



the child sponsorship journey

Through child sponsorship, caring Canadians can extend their friendship to a child in need and become a partner in a community's transformation. Monthly support from child sponsors is combined to provide clean water, food, health care and education for everyone, because the best way to help a child is to improve his or her world.

The goal of child sponsorship is to strengthen the world in which children live. Our work within communities takes place over approximately 15 years and involves three phases: Building Trust and Skills, Building Hope for the Present, and Building Confidence for the Future. At the end, community members are equipped with stronger skills and knowledge, and families have a brighter future. Child sponsorship comes to a close, but a sponsor's love and care leave a lasting impact. A child's life — and a community are transformed.



Phase 1

Building Trust and Skills
Years 1-3

Phase 2

Building Hope for the Present
Years 4-10

Phase 3

Building Confidence for the Future
Years 11 to Project Close



World Vision's work within communities progresses through three phases.



Francis Kayegezi and his daughter Judith harvesting their crops

THE STORY OF Samuye

*the landscape was beautiful,
the people so friendly*

This is the remarkable story of Samuye, a community in Tanzania. World Vision's work here began in 1992 and will draw to a close in 2008. The phases of development in Samuye may help you imagine the work underway right now in other child sponsorship communities.



Children now go to school rather than tend livestock.

YEARS 1-3: Building Trust and Skills

Before World Vision came, "it was terrible at times, the children were so hungry," says Francis Kayegezi, 39, a farmer and father of five. "We used to just use the traditional methods of planting and we didn't get good harvests." Education was out of the question for most children, who spent their days looking after livestock.

Life began to change in Samuye after World Vision arrived. Children received basics like soap, blankets and bed nets. Crop yields increased after farmers like Francis received seeds at a subsidized price and were trained on soil preparation and planting methods. World Vision worked to meet immediate needs, by getting some projects underway, and also built trust and support for long-term efforts.

Community meetings were a key part of the process. "Everyone came," says Paul Katobesi, 40, a committee chairman. "It seemed to me that bringing development here and working with children were both good things."

Even so, there were challenges: Some people were skeptical about the potential for genuine change, while others expected a handout and were unprepared for World Vision's model of partnership and community participation.

"It took a few years for people to understand," Francis says, "but once they saw results they could measure, everyone wanted to take part."

Community members worked with World Vision to renovate the health clinic.



YEARS 4-10: Building Hope for the Present

"We started to see that they were good people and that we could trust them," says Paul Katobesi. "It was only after the things they had been talking about in theory were seen in practice that this happened."

World Vision improved the dilapidated school and built housing to attract teachers. "We can truly say these buildings were put up in partnership with World Vision," says Kennedy Malesa, a teacher. "[They] brought in the industrial materials such as cement, timber and corrugated iron sheets. The community contributed locally available materials such as sand, stone and water."

With training, farmers began planting seeds in rows with proper spacing rather than scattering them randomly. They dug and prepared the soil, irrigated, applied

manure and fertilizer, and began ploughing with oxen. Crop yields increased from three bags per acre to 10 or more.

Community members worked with World Vision to build a better environment for children. Water collection tanks were installed. The small health clinic was upgraded, with full community participation. Access to health care helped keep children healthy and prevent unnecessary deaths. "If it wasn't for this health centre, I would have to go to Shinyanga Hospital [30 kilometres away]," said a young mother who brought her one-year-old daughter to be treated for malaria.

Families began to feel excitement and new hope as they moved beyond a focus on daily survival to being able to plan for the future. They were meeting their needs in a sustainable way, and were starting to care for others.

Teachers came to Samuye after housing was built.



Years 1-3 Highlights:

- Community consultation takes place
- Child sponsorship begins
- Project plans are formed
- Projects begin
- "Early adopters" show potential for change
- Trust and credibility grow

Years 4-10 Highlights:

- Momentum builds on initial project successes
- People begin to see real change is possible
- Community ownership increases
- Results are evaluated
- Everyone pulls together

Ari Uotila, Program Quality Manager, World Vision Canada: "The first step is to build a trusting relationship. We introduce World Vision as a Christian, child-focused, community-based organization, and assess needs and resources. From there, plans are formed and work begins."

Ari Uotila: "This phase is about working hard, building hope and changing attitudes. Staff members work alongside community members to overcome obstacles and meet goals."

YEARS 11-16: Building Confidence for the Future

"I was soon able to buy more land. I was able to educate my younger brother Edward and my late brother's children Bernard and Miriam," Francis says.

With profits from his crops, he bought an irrigation pump and a sewing machine for his wife, Margaret, so she could earn money by tailoring. Margaret joined a World Vision small-livestock lending program: she received 10 chickens, repayable in six months with 10 chicks.

Francis took a loan from a credit and finance organization formed with World Vision start-up capital. He bought eight acres of land and is growing a magnificent rice crop. "The expertise I got from the training is what lifted me up," he says.

He has also started to farm co-operatively with 15 other farmers using new techniques from World Vision. "It was very slow at the start," Francis says, "but when people saw the success my group had, a lot wanted to join in."



Community members told World Vision that education was a priority.

Like Francis, other community members in Samuye have taken the future into their hands. They are organizing care for children orphaned by AIDS. Women have banded together to create a savings and lending group. Community members have been trained in many sectors – agriculture, health care, education and water.

Says Paul Katobesi: "You will notice someone [who has followed the farming training] ... they will have storage facilities for their harvests. The farmer knows how many sacks of grain his family will need for the year and he stores that many, then he sells the rest ... They know how to plan their year."

Francis has confidence for the future. "We have worked very hard so the kids can have a better life," he says. "In my family, I want poverty to end with me."

Women joined together to create a savings and lending group.



Years 11-16 Highlights:

- Equipped with tools and training, the community prepares to carry on after World Vision leaves
- Years of hard work bear fruit for children, families, and communities

Ari Uotila: "When families can grow food, children are in school and people are healthier, it is time to focus on another community in need. But the benefits you provided will live on."

Three voices from Samuye

Life changed in Samuye as the project progressed. Read on to hear three community members tell their stories.

1



Paul Katobesi

Paul Katobesi, 40, in light blue shirt, has lived in Samuye all his life. “We used to grow crops by just scattering seeds about,” he says. “Our houses were made of mud with no windows, only doors. Our schools were the same ... There were very few hospitals, clinics or health centres — mostly we would use herbal medicine when we got sick.”

When World Vision arrived in Samuye, it took time for people to understand that change was possible. Today, looking back, Paul says: “It’s all about education ... Someone shows you, this is what you are supposed to do, and these are the results. When you look at what will remain of World Vision’s work, a good part of it is education. That’s been available to the whole community.”

Joyce Machiya

Joyce Machiya, an orphan, faced many challenges – but she had the special support that comes from being a sponsored child so she was able to build her life. Today, Joyce is 19 and finishing high school. She plans to do computer training. “A lot of girls like me never used to go to school,” she says. “They only started going in numbers when World Vision came. Everyone knows the importance of education now, and I don’t see how they can go back to the way it was before.”

2



3



Susana Clements

Susana, 10, has been sponsored since she was a baby. She treasures the letters and cards that her sponsor has sent her. “My sponsor is from Canada and her name is Lorna,” she says.

Sponsorship has changed life for Susana’s family. With new farming techniques, the family’s crops increased. Her mother Rebeka reflects: “We soon started to get more food. Eventually we were getting enough for ourselves, then we were getting an excess to sell. Slowly we were able to save up to build our first house.”

Sponsorship benefits have rippled through the community and inspired others to share their good fortune. For example, Rebeka and 14 other women have created a group called Tushikamani (meaning “Let’s hold hands”), which identifies and visits orphaned children to care for them and help them go to school.

Susana says that if she could see her sponsor, she would tell her that “I am happy, that things are good here now.” Thank you for your important role as a child sponsor. Your support helps your sponsored child move beyond mere survival, and empowers an entire community to extend the same care to others — just like Rebeka.



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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. As followers of Jesus, we are motivated by God’s love to serve all people regardless of race, religion, gender or ethnicity.