

Mbathio's story



Photo: Peter Nicholls/Sightsavers

Mbathio is from Dakar in Senegal and is in her fourth year of school.

Mbathio is blind and as a result for many years she was unable to attend school as her parents thought it was not possible. Most children who have a disability, including blindness, don't attend mainstream schools in Senegal. This often means that they are unable to get a job when they are older. However, Mbathio's school is part of an inclusive education project, which means that they now welcome blind children and know how to teach them alongside the other students.

Mbathio uses a Braille board and box of pins to do her lessons. Going to school has transformed Mbathio's life. Before she was able to attend the school she would spend her time at home, but now she is more self-sufficient, ambitious and has career aspirations.

'The other children are very kind to us, I like going to school with them. I like going to school and I like learning. When I am older I would like to work in an office, perhaps become a minister.'

Mbathio's story was shared with us by Sightsavers which has been running the Inclusive Education project in Mbathio's school in partnership with the Senegalese government.