



*Thank you*

*You planted a seed of hope  
in Komabangou.*

*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.

## Saving for a brighter future for Mahamadou

Mahamadou, 6, is one of eight children living with their dad, Djiboâgé, who's 58. He works hard to support his family, but worried that he couldn't earn enough to feed them all. With a long dry season and no savings, life was hard.

Djiboâgé joined a community group, set up thanks to you. They met to save, support each other and learn farming skills. Djiboâgé and other parents were able to set up businesses to support their families. Djiboâgé saved enough to buy tools and farm a small patch near his home.

The group is thriving, and Djiboâgé is now president. He also makes money by selling the leaves of the moringa tree (used in traditional medicine). "I sell the leaves of moringa to buy cereals for the family meal," he says proudly. He saves enough to send Mahamadou and his brothers and sisters to school and meet all their weekly needs.

Thanks to you, Mahamadou and his family can provide for themselves, and have hope for a brighter future.



**ABOVE:** Mahamadou's dad supports his family by farming, thanks to you. © 2016 World Vision.

**BOTTOM:** Mahamadou goes to school, thanks to the skills his dad learned at the community group. © 2016 World Vision

*“I thank World Vision sponsors who do not cease to give to change my daily life,” says Mahamadou’s father.*





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

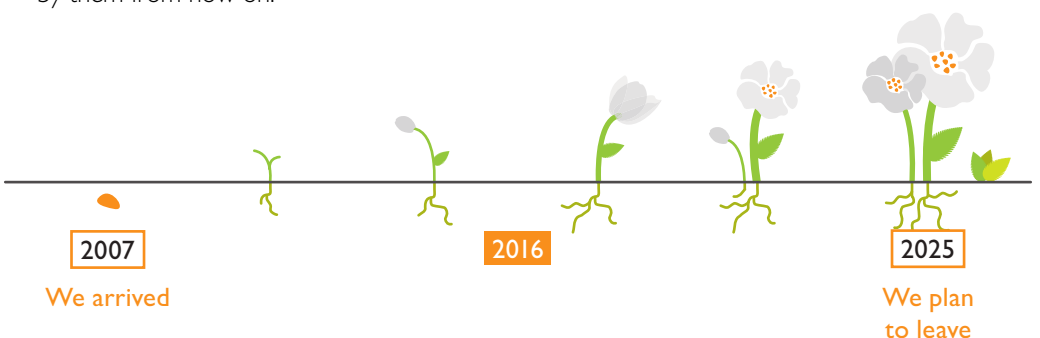
We've been working with the community of Komabangou since **2007**. Back then, children faced many problems: the threat of disease from bad sanitation and hygiene; malnutrition; lack of clean water; and poor education.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. Children have greater protection from disease and have access to clean water; more children, especially girls, are enrolled in school; and health centres are better equipped to treat children with malnutrition, so they have more energy to run, play, learn and enjoy life to the full.

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 nine to ten years. We plan to leave in **2025**, 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 that's why post will be 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.

- \* Community groups have been given small pieces of land so families can grow their own crops.
- \* Mums have learned how to cook nutritious meals for their children, helping them to stay healthy.
- \* Children now learn how to read, write and count supported by over **80** trained teachers.
- \* Mums learn to manage their earnings in groups, saving enough to pay for school fees, clothes and food for their children.
- \* Over **2,800** children have improved grades thanks to better classrooms and teachers.
- \* Children learn important life skills like how to stay safe and decision-making at new children's clubs.
- \* Vulnerable families grow enough food to feed their children and earn extra money by selling the surplus.
- \* **50** children who were malnourished have gained weight now their mums know how to cook healthy meals.

*"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, women in this community garden grow vegetables so they can feed their children healthy meals. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Aissa collects clean water from a new local water point. © 2015 Joelma Pereira/World Vision. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Young people and women now grow enough to eat and to sell, even in the dry season. © 2015 Joelma Pereira/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

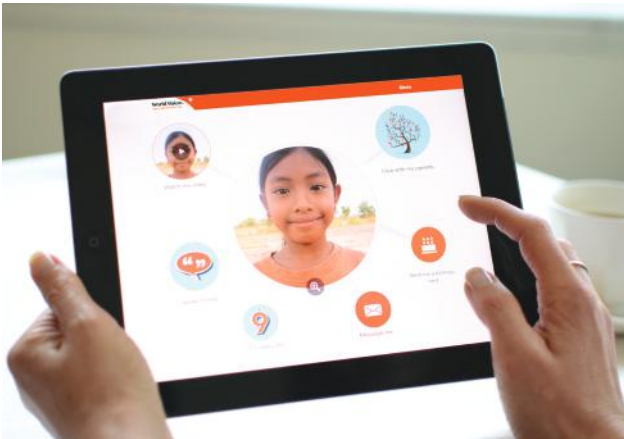
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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 A 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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