

The mother of Muela and Mujinga came in late November 2006 to the clinic in Tshikaji, severely ill, HIV positive. She had her two children with her: Muela, 4 maybe 5 year old, carrying his little sister of maybe 10-12 months. Both kids were smaller than their age and too thin for their height (moderate/acute malnutrition). We tested the two kids and found both HIV negative.

We hospitalized the mother and the children together and put the kids and her on a fortifying diet and treated her for the opportunistic infections. She suffered greatly, physically and morally, as she blamed the two children for being sorcerers desiring her death. She repeatedly told them so and tried to deprive them of their food. We decided the best was to feed the kids separately from their mother.

The night of March 29, 2007, the mother died. No one of the family wanted to do the burial; no one looked twice for the kids, so we took them into the orphanage, and changed the cleaning woman into a nanny for Mujinga. Mukinja, for the first time, had a real mam holding, caressing and feeding. Sometimes Muela would still want to carry her and feed her tidbits. But he had free time to play as a child.

In 2008 Muela started school successfully and Mujinga had become the most active, joyful toddler firing up everyone in the orphanage. We think she will be ready for school this year (2011).