

# DAY FOR CHANGE 2012

EDUCATION THROUGH SPORT



Mary (12) races for peace



## LIFE STORY MARY

[dayforchange.org.uk](http://dayforchange.org.uk)

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# Mary's race for peace

Mary is 12 years old and lives in Moroto, north-east Uganda. Until recently, the area saw lots of fighting between government and rebel armies. It is still not safe for children like Mary to travel far from home, and it is rare that she gets to meet children from other villages.

But UNICEF has recently started an important programme in Mary's school, called Sports for Life. Mary's school has benefited from new sports equipment, her teachers have been trained to teach sports, and Mary has become great at netball and athletics.

Mary's community are excited about the Sports for Life programme. The children learn new skills, have great fun, and are now much more enthusiastic about school.

Sport has also been a vital in helping bring together the communities in the area. A retired Kenyan athlete, Tegla Loroupe launched an annual cross-country peace race, bringing together young people from the various communities. Mary had great success in the race, finishing fifth.

Mary hopes to become a sports officer when she is older, so that she can carry on using sport to bring peace in her region. She is excited about the impact that sport can have, and is proud of her achievements. Mary and her friends are examples to their communities of how to live peacefully with their neighbours.

By taking part in UNICEF's Day for Change, you will help more children like Mary get the chance to play sport and to help transform their lives and the lives of their communities.

