



Jars of Change

Lent Appeal 2018

Ruqqa's Story

Use the story alongside the Jars of Change Sunday School resources to bring WaterAid's work to life.



Ruqqa is 12 years old and lives with her 4 sisters, 5 brothers, mum, dad and grandma in Thatta, Pakistan.

Ruqqa's life is like lots of other 12-year-olds' lives across the world. She enjoys playing with her friends. They get together and play marbles and hopscotch whenever they can. But Ruqqa's life is different in one big way. She is no longer able to go to school.

That's because her school has no running water and no toilets. This means that pupils at the school often miss lessons because they have to go to the river to collect water to drink or they have to travel home to use a toilet. As a young woman, this wasn't possible for Ruqqa so she isn't able to go to school anymore.

Instead she stays home and helps out with the chores. During the day she washes clothes and does the dishes. Helping her mum and grandma to cook food for the family. In the evening she helps out at the family farm.

But Ruqqa is desperate to return to school. She dreams of becoming a nurse and helping to treat the ill and elderly. However, she knows she needs a good education to continue her studies and become a nurse. Now Ruqqa looks forward to the day that taps and toilets are installed at her school and she can return to classes. She says, *I miss studies.*

You could ask your group to point out Pakistan on a map. Can they tell you anything about the country? What they think the weather is like? Or the languages people speak?

Sindhi, which is my mother tongue, and mathematics were my favourite subjects, but what can I do, I have no other option, but to sit at home. Many girls and boys can come (back to school) and resume their studies whenever a washroom is installed.'

Ruqqa's grandma, Gori, is hoping that one day Ruqqa will be able to return to school. Gori wasn't able to attend school when she was younger because girls weren't allowed to go, so she knows how important it is for Ruqqa to attend. She really hopes that soon Ruqqa can receive the education she deserves and achieve her dreams of becoming a nurse.

