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# Albania

**S**ituated between Greece and the Former Yugoslavia, Albania is one of the poorest countries in Europe. More than 40 years of communist rule, up to 1991, left the people unprepared for the new market economy. The riots of 1997 meant many lost their life savings to pyramid investment schemes and they left a legacy of lawlessness, with revenge killings being common. Today most people still rely on farming but struggle to sell their produce because of cheaper foreign imports flooding the market.

## Key Facts:

Population:	3.1 million
Infant mortality rate:	30 deaths per 1,000 children under five
Literacy:	85%
Unemployment rate:	14.3%
Population living under poverty line:	25%
Life expectancy:	73.4 (UK 78.1)

## Development Programme: Lezha Area, Albania

Lezha is in northern Albania, near the coast. The sponsorship project began in 11 villages in 2003 and is set to expand. Lezha is a rural area with high unemployment and most people live by farming. The whole family is involved in farm work - women grow the food for the family and men grow crops to sell. Children spend much time looking after livestock, so their education is often neglected.

World Vision's work in Lezha is helping people find ways to improve their livelihoods. Farmers are receiving training in better techniques while small loans are helping people start new business enterprises. Other programme activities include rebuilding schools and roads, and improving access to clean water and electricity. We are also supporting local health centres.

Our peace-building initiative is finding ways to prevent domestic violence and solve the problem of blood feuds, which have left many families living in fear of their neighbours. Each village in the community has a representative on the programme's team to give everyone a say in the programme's aims and activities. They expect to be ready to manage their own development around 2012.

# Albania

## Children from Albania

M.N, M.L, and X.G. live with their parents in Lezha, Albania. M.N and X.G have the opportunity to attend a local school and sponsorship will help them continue to receive an education.

M.L is not currently enrolled at school but education is one of the priorities of the sponsorship project.

Like children everywhere they love to play when they have the chance, but they also have to help out at home with special jobs.



DOB:

July 1993

Pastime:

Playing with dolls

Special job:

Housework



DOB:

June 2002

Pastime:

Playing ball games



DOB:

July 1993

Pastime:

Playing with dolls

Special job:

Housework

# Armenia

**A**rmenia is a landlocked, mountainous country bordering Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran. Armenia gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, but suffered severe economic and social dislocation following this. Democracy has not necessarily brought prosperity, nor has international aid solved all of Armenia's problems. As a result, many Armenians feel isolated and unable to influence their own future. With the cost of food, electricity and healthcare unattainably high, people in Armenia struggle to survive on a daily basis.

## Key Facts:

Population:	3 million
Population growth rate:	0.19%
Infant mortality rate:	33 deaths per 1,000 live births
Literacy:	98.6%
Unemployment rate:	31.6%
Population below poverty line:	43%
Life expectancy:	71.4 (UK 78.1)
Access to safe water:	92%

## Development Programme: Sisian, Armenia

**Where is it?** Sisian is situated in the southern part of Armenia and share a border with Iran and Azerbaijan. The total population of Sisian and its surrounding villages is approximately 30,000. Traditionally an agricultural region, inhabitants of Sisian were unwillingly involved in conflicts arising from the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. This conflict severely damaged economy and infrastructure, as well as leaving a heavy psychological toll on those involved.

What is the story? World Vision arrived in Armenia just after the earthquake of December 1988 in order to respond to the urgent needs arising from the emergency. Since 1988, World Vision has expanded its humanitarian aid mission to address the needs of the most vulnerable of the population. The long-term programme in Sisian started in 2004.

# Armenia

**What is the future?** World Vision is forming partnerships in Sisian to benefit the whole community through improved access to drinking water, nutritious food, good education and healthcare. There will be a special emphasis on training to help people start their own small businesses. Extra care will be provided for disabled or orphaned children and low income or single parent households.

## Children from Armenia

A.H, L.G. and N.H live with their parents in Sisian, Armenia. The girls have the opportunity to attend a local school and sponsorship will help them continue to receive an education. H.K. is not currently enrolled at school, but education is one of the priorities of the sponsorship project.

Like children everywhere they love to play when they have the chance, but they also have to help out at home with special jobs.



DOB: [redacted]  
February 1999

Pastime: [redacted]  
Drawing

Special job: [redacted]  
Helping her mother



DOB: [redacted]  
July 1996

Pastime: [redacted]  
Listening to music

Special job: [redacted]  
Housework



DOB: [redacted]  
July 1993

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with toys

Special job: [redacted]  
Helping his mother

# Cambodia

The Kingdom of Cambodia in South-East Asia is about the same size as England and Wales, situated between Thai, Laos and Vietnam. Home to the Khmer people, it is a land of fertile plains stretching out from Lake Tonle Sap in the centre towards densely forested highlands. A thousand years ago this was the centre of the powerful Angkor Empire, but now it is one of the poorest countries in the world. The regime of Pol Pot in the 1970s and the civil war that followed lead to a humanitarian crisis from which the people have not yet fully recovered.

## Key Facts:

Population:	13.5 million
Life expectancy:	57.4 years
Access to safe water:	34%
Infant mortality rate:	97 deaths per 1,000 live births
Child malnutrition rate:	45%
HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate:	2.6%
Religions:	Theravada Buddhism 95%
Literacy:	73.6%
Population below poverty line:	34%

## Development Programme: Koh Krolor, Cambodia

**Where is it?** Koh Krolor is located in Battambang province in the far north-west of Cambodia. Access roads to communities in Koh Krolor are easily flooded, although the area is also susceptible to drought. The programme started in 2003 and hopes to include up to 51 villages over time.

**What is the story?** Land is quite diverse, moving from lakes, mountains and jungle to rice paddies and farms. During the civil war, Koh Krolor was on the frontline between government and Khmer Rouge forces, leaving a legacy of landmines. World Vision will support the community in Koh Krolor as they work towards overcoming current challenges, such as lack of access to food, limited healthcare and poor infrastructure.

# Cambodia

**What is the future?** Over the next few years, the community will begin to benefit from things like accessible healthcare, education and clean water. In the early stages of the programme, one focus is on improving food security and families are already digging fishponds and benefiting from cow banks to help with this. Vocational training and skills training will also be made available to strengthen employment opportunities, making communities more sustainable.

## Development Programme: Rattanak Mondol, Cambodia

Once a rich and fertile area, Rattanak Mondol was practically destroyed by Cambodia's civil war. However, landmines are now being cleared, building and repair work is taking place and people have returned to these villages to farm again.

World Vision's sponsorship programme began supporting these new communities in 1992. Training is given to farmers, along with "loans" of seeds and livestock from the popular cow banks project. We are also working to improve access to healthcare. Through sponsorship and working with the local government, we are building many new classrooms. Adult literacy programmes have been started too, along with skills training, especially for women, to give people a chance to earn an income off the land.

Each village in the programme has a Development Committee, which ensures that everyone has a say in the activities taking place. Our staff will gradually hand over more responsibility to these committees and by about 2010 we expect them to be ready to continue the area's development without World Vision's aid.

## Children from Cambodia

B.E. lives with his parents in Koh Krolor, Cambodia. He is not currently enrolled at school but education is one of the priorities of the sponsorship project.

Like children everywhere B.E. loves to play when he has the chance. B.E also has to help out at home where his special job is fetching water.

C.C and V.M. live with their parents in Rattanak, Cambodia, while K.P. and T.K. live in Koh Krolor. They have the opportunity to attend a local school and sponsorship will help them continue to receive an education.

# Cambodia



DOB: [redacted]  
October 2000

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing

Special job: [redacted]  
Fetching water



DOB: [redacted]  
May 1998

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing ball games

Special job: [redacted]  
Gathering firewood



DOB: [redacted]  
January 1994

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with toy cars

Special job: [redacted]  
Helping cooking



DOB: [redacted]  
December 1996

Pastime: [redacted]  
playing with sticks

Special job: [redacted]  
Babysitting



DOB: [redacted]  
April 1995

Pastime: [redacted]  
Badminton

Special job: [redacted]  
Fetching water

# Honduras

**H**onduras is the second largest country in Central America, with 6.9 million inhabitants. The population is very young (41% are under 15 years old) and predominantly live in urban areas.

The people of Honduras are used to an uncertain and under-developed life. The country has been plagued by military rule, corruption, crime and natural disasters. All of these issues have left Honduras as one of the poorest countries in the Americas.

The majority of Hondurans are descended from Spanish Settlers from the 16th century who intermarried with the Native American tribal people forming the race of people known as Mestizos. In the past the economy relied on mining and now bananas are a major export along with coffee and sugar. Honduras has a large national debt and a low world coffee price has also contributed to its poverty.

In 1998 Hurricane Mitch devastated the country, killing about 5,600 people and destroying infrastructure and farmland.

## Key Facts:

Population:	6.9 million
Population growth rate:	0.19%
Infant mortality rate:	42 deaths per 1,000 live births
Literacy:	80%
Unemployment rate:	31.6%
Population under-nourished:	22%
Life expectancy:	67 (UK 78.1)
Access to safe water:	88%
Religion:	Christianity (97% Roman Catholic)

# Honduras

## Development Programme: Comunidades Solidarias, Honduras

**Where is it?** The Comunidades Solidarias Area Development Programme will work in two places, Mercedes and San Marcos, located in western Honduras. Most of the 23,000 residents live in rural communities, although in San Marcos, a quarter of the people who will benefit from the programme live in the city. The rural communities work in agriculture, mainly producing coffee, grain and vegetables.

**What is the story?** Many families struggle to produce enough food and earn enough money all year round. Ill health is a serious problem made worse by poor quality housing and unsanitary living conditions. Malnutrition is common in young children.

**What is the future?** During the next 12-15 years, World Vision will assist the communities as they work towards a gradual change. This will include improving access to healthcare and increasing the amount of food produced. Further priorities will be helping families to find ways to raise their income and send their children to school regularly.

## Girls from Honduras

R. E., B. M, and E.C. live with their parents in Comunidades Solidarias, Honduras. They have the opportunity to attend a local school and sponsorship will help them continue to receive an education.

Like children everywhere they love to play when they have the chance, but they also have to help out at home with special jobs.

# Honduras



DOB: [redacted]  
November 1999

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with dolls

Special job: [redacted]  
Running errands



DOB: [redacted]  
October 2000

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with dolls

Special job: [redacted]  
Running errands



DOB: [redacted]  
March 1999

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with dolls

Special job: [redacted]  
Cleaning

# India

India is a vast country - more like a continent, because of the range of people and cultures it contains. Hindi is the national language, but English is spoken widely and there are many regional languages too. The staple foods include rice and millet, which depend on the heavy annual monsoon rains. Along with wheat and barley, which are planted in the dry season.

## Key Facts:

Population:	1.4 billion
Infant mortality rate:	93 deaths per 1,000 children under 5
Literacy:	61.3%
Underweight for their age:	47 % of children under 5
Life expectancy:	63.7 (UK 78.1)
Access to safe water:	84%

## Development Programme: Daringbadi Area, India

**Where is it?** Daringbadi Area Development Programme is in an area of stunning natural beauty in Orissa state, south-east India. Most of the terrain is mountainous and is not easily accessible by road. Due to the rugged nature of the area and a lack of transport links, Daringbadi has remained relatively under-developed. The World Vision programme in Daringbadi started in 2003.

**What is the story?** When Orissa was hit by a devastating cyclone in 1999, World Vision assisted with emergency relief and rehabilitation programmes. This experience is helping to shape how best to work with the community in Daringbadi, where low incomes, poor access to healthcare and inadequate housing are a constant challenge.

**What is the future?** World Vision has come alongside the communities in Daringbadi to encourage real change to improve access to healthcare, sanitation, clean water and education. Community participation in projects that raise awareness of issues like disability, environment, gender, peace building and conflict resolution will be encouraged.

## Development Programme: Pathanamthitta Area, India

This programme covers 35 villages in Kerala state, in the far south of India. Since World Vision's sponsorship project began here in 1995 we have helped provide some of the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing, and are now focusing on helping the communities become more self-sufficient in the long-term.

Education is a priority; sponsored children can join clubs where they receive extra tuition to help with their schooling. Health education programmes are teaching people about ways to prevent diseases. We are also digging deep wells to provide sources of clean water, and infrastructure such as roads, housing and electricity supplies are being improved.

Unemployment is high in this area, so programme staff have organised training in a variety of skills to give people a chance to earn a better income and so provide for their families. People are joining Community Based Organisations to work together to find their own ways out of poverty. By 2010 we expect to be able to withdraw from the area, leaving the communities to continue their own development into the future.

## Children from India

A.P. and S.P. live with their parents in Daringbadi, India, while V.B. lives in Pathanamthitta. They have the opportunity to attend a local school and sponsorship will help them continue to receive an education.

Like children everywhere they love to play when they have the chance and their favourite pastime is playing with toys. They also have to help out at home where their special job is cleaning or helping their mother.

# India



DOB: [redacted]  
December 2000

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with toys

Special job: [redacted]  
Cleaning



DOB: [redacted]  
April 2001

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with toys

Special job: [redacted]  
Helping her mother



DOB: [redacted]  
December 2002

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with toys

Special job: [redacted]  
Helping his mother

# Malawi

**M**alawi is famous for its beautiful national parks and game reserves that are big tourist attractions. The country shares its borders with Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia and has an agriculture-based economy. The majority of Malawians live in rural areas and are small farmers growing staple crops such as maize, cassava and beans for their families. The maize harvested in April often runs out by January, leaving three 'hunger months' when children are at risk from malnutrition. There is a lack of safe drinking water, education facilities and healthcare.

## Key Facts:

Population:	12.6 million
Life expectancy:	39 years
Infant mortality rate:	112 per 1,000 live births
Under-5 mortality rate:	133 per 1,000
Maternal mortality rate:	1,800 per 100,000 live births
HIV/AIDS prevalence rate:	14%
People living with HIV/AIDS:	0.8 million
Adult literacy rate:	64%
Population below poverty line:	65%
Religions:	Christianity, Islam, Traditional African
Major languages:	English, Chichewa

## Development Programme: Namachete, Malawi

This programme, in a remote part of the Zomba district, south of Lake Chilwa, supports 40,000 people who are mainly subsistence farmers, growing maize, beans and vegetables on small plots of land. However, poor and erratic rainfall often causes crop failure and food shortages.

When World Vision began working in Namachete in 1995 there was little access to clean water, too few classrooms and teachers, and not enough healthcare facilities. Through sponsorship things are changing. Many new schools blocks are being built. Children receive regular health checks and young people are becoming aware of the dangers of HIV/AIDS.

The livelihoods of farmers are improving through irrigation, provision of better seeds and livestock, and training in new business skills and farming methods, such as growing fruit trees. The people of Namachete take an active interest in their own development and have elected a committee to lead the activities of the programme. This committee will ensure that all the transformations are long lasting, and will keep the project going when World Vision's work is phased out in 2014.

## Development Programme: Kayezi, Malawi

Kayezi is in the Mzimba district in northern Malawi, where some people are employed on tobacco plantations but the majority are subsistence farmers. It is a dry area in the rain-shadow of the hills, and droughts often hit hard. Even in normal years farmers struggle to grow enough to feed their families and many children are malnourished.

World Vision's sponsoring programme began in 1998 and is helping the population of 17,500 grow more food for their children through training in improved methods and provision of good seeds for a wider range of crops.

Education and healthcare are also priorities of the programme. More classrooms are being built and equipped with desks and other resources. Boreholes are improving access to clean water. Local people have been trained to dispense basic medicines and programme staff have begun HIV/AIDS prevention programmes.

Many community members are getting involved in the work of the programme and have a say in the activities that run. Communities are being strengthened and leaders are emerging who will ensure that the development continues even after World Vision has completed its goals, probably in 2013.

## Children from Malawi

S.K. and P.K. live with their parents in Namachete, Malawi, while B.M. lives in Kayezi. They have the opportunity to attend a local school and sponsorship will help them continue to receive an education.

Like children everywhere they love to play when they have the chance, but they also have to help out at home with special jobs.



DOB: [redacted]  
August 2002

Pastime: [redacted]  
Playing with toys

Special job: [redacted]  
Babysitting



DOB: [redacted]  
May 1995

Pastime: [redacted]  
Football

Special job: [redacted]  
Sweeping the floor



DOB: [redacted]  
December 1996

Pastime: [redacted]  
Netball

Special job: [redacted]  
Washing dishes