

# SUCCESS STORY – SIDHAS

Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Service (SIDHAS)

FY13

## BILKISU'S JOURNEY FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE



Bilkisu Abdullahi is a 16 year old female from SabonKaura in Bauchi LGA of Bauchi State, North Eastern Nigeria and is the fourth child in a family of six. Her mother is a petty trader and her father is late.

Before his death in March 2012, her father worked with the Bauchi state Radio Corporation as Head Messenger.

Bilkisu dropped out of General Hassan Kastina junior secondary school Bauchi at JSS 3 after the demise of her father. Funds for her education were no longer available and her life took a bleak turn. She lost a term and stayed at home doing nothing. Later in the year, through the OVC support provided by FACE-PAM (a SIDHAS-supported CBO in Bauchi State) Bilkisu got a waiver for her school fees from SS1 to SS3 at Government Girls' College, Bauchi. FACE-PAM supplied educational materials such as rims of paper, chalk, dusters, hoe, rake and disinfectant to the school, and also provided books and uniform with the support of the community members (a tailor in the community sewed the uniform for free). Bilkisu also benefited from the life building skills training; and she is presently in school and doing very well.

Bilkisu hopes to become a nurse in the future. She had these words to say, ***“I thank you all for helping me and my younger ones to have a purpose in life.”*** Her very elated mother (Halima Abdullahi) says she is “grateful for the help in sending Bilkisu back to school.” Bilkisu's mother is also scheduled to benefit from the vocational training and start up grant being planned for this year.

Mallam Umar Adamu, the community chief where Bilkisu resides, attested to the positive impact Face-Pam is having on his community and its members. He says this of Bilkisu, ***“if she does not have education and no father what else will she have?”***



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**fhi360**  
THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES

