



## Abasi's Story: Before Clean Water



**Abasi** is 10 years old and lives in a small village in West Africa. He has two younger siblings. His sister **Aluna** is 8, and his brother **Karim** is just 5 years old. **Abasi's father** is a farmer. **Abasi's mother** doesn't have time to do any paying work because she spends 4 hours every day walking several miles to the river to get water.

The people in Abasi's village don't have running water in their houses but get their water from the river. The water is brown and doesn't taste very good, but **Abasi** and his family have to drink it anyway because it's the only kind of water they have. Sometimes the water even makes Abasi's family sick.

When **Abasi** and his sister are sick they miss school. Sometimes **Aluna** has to miss school because their mother is sick and so **Aluna** has to walk to get water. The water is so heavy though that it takes **Aluna** most of the day to bring it back from the river. She comes home tired and weak. If **Abasi's father** is sick, **Abasi** has to miss school to work in the fields. **Karim** was sick a lot as a baby and a young child. The bad water would give him diarrhea. Abasi's family is really grateful that he is still alive, because a lot of children in his village die before they get to 5 years old from diarrhea.

Abasi's family never seems to have enough money. **Karim** should start school this year, but the family can't afford the cost of the uniform or the books, so he still stays at home. Without money, the family can't pay for medicine either, so when they get sick it takes a long time to get better. Sometimes, **Abasi** will miss school to go sell the family's vegetables at the market but not many people buy them.

The vegetables in **Abasi's father's** farm don't grow very well because they only get the dirty water that **Abasi's mother** brings from the river, when they get water at all. This situation frustrates **Abasi's father**. A lot of times, there aren't any extra vegetables to sell. Sometimes, there aren't even enough for **Abasi** and his family, so everyone has to go to bed still hungry.

**Abasi** heard his mother and father talking the other day though that things were going to change soon because a well was going to be built. **Abasi** hopes his parents are right because he wants to stay in school and become a doctor.



*Information sourced from:*

<https://thewaterproject.org/resources/download/TheWaterProject-TeachingGuide-K5.pdf>



**TASK:** Abasi is a young boy living in a small village in Libya. **READ** Abasi's story and **TAKE NOTES** on the **impact** of **water scarcity** on each family member.



Family Member	Impacts and Experiences
Abasi	
Abasi's Father	
Abasi's Mother	
Aluna	
Karim	