

Born on April 30, 1981 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Jean-Paul left his country in October 1996; entering Uganda alone as a refugee. Because of the war he was separated from his parents, brothers, and sisters. All the refugees were gathered in a transit camp in Kisoro district; there Jean Paul found his father. His mother had been caught by the rebels and her fate is unknown. His father married another wife and his stepmother mistreated me. He was given little food and was hungry most of the time, he was not given clothes, books, or other necessities and was denied an education. Instead of joining bad groups Jean-Paul developed his talents, such as football, dancing and singing, earning money with which he could get clothes, books, shoes, and necessities. He also earned money by digging with a hoe for other people, he usually did this work on the weekend from six in the morning to six in the evening, the payment was one dollar for 12 hours of work. There was a young girl who was an orphan like Jean Paul; she had an old mother but no father. During the war her father was burned in a house. This young girl, Christine Mapendo, was a farmer planting crops such as beans, and maize. After harvesting she would help Jean-Paul with school fees and later became his wife. Now he has three children and an older adopted daughter "When she was a baby her parents were killed, I found her and picked her up. I care for Alice and I am her Dad."

