



Thank you

*You planted a seed of hope
in Lezha.*

Watch it bloom.

The Seed

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

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

Vanesa, 12, and her friends now influence their own learning

Vanesa, 12, lives in Lezha with her father, mother and elder sister. Outside of school, there was nowhere for Vanesa and her friends to play safely, or things for them to do to focus their energy. Thanks to your support, student councils are helping older children like Vanesa and her friends have a say in how things are run in their school. And thanks to you, student councils have been set up in eight schools across Lezha.

Schools are being strengthened by allowing children to join in on the decision-making and share ideas about their learning with their teachers. Vanesa and her friends have been involved in activities that are helping children to be more accepting of their peers, especially those children who have disabilities.

"Through our discussions in class I see that boys in our school have changed their attitude. They used to be disrespectful towards children who are poor or excluded, but by observing our behaviour they have started to be more friendly towards these children and even have been playing with them," says Vanesa.

Thanks to you, children like Vanesa and her friends can be role models to other children, and are actively taking part in their learning, which allows them to develop and create purpose in their lives.



TOP RIGHT: Vanesa's school friends, (left to right: Ina, 11, Noriana, 12 and Silvja, 13) talk about some of the activities they are leading together. **BOTTOM:** Vanesa, 12, (fourth along) and her friends, (left to right: Silvja, 13, Danielle, 13, Noriana, 12, Sara, 12 and Ina, 11) are members of the student council at their school.

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“We are more aware, informed and mature now and we will work harder to make our school a better place for us all,” says Daniela,13.





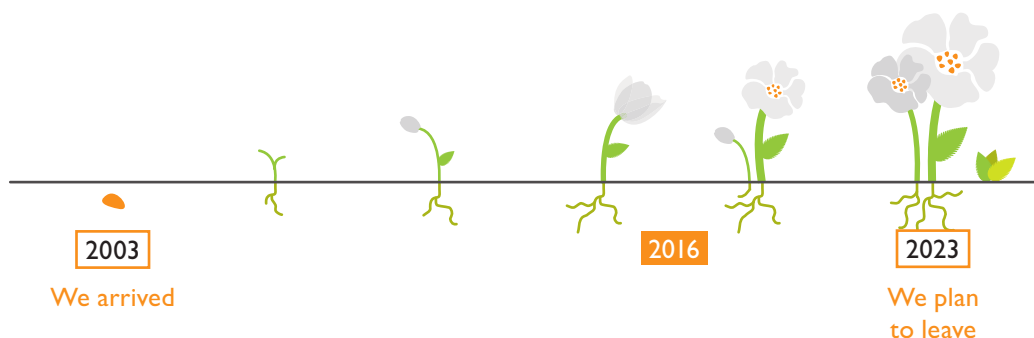
We've come a long way, and we're still making progress — *all thanks to you.*

We've been working with the community of Lezha since **2003**. Back then, children faced many problems: fear of abuse; poor-quality education; social and emotional isolation; poverty; early marriage; and no safe places to play.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. Children are better protected from abuse; parents understand how education can improve their children's lives and encourage their learning; and children are helped with their homework so are more likely 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 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.



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.

- * **2** child protection units are bringing a support network of people together to identify and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children to help keep them safe.
- * We're helping to protect more children from danger: **700** school children have learned what to do in an emergency.
- * **22** children from vulnerable families were given food parcels, so they could eat a nutritious meal and take medicines to make them feel well.
- * Summer camps are bringing **600** children together to learn life skills and play through sports, competitions and games.
- * We've run **16** sessions to teach children about their rights and how to keep themselves and their friends safe.
- * We've taught **400** school children about better hygiene habits, like keeping clean, brushing their teeth, washing their hands, and also how to stay healthy.
- * We're helping children to care for their environment and look after their schools. **30** trees were planted recently by school children.
- * We've trained **45** parents about their children's rights and how to keep them safe from harm.

"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: "I want my child to be raised different from me, she deserves it," says Luiza, a mother of three, who wants her daughter (pictured) to have a safer upbringing than she had. © 2015 Neila Hoxha/World Vision.

BOTTOM LEFT: "Some people think only city children know how to draw people's attention in an awareness campaign. Now you see we can also do that," says Anisa, 17. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Thanks to you, Mariola, 4, can go to one of eight children's clubs that give children a safe place to play and learn life skills with their friends.



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 Gor, 13, from Armenia. © 2014 World Vision.

"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

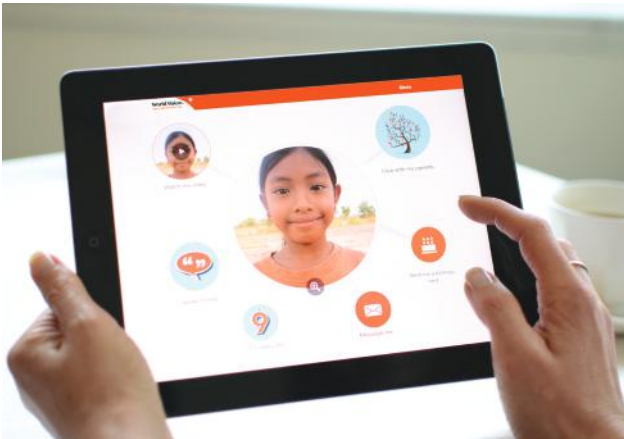
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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: Klevisa, with her younger sisters, from Albania.

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