



*Thank you*

*You planted a seed of hope  
in Sirba.*

*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.

## How Sirba got its first corner shop

Mounkaila is 13 years old and lives in Sirba. Her dad spends lots of time away from the family trying to find work, and it was hard for her mum, Fati, to support the family.

Thanks to you, their lives have changed. Fati started a savings group with other mums in her village. The group grew in popularity, with 20 mums going regularly. They learned how to pool their money and save enough to buy what they needed to start their own small businesses.

Soon afterwards, Fati got a loan from the group. Now she is the proud owner of the first shop in her village, selling rice, sugar, oil and spices. Fati can provide for her children, and is no longer dependent on her husband. She sends Mounkaila and her other children to school and cooks them three meals a day.

Thanks to you, Mounkaila and her family are thriving because Fati can care for her children, and they all have high hopes for the future.



**TOP RIGHT:** Mounkaila, 13, and her mum, Fati, are proud of their shop, opened thanks to you. **BOTTOM:** Thanks to your support, the savings group that Fati and other mums set up is thriving.



*Thanks to you, Mounkaila's mum runs the first shop in her village and can now provide for her children.*





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

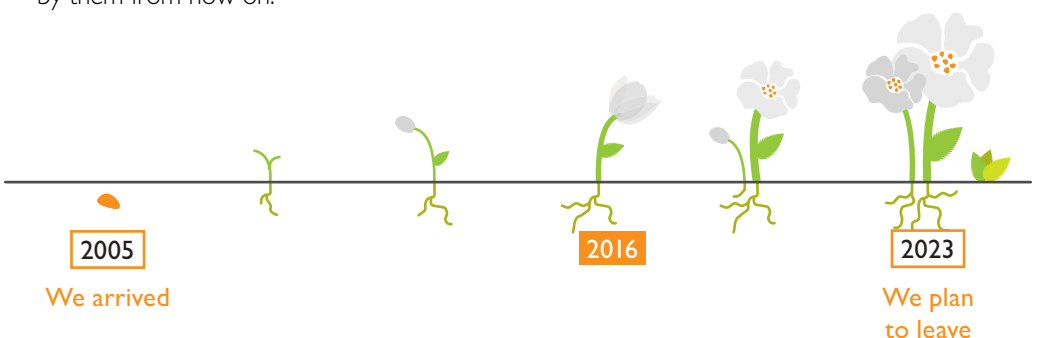
We've been working in the community of Sirba since **2005**. Back then, children faced many problems: they were without enough nutritious food to eat and clean water to drink; waterborne diseases were making them ill; and, sadly, some children didn't feel safe and were afraid of being abused.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. More children are immunised against disease; more villages have access to clean water so children don't fear quenching their thirst; thousands of children have recovered from malnutrition; and new child protection groups have been set up to reduce the dangers of early marriage and child labour.

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.

**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 look out for post being 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.

- \* **27** new savings groups help over **700** families provide for their children.
- \* Twice as many farmers now harvest enough to feed their families and sell the rest.
- \* Families get better care at their local clinic now more health workers have been trained.
- \* More children celebrate their fifth birthdays, as families enjoy better healthcare and nutritious meals.
- \* Mums now get support for breastfeeding from midwives to give their babies the best start.
- \* All children now get free healthcare, so they can grow up strong and healthy.
- \* More families grow crops in mini gardens near their homes, so they can enjoy healthy meals.
- \* Families get clean drinking water from **8** new wells closer to their homes.

*“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:** Children receive books and school supplies to celebrate the Day of the African Child, thanks to you. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Children learn about their rights, so they can grow up protected and make their community safer. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Families learn to grow crops in the dry season to feed their children, thanks to your support.



## 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

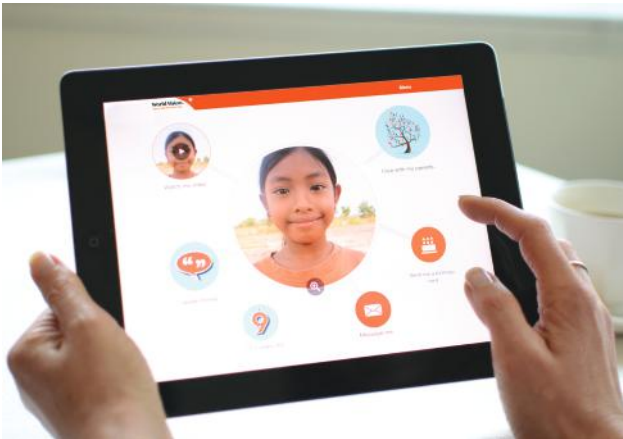
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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:** Ramatou, from Niger, with her friends. © 2016 World Vision

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