



Thank you

*You planted a seed of hope
in Tera.*

Watch it bloom.


The Seed

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.

Stitching a brighter future together for Ramatou

Ramatou, 22, left school not knowing what her future held. Then, one day, while listening to the radio, she heard about a learning centre offering a sewing course. She went to every lesson and quickly picked up the skills she needed to sew beautifully.

"I was always the first to master what we were shown," she says. At the end of the course the best students got a sewing machine. "Today, thanks to this machine, I can meet all my needs."

Ramatou can now provide for her family by making clothes and selling them at the local market. She also makes her husband's clothes and repairs his suitcase when he rips it.

Your incredible generosity has meant Ramatou no longer fears not being able to provide for her family. Instead, she gives the extra money she makes to help her mother. She's teaching her neighbours how to sew, too. She dreams of opening her own sewing workshop where other women can learn how to sew and start up their own business, just like she has.



TOP RIGHT: Ramatou was able to start her own business helping other women like her to earn a living.
BOTTOM: Ramatou, 22, with a student from her class. Thanks to you, they can support their families by making and selling clothes.



*“Today, thanks to this machine,
I can meet all my needs,” Ramatou says.*





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

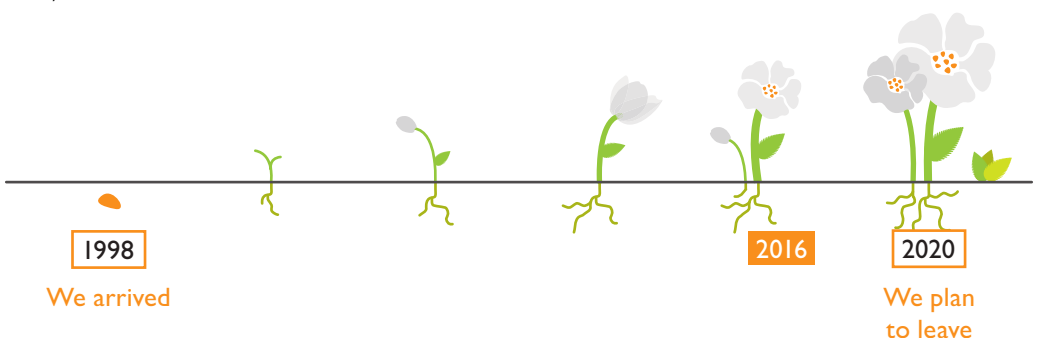
We've been working with the community of Tera since **1998**. Back then, children faced many problems, from malnutrition to social and emotional isolation, in particular children with disabilities.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. There is better access to preschool and primary school education; health centres have been set up, so families can get medical help more easily; and nutritious food helps children recover from malnutrition so they can run, play and enjoy being a child.

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 four to five years. We plan to leave in **2020**, 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.

- * Savings groups and training workshops are now supporting women to start their own businesses.
- * Over **1,400** children have had a fantastic improvement in their reading, writing and maths because teachers are better trained.
- * Local community groups now regularly meet to learn how to look after the most vulnerable in their community.
- * **20** volunteers have been trained and now visit families to make sure their children are growing up healthy and strong.
- * Sewing lessons are helping women learn a new skill and start their own businesses.
- * Over **1,000** more children have birth certificates, so they can enrol in school and sit their exams.
- * Farmers learned how to grow more and different varieties of crops so they can feed their families nutritious meals.
- * Community groups have been trained to recognise and cope with drought, making families better able to cope with changes in climate.

“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: This is the dry-season garden, where, thanks to you, families are able to grow more nutritious food. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Young women learning at the new sewing centre. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** At the African Child Birthday Celebration, children came to learn, celebrate and enjoy playing games with their families and 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 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

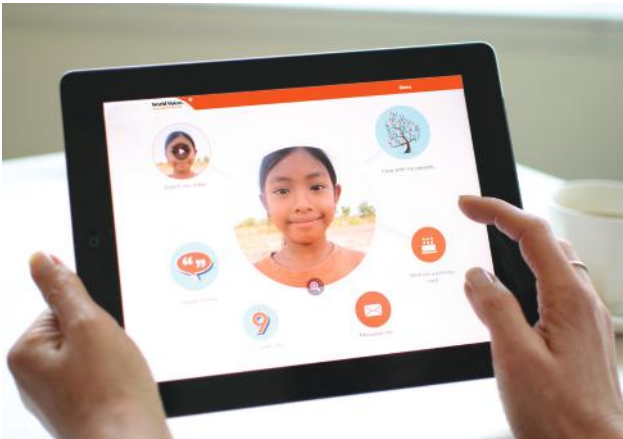
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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.

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

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