

EDUCATION IS POWERFUL



Barbara's story



Barbara is 17 years old and goes to Nazombe Primary School in Palombe, Malawi.

Barbara boards at the school, her family live in a different district.

This is because Barbara is visually impaired and Nazombe Primary School has an education resource centre for the blind. This means that here she has the resources that can help her to learn, but she does have to be far from her family. She misses her family a lot.

She told us why she likes school:

"I like school because I feel I will become empowered and I will become independent, I will also be able to help others that are not able to come to school for various reasons, whether they are orphaned or they are just vulnerable, I can help them so that they can also access education like I have done."

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When asked what would make her school better, Barbara said that it would be good if the school had computers:

“We have a subject called Computer Studies but we don’t have any computers so it is hard to understand the subject when we cannot practice on computers.”

Describing her school, Barbara said:

“Our school is a very big primary school and hosts about 4000 pupils. Each class holds about 80 or 90 pupils per class.”



Barbara said her message to young people in the UK would be:

“They should know that there are other children on the other side of the world here that are like them and as they are going to school they should work hard so that when they finish their education they are able to assist others in other parts of the world to excel in their education.”

“World leaders should ensure that the people who are vulnerable and are not able to get their basic needs or access education should be given extra support so that they can access education and better their lives.”

Barbara’s story was told to the Send My Friend to School campaign in February 2017.

