



*Thank you*

*You planted a seed of hope  
in Isame.*

*Watch it bloom.*

*The Seed*

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

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

## How a cup of water saved the day for Sadia

Sadia, 12, used to get ill from drinking dirty water. She hated missing school when she was ill and she feared falling behind in her studies.

Now, thanks to you, her school has clean water so she can quench her thirst at break times. There are sinks next to the latrines so she and her friends can wash their hands and not get sick.

All the children are learning how to use the sinks and latrines and they're encouraged to keep their school clean and tidy. In the afternoons, Sadia and her friends sweep the courtyard, replace soaps and fill up the water containers so every child can have a drink.

Thanks to you, Sadia no longer lives in fear of falling behind. She can drink a glass of clean, safe water on a hot day, and enjoy a happy, healthy childhood.



**TOP RIGHT:** Children learn to wash their hands and use soap to keep themselves clean and healthy. **BOTTOM:** Children learn together the importance of washing their hands and keeping clean. © 2016 World Vision





*Thanks to you, children no longer fear falling behind  
in their studies, and can enjoy drinking clean, safe  
water at school.*





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

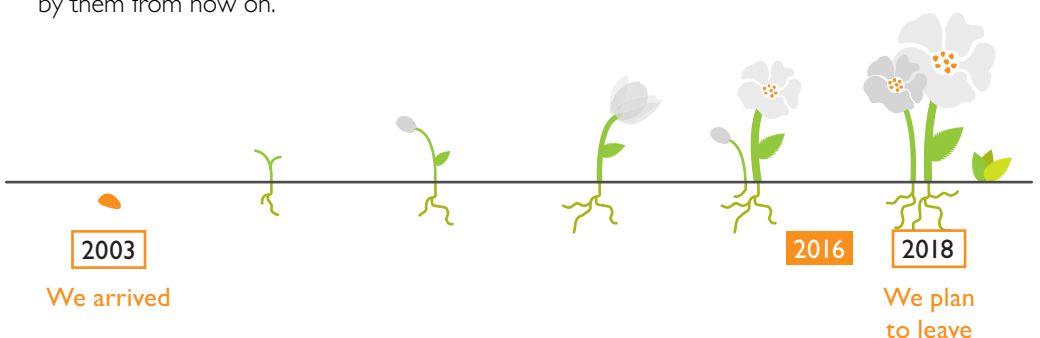
We've been working in the community of Isame since **2003**. Back then children faced many problems: fear of abuse; low family incomes; malnutrition; social and emotional isolation; poor health; and a lack of healthcare.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. Pregnant women and mothers visit health centres to look after their own health as well as their children's; new child protection groups help children learn about their rights and how they can protect themselves and their friends; and families are being supported to grow extra food so their children have a more nutritious and varied diet.

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 two to three years. We plan to leave in **2018**, 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.

**Just to say:** Our colleagues in Niger have been reviewing how they send replies to cards and letters. DHL were the cheapest and most reliable, so look out for post being delivered by them from now on.





# 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.

- \* Children learned how to wash their hands at school, so they can keep clean and avoid preventable diseases.
- \* Families who are struggling can get healthy meals for their children from **10** well-stocked food banks.
- \* Parents get help from new savings groups to start their own businesses, so they can earn an income and support their families.
- \* The most vulnerable families have been given mosquito nets to protect them from malaria, a life-threatening disease.
- \* Many children can enjoy a refreshing drink without fear of getting ill now their schools have clean drinking water.
- \* More children than ever have a birth certificate, meaning they can enrol in school and get an education.
- \* Families in rural areas can see doctors and get medical support when they need it from **4** new health centres.
- \* Children now get a good variety of nourishing food, and many babies are gaining weight and growing up healthy and strong.

*“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:** Two boys from Isame tell us their school playground is clean now, thanks to the rubbish bins. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Children show off their maths boards after class. “We like maths even though sometimes it’s very hard,” they tell us. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Thanks to you, members of a local hygiene club have been trained to make liquid soap. “Now my children’s clothes smell good, and our house too,” says Mariama Mousse. © 2016 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.

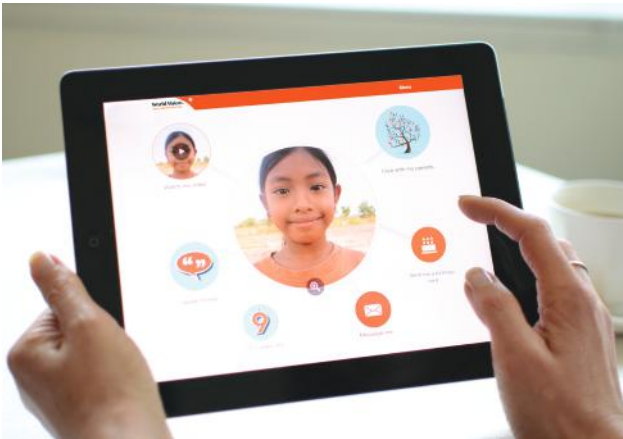
To find out more about this way of giving, please call our Legacy team on

**01908 84 10 60** or email [legacies@worldvision.org.uk](mailto:legacies@worldvision.org.uk)





# Feel closer than ever before



*“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.

Go to My Sponsorship today

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:** Ramatou, from Niger, with her friends. © 2016 World Vision

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