



Thank you

*You planted a seed of hope
in Amarapura.*

Watch it bloom.

The Seed

Your 2016 sponsorship update
from your sponsored child's community in Myanmar.

Thank you for helping to bring hope to your sponsored child's community.

Htet's dreams are shining again

Htet is 14 and lives in a village in Amarapura with her mum, dad, brother and sister. For children like Htet, growing up in her village has been hard. She used to have to work on the family farm, rather than go to school. Htet's mum, who was four months pregnant, had a fall at work and suffered a miscarriage. She was very ill, and no one was there to look after Htet and her brother and sister.

Thanks to sponsors like you, a community development group was formed, and when they became aware of Htet's family situation, they invited her father to join. The group decided that they could fund Htet's mum's healthcare. They also gave Htet's family two piglets to rear to help support the family income.

"Thanks to the community group and World Vision for bringing hope to my family, I can study hard with much hope that I can reach my dreams," says Htet.



TOP RIGHT: Htet no longer has to work during the week on the farm, and can go to school instead

BOTTOM LEFT: "I am so happy as my father also bought me a bicycle so I can cycle to school," says Htet.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Htet and her dad grow mushrooms to sell for extra income.



“I do not need to drop out of school. My dreams and goals that became a distant dream are now shining again,” says Htet.





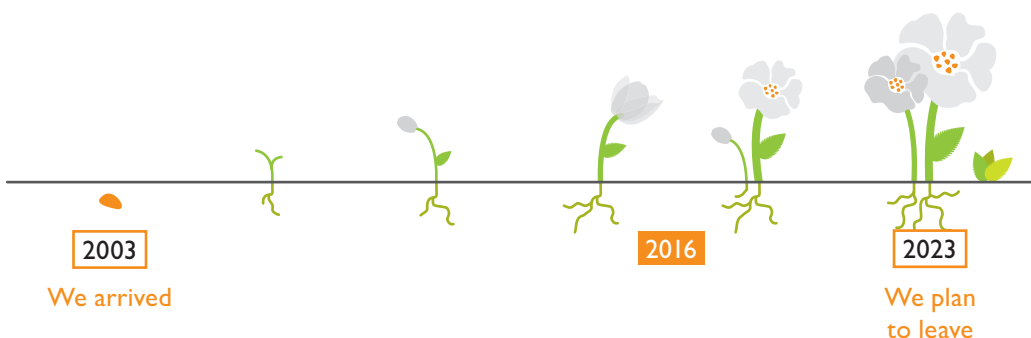
We've come a long way, and we're still making progress — *all thanks to you.*

We've been working with the community of Amarapura since **2003**. Back then, children faced many problems: domestic violence; poor sanitation; low household incomes; and a lack of education.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. Most families now have access to toilets, so children are healthier and less fearful of disease; more women are delivering their babies with medical help, giving their babies a safer start in life; and more children now attend nursery and primary school, meaning they will be able to reach their full potential.

Despite these improvements, life is still hard for your sponsored child, and we really need your continuing support to ensure all the good we have managed to achieve for them isn't lost.

Thanks to your incredibly generous sponsorship of your sponsored child, we can stay in the area for another seven to eight years. We plan to leave in **2023**, but we will only go once we are confident that the change you have made, and the hope that you have given, will continue after we have left.



How you have helped this year...

We've picked out a small selection of the ways you have helped to bring hope to your sponsored child and their community. The reality is that you've helped us achieve much, much more.

- * More children than ever are now reaching their fifth birthday.
- * We've built proper toilets for **269** families, making their homes cleaner and safer for their children.
- * **89%** of expectant mothers went to antenatal classes, getting the best possible care for themselves and their unborn babies.
- * **3,210** children now have new school books, bags and pens, so they can enjoy learning.
- * We've built **4** child centres, creating a safe and fun place for children with disabilities.
- * **322** of the most vulnerable families have been given a loan so they can start a small business.
- * We've trained **55** volunteers how to check and care for children in their community, keeping them happy and well.
- * Three quarters of mothers had post-natal visits from a midwife, helping their babies get the best start in life.

“Seeing the video is very touching and makes my sponsorship more real to me.” Gillian, Newtownabbey.

Have you seen your video from your sponsored child's community showing just how much your support means to them? Watch it today.

Register now at www.worldvision.org.uk/my-sponsorship.

See back cover for more details.



TOP LEFT: Aye Sue, 7, with her best friends Mi Mi, 5, and Kyaw, 5. Thanks to you they now have hopes for a brighter future. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Aye Sue, 7, playing with her sister during their school free time. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Myat walks to school, which is about one kilometre away from her home. Her education has been made possible thanks to you.



How do children like your sponsored child feel when they hear from their sponsor?

We asked sponsored children to share their thoughts with us...

"I keep them in my secret box, so that no one can get them." Elina, 5, Armenia.

"I want to spend Christmas Day at church singing songs for my sponsor so that God can bless her." Bibian, 15, Zambia.

"I am happy to receive a Christmas card from my sponsor in the UK. I've shown it to my friends and I keep it in my bag. I want my sponsor to visit me, and I would love to say hello to them." Sokly, 15, Cambodia.

However you choose to stay in touch with your sponsored child – whether by writing, emailing them on My Sponsorship, sharing photos or just taking a few moments in a busy day to think about or pray for them – thank you for bringing hope to your sponsored child.

Keep an eye out in the post as we'll send a Christmas card for you to send to your sponsored child in a few weeks' time.

ABOVE: Christmas cards add a spark of excitement to a normal day for Ei Myat Maw, 12, Wai Zin Phyo, 12, Khin Myat Thu, 13, from Myanmar.

"I am very happy to see that I am in your thoughts. You are so special to me. I am thankful for all you have done for me."

Gentiana, 12, Albania.

For the long-term, for lasting change, **for ever.**

Thanks to you, and other sponsors who are equally generous, we can work alongside a community for 15 years. That gives us time to help them bring about lasting change themselves, so they can continue to care for children long after we've left. When we do leave, it's because they're strong enough to stand on their own two feet.

Amanda (pictured below) has sponsored six children over 31 years, including Wasim, who she met in person on a trip to Bangladesh. She knows how it feels to say goodbye after so many years...

"It was a wrench... [but it was] so lovely to have that connection with Wasim and to see him grow and progress, and now we're sponsoring Joya. So we have every hope that she will progress as well as Wasim did."

Mary has been a sponsor for 34 years. In this time she's sponsored eight children. She tells us what this was like for her...

"As I never married and haven't had children of my own it's been a blessing knowing that I have helped in some way to improve the lives of children a long way away and let them know that I care about them and love them. I will always be a sponsor and support World Vision even when I'm gone."

How you can improve the lives of children for ever

You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

To find out more about this way of giving, please call our Legacy team on

01908 84 10 60 or email legacies@worldvision.org.uk



Feel closer than ever before



Go to My Sponsorship today

“I love being able to send a message. It’s so easy to do and brings them closer as part of the family.”

Ruth, Billingham.

My Sponsorship is the place on our website where you can find out more about your sponsored child, send messages, see photos and watch videos.

Here’s what sponsors like about it...

“The video is amazing! Brought a tear to my eye.” Joanna, Newtownards.

“It’s great to see more photos of the community where my sponsored child lives (I went through every photo looking out for her).” Hannah, London.

“I love the part where I can send pictures and tell them about a day in my life. Seeing the videos of what’s happening in the communities just makes it so real.” Kathryn, Kings Lynn.

How to register?

Go to www.worldvision.org.uk/my-sponsorship to register today.

All you’ll need is your Supporter ID.



This Halloween, join in with other sponsors and carve a **heart** in your pumpkin as a symbol of hope for children living in fear.

For more ideas and to find out how you can get involved visit www.worldvision.org.uk/carveaheart

#carveaheart



CARVE  HEART

World Vision is the world’s largest international children’s charity. Every day we bring real hope to millions of children in the world’s hardest places as a sign of God’s unconditional love.

#WorldVisionUK



FRONT COVER: Thi, 13, from Myanmar, helps her cousin with school work. © 2016 World Vision

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