

Sefiyat, 10



Sefiyat is 10 years old and lives with her family near Abuja airport. Sefiyat doesn't go to school. Her father is too worried to let her go because she would have to cross a dangerous river. When it rains the river becomes a raging torrent and there is no bridge to cross. Only the older children in the family are allowed to go to school.

"I usually get up early in the morning and greet my mother. I go to the river, and wash clothes. I carry the clothes up the hill to my home and hang them in the yard.

During the day I fetch water, help farm the crops and bring them home. Then I help my mother prepare the food or sweep the yard.

I feel sad seeing my brother going to school. I feel lonely and sad and sometimes I wonder, 'if I don't go to school what will my future be?'

If I get the opportunity to go to school, then I would want to study to become a doctor. Then I will be able to do something that will touch people's lives."

Precious, 15



My name is Precious and I am 15 years old. I live in Manchok with my parents. I have two brothers and three sisters – they are all older than me.

I like school a lot. My favourite subject is English and I also speak and understand Hausa which is a local language. I would feel really bad if I couldn't come to school. I want to be a doctor one day. I usually go to the library at lunchtime and read books – they are all in English. I like novels and read one called Sugar Girls recently.

I am a member of the evening Girls Club and this has inspired me to help others. We learn lots of new skills like drama, debating and even making doughnuts! One of the things we do in the club is to visit girls who have dropped out of school. We explain to them that without education they will have a difficult future. We also put on dramas for parents to show them how important school is.

When I come home from school I do my homework and help do the housework; I sweep the floor, wash the plates and help my mum with the cooking or sometimes on the farm.