



Thank you

*You planted a seed of hope
in Tegloma.*

Watch it bloom.

The Seed

The logo for 'The Seed' features the words 'The Seed' in a serif font. A green leaf is positioned behind the letter 'e' in 'Seed', and a large, light grey heart shape is positioned behind the word 'Seed'.

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.

Taking the most vulnerable under their wing

Mortuo Mothers' Group has been running for many years. Members support one another to gain life skills, and become the voice of their community.

When Ebola struck, families were torn apart. Christiana, the group's leader, saw an opportunity to help not hide. Thanks to your support, the group grew stronger than ever. They took in abandoned children, embracing orphans as their own. Mums pooled their savings to buy seeds and cassava-grinding machines, helping to rebuild lives and livelihoods.

The group planted a new harvest, reaped, and sold enough food to look after all their families, even those who had taken in children. The group cares for over 30 children from their own and neighbouring villages. "From the savings, we pay their school fees, books, uniforms and drinking water for school," says Christiana.

Just as Ebola doesn't have boundaries in its devastation, these women don't see barriers in protecting the most vulnerable children. Kargbo, another group member says, "If we don't help these children, who else will? We care for them, and that's the reason we do it."



TOP RIGHT: The group provides uniforms for vulnerable children so they can go to school. @ 2016 World Vision.
BOTTOM: Thanks to you, Mortuo Mothers' Group supports members and their families when they face their most difficult times.



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

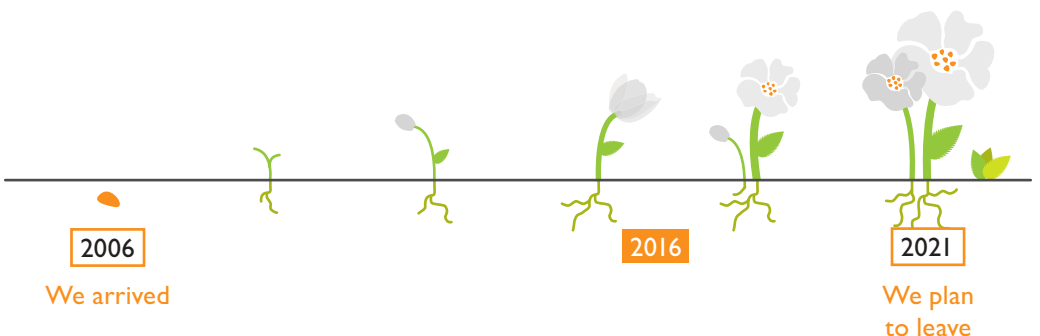
We've been working with the community of Tegloma since **2006**. Back then, children faced many problems: fear of abuse; malnutrition; and poor-quality education.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. There have been improvements in teacher training; mothers' clubs have been set up which monitor and protect children from all forms of abuse; and pregnant women are encouraged to deliver their babies with trained staff at a community health unit.

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 for them isn't lost.

Thanks to your incredibly generous sponsorship of your sponsored child, we can stay in the area for another five to six years. We plan to leave in **2021**, 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.

- * More girls and boys have the opportunity to study for a brighter future now **11** new teachers have been trained.
- * New mothers' clubs care for children affected by Ebola, giving them meals, uniforms and books.
- * Families get soap bars and learn how to stay healthy and well at new hand-washing sessions.
- * Girls no longer fear having to get married before they are **18**, thanks to new rules the community campaigned for.
- * More children are registered at birth, meaning they can be immunised and enrol in school.
- * Children who have been orphaned by Ebola are cared for by adoptive families.
- * **11,822** children now enjoy free healthcare since community groups lobbied the government.
- * New mothers' groups help mums to save money and set up their own businesses to provide for 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.
See back cover for more details.



TOP LEFT: Lawana learns how to feed her children healthily at her mothers' group. Thanks to you, children thrive and far fewer are malnourished. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Thanks to your support, children are weighed regularly so early signs of malnutrition can be treated. © 2016 World Vision. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mums learn how to keep themselves healthy and give their newborns the best start in life. © 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

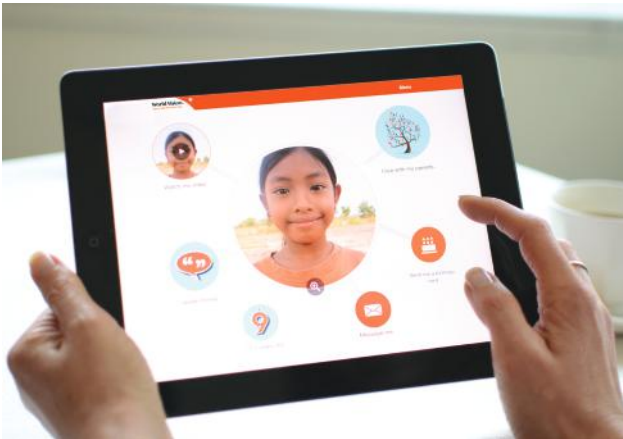
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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



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

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