



Sheila from the Philippines

My name is Sheila and I am 11 years old.

I live with my family in the Philippines in a house made out of wood and tin sheeting. I have a younger brother and our four year old cousin also lives with us.

I am in year three. Maths is my best subject. After school, I walk with friends for almost two kilometres to get home. I enjoy going to school and my studies. Not everyone gets to finish primary school.

I enjoy playing with my friends in the school playground at recess.

I help my Mum do the laundry, fetch water and sweep the yard. I also help cook the rice for dinner. After school I look after the goats and cows, and feed them.

For breakfast we eat porridge and sometimes have dried pieces of fish. I eat a lot of rice and fish. In the Philippines many people are farmers and the main crops include rice and maize (corn), sugar, coconut, bananas, pineapples, and coffee.



Misael from Honduras

My name is Misael and I am 13 years old.

I live with my extended family in Honduras. It's not unusual for parents, grandparents, children, aunts, uncles and cousins to all share the same house. Many houses here are made out of sun-dried bricks or sugarcane stalks and mud, with an earth floor.

I go to school and my favourite subjects are reading and mathematics. I have received awards for my skills in singing and drawing, and I also give tutoring sessions in mathematics and English. Some children don't get to go to school as they have to help their family and work instead.

I enjoy playing soccer with my friends and singing. I also have guitar lessons.

I help my Mother create handkerchiefs, dressing gowns and table cloths, among other things, for her to sell, by using a spinning and weaving machine.

I eat a lot of rice, maize (corn), tortillas, frijoles (cooked and mashed beans) and curd cheese.



Nissma from Gaza

My name is Nissma and I am 11 years old.

I live with my family in Gaza, which is in the Middle East. I have a sister and four brothers. Many houses where we live are made out of stone and brick.

I go to a nearby public school and am in year six. I hope to be a dentist one day and fix the teeth of children and grown-ups who cannot afford a dentist. During Summer, I attend a camp not far from my home with my friends and neighbours. At the camp I spend time playing and drawing.

I recently took lessons in photography and was given a camera as a gift. Now my favourite thing to do is take photos of everything I see! I also enjoy using our computer at home. I take turns using it with my sister and brothers.

I help my family with washing the dishes and doing the sweeping.

For breakfast I eat cheese, brown beans and falafel with tea. At lunch and dinner time my family and I will usually eat a cooked meal, sometimes made from frozen food.



Myagmargarig from Mongolia

My name is Myagmargarig, it is pronounced 'Mig-marg-arig', and I am 10 years old.

I live in Mongolia with my sisters, parents, cousins, grandfather and our pet dog. My dog's name is Asar. My house is made out of brick, it has a big kitchen and one small living area.

I walk to my school, which is only 10 minutes from my home. Many children cannot go to school because they live too far away. I am in year four and there are 24 students in my class.

I enjoy watching cartoons and my favourite cartoon character is Simba from 'The Lion King'. I also like to play chess with my classmates.

My cousin and I help our grandfather bring in pieces of wood to burn in the stove. I also help clean up after my family eats dinner.

For breakfast I eat a few slices of bread and some butter with hot herbal tea. My parents own a small farm and we grow enough vegetables to eat for the whole year round.



Peggy from Zambia

My name is Peggy and I am 10 years old. I live with my family in a thatched mud-brick house in Zambia.

I am in year five and go to a community school which is a five minute walk from my house. The school has 275 students and we sit on logs because there are no desks. My favourite subject is English, then mathematics. I would like to become a successful business woman when I finish school. Most children here go to school, but many don't keep going after year four.

I am learning to ride a bicycle, which is an important means of getting around in Zambia. I also play games with my friends and netball which is organised by our school teacher.

Washing plates, sweeping, baby-sitting and fetching drinking water from the nearby stream are the main chores I do. When the crops are ready for harvesting, I also help my friend Helen collect tomatoes.

For breakfast we eat pumpkins and fresh groundnuts (peanuts). We also eat maize (corn), cooked cassava or sweet potatoes. I help my Mother to prepare nshima (corn flour made into thick porridge) which is sometimes served with chicken, pumpkin leaves and okra (green seed pods). Sometimes people in Zambia go hungry when there isn't enough food or it costs too much.