



# CHILD SPONSORSHIP: 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



Save the Children®

# HOW CHILD SPONSORSHIP WORKS

As the world's first child sponsorship organization, Save the Children continues to boldly lead the way in the United States and around the world. Building on 100 years of sponsorship success, we partner with local communities to deliver innovative, best-in-class programs proven to disrupt poverty and drive change for children. We ensure children from birth through adolescence grow up healthy, learning and safe – their best chance for a lifetime of success. As we move from one sponsorship community to another, each is empowered to sustain these successes, so children continue to thrive. When governments and other organizations incorporate our successes into their own programs, even more children benefit. All thanks to Save the Children sponsors like you.

## INSIDE

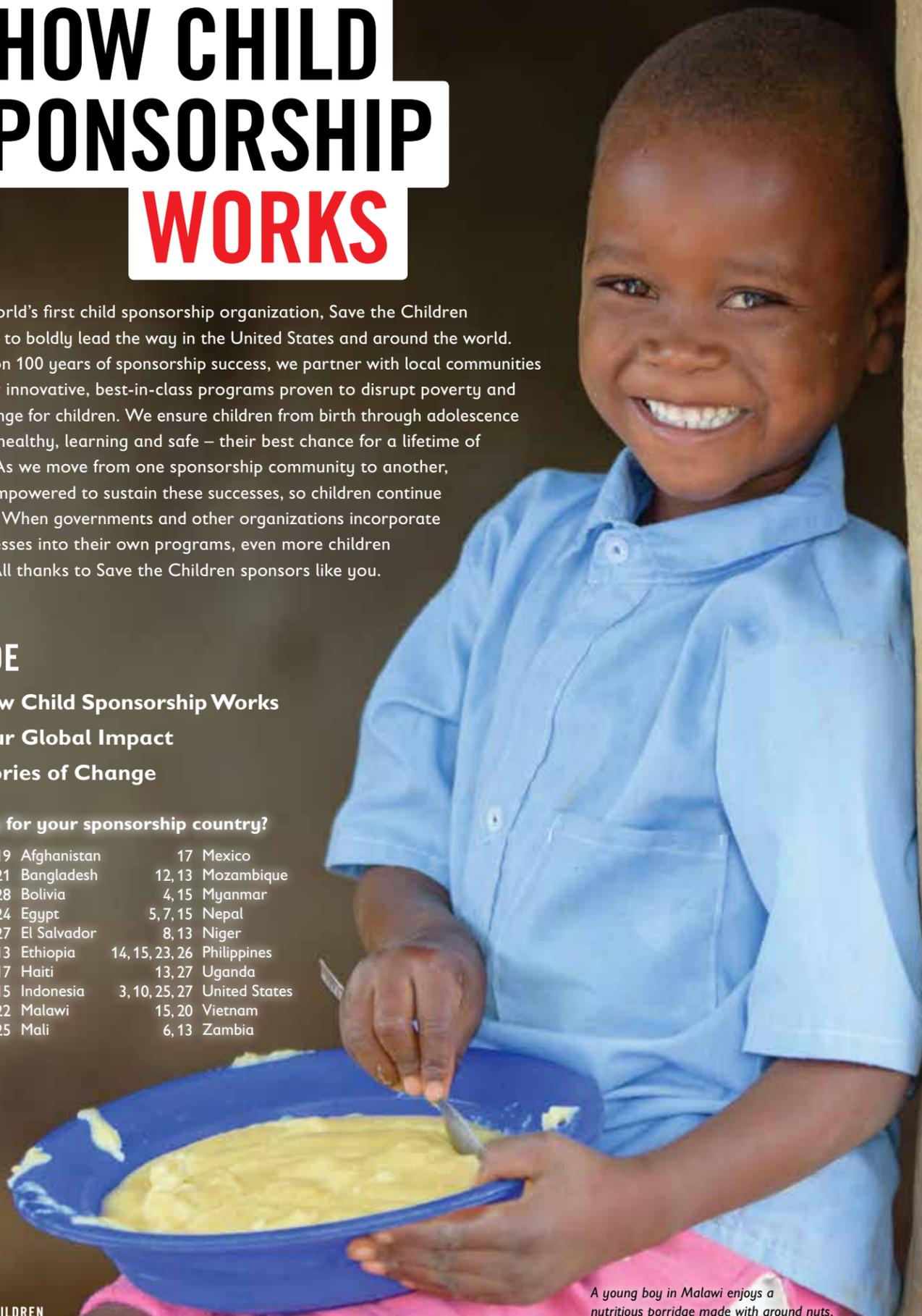
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A young boy in Malawi enjoys a nutritious porridge made with ground nuts.

Photo: Save the Children in Malawi

Paula (left) and Meredith (right) visiting Save the Children's US office



Photo: Matthew Morrison

## CHILDHOOD SPONSORSHIP LEADS TO LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP

In November 2017, we had the honor of receiving a visit from Paula, a sponsorship graduate from Finland, and Meredith, whose mother sponsored Paula in 1960. Back then, Save the Children partnered with a Finnish organization called the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare, which helped match children in need with sponsors. For 10 years, Paula and Meredith developed a strong relationship through letter writing. They even met in 1970 when Paula visited Meredith's family in the United States. The two lost touch over the years but reunited – 47 years later! – at Meredith's home in Massachusetts.

"I remember Save the Children sent us her biography and a tiny black and white photo," says Meredith. "There was this little girl in a sweater. She was 10 years old. It took off from there. There were all these details that were so exotic to me," she recalls.

However, there were many aspects of Paula's life that she didn't write about. "I avoided all the misery," Paula explains. "I just tried to describe everything around me. It was a relief – letter-writing was a good escape from reality."

Meredith has continued her mother's tradition and has been a child sponsor since 1984. "My story shows the profound influence sponsorship can have for the child of the sponsors," she says. "I hope people realize when they consider sponsorship what it could mean to their children, grandchildren and others!"

Sponsorship has had a lasting impact on Paula as well. Before she retired, she worked as a teacher and vocational counselor, helping immigrants and refugees, and preparing working-class young people for college. Paula says her sponsorship experience gave her certain values and made her want to give back. "I wouldn't be doing this if I hadn't had the good example of the Fields family," she said.

"The child is the official beneficiary, but I've also benefitted incredibly. Each sponsored child has given me a link to a world I otherwise would not have known."

– Meredith Fields, sponsor



Paula, right, and her three siblings in Finland, during the time she was sponsored.



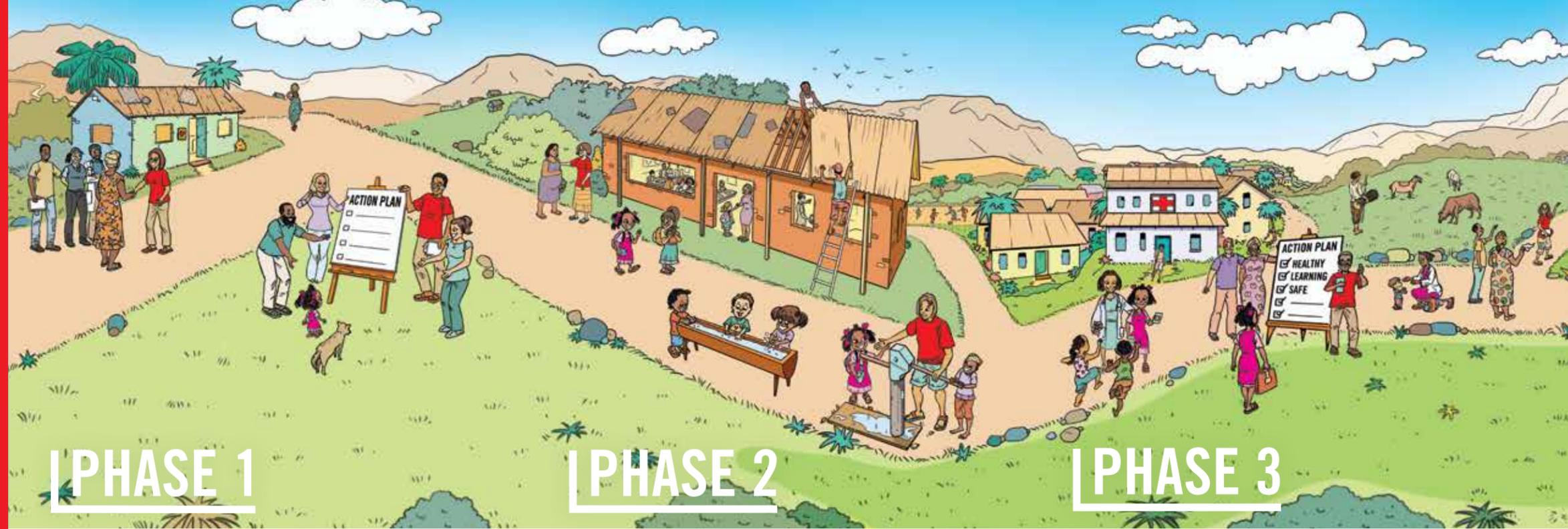
Paula visiting Meredith's family in Massachusetts in 1970.

# THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

## One Community at a Time

Thanks to sponsors like you, we partner with local communities and empower them to ensure children grow up healthy, learning and safe – their best chance for a lifetime of success. Then we transition to new communities, so we can reach even more children. It's about a 10-year process.

By changing the course of children's lives now, we're transforming their futures – and ours.



PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

### HI, HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Partner with a community
- Identify children's needs
- Develop an action plan

This process is underway in **Myanmar**, where sponsorship programs began in 2016. In 2017, we partnered with more than 4,500 parents and other community members to raise awareness of the impact early education can have on future school success. Thanks to activities and trainings focusing on this topic, more parents are enrolling their little ones in early learning centers, meaning more kids will have an even better chance of reaching their full potential.



Photo: Save the Children in Myanmar

### LET'S GET TO WORK...

- Provide community resources
- Train families, teachers & leaders
- Ensure programs are working for kids

In 2017, sponsors helped us build partnerships within **Ethiopia** to support exciting improvements for children. We worked with health and education leaders and other community members in Central Tigray to plan and build early learning centers, additional classrooms and in-school water and sanitation facilities. Since the community was involved right from the start, they will play an essential role in maintaining these facilities for children after we move on to help others in need.



Photo: Save the Children in Ethiopia

### YOU'VE GOT THIS!

- Review results for children
- Empower locals for lasting success
- Transition to a new community

Our programs in the western region of **Nepal** have not only had tremendous results, local communities are now managing them – meaning we're ready to transition to another area in need. They are now enforcing a law to protect girls from child marriage, all kids in the area are enrolled in school and a process to declare healthcare facilities "adolescent friendly" is in place. By securing strong government and local support from the start, the community is empowered to keep children healthy, safe and learning.



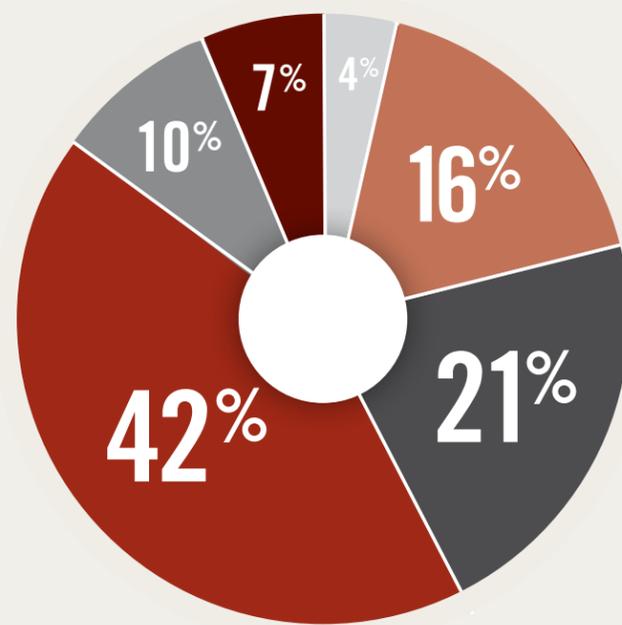
Photo: Save the Children in Nepal



Students in Zambia now know how important it is to wash their hands with soap and clean water to avoid getting sick.

**THANKS TO YOU,  
WE ACHIEVED GREAT  
THINGS IN 2017**

Photo: Save the Children in Zambia



**YOUR SPONSORSHIP GIFTS AT WORK**

- Healthy Moms and Babies
- Healthy Girls and Boys
- Early Learners
- Successful Students
- Empowered Teens
- Child Protection, Livelihoods and other life-changing programs for kids



HOW CHILD SPONSORSHIP WORKS

**ENSURING KIDS ARE HEALTHY,  
LEARNING AND SAFE**



**46k**  
babies received  
lifesaving care



**2.5k**  
schools with safe  
drinking water



**36k**  
books distributed  
to support literacy



**14k**  
teachers trained to  
be more effective



**174k**  
teens accessed  
health services

**FIVE WAYS YOU'RE  
TRANSFORMING LIVES**



Photo: Save the Children in Nepal

**HEALTHY MOMS AND BABIES**  
Giving mothers and babies a healthy start in life



Photo: Save the Children in Haiti

**HEALTHY GIRLS AND BOYS**  
Staying healthy to learn, learning to stay healthy



Photo: Save the Children in Egypt

**EARLY LEARNERS**  
Building the foundation for success



Photo: Save the Children Indonesia

**SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS**  
Learning today for a better tomorrow



Photo: Save the Children in Bangladesh

**EMPOWERED TEENS**  
Building skills for a brighter future



# YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

YOU'RE HELPING US REACH EVERY LAST CHILD



*Your sponsorship gives young girls like these two friends in Niger the childhood they deserve.*

*Photo: Talitha Brauer*

**2.9MM**  
 TOTAL CHILDREN REACHED IN 2017

**24**  
 COUNTRIES WITH LIFE-CHANGING CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

Read on to learn about the incredible results you helped make possible around the world in 2017.

Carla tells us how much she loves exchanging letters with her sponsor Julie, sharing good news and stories.

39k  
CHILDREN  
REACHED  
UNITED STATES

**“My sponsor Julie is like having a new friend in another state.”**

**– Carla, age 12, sponsored child in Kentucky**

The county in Kentucky where Carla lives is one of the five poorest in the U.S. Before enrolling in sponsorship in first grade, Carla struggled with reading and spelling. Now she’s a better reader, a strong writer and her grades and self-esteem have improved – all important skills for an aspiring interpreter (or special needs teacher, Carla still hasn’t decided!).

Photo: Victoria Ziegler

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

**STATES WE SERVED:** California, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee

Through our **Early Steps to School Success** program, we conducted home visits with families of children under 3 to encourage healthy development and learning, right from the start. Together, we helped build strong connections to schools and made sure parents understood their role as their child’s first and most important teacher.

Every week, we sent children ages 3-5 home with new books through our **Book Bag Exchange** program. Children and caregivers were encouraged to read together daily. The exchange provided an opportunity for developmentally appropriate books to reach homes where they’re needed.

We collaborated with the Kentucky Out of School Alliance and state and regional representatives to provide **educational training**. So far, professional development efforts have centered on literacy and family engagement, and we plan to expand these topics in 2018 to include STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), health and wellness, community engagement and special care for children affected by trauma.



Photo: Save the Children U.S. Programs

Nick, Kaylee and Addison show off the bags they will use for their school’s book exchange. We love to see the smiles on these aspiring readers’ faces!



Photo: Jeremy Soulliere

### MEET JOURNÉE, AGE 9 SOUTH CAROLINA

She’s a third grader who loves to dance and has been called a “social butterfly” by her teacher. In March 2017, Journée traveled with her mom, Sharlene, to Fairfield, CT to attend an event with Carolyn Miles, President & CEO of Save the Children USA, highlighting how early education can help break the cycle of poverty here in the United States. Journée spoke about her experience in our early education programs in South Carolina and how our SummerBoost™ day camp keeps her having fun – and learning – during the summer months.



Photo: Victoria Ziegler

### SUMMERBOOST™

Since 2012, our SummerBoost™ programs have helped curb children’s summer learning loss in reading and math, encouraged healthy eating and given kids an opportunity to play, exercise and have fun. The National Summer Learning Association named SummerBoost™ as the 2017 New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award winner!

Issufo stands proudly in front of his class as he solves a problem on the board.

# 790k CHILDREN REACHED AFRICA

**“I’m happy. I like to study and solve math problems. When I grow up, I want to be a mathematics teacher!”**

**– Issufo, age 6, sponsored child in Mozambique**

After participating in parent sessions, Issufo’s mother enrolled him in an early learning center where he learned basic math and reading skills that helped set him up for success in school. Today, Issufo is at the top of his first-grade class!

Photo: Save the Children in Mozambique



YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

**ETHIOPIA** With your help, we trained 1,099 young people on menstrual hygiene and gender equality. Nearly half of these teens also received skills training to help them secure work and support themselves once their schooling is complete.

**MALAWI** We launched a buddy system – an innovative, child-centered learning strategy used in schools and camps. By matching older students with younger ones in need of support, we’re not only helping struggling students, but also developing future leaders.

**MALI** There are now 280 sponsored primary schools with active health and nutrition programs, up 15 percent from 2016. By ensuring schools have these programs built into their annual plans, we can be confident they’ll continue well into the future. We’re excited about the progress being made to keep kids in Mali healthy – and in school!

**MOZAMBIQUE** We’ve opened 41 early learning centers since 2012. And since 2014, the number of community leaders, parents and caregivers attending information sessions about child development has increased from about 1,800 to 13,668 (over 600 percent)!

**NIGER** We’re training teachers on how to reduce physical abuse in the classroom – a problem all too common in Niger. Teachers we’ve trained now understand how best to create a safe, positive and child-friendly environment for their students.

**UGANDA** Together, we’ve started literacy and math programs in 12 early learning centers and trained 24 caregivers in child-centered teaching. By promoting the use of locally available materials to create an engaging learning environment, we’re helping kids learn more effectively.

**ZAMBIA** We distributed 2,500 mosquito nets to families to keep them safe from mosquito-borne illnesses. We’re also partnering with local health authorities to prevent malaria, cholera and other diseases so kids can stay healthy and in school.

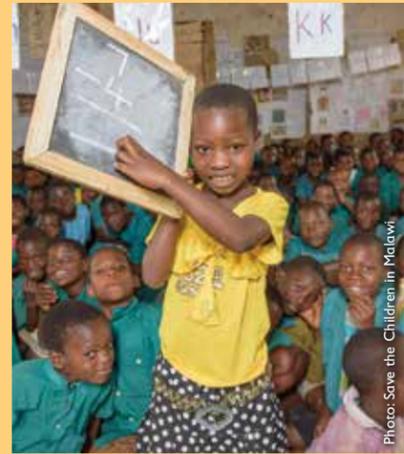


Photo: Save the Children in Malawi

### MEET FANNY, AGE 8 MALAWI

She hopes to become a nurse when she’s older, but for now she enjoys being involved in the buddy system and helping her fellow students with reading and math. Everyone knows who to run to when they have a math problem – right to Fanny! “I love being a leader among my fellow learners,” she says.

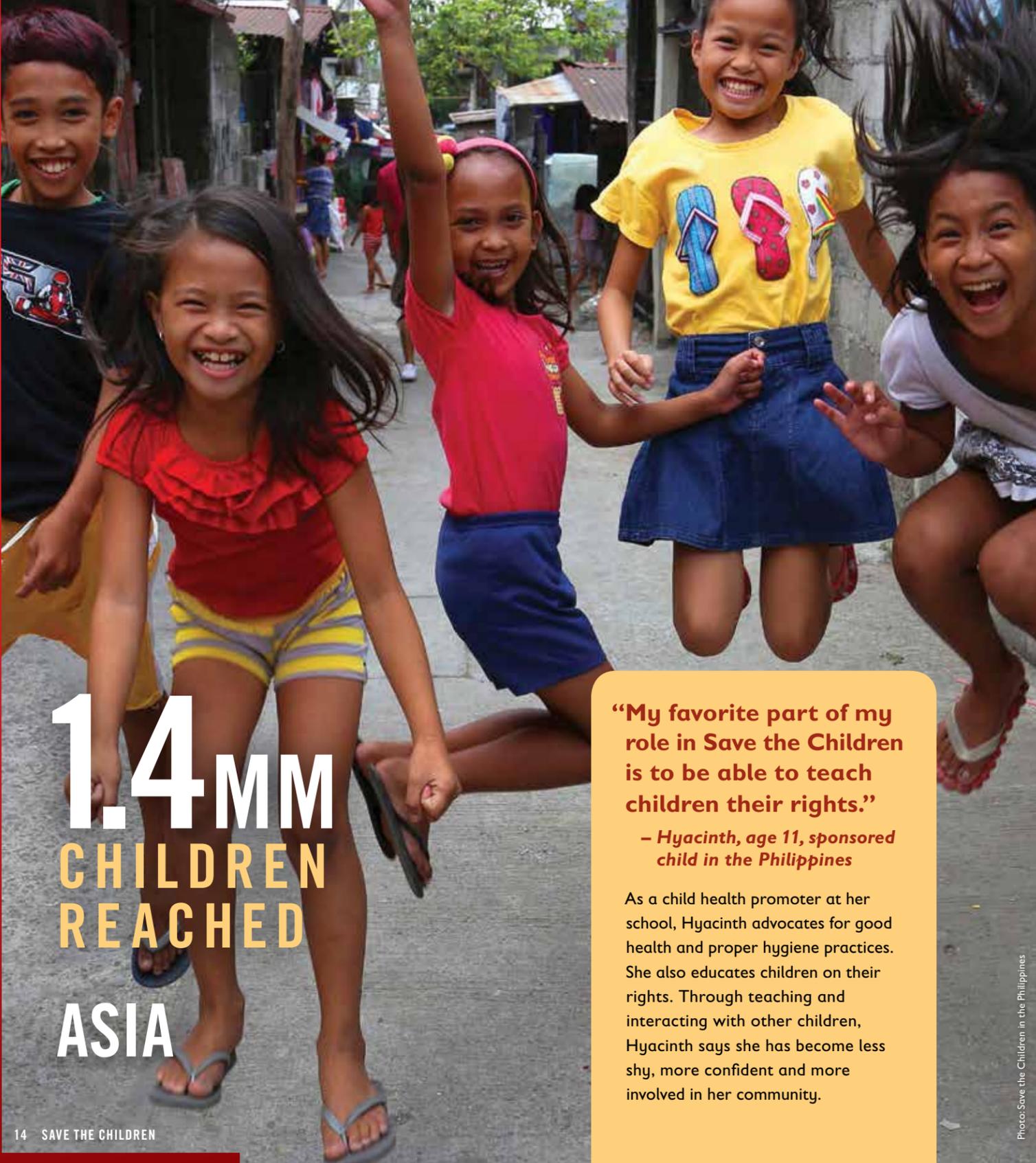


Photo: Victoria Ziegler

### MEET GNIRÉ, AGE 12 MALI

Last year, Gniré was sick with malaria not once, but twice. It was hard for her to attend a full day of school because she was weak and her head hurt. Gniré’s growth was stunted by her illness, leaving her with the height and weight of a 9-year-old. Through sponsorship, Gniré received a mosquito net, which she hangs above her bed and sleeps under every night. She also receives medication twice a year to help reduce her risk of contracting malaria again. “If I could give one gift to every child, it would be a mosquito net, so that person does not get sick like I did.”

Three cheers for a brighter future!  
Hyacinth (in yellow) having some fun  
in her community with friends.



1.4MM  
CHILDREN  
REACHED  
ASIA

**“My favorite part of my role in Save the Children is to be able to teach children their rights.”**

*– Hyacinth, age 11, sponsored child in the Philippines*

As a child health promoter at her school, Hyacinth advocates for good health and proper hygiene practices. She also educates children on their rights. Through teaching and interacting with other children, Hyacinth says she has become less shy, more confident and more involved in her community.

Photo: Save the Children in the Philippines



YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

**BANGLADESH** Your generosity made it possible for us to partner with local officials in Bangladesh to make sure children’s voices were heard on issues like education, health care and child marriage. As a result, the government increased funding for child advocacy and development initiatives.

**INDONESIA** We give girls and boys a voice by asking them how we can make schools more child-friendly. They offered feedback on how to improve school libraries and are even helping to manage them. We also created child clubs and peer reading activities to keep kids engaged in the learning process, so they can reach their full potential.

**MYANMAR** Based on feedback from local communities in Myanmar, we know there is a strong desire for education improvements, including learning opportunities for toddlers. We’re on it! Thanks to sponsors like you, we piloted early learning programs in 40 villages in 2017.

**NEPAL** More than 28,000 young people participated in interactive clubs focusing on understanding their rights and improving their life skills. Over 16,000 of these teens went on to perform service projects to benefit their communities. The knowledge gained in these sessions not only changes behaviors but also helps young people more easily transition into adulthood.

**PHILIPPINES** Our health and nutrition programs helped 13,567 girls and boys from kindergarten to grade six in South Central Mindanao. Together, we’re spreading the word on how to prevent sickness while promoting healthier attitudes and behaviors through classroom and community activities.

**VIETNAM** We’re strengthening children’s math and literacy skills by giving them opportunities to practice even when they’re not in the classroom. To get families and communities involved, we organized 255 summer reading camps, 37 parenting clubs and 56 family learning festivals.



Photo: Victoria Ziegler

### MEET KEZIA, AGE 9 INDONESIA

She’s the secretary of her school’s child club, which plans activities such as dances, sports and games. Some of Kezia’s favorite events to plan are chess matches. She remembers when she was first learning to play – her teacher took her king every single time!



Photo: Save the Children in Nepal

### MEET SUNITA, AGE 13 NEPAL

Through the support of youth groups in her community, Sunita was able to escape the child marriage practices prevalent in her village. This took a tremendous amount of persistence, but ultimately the youth groups succeeded in making her family aware of the importance of Sunita staying in school. “I said I didn’t want to get married and wanted to stay in school. That was all I had to do for them to help convince my family to let me not marry.”



Photo: Save the Children in Vietnam

### MEET BAO, AGE 6 VIETNAM

Bao’s mom once felt intimidated because she believed only teachers could educate her children. After participating in a parenting club, she learned how to design a study corner at home with letters for her children. She also turns everyday activities into teaching moments, like having her kids count the number of chopsticks and bowls in their meal and classify the veggies they’re eating.



Peer leader Franklin keeps the school garden healthy.

**388k**  
CHILDREN  
REACHED

**LATIN AMERICA  
& THE CARIBBEAN**

**“I like to teach the little ones like my sister, who is in first grade. I have taught her to wash her hands before eating snacks. I know it is important for our health.”**

**– Franklin, age 11, sponsored child in El Salvador**

Franklin used to look up to the peer leaders in his school who taught students about proper handwashing, managing waste and latrine use. Today, he’s following in his role models’ footsteps and passing on this lifesaving knowledge to more children. Thanks for paying it forward, Franklin!

Photo: Save the Children in El Salvador

 YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

**BOLIVIA** We worked with local authorities to develop ways to help young people who’ve had trouble with the law, so they can build a positive and productive future. We also promoted positive discipline approaches among parents and increased our efforts to counter violence in Bolivian society. In programs like these, we always seek feedback from children to ensure their needs are being met.

**EL SALVADOR** We trained 420 students to serve as peer leaders to improve health and nutrition knowledge and practices in sponsored schools. In addition to setting examples of good hygiene habits, these student leaders help evaluate their school experience and develop plans to improve the learning environment for all students.

**HAITI** The number of young people who visited reproductive health centers was up last year to 14,554 from 11,165 in 2016, an increase of about 30 percent. With sponsors by our side, we’re improving access to these services and making sure they’re adolescent-friendly so young people can get the care they need to stay healthy.

**MEXICO** In 2017, our early literacy and math programs in 45 sponsored preschools reached 2,941 girls and boys, putting these students on the road to success in primary school. And in the areas where we work in Mexico City, the number of preschool teachers trained on early literacy and math skills climbed from 41 percent in 2016 to 100 percent in 2017!



Photo: Save the Children in Bolivia

**MEET LUCAS, AGE 10  
BOLIVIA**

Lucas is part of Save the Children’s Advisory Council of children and teens representing the nearly 50 sponsored schools in Cochabamba. Council members participate in workshops and conferences that strengthen their leadership and life skills. Through their group’s affiliation with the local government, they are able to influence public policies and have a say in the future of all kids in Bolivia.



Photo: Save the Children in Haiti

**MEET LOVEDARLINE, AGE 16  
HAITI**

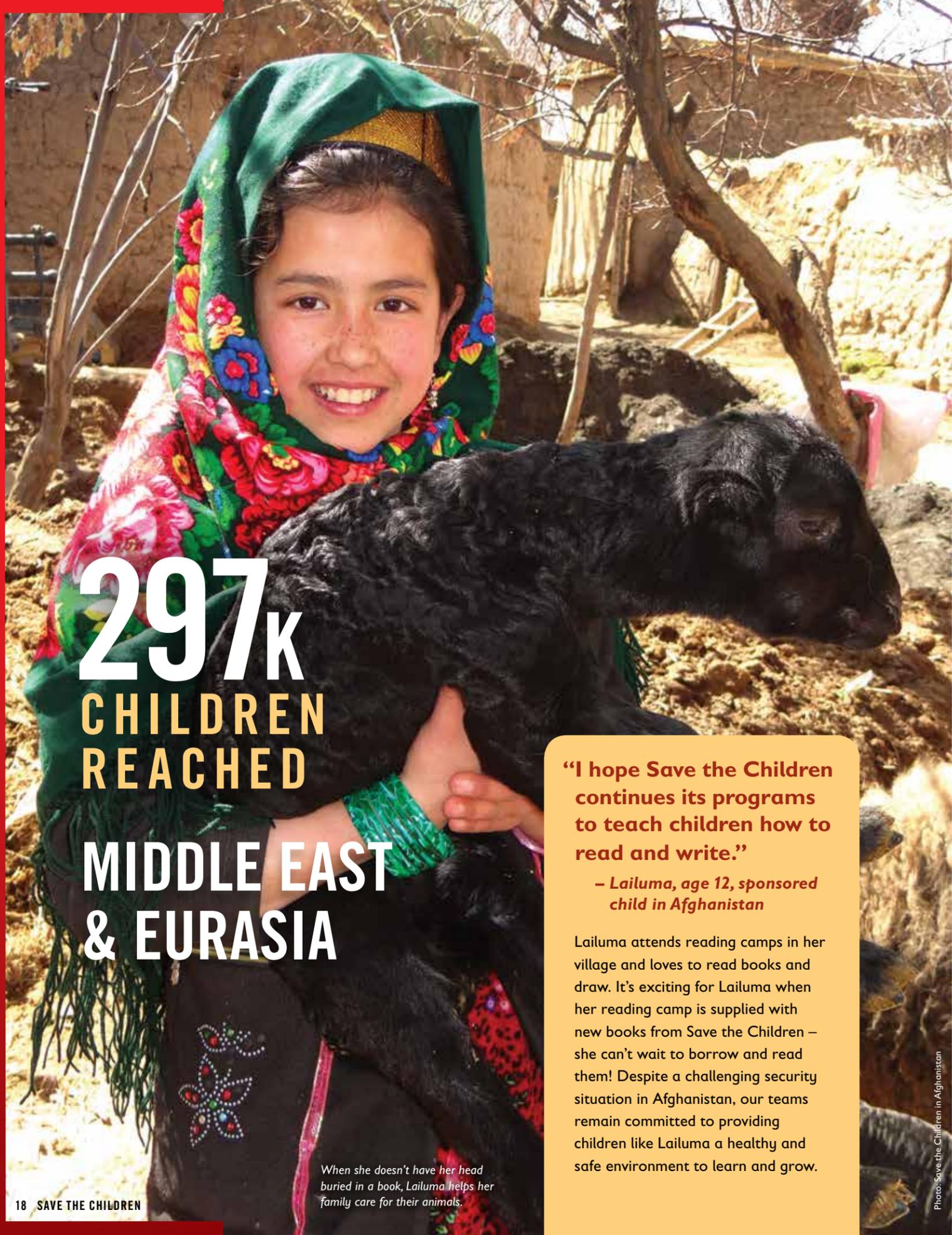
Lovedarline (center) says the peer education approach used by Save the Children’s Empowered Teens program is helpful because it motivates young people to make life plans and allows teens to help each other avoid risky behaviors. “I want to help other young people make good decisions,” she says.



Photo: Save the Children in Mexico

**MEET MELANY, AGE 4  
MEXICO**

Her favorite school activity is learning to write her numbers and letters. Thanks to lots of help from her teacher, Melany now can write her name all by herself! “My school is the place I like the most, because I can learn and it’s quiet and clean.”



**297k**  
**CHILDREN**  
**REACHED**  
**MIDDLE EAST**  
**& EURASIA**

When she doesn't have her head buried in a book, Lailuma helps her family care for their animals.

Photo: Save the Children in Afghanistan

## AN UPDATE FROM THE GROUND

In January 2018, Save the Children's office in Jalalabad, Afghanistan was brutally attacked. Tragically, four of our colleagues lost their lives, and we were forced to temporarily suspend operations across the country. As you can imagine, it's been a difficult time for our team on the ground, but their dedication to Afghanistan's girls and boys remains unwavering. In early March, our team was able to resume our lifesaving work in Saripul and Faryab, our two sponsorship areas. Together, we're doing whatever it takes to brighten the future for thousands of children in Afghanistan.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

**AFGHANISTAN** In 2017, we trained 647 community members on child rights and positive discipline instead of physical punishment, including children, parents and teachers. Schools where teachers have been trained on these topics demonstrated no physical punishment in recent assessments. And most importantly, children felt safer in school and with their families, so they can focus more on their education.

**EGYPT** One of the many struggles girls face is being discouraged from playing sports. To address this, we organized girls-only volleyball, soccer and handball teams in Egypt. By the end of the year, 240 girls got their game on and tested out their skills in a tournament in Abnoub.

**REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP** In March 2017, we launched refugee sponsorship in Egypt to help provide a safe place for displaced children to learn and grow. This innovative program addresses the unique needs of refugee children and their families, who are facing an uncertain future. Over the course of 2017, we provided 10,697 refugee children with support.

**“Refugee and vulnerable Egyptian children are in danger of missing out on a happy, productive future if they cannot access quality education in a safe environment. We're committed to giving all children in Egypt the education they deserve.”**

*– Ahmed Abdel Hamid, Sponsorship Manager*



Photo: Save the Children in Egypt

### MEET AIDA, AGE 16 EGYPT

She began by practicing volleyball with girls her age at the community youth center and is now a trained facilitator. “I want to add value to the lives of other girls. I want to be a female leader and make my parents even more proud of me.” The program, called “Tomohaty” or “Ambitions” in English, is a collaboration between Save the Children and the local youth ministry. By joining forces to empower out-of-school girls, we're building their self-confidence and teaching them how to adopt positive behaviors and attitudes.



Photo: Victoria Zegler

### MEET KARIM\*, AGE 11 SYRIAN REFUGEE

Karim's family decided to flee Syria in 2012, when the bombing moved closer to their home. They planned to stay with his aunt in Egypt for just a month, but it's been over 5 years and they still can't go home. Karim is now a fifth-grader at a school for Syrian refugees. After being appointed an ambassador through child sponsorship, he has become friendlier with his teachers and peers. “I felt proud after becoming an ambassador at my school,” says Karim.

\*Name changed for protection



# STORIES OF CHANGE

## CHANGING LIVES ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

Through project sponsorship, donors have the opportunity to ensure children in need have the best chance for success by supporting specific activities in the field, such as building a school, drilling wells, refurbishing a library and more. In 2017, donors funded 17 projects in eight different countries, including the United States. If you're interested in making a lasting impact by sponsoring a project, contact Caroline Moore at [cmoore@savechildren.org](mailto:cmoore@savechildren.org).

*The Nancy Horsey Charitable Trust has funded the construction of over 30 wells in six communities in Vietnam, so children like 8-year-old Sim can stay clean and healthy.*

Photo: Matthew Morrison

## INNOVATING FOR IMPACT

### USING TECHNOLOGY FOR GOOD

In **Bangladesh**, we rolled out Health Boost, an innovation that uses cell phone audio messages to spread the word on topics like safe pregnancies and family planning for married teen girls who often have lower access to health services – but regular access to their cell phones. This approach led to a 30 percent increase in the ability to recognize warning signs during pregnancy, meaning more expectant mothers can get the care they deserve.

In 2017, we trained 948 children and 52 parents in **Bolivia** on how technology can be misused and what steps to take to avoid becoming victims of those using the internet for dangerous reasons. Teens received additional training on the proper and effective use of technology and social networks in order to create healthy digital habits both in school and at home.

### STAYING PREPARED

We're collecting weekly data from at-risk communities in **El Salvador** to help prevent the spread of Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases. With this ongoing tracking, we're able to detect symptoms as early as possible and make sure key practices are adopted to keep children safe and free of preventable diseases.

In **Mali**, you helped us create a groundbreaking program that teaches families how to secure income and ensure they have access to food even when faced with unpredictable weather conditions. The program consists of 177 unique projects in 146 communities, ranging from farming techniques to how to process local produce to caring for sheep and goats.



Photo: Save the Children in El Salvador

### EL SALVADOR

Six-month old Andrea waits with her mom outside a health unit. By providing babies like Andrea and their parents with regular access to health services and monitoring disease trends across communities, we're helping give babies the best chance to survive and thrive.

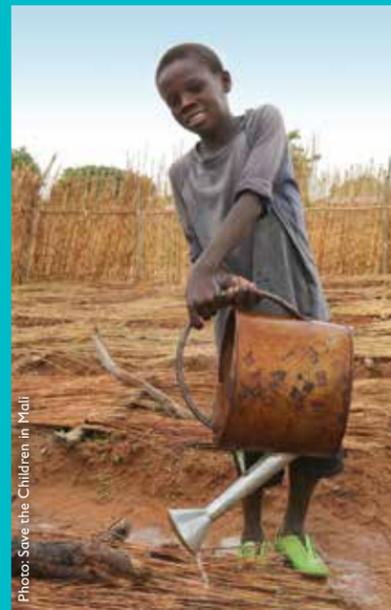


Photo: Save the Children in Mali

### MALI

Amadou helps his parents by watering their family garden. Teaching sustainable gardening techniques helps ensure parents aren't as severely affected by drought and other potentially devastating weather events, so they can continue to provide for their families.

# ONCE SPONSORED, FOREVER CHANGED

Nothing highlights the power of sponsorship more than the stories of girls and boys whose lives have been forever changed by sponsors like you. Time and again, these stories remind us of the enormous and lasting impact sponsorship has in the life of each and every child.



## MEET DANIELA MICHELLE

Daniela Michelle became part of the sponsorship program when she was 7 years old. What she liked most was receiving letters from her sponsor telling her about his country, culture and family. After participating, she grew from being a shy girl to a leader among her peers. Today, she's busy studying petroleum engineering, but she still finds time to volunteer at Save the Children's teen workshops, so she can empower kids in need the same way she was empowered as a child.

**“Save the Children helps Bolivian society through sponsorship in our schools, preparing great leaders. I am proud to say that one of them is me. Thanks, Save the Children!”**

– Daniela Michelle, sponsorship graduate from Bolivia

## MEET ABDOULAYE

Abdoulaye participated in sponsorship programs from 1994 to 2004. He remembers that he and his sponsor discussed education and hard work in the many letters they exchanged. Abdoulaye says those letters were important because of all the great advice he received from his sponsor, which helped boost his self-confidence. Today, as a second-grade teacher, his goal is to help prepare children to be the future leaders of his country.

**“Sponsorship programs helped me realize my dreams. If I had not participated, I would not have gone to school and my life would be different than it is today. I'm grateful for the advice and encouragement I have received.”**

– Abdoulaye, sponsorship graduate from Mali



## MEET LINDA

When Linda became pregnant at 15, she could no longer attend school. After joining the teen mother club in her community, she learned how to knit and began a business to support herself. Today, she sells her knitted goods to people in her village (and even takes custom orders for baby clothes!). Her goal is to use her profits to purchase her own knitting machine and, one day, to expand her business to include a grocery store.

**“I love knitting and the teen mother club has enhanced that talent in me. I know sponsorship works because many people are benefiting from Save the Children's programs.”**

– Linda, sponsorship graduate from Malawi

## MEET DIAL GRACE

Dial Grace's involvement with Save the Children spans more than a decade and has truly transformed her life. At age 10, she began participating in our Successful Students program, becoming a peer facilitator and continuing her involvement through her college years. Today, Dial Grace is a registered nurse in Saudi Arabia where she enjoys helping others, traveling and meeting people from different cultures.

**“The things I've learned through sponsorship are the secret to who I am today. Wherever I am, I can proudly and humbly say that Save the Children is part of it.”**

– Dial Grace, sponsorship graduate from the Philippines





Victoria, center, takes a break during a shoot along with sponsored girls in Egypt.

Photo: Save the Children in Egypt

**“I feel incredibly honored to help be the voice of children by sharing their triumphs within our programs. When I’m able to form a bond with a sponsored child, it allows me to document authentic moments, raw emotions and impactful stories that I can then share with all of you, our sponsors.”**  
– Victoria, Multimedia Storyteller

## MEET OUR AMAZING TEAM



Mariam (left) and Sadio (right), two lifelong friends committing their lives to Mali’s children.

Photo: Save the Children in Mali

### STRONG WOMEN, STRONG COMMUNITIES

Friends Mariam and Sadio are committed to giving girls and boys in Mali’s rural communities a quality education. Throughout their nearly 30 years working together, the women have fought tirelessly for improved health facilities for children, more effective schools and stronger communities. Although it’s rare to see women riding motorcycles in rural areas in Mali, the pair regularly travel long distances on uneven dirt roads by motorcycle to reach remote communities. And what do the people they pass by have to say about Mariam and Sadio on their motorcycles? “They see us as positive role models for their daughters and examples of success,” Mariam explains. “Sometimes the villagers joke and call us ‘the Amazons.’” With their Amazonian strength, these women are just two examples of the thousands of passionate people who dedicate their lives to helping kids in need through child sponsorship.



Mariam on her motorcycle.

Photo: Save the Children in Mali



Sadio on her motorcycle.

Photo: Save the Children in Mali

**“I’ve learned how to mobilize communities and partner with local governments to change the future for girls and boys.”**

– Sadio, Basic Education Assistant



Photo: Save the Children U.S. Programs

**“We had a Christmas parade and handed out books to kids in my community in rural Tennessee. I helped build the float with six other volunteers. I just thought it was so sweet to see the kids smile when we gave them books.”**

– Shayna, Student Volunteer Leader, U.S. Programs



Photo: Save the Children Hong Kong

### A WARM WELCOME TO HONG KONG

In 2017, we welcomed Save the Children Hong Kong to our sponsorship family. Our amazing staff premiered child sponsorship during a Peppa Pig family carnival! Moms and dads attending learned about positive parenting skills and were able to sign-up for a child sponsorship to help teach their own little ones.

Gezer speaks to Save the Children staff at a conference in Manila.



### OUR VERY OWN POET

Gezer's poem (right) highlights the life-changing impact of child sponsorship in the Mindanao area of the Philippines, where he lives. Gezer, along with other current and formerly sponsored children, attended a sponsorship conference held in Manila in October 2017, where he spoke about his sponsorship experience and how it has changed his life.

**“Being a sponsored child has boosted my skills and confidence to speak in front of people. Today, as a peer educator, I work with Save the Children to promote children’s rights.”**

**– Gezer, age 18, sponsorship graduate from the Philippines**

Photo: Save the Children in the Philippines

## STORIES OF CHANGE

### HELPING CHILDREN FIND THEIR VOICE

For many children and sponsors, letter writing is the most exciting part of sponsorship. Your letters show your sponsored child that someone cares and is invested in his or her life and future. They also help your child learn that his or her voice and opinions matter. Not only does letter-writing build literacy skills, it also builds confidence in self-expression, a critical skill in creating a successful future.

Check out the smiles on the faces of the children featured on the right. They are proof that a letter from a faraway land is truly magical!

#### Save the Children

*A poem by sponsorship graduate Gezer*

**S**aving the children in the Philippines  
**A**nd helping minimize all forms of  
**V**iolence and other problem issues regarding children is  
**E**veryone’s duty and responsibility.

**T**hank you for giving opportunities, especially to us children that  
**H**ave a special talent to  
**E**ngage ourselves in activities that boost our confidence.

**C**reating a happier world and  
**H**ealing each one’s sadness have  
**I**lluminated the dark past.  
**L**earning new ideas clear and fast,  
**D**eveloping our self-esteem,  
**R**eaching our dreams as a team.

**E**njoying while working  
**N**ever will we stop sharing, hoping, trying and believing that  
someday, somehow, things that we would like to do will come  
true. This we thank and treasure for the rest of our lives.



Photo: Save the Children in El Salvador

#### BERTA FROM EL SALVADOR

Berta was 11 years old when she received her first letter (ever!) from her sponsor. She replied using the formal letter layout she learned in school, but soon found she needed more space for creativity. So she decided to personalize her letters with a small envelope made of colored paper. “My sponsor and I have been writing each other for three whole years! She says I’m a star and wants me to keep studying.”

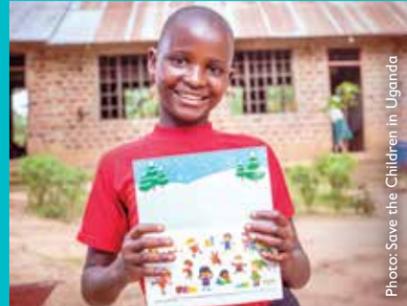


Photo: Save the Children in Uganda

#### BRIDGET FROM UGANDA

Bridget proudly displays a card she received from her sponsor. Sponsor letters are often cherished by children like Bridget for many years, serving as a reminder that someone out there is rooting for them to succeed.



Photo: Save the Children U.S. Programs

#### MALACHI FROM KENTUCKY

Malachi is always excited to send a personal note to his sponsor. This thoughtful little boy puts a lot of heart into the words he chooses. “I’m a hero because I’m...smart!” he wrote. He then added a colorful drawing of his mother, wearing a pink cape – an example of his very own superhero.

## OUR MISSION

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In the United States and around the world, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

*FRONT COVER: Girls in Bangladesh now have access to the quality education they deserve.*

Photo: Save the Children in Bangladesh

### SPONSOR

[SavetheChildren.org/Sponsor](https://www.savethechildren.org/Sponsor)

### BE INSPIRED

[SavetheChildren.org/SponsorBlog](https://www.savethechildren.org/SponsorBlog)

### ENGAGE

[SavetheChildren.org/MyAccount](https://www.savethechildren.org/MyAccount)



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*A creative way of showing thanks from sponsored children in Bolivia.*

Photo: Save the Children in Bolivia