



CASE STUDIES - MERCY GOSTINO AND CHIKONDI MATOPE

Water shortage affects many people in the Global South. Read the following two accounts from young people in Malawi and discover how they are affected by the global water crisis.



Mercy's dad

Hello my name is Mercy Gostino. I'm 13 years old and in upper primary school. When I wake up in the morning, I organise some firewood. I light a fire and then boil water on the fire. Once the water is on the fire, I go

and fetch more water

from the river. Sometimes I go alone; sometimes I go with my mother or sister. After going to the river, I come back home and usually my mother has some food prepared for me. I get my hot water and go and bathe. Then I take my porridge and I go to school. School finishes at 2pm and then I walk home. The walk home from school is long as the school is very far away (It is 9 Kilometres, approximately a 90 minute walk). When I reach my house, if there is no water, I go back to the river and fetch more. When I come back home, if there are no chores to do, I study.

My most important chore is to fetch water for my mother. Sometimes I go three times a day to the river to fetch water. I don't enjoy spending so much time getting water. I would rather spend this time with my friends and working on my homework. When I gather with my friends we chat and catch-up on what is happening at school and in our village. My village is special to me because of the traditions we have here. I especially love our traditional dances. I enjoy going to school because I can learn new things that I don't know and I use this learning in my life. I'd like to become a nurse when I leave school.

What makes me happy is that my parents support me and look after me. When I come back home from school, there is always food waiting for me. Also, when I am in school, my teachers respect me. My hope for the future is that when I finish school, I won't struggle to find a job.



Chikondi

Hello my name is Chikondi Matope. I'm 20 years old and in lower post primary school. I walk 2km (20-30 minutes) each way to

go to school.

My favourite subjects are English and Mathematics. I would like to be a policeman when I leave school. To do so, I need to apply to police training college.

There is no irrigation in my community, which is our greatest challenge. Even though mostly women collect the water in the village I also help out by collecting water up to two times a day from the borehole. There are many who are not accessing school in our village because of water shortage and poverty and I would hope they can do so in the future. Water is a challenge here in Malawi.

