

Gabriel Kiptoo

My name is Gabriel, and I am a Grade 10 student at Mogonjet secondary school. I live with my brothers and sisters on a small piece of land where we grow tea. ~~Our~~ tea farm is less than a quarter of an acre, and it does not produce much. My parents separated, and life became very hard for us. Sometimes we are not sure what tomorrow will bring, especially when school fees are needed.

My older brothers, Brian and Boniface, wake up very early every day to look for casual work. Some days they get work, and some days they come back home with nothing. They do heavy manual work but the pay is very small. Even with their efforts, it is not enough to support all of us. Many times, I worried that I ~~would~~^{would} not be able to continue with school.

I want to become a teacher, especially in counseling. I want to help students who are going through hard times like I am going through now. I want to tell them that challenges do not mean the end of life. Through education, I believe I can bring hope to others. I am grateful for the chance to be in school, and I promise to work hard and never give up.