



*Thank you*

*You planted a seed of hope  
in Banja.*

*Watch it bloom.*

*The Seed*

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

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

## From homelessness to a family house and renewed hope for Asresach

Asresach is 14. When her father died suddenly, family life became a daily struggle for survival as they relied on the small income he made buying and selling bamboo furniture.

Shortly before her father's death, a moneylender contacted the family. He claimed the family was in debt to him. Unable to pay the debt with cash, Asresach's mum was given no choice but to hand over the family home and land. Asresach and her family had no other option but to live on the streets. Asresach had to drop out of school and her mum fell ill.

The child parliament, set up by World Vision in the community, heard about Asresach's story through one of its members. They raised the details of the family's situation during one of their meetings. The parliament decided to do something about the family's situation.

Thanks to your incredible support, Asresach was able to get treatment for her mum, and the family won their property back from the moneylender in court. Asresach and her sister are now back in school and doing well. A local community group has helped her mum to start her own dressmaking business and she can now provide for her family.

"Now, I am studying hard to be a doctor, and after I become a doctor, I will help my mum and treat other ill people," Asresach says.



**TOP RIGHT:** Asresach (right) and her younger sister Esaynesh have now returned to school. Asresach is studying hard to become a doctor, as she wants to help people when they fall sick. **BOTTOM:** Asresach (left) and her mum (right) standing outside their family home to which they now have legal title, thanks to you. © 2016 World Vision



*“When these things happened, we became happy. It gave me and my sister hope that we could continue our education like we did when our situation was good,” Asresach says.*





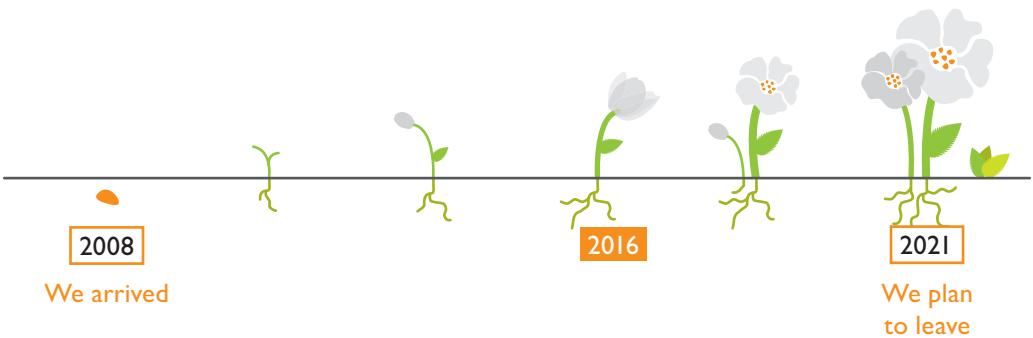
# We've come a long way, and we're still making progress — *all thanks to you.*

We've been working with the community of Banja since **2008**. Back then, children faced many problems: poor health due to preventable illness and lack of sanitation; malnutrition; poor education; and low family incomes.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. More children have been immunised and more people can now access healthcare; pregnant women are having check-ups, protecting their babies' health as well as their own; access to safe water means fewer children suffer from diarrhoea; and more children are registering and going to school, allowing them 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 five to six years. We plan to leave in **2021**, 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.

- \* We've built **2** wells and made a natural spring safe, so that children and families can drink clean water.
- \* We've set up children's clubs in schools, which are protecting children from disease by teaching them about hand washing.
- \* **32** reading clubs are helping **4,435** children to read. They have also been given mats to sit on and story books.
- \* We're helping to make schools a happier place for children to learn. **131** desks and games were given to five schools.
- \* Families are learning how to grow and prepare nutritious food like carrots and cabbage for their children through **11** community groups.
- \* **12** savings and loans groups are helping **185** adults to save, be independent, and to start their own small businesses.
- \* We've run health sessions for **400** expectant mothers so that they can learn how to keep their babies healthy.
- \* We've given **900** families training on children's rights so they know how to keep their children safe.

*"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](http://www.worldvision.org.uk/my-sponsorship).

See back cover for more details.



**TOP LEFT:** Haile, 8, is in Year One. She is reading the Amharic alphabet on a blackboard at her reading club that you made possible. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Thanks to your support, 5,578 school children now have books and pens, and 3,000 have new uniforms. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Habtamu, 10, enjoying honey harvested from his family's beehives. His father, Simeneh, is a member of the local beekeeping association, founded with your help. © 2015 Feleseta Kassaye/World Vision



## 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 Letson, 5, from Zambia.

*"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

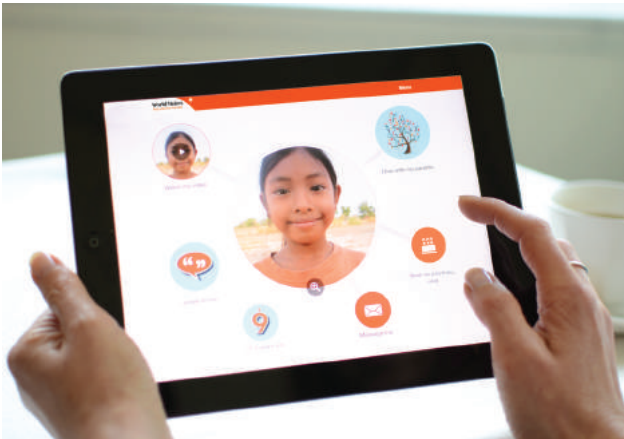
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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:** Abebech, 12, and Asfaw, 10, from Ethiopia get clean water. © 2016 World Vision

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