

Abiba's story



Abiba is 17 years old. She is now back in the second year of Senior Secondary High School in Kongo Senior High school in the Upper East region. She is from Gbimsi, a village on the Tamale Bolgatanga Road in the Upper North, almost 450 kilometres from Kumasi. Her father has three wives with a total of 15 children and she is the second of her mother's seven children.

None of the children has been educated to senior secondary level and, as a girl, her parents do not have much interest in supporting her education at that level. Her father does not provide for her education and her mother, who is not working, also has nothing to support her. Her parents encouraged to come to Kumasi and work as a 'Kayaye' (market porter) like many young girls from the north. Abiba was ambitious to complete school to become either a fashion designer or a nurse, so she enrolled at Kongo secondary school, a government boarding school, and came to Kumasi to become a Kayaye and support her schooling.

When she arrived, everything was so completely different. Finding places to sleep and earning enough just to take care of her basic needs was difficult and her hopes to save for her education began to fade. She then met and shared her story with MFCS Street Workers. They were constantly on the street talking to her and helped her not to abandon her ambition. MFCS was able to mobilize small funding to supplement what she was able to save to assist in paying for books for her course, her calculator, the cost of practicals, vacation classes, PTA and other levies, and also assisted her with small pocket money for basic requirements while she is in school. Abiba was able to return to school where she is progressing. She is looking forward to graduating next June and then going on to further studies in fashion.

In the holidays, she now returns home and takes additional classes.