Meet Jesse. He is five years old and lives in Koforidua in the eastern region of Ghana, West Africa with his parents, Hannah and Daniel and his brother Kelvin who is eight years old.
Jesse’s mother Hannah noticed that he was having trouble reading. Looking more closely she saw little white marks on Jesse’s eye so took him to the hospital to be examined by a doctor.
The doctor said Jesse had a cataract, a disease which clouds the lens of the eye and makes vision blurry. It can also cause blindness. Luckily Jesse was able to have an operation to treat it.
After his operation, Jesse had to wear dark sunglasses and use eye-drops to protect his eye. The eye-drops stung but Jesse knew they would help his eye get better.
Jesse’s dad Daniel said, “For us the operation has been a good thing... We hope Jesse will now work hard in school so he can have a good job when he grows up.”
This is Sruthika. She is four years old and lives in Tamil Nadu in India. At school she enjoys singing and playing bat and ball with her best friend Vishnau. Sruthika is blind and recognises people by the sound of their footsteps.
Here is Sruthika sing and dancing with her friends - her favourite thing to do!
Meet Frances. He is 13 years old from Tanzania. Frances can’t see very well so reads and writes using braille. He loves playing football at break time, and there is a bell in the ball so he can follow the game. Frances says, “People say I am fearless on the football pitch!”.
Bahati (centre) is 13 years old and also from Tanzania. She has been blind since she was seven. These are her friends Adelina (left) and Gloria (right). Bahati uses braille to read at school and would like to be a professor when she grows up.
Skipping is Bahati’s favourite thing to do during lunch break. Here she skips with her best friend Adelina who has low vision. Adelina wants to be a nurse or a health worker when she’s older.
This is Vipin. He’s 11 years old from a village called Melpalai in India and he has always been blind. A teacher at his school spent two years teaching him to read braille. Vipin says: “after school I like to play at home; cricket, hide and seek, and then I do my homework.”
Difasi is nine years old from Uganda and he has been blind his whole life. He doesn’t go to school because he has to work and help support his family. He wishes he could go to school as he dreams of being a doctor.
It’s the tenth Kenyan Blind Games and Derek Mutena is one of the 430 children taking part. Here you can see him in the high jump event.
Here are some of the other competitors. Runners race with a guide who holds their hand to lead them. Although it’s not always obvious who’s leading who!
The children play table tennis with blindfolds so that players with all levels of vision have an equal chance. The prize for the winner is a trophy and a plastic bucket!
Emma is 14 from St Lucy in Kenya. Everyone at the games remembers Emma from last year when her guide runner fell but she continued to the finish. This year she won her highjump heat.