



Thank you

*You planted a seed of hope
in Yilmana Densa.*

Watch it bloom.

The Seed

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

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

From insecurity to confidence for Mastewal

Mastewal, 13, lives in Yilmana Densa. She was often afraid to speak out and express herself and give her opinion in the way she wanted. Mastewal's parents saw school as a waste of time, believing that their daughter's future would be better served by getting married.

After attending her school's child parliament, Mastewal plucked up the courage to speak to one of her friends about some of the difficulties she was facing.



ABOVE LEFT: Mastewal with her father, Derbew. Thanks to you, Mastewal is able to return to school and her parents support her decision. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Mastewal, 13, outside her family home in Yilmana Densa.

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Thanks to your help, and supported by her community and some awareness-based training, Mastewal's father and mother started to understand why Mastewal should continue going to school to gain a good education. This small step has transformed Mastewal's life. She is doing well in school and is more hopeful about her future.

"Before joining the child parliament, I didn't express my feelings or needs well within my family. But now after joining the child parliament and leading it as vice president, I have gained the ability to express my ideas without fear or frustration," says Mastewal.

"I am encouraging those women, who aren't able to express their ideas, to speak, participate and perhaps join as a parliament member. In the future, after completing my education I want to become a lawyer," says Mastewal.





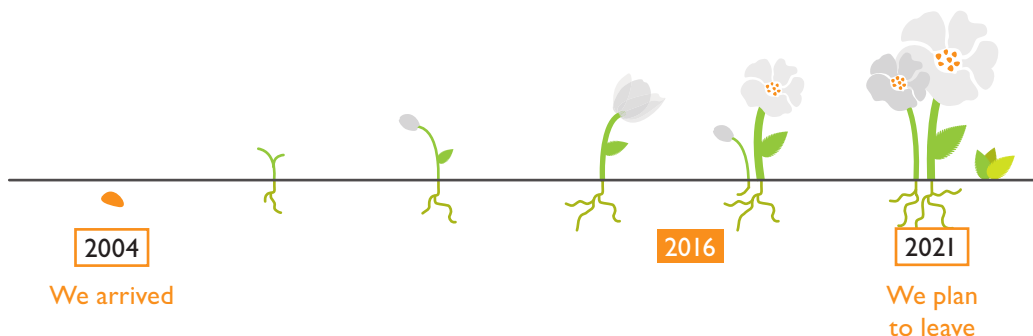
We've come a long way, and we're still making progress — *all thanks to you.*

We've been working with the community of Yilmana Densa since **2004**. Back then, children faced many problems: fear of illness; lack of food and clean water; poor sanitation; and low quality of education.

Since then, things have begun to change for the better. We've built toilets in schools and children have been taught new hygiene practices, making them much less fearful of disease; families have learned how to grow more crops, so their children are better fed and grow up healthy and strong; and reading clubs are helping more children 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 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.



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.

- * **8,608** people can now get clean water from **6** wells and **3** boreholes. Children no longer have to walk far to fetch water.
- * Groups across **11** schools are teaching **8,980** children and teachers about better hygiene habits.
- * Schools were equipped with **150** desks and **10** blackboards to help children learn better at school.
- * **10** community groups are teaching farmers how to keep animals and protect them from disease, so they can feed their families.
- * **34** reading clubs are helping **6,097** children to improve their reading skills.
- * We're helping families learn how to grow, prepare and cook nutritious food for their children through **11** community groups.
- * We're helping mothers give the best start to their babies, by supporting **8** health centres that give health check-ups and advice on feeding.
- * We're training teachers to teach children with disabilities. **45** teachers have learnt sign language, braille and how to support the children.

"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: Children are speaking out against child labour and early marriage during the Day of the African Child celebrations. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Thanks to you, more families are learning how to grow, prepare and cook nutritious food like cabbage for their children. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Yamata, 10, says, "I joined the reading camp to improve my skills. It has made me so much more confident in school." © 2016 Stefanie Gliński/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

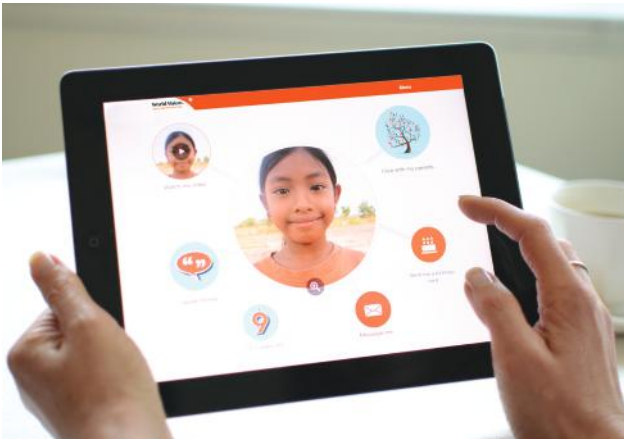
You're already creating a legacy by giving real hope to your sponsored child and their community. A legacy of permanent, positive change. By leaving a gift in your will, you can continue to bring life in all its fullness to vulnerable children for generations to come.

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: Abebech, 12, and Asfaw, 10, from Ethiopia get clean water. © 2016 World Vision

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