



Mphatso's story

Meet Mphatso. He is 10 years old. He lives with his younger sister and grandparents in Malawi.

Malawi is in Africa and is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Morning

"I wake up at 6am. First I wash my face. Then I go to work on our farm. Next, I walk to the river to collect water.



I don't go to school anymore. My mother died when I was seven, and my father lives in another village with his new wife. There is no one to buy my uniform, pens or paper.

Afternoon

I make mats in the afternoon. It takes me 6 hours to make one mat!

First I cut the palm leaves from the fields. Then I dry them. Next I cut them into small pieces. Finally, I weave the pieces together. Look at the picture of me weaving!

Every Thursday, I sell the mats at the market. I sell each mat for about 20p. I have to walk to the market. I leave at 7am and arrive by midday.

I envy my friends who go to school. They will be able to read and write. If you can't read and write you can't do anything.



Evening

I often wait until the evening to eat. My favourite food is *nsima*. It's a bit like porridge and is made from corn. Some days there is no food at all."

Why doesn't Mphatso go to school?

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