

Story

KS 2, 3 & 4 – Kona's story



Thirteen-year-old Kona lives in rural Bangladesh. She goes to school for just four to five days at the end of every month. For the rest of the time Kona works at home, doing jobs like harvesting chilies and making food. She borrows school notes from her friends and studies in the early morning and late evening. Kona wants to be a teacher and hopes to go to school more in 2015.



Kona walking to school



Kona writing in her classroom

“My name is Kona Akter. I read in class seven at Sukhnagori Bofat Uddin High School. We are two sisters and two brothers in a family along with my mother and father. We don't own any land so my elder brother and I do some labour work in the day. I feel very bad when I see my friends go to school every day but I have to go to the field and help support my family with work during school hours..”

Kona's father has a mental disability and finds it difficult to work. He is proud of Kona helping at home and going to school.

For two months of the year, Kona harvests chilies. She usually collects 3-4 bags of chilies every day and sells them in the local market. Kona also helps her mum at home: “Besides my education and work, I have to help my mother with cooking, cleaning clothes, and getting firewood”.

When her mother works in the field Kona prepares lunch and dinner for the family. She cooks rice, vegetables, fish curry, and lentils. Usually she doesn't need to prepare breakfast because in the morning they eat left over rice from the night before.





Kona cooking with her mum



Kona studies by candlelight

Kona tells us: “Since I work, I cannot go to school regularly. When I return to school, my teachers and school friends help me to understand homework. If I can complete my education then I would like to be a teacher, it would help me and my siblings to be an educated family. That is my dream and a proud moment I want to see in the future.”

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

Photos: Emdadul Islam Bitu/ActionAid

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