



Thank you

*You planted a seed of hope
in Jaiama Bongor.*

Watch it bloom.


The Seed

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

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

How savings saved Nico

During the Ebola outbreak, Sebastian, 15, couldn't go to school. His future seemed uncertain. At his mum's savings group meetings he heard the women worry about supporting their families when crops were failing and how sickness was destroying families.

Thanks to you, these savings groups are thriving, with more mums joining and women supporting one another, giving hope when there was none.

Inspired, Sebastian and his friends started their own savings group. Each week, they each brought the little money they had to the group.

Then Nico, 16, one of the members, had a nasty motorbike accident. Thanks to their savings, the group could help with medical bills and support him through his recovery – something that wouldn't have been possible without you.

Although diseases like Ebola can devastate families and make going to school impossible, the future now looks more secure for Sebastian, Nico and their friends.



TOP RIGHT: Children are proud to be part of their own savings group, thanks to your support. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM LEFT:** At the savings group they count and record the savings. Each child takes their turn to put their money in the savings box. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Children's savings groups meet to save for a brighter future, thanks to you.



*“I am alive today because of the love, passion and contributions of my group. I will continue to save and encourage other children to join the savings groups”,
says Nico.*





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

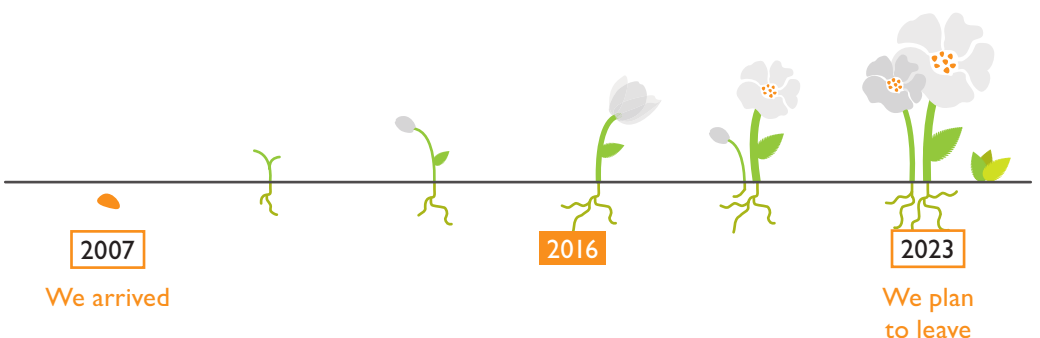
We've been working with the community of Jaiama Bongor since **2007**. Back then, children faced many problems: malnutrition; low family incomes; and a poor education.

Since then, families have learned how to cook more nutritious meals, so that fewer children suffer from malnutrition; babies get a healthier start in life, with more mothers having antenatal and postnatal check-ups; and a women's group has been helping women get the training they need to start their small businesses.

Despite these improvements, life is still hard for children like your sponsored child, particularly as families continue to rebuild their lives after Ebola, 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.

Just to say: As you might imagine after the Ebola outbreak, we're a little behind with delivering letters. Thanks for bearing with us.



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.

- * Families get support to continue to rebuild their lives and their community after the Ebola outbreak.
- * Children can enjoy their childhoods again at safe and fun children's clubs.
- * Over **1,200** children have had life-saving vaccinations, keeping them safe from common diseases.
- * Parents who lost their businesses after Ebola have been given a lifeline with loans from savings groups to rebuild their lives and provide for their children.
- * Children learn to read and write supported by trained volunteers.
- * Over **1,400** children passed their exams so they can go on to further education.
- * Children wash their hands after using the toilet and enjoy a drink of water at break times now that many schools have soap and clean water taps.
- * Children affected by Ebola get support from trained teachers, who help them rebuild trust and encourage them to continue at school.

"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: Thanks to you, new mums get support and are given baby hampers, helping to give their babies the best start in life. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Mustapha has learned why washing his hands is important to help him stay healthy. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Thanks to you, 60 vulnerable children now have basic school materials and can keep up with their peers. © 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

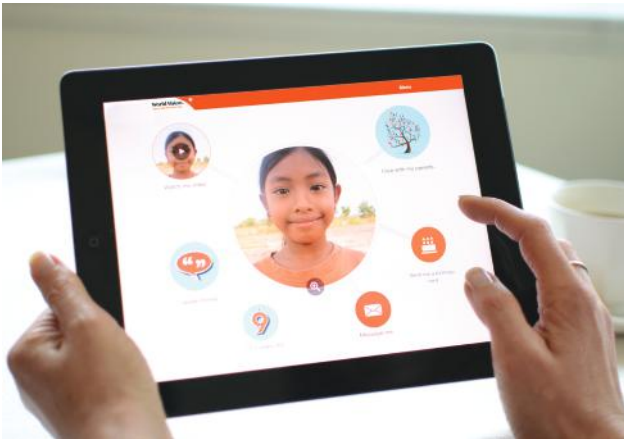
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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



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 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: Mamie, from Sierra Leone, with her classmates. © 2016 World Vision

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