash it, it means it is not for me that day. But when I lay down, whether the roach or the rat will eat up. So every day I used to be washing it.



## Impact on mental health

I was not feeling alright, I used to be was worrying, sometimes day break, I woke up from bed, while I thinking, what friends I used to go to school, like before I used to be among them going to school, I can see me sitting beside the walls, me just thinking the whole day, I will spend the whole day in the yard when students go on the campus, market women y'all go in the market to go buy, I just spend the whole sitting side the house and be thinking, how my life going to be because I was a young man coming up good, but today I can see myself sitting around let me just say body guard or security, guarding house, so that why I use to come outside and sit down.



## Seeking care from traditional care

The time after when I finished heating myself, I could not get up. So I was picking medicine and be putting it on my foot. So one of my friends was in the yard, he used to help me when I use to go pick the medicine when I come because the traditional healer said only I must go pick the medicine and bring it, nobody should pick it. So, for me to wake up from that ground, I use to crawl on my knees and go for the medicine. When I got the medicine, one of my friends would be there to tie it. When he tied it on my foot, that's how I spent almost two weeks.



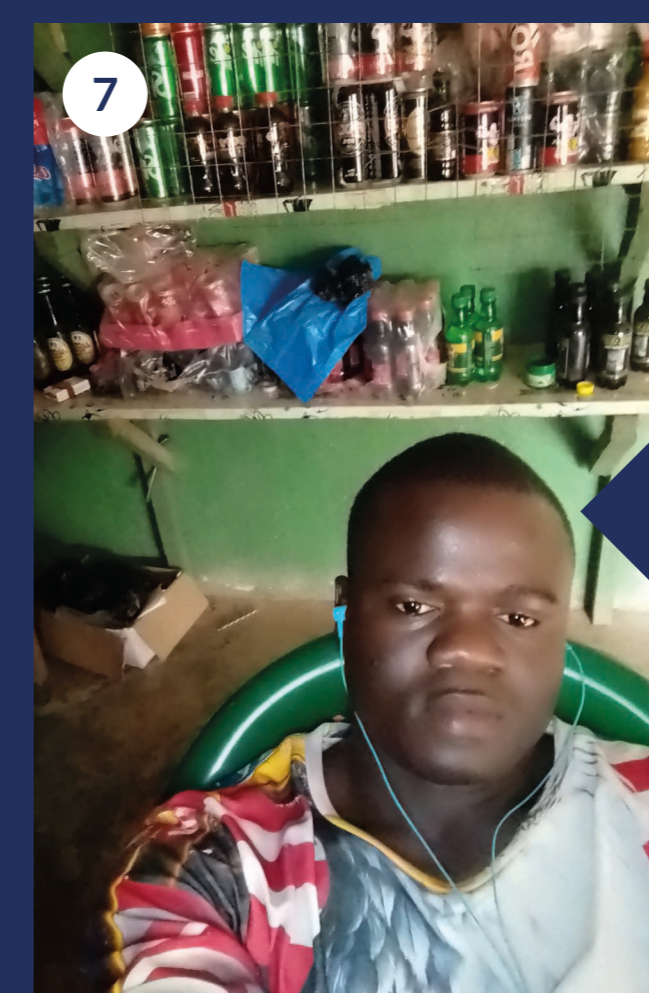
## Seeking care from traditional healer

The photo shows that the time I passed through all that process, my father took me to Kruka, we got a Madingo town around here. He took me to Kruka when he went there, he told the people say my son not feeling alright for almost a month now. So that how the people cooked medicine, the country doctor, the morley man (traditional healer), brought the medicine he put into the pot, I was heating myself. When I was heating myself, so after, when those three days passed, I used to be walking by myself, small, small. But after the three days, he said we should not heat. Before that month ended again, I went back again to the same position.



## Seeking formal health care and support

I used to go to country doctors but I'm not part of it for all the half of 8 years I spent with them, there is no way (no improvement). So anybody coming to me now, he should able to tell me we going to the hospital for treatment. So, here's my friend who brought me to the hospital here. He came, he stood behind me until that whole day, that whole day we spent there. The health workers never reached to us, so we went back. The next morning again, we came back again. So I ask him you see me and my sitting down on the line to the hospital. He is friend to me that was helping me to come up.



This photo shows that I'm happy sitting in my shop... and I want to show to the people that yes, I was not feeling fine before. Like people use to put me in this type of places before, I will not be able to even manage that place because of the pain. But today I am happy, today sitting here in the shop, in my shop taking photo today, to telling REDRESS that yes today I'm happy.