

# Story

KS2, 3 & 4 – Joshua's story



Joshua Salama from central Nigeria has made a world of difference to his community. It all began when eleven-year-old Joshua learned how to influence people in a Send My Friend to School summer camp. He put his new skills into action and persuaded hundreds of children to go to school.



Since Joshua has been talking with children and their families, the number of pupils in Buzunkure Lea primary school has increased by a third.

Like many places in Nigeria, families in this area, near to the capital city of Abuja, are poor. They often cannot afford the books, uniform or shoes needed for school. When children do attend, classrooms are often poorly equipped and overcrowded and schools do not have proper sanitation or clean water.

In spite of the problems, children in school have the chance of a better future. Joshua says: "One day we went to school camp, where they taught us how to persuade our friends to go to school. So when I got home I talked to my friend and his parents to encourage him to go to school because he will be something great. For example, he will be a doctor, or a lawyer or a pilot and he will educate the community".





Joshua's class at school



Joshua talking with a community elder

Joshua also speaks to village elders and beyond ... to world leaders.

He says: "My message for world leaders is...

Let them use school – let them bring education for children because education is good.

Children are the people of the future.

Children are the ones that will be the presidents, the doctors, the people that will help their community."

**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.**

[www.sendmyfriend.org](http://www.sendmyfriend.org)

Photos: Jon Hughes/ActionAid

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