



*Thank you*

*You planted a seed of hope  
in Jong.*

*Watch it bloom.*

  
**The Seed**

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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 four bags of cassava became 60

Last year Nafisatu lost her husband. Life was already difficult. Now she feared she wouldn't be able to support their four young children.

On a small plot, Nafisatu harvested cassava (a potato-like vegetable). After hours of hand grinding under the burning sun, she had enough to fill four bags. At the market she sold them for barely enough for the basics: food, clothes, rent.

Nafisatu joined a savings group and, thanks to you, they bought a cassava-processing machine. Now she harvests and grinds three acres of cassava in the same amount of time, and fills more than 60 bags. She earns enough for her children's school fees, medical bills and three nutritious meals a day.

Thank you for putting a smile on Nafisatu's face by helping her provide for her children. "My dream was to give my children everything, but as a single parent it was so hard. Now I can," she says.



**TOP RIGHT:** Thanks to you, Nafisatu uses her savings group's cassava-grinding machine to earn enough to support her family. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM:** Now that families grow and sell their own food, children have new school equipment.



*“For me, the sigh of relief, when it takes less time to grind the cassava,” she says.*





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

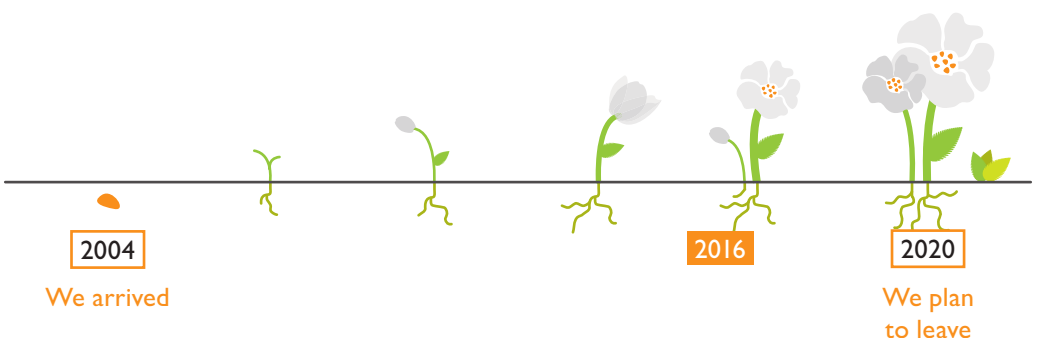
We've been working in the community of Jong since **2004**. Back then, children faced many problems; malnutrition; low family incomes; poor education; and the fear of abuse.

Since then, families have learned how to cook more nutritious meals, meaning fewer children suffer from malnutrition; babies get a healthier start in life, with more mothers having antenatal and postnatal check-ups; and women's groups have been helping women get the training they need to grow 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 isn't lost.

Thanks to your incredibly generous sponsorship of your sponsored child, we can stay in the area for another four to five years. We plan to leave in **2020**, 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 who lost everything because of the Ebola outbreak get support from new women's savings groups.
- \* **11,822** children enjoy free healthcare since their community lobbied the government.
- \* Boys and girls learn the skills they need to do well in life from **40** teachers who've had extra training.
- \* Children learn about their rights and how to stay safe at new kids clubs.
- \* Families who lost their livelihoods after Ebola are getting help with school fees and uniforms, so their children can continue to go to school.
- \* Babies get the best possible start in life because pregnant and breastfeeding mums get regular check ups from health workers.
- \* Farmers grow more cassava, their children can eat healthy meals, and they sell the rest to support their families.

*“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:** Thanks to you, villagers in Jong have a working water pump and children go to school on time rather than walking to fetch water. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Hajaratu loves traditional dancing. It entertains her neighbours and gives her confidence to speak in public. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mabinty, 14, can play safely now her village school has a playground, thanks to you. © 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

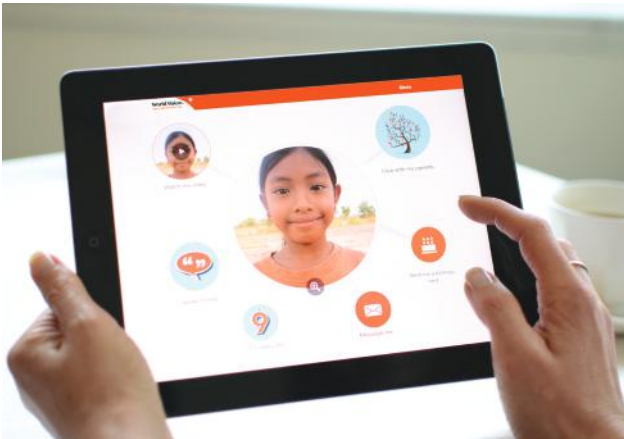
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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

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