



*Thank you*

*You planted a seed of hope  
in Shkodra.*

*Watch it bloom.*

The Seed

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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.

## Emanuel and his friends can now get to school to learn and achieve their dreams

Emanuel, 10, lives at home with his mother, father and three sisters, Elidona, 12, Emanuela, 13, and Emiljana, 8. All four children in the family are sponsored, and their mother, Lula, stays at home to care for them whilst her husband looks for work.

Every morning Lula would walk for over an hour to get the children to school as there was no other way to get there and the family couldn't afford transport to take them. Emanuel and his sisters regularly missed classes because their school was so far away. And Emanuel would also miss long periods of school as he fell sick with regular colds from getting soaked in heavy rain on the journey.

Thanks to you, the children now have a school bus that takes them to and from school. The children can get to school more quickly in the mornings and they stay safe, warm and dry.

Emanuel and his sisters are going to school regularly. Emanuel has recently been learning about his rights and how to keep himself safe from harm. He is keen to become a teacher in the future and strongly believes that, "without education, we cannot gain a good job or a good future."



**LEFT:** Emanuel's sisters, Elidona, 12, and Emiljana, 8, ready themselves for a day at school with the school bags that sponsors have given them. © 2015 Klevisa Breshani/World Vision. **RIGHT:** Emanuel, 10, at home where he used to spend most of his days, missing school, before his community got a school bus – thanks to you. © 2015 Mirela Sokoli/World Vision.

*“Without education, we cannot gain a good job or a good future,” says Emanuel.*





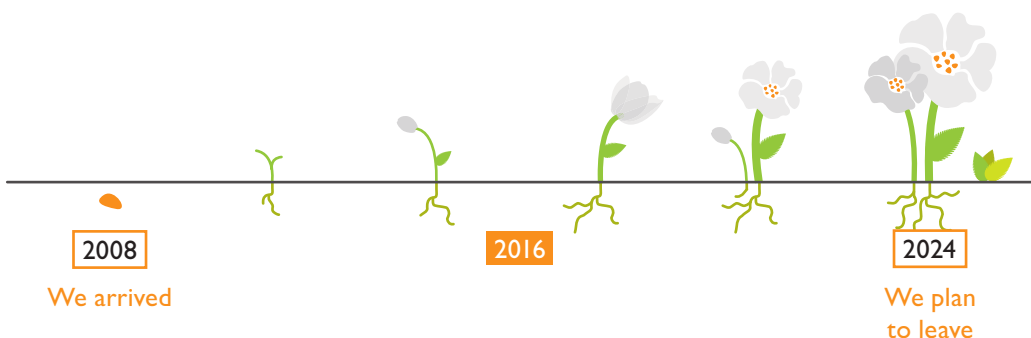
# We've come a long way, and we're still making progress — *all thanks to you.*

We've been working with the community of Shkodra since **2008**. Back then, children faced many problems: fear of being abused, trafficked or forced to marry early; fear of violence at home and in schools, and of not achieving their ambitions because of poor education.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. Violence in many schools has been tackled and children feel safer and better protected; teaching has improved, and children are involved in improving hygiene and children's rights in school; children know how to protect themselves and their friends; and they are more confident and more likely to reach their 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 eight to nine years. We plan to leave in **2024**, 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.
- \* We've organised summer camps for 18 children with disabilities, where they can have fun, learn and play with their friends.
- \* We've trained 75 teachers across a number of schools so that children can have a better education.
- \* 4 schools were given reading and textbooks, and had their classrooms painted, making them more inspiring places to learn.
- \* We've trained 65 parents about their children's rights and how to keep them safe from harm.
- \* A two-day summer camp brought 100 children together to have fun and learn life skills like leadership, teamwork and tolerance.
- \* We've organised 20 events where 58 children learnt key life skills and how to express themselves through art, drama and plays.
- \* School children in 3 schools have been given first aid kits, and have learnt how to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

*"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:** These children are having a wonderful summer being part of out-of-school programmes that you've made possible. **BOTTOM LEFT:** 542 students and 29 teachers from five schools are enjoying the fruit of their work in a big show production. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Youth group members Meri, 16, Inva, 16, and Erina, 16, are giving out leaflets on preventing human trafficking to passers-by in their town.



## 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

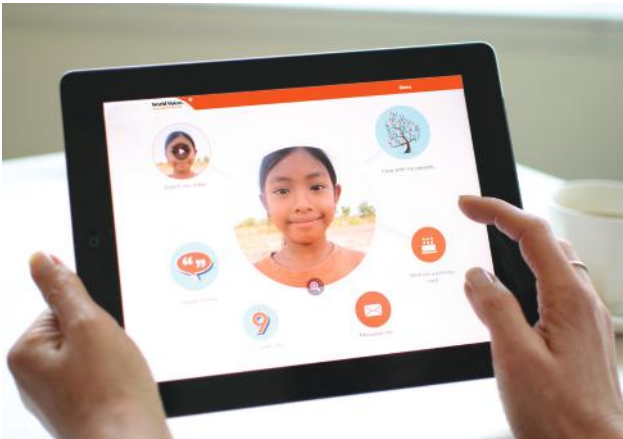
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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](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.

**FRONT COVER:** Klevisa, with her younger sisters, from Albania.

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