

Damian's story

My name is Damian and I am 11 years old. I am doing grade three and I live with my parents in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. I really love playing games like running races and soccer which I play at school with my mates. My favourite food is rice and sweet potato. My favourite subject at school is mathematics and when I grow up I want to become a teacher.

My school has more than 1,000 children and there are around 46 children in my class. There are no computers or televisions at school but we do have some basic sports equipment like volleyball nets and basketballs. I start school at 8.00am and finish at 2.30pm. I walk to school each morning and walk back each afternoon. It takes me about one hour to walk to school unless it rains - then it takes me longer!

For breakfast I usually eat leftover food from the previous night's dinner which my mum heats and prepares. At times I just eat flour balls. If there is no breakfast my mum gives me some money to find something to eat at school. At lunch it's usually dough balls or biscuits. After school I go straight home to do my homework. Because there is no electricity in our house, I have to do my work while it is still daylight. But in the night I can also light candles to do my homework.

When I don't have any school work my mother expects me to help her out with cooking or washing dishes. I also fetch our water from the nearby water supply which is shared with six other families.

On the weekends I am usually out with my mother selling cooked food along the road side market. I normally go to bed between 9.00pm - 10.00pm. On the weekends my parents allow me to visit with my friends. This is the only time that I am allowed to have fun with my friends.