

Story

KS2, 3 & 4 – Sefiyat's story



Sefiyat and her family hope 2015 will be the year when a bridge is built between their home and school. At present, it is too dangerous for Sefiyat to cross the river near to where she lives in central Nigeria. A bridge will make it possible for ten-year-old Sefiyat to go to school and work towards her dream of becoming a community leader.



Sefiyat lives in Kafuwa, a semi-urban area near to Abuja airport. Abuja is Nigeria's capital city. Nigeria has the highest number of children out of school in the world – more than 10 million. Many, like Sefiyat, work at home with their family. Sefiyat washes clothes in the river, works in the fields, sweeps the yard and prepares food with her mother.

Sefiyat's father does not want his younger children to go to school because the community has lost five children. Two of his own children got washed away. He has lobbied the local government for a bridge and he will not let Sefiyat cross to the other side until it is safe.





Sefiyat washing clothes with her friends, and planting sweetcorn in the fields

In communities across Nigeria there are tensions between family life and school life. Many see education as promoting a western way of life and they do not want their children to turn away from their cultures.

Sefiyat, however, wants to go to school and learn to read and write. Education, she says, would give her new knowledge and career opportunities. She wants to fight for the rights of her community and be a leader. If she gets the chance to go to school Sefiyat would like to be a doctor.

58 million children are missing out on school – 2015 could change their future. Remind world leaders that they promised ALL children an education by 2015. Speak up for the right to education for every child.

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Photos: ActionAid

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