

# HOPE

News • Impact Stories • Prayers • Campaigns • Project Updates

## GOING TO SCHOOL IN A WARZONE

Our partner's school in the DR Congo is giving children a safe place to go, to learn and to have some sense of 'normalcy' while war rages just outside.

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“  
**But why  
should we,  
as Christians,  
care about  
poverty...**



**I have had the pleasure of being part of the WorldShare community for a little over a year now.**

During that time, two favourite parts of my role have been getting to know our partners and seeing their incredible work; and getting to meet our committed supporters like you and witnessing your generosity and loving hearts.

But a close third behind those two is when I get asked a question like the one above.

If you have had the chance to ask me this question in person then you'd know that I can (and often will) talk about this subject for hours.

At this stage I've got a multi-page mega document exploring the theology of justice and mercy, the causes and complexity of poverty, aid and development best practices, the importance of loving in word and deed, the power of integral mission in sharing the gospel throughout the world, and many other reasons why I love and believe in the work we do here at WorldShare.

I find myself opening this document (and often adding more to it) on almost a daily basis.

Now, if you followed up your first question by asking me where in the bible it talks about poverty then we'd begin at Genesis 1, work our way through to Isaiah 61, and Micah 6. Then in

the New Testament we'd spend some time in the Gospels and Acts, and move onto the Corinthian letters, 1 John, and through to Revelation 21, with many stops along the way.

As you can probably sense, I could go on and on (and would take great joy in doing so).

If you've met me at one of our events this year then you'll know that it is part of my personality to want to know more, to increase my understanding, to strengthen my justification, to add more and more to make something greater.

But in the lead up to Easter this year, and in the weeks since, I've been feeling called to reflect on the essence of things, to bring things back to their most basic and fundamental, to simplify.

And so, when a friend of mine was visiting from overseas recently and asked me the 'why care about poverty' question, this time my answer was a little different.

**When Jesus walked the Earth, he cared for the outcast and the vulnerable, for the orphans and the widows, for the sick and the lame.**

And before he went to the cross, he called us to love like him, to become more like him, and to share his good news throughout all the world.

This is what we are each doing every day in this WorldShare community.

This is what our partners are doing overseas as they work tirelessly to serve their communities.

This is what you are doing through your prayers and generosity and support.

We are, each of us, loving like Jesus, becoming more like Jesus, and sharing His gospel throughout the world.

Throughout the pages of this HOPE magazine, we've collected stories that demonstrate each of these elements of Jesus' calling.

I know that you, as a committed WorldShare supporter, already know these things, I'm aware that I am 'preaching to the choir'.



But in the same way that I get inspiration, motivation and encouragement from returning to my mega document each day, I hope that this reminder and these stories might be an encouragement and inspiration for you, perhaps that you can return to from time to time as you continue loving like Jesus, becoming more Christ-like and sharing his gospel each day.

Glyn

Dr Glyn Henman,  
CEO, WorldShare



*And if you'd like to discuss any of these topics in more depth, or get a glimpse of (an abridged version of) my mega document, then feel free to get in touch and let me know – I just can't promise that I'll keep it brief.*



# From death to new life

**How the death of his father, and the love of strangers in the days that followed, completely transformed one boy's life.**

**At only seven-years-old Jean\* carried his dying father through the doors of the hospital run by our ministry partner in the DR Congo.**

*"My father had been very ill for a long time, we had tried many of the local hospitals before, but they were unable to help him", recalls Jean.*

Sadly, by this stage it was too late for the doctors to treat Jean's father and after a few days in the hospital he passed away.

But even though they were unable to save his father, those few days transformed Jean's life forever.

*"We were so struck by the love that [the staff] showed to my father in his last days after he died, my mother and I began attending the hospital's chapel services", says Jean.*

But while they were finding spiritual comfort in beginning of a new relationship with God, the harsh realities of life outside the chapel walls were beginning to take their toll.

*"After the death of my father, we went through very difficult times. My father did not have money to leave us and so life became very challenging", remembers Jean. "The little money my mother could make would go to food, so she was no longer able to send us all to school."*

As a keen and capable student, Jean was heartbroken to be missing out on an education and spending time with his friends.

But once again, he was able to find some comfort through our ministry partner.

*"After a few years, I discovered and began attending the Uamusho group", explains Jean.*



[Jean began attending our partner's hospital chapel after seeing the love they showed to his dying father.]

Our partner's Uamusho project is an outreach program that provides refuge and empowerment for young people who are struggling and often living on the streets.

Many of these street kids have found themselves forced to join street gangs - for their safety - and heading down a life of crime to survive (fortunately this wasn't the case for Jean just yet).

The project gives them hope for a brighter future and completely transforms their lives by providing opportunities to attend literacy and numeracy classes, to return to school or learn vocational skills so they can earn a living.

*"After so many years, I had given up any hope of ever returning to school." By this stage Jean was 20 years old. "So, I was overjoyed when the Uamusho project offered to support me to go back to school and finish my studies."*

Jean returned to school and in only one year he was able to achieve enough to earn his state diploma (i.e. graduate high school), which means he could apply to university.

Today, Jean is studying telecommunications, still involved with the Uamusho community, and still attending our ministry partner's chapel when he's in Goma (his study has him dividing his time between the cities of Goma and Kampala).

***"I go to services three times a week with my mother and my sisters. My brothers are not part of the church yet, but we pray for them regularly and when I pray for them I pray that their lives might be completely transformed like mine has been."***



## **Jesus came to give life - life to the full.**

And yet across the world, so many people are suffering in poverty. The most vulnerable are outcast and forgotten, living without a sense of worth or hope.

During his time here on earth, one of the ways Jesus showed his love was by seeking out, caring for, and transforming the lives of the most vulnerable, the outcast and forgotten people of his day.

The **Transformation Project** is an effort to show and share this love of Jesus.

It's a monthly giving program that is transforming lives and restoring hope - for people just like Jean - by providing the world's most vulnerable people

with opportunities to get an education, receive health care and hear the gospel.

You can join with us in this project by signing up to give on an ongoing monthly basis.

By doing so you'll be:

- providing an education for children living in one of the world's biggest internally displaced people's camps in the DR Congo,
- fighting severe childhood malnutrition in Indonesia,
- supporting outcast and abused young mothers in Uganda, by ensuring they get pre- and post-natal care and a chance for a safe and healthy delivery,
- providing clean water for families in Cambodia, and

- safe schools for their kids,
- giving people the chance to hear the gospel and see it lived out in their communities,
- and much, much more...

Joining us in this project is one of the most powerful and effective ways that you can transform lives, restore hope, and share Jesus' love!

**You can join the project (or find out more) by heading to [worldshare.org.au/transformation](https://worldshare.org.au/transformation) or giving us a call at 1300 009 109.**





# From heartbreak to joy

A mother's story of physical, emotional, and spiritual transformation.

*"I was heartbroken to find out... I felt like I was failing my daughter."*

**Mentari\* is a hardworking housewife from Southwest Sumba in Indonesia.**

She spends her days caring for four children (a daughter of her own and three kids from relatives of her husband, who are unable to support their children) and working with her husband on their farm to feed and provide for their family.

She works hard, and does her best, but last year she made a heartbreaking discovery, when she was invited to join our ministry partner's health program in the area, and it was revealed that her three-year-old daughter was severely malnourished.

Sadly, this is an all-too-common problem in the region where Mentari lives.

Farmers in Southwest Sumba trail far behind the rest of Indonesia in terms of poverty and living standards. Some of the contributing factors include a lack of education, poor resources, and geographic challenges, such as soil erosion and poor rainfall, which make it difficult to get healthy crop yields.

All of this has led to incredibly high rates of malnutrition and stunting (a result of chronic malnutrition) in children from the area. An assessment in February 2022 found that 44% of children in the community are suffering from stunting.

Early childhood malnutrition can have negative consequences for many aspects of a child's wellbeing. It increases morbidity and mortality, negatively impacts physical development and learning capacity, and increases their risk of infections and disease. And often, particularly if left unaddressed, it will impact them for the rest

of their lives.

To combat this, our ministry partners have launched a new project in the region to provide health and nutrition programs, agricultural and livelihood training and support, and community classes for around 400 families.

Mentari and her husband take part in the agricultural activities and since joining they've expanded and improved their family's vegetable garden and increased their coffee, candlenut, and cacao crops (which they use for income).

And thanks to everything Mentari's learned through the health program, and her commitment to putting it into practice, we're excited to say that, after only six months, her daughter has gained significant weight and is now a healthy, happy three-year-old girl.



[Mentari with her happy, healthy daughter, who only six months earlier had been severely malnourished.]

\*Some names and photos have been changed to protect those we serve.



But her daughter isn't the only one whose life has been transformed:

*"Before joining the family classes I was often angry and emotional and would yell at my children when they were naughty or made mistakes," recalls Mentari, "but I am grateful because [through these classes] I have started to learn to manage my emotions and try to be more patient with my children. Something has changed in me, and it brings me great joy to be a better mother in this way."*

She's also experienced transformation in her spiritual life as, alongside this process, Mentari began attending a local church where, she says, ***"I am happy because I am learning how to love others... because God has loved us first."***

## Pray with us!

Praise God for mothers like Mentari and pray that He would continue to bless the work of our partner in Indonesia as they strive to save children from malnutrition and give them a chance to grow and live full lives.

## A HEALTHY IMPACT

Health is one of the most basic necessities for living a full life like God intended.

Sadly, poverty and poor health are often linked in a vicious downward cycle – being both a cause and consequence of each other.

WorldShare runs health programs throughout Indonesia, India, Cambodia, Uganda, and the DRC to break these vicious cycles and ***thanks to your generous support***, last year:

**2,854**

people were provided with improved access to medical services.

**4,089**

people took part in health awareness raising and training.

**638**

children enjoyed improved nutrition and improved access to food.

**85**

households were empowered to feed their families through improved farming skills and materials.



# Going to school in a warzone

Our ministry partner's school in the DR Congo is giving children a safe place to go, to learn and to have some sense of 'normalcy' while war rages just outside their classroom doors.



## Do you remember how you felt when you last sent your child off to school?

Whether that was a few hours ago, or a few decades ago, I'm sure that many of you can remember some of that mix of nervousness and excitement. *"I wonder what they will learn today, will they make friends, will they finally eat all of their lunch?"*

Or perhaps, if you haven't sent off a child of your own, do you remember how you felt walking up to the school gates each day?

Now, I wonder if you can imagine the feelings running through our brothers and sisters in the

DR Congo as they're forced to send their kids off in the middle of a warzone?

Right now, the DR Congo is in the midst of a violent civil conflict that has seen 7.1 million people forced to flee their homes into internally displaced people's (IDP) camps since March 2022\*.

According to the UN, more than 2.8 million children are facing "daily atrocities" as a result of the armed conflict. This, along with impacts of severe ongoing food shortages and disease outbreaks, has led the UN to declare that the DR Congo is one of the worst places in the world to be a child right now.



But amidst all this hardship and heartbreak, God is shining his light into these kids' lives through our ministry partners in the region.

Our ministry partner has been running a primary school inside one of the country's biggest IDP camps – the Mugunga camp – since 2007.

The school gives children a safe place to go, to learn and to have some sense of 'normalcy' amidst the chaos of the current situation.

With the dramatic influx of people into the camp, our partner has been working to increase their capacity (and is continuing to do so) and so was able to take in 340 kids for this school year.

In their daily lives these children are being exposed to horrific scenes, atrocities and ongoing challenges so, in addition to providing good quality education, the school organises activities to help with psychological, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.

*Turn over the page to find a few highlights from these activities in recent months, including a new food program, a special birthday celebration and back to school excitement.* ➡

\* Source: UNHCR <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/situations/democratic-republic-congo-situation>



## A NEW FOOD PROGRAM

The conflict has forced people to flee their rural villages (where the food supplies are grown) and has also cut off the roadways into, out of, and across the country. This has led to severe food shortages and skyrocketing prices of the limited remaining supplies.

Families in the IDP camps, in particular, are struggling to find enough food to feed themselves.

Many children in these communities are now developing acute malnutrition. One of the many impacts of this is that many children are no longer going to school.

In response to these challenges, our ministry partner recently launched a school food program (funded by WorldShare supporters like you) last year and has opened a canteen in the primary school, which provides students with nutritious meals.

The photo below is from the inaugural canteen day and by all reports the children each



received all the food they could handle, and many were even able to take food home to their families.

As a bonus, on every canteen day there is also dedicated dancing time after lunch!

According to teachers and parents, the program already had an obvious positive impact on the physical, psychological and emotional health of the kids. School attendance has also significantly improved.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

As part of their efforts toward psychological and emotional healing, the primary school organises a collective birthday

party each quarter to celebrate the children who have birthdays during that time (with all of the students taking part in the celebrations).

Thanks to WorldShare supporters the school provides birthday cakes, soft drink, birthday hats and sweets for all the students.

This is a big deal for these children as most of them have never had their birthday celebrated in this way, or even attended a birthday celebration like this.

For many of them this was the first time they'd ever tasted birthday cake.

And as is often the case, after food comes the dancing.

By all reports these are amazing days, where the kids can forget about the trauma they've experienced and the misery going on around them. Many of them said after this event that they "felt loved" and saw themselves differently because they "realised that we are important to other people."



## BACK TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

For most of the vulnerable families in these communities, they cannot afford everything their children need for school.

But more than ever before, this school year students were coming back to class without the basic materials they required.

So, the school (thanks to funding from WorldShare supporters) decided to provide back-to-school kits for all 340 students.

These kits included brand new schoolbags and a years' worth of exercise books, pencils, rulers etc.

As you can see from the photos, the students were overjoyed with their new backpacks, and this excitement was echoed by parents, many of which travelled into school the following day to thank the teachers personally.



# LOVING AND LEARNING

Education is one of the most powerful tools for empowering families to lift themselves out of poverty and transform their lives.

In communities across the world an increase in education reduces poverty, improves health, decreases violence against women and gender inequality, increases economic growth, lowers infant mortality and child illness and malnutrition (just to name a few).

WorldShare runs education programs throughout Indonesia, India, Cambodia, Uganda, and the DRC.

The programs are having an incredible impact in empowering families and ***thanks to your generous support***, last year:

**2,304**

children benefited from improved access to education.

**584**

individuals received skills and vocational training.

**958**

people were trained in financial literacy and small business management.

## Pray with us!

Praise God for protecting the children at Mugunga Primary School thus far. But as the warfront gets closer each day, pray that God would continue to keep them safe and bring an end to the conflict soon.



# Sharing the good news in great ways

**Our ministry partners continue to find unique solutions to the challenges of sharing the gospel overseas.**

He said to them,

***“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all creation.”*** – Mark 16:15

**Since day one, WorldShare has been built around radical ways to share the gospel overseas.**

Our story began around 1943, when Duncan McRoberts, a British missionary to China, saw how effective teams of Chinese evangelists were in reaching their own people.

McRoberts realised that, rather than continuing his own mission in the region, he would have a much greater impact for God’s Kingdom by returning home and raising funds to support the work of these local evangelists.

This idea of partnering with national believers gave birth to the China Native

Evangelistic Crusade (or CNEC, as we became known), which would eventually become the WorldShare you know today.

There was nothing like this at the time and so, with the birth of WorldShare, a radical new era of mission strategy was born.

A little over 80 years later, our ministry partners continue to find unique and radical ways to share his gospel within their communities overseas.

One recent example of this is a brand-new bible translation project by our partners in the DR Congo, who are serving the heavily stigmatised deaf community.

Caring about the deaf community at all in this region is already radical – many locals believe that people with disabilities are being punished or cursed by God – but our ministry partner is determined to find effective ways to share the gospel with this community.

This ranges from training local pastors in sign language, to running discipleship groups that cater to their unique needs, right through to establishing and equipping deaf churches.

However, one of their biggest barriers to receiving gospel is that (as a result of the local stigma) deaf children are often excluded from getting an education and so there is a very high rate of illiteracy amongst the deaf community. This is why our partner’s brand-new bible translation project, which is creating videos presenting the four Gospels in local sign language, will be so powerful.

Another recent example of radical evangelism comes from our partners in Cambodia, where they are empowering and equipping local churches to run children’s ministry and outreach programs in their communities.

Not only is Cambodia an overwhelmingly Buddhist nation (with only 0.3% of the population reporting as Christian) but it’s also a country where (due to the challenges of poverty) children’s rights, safety, and opinions aren’t held up to the degree we might expect here in Australia.

What this means is that, just like in Jesus’ time, if you’re looking to give your message credibility, you wouldn’t begin with children.



And yet, through the Amnor (which means ‘Joy’ in Khmer) Project ministering to children, we’re seeing children, parents and entire communities engage with these local churches and hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

Praise God!

## PROCLAIMING TO ALL CREATION

WorldShare’s partners show and share Jesus’ love through all of their work, but they also run evangelistic outreach programs throughout Cambodia, Uganda, Southeast Asia and the DRC.

***Thanks to your generous support,*** last year:

**1,146**

people heard the gospel through outreach activities.

**236**

chaplains and gospel workers were trained and supported.

**272**

people made professions of faith as a result of evangelism programs.

### Pray with us!

Praise God for sending His son so we might have a right relationship with Him. Pray that He would bless the work of our partners across the world as they strive to share the gospel in their communities.



# Opportunities to connect

We're always looking for ways to bring members of our WorldShare community together.

Here are a few upcoming opportunities to connect with our ministry partners, fellow supporters and WorldShare team.

## CHURCH VISITS

We'd love to join you at your church on a Sunday to explore Jesus' love for the outcast and forgotten, and how you and your congregation can show and share Jesus' love with vulnerable communities overseas.

**WHEN:**  
We have availabilities throughout the year so get in contact if you'd like us to join you one Sunday.

## VIRTUAL CONNECTION EVENTS

Once a quarter we come together online to connect with a ministry partner in the field. It's a chance to hear about challenges they're facing and the solutions they're finding, to see the impact your support is making through stories of transformation, and to join with them in prayer and praise.

**WHEN:**  
In June we'll be connecting with a ministry partner in the DR Congo.

## CEO & SUPPORTER EVENINGS

Our CEO, Glyn Henman, loves meeting with and hearing from supporters like you.

So, throughout the year we offer the chance to come together with Glyn over a meal, to connect, share updates from our partners overseas, hear stories from supporters, ask each other questions, and pray together.

**WHEN:**  
The next meet up will likely be around mid-year but we're always looking for opportunities (and venues) so, if you'd like to connect with Glyn in this way please get in touch.

## PASTOR AND SUPPORTER INSIGHT TRIPS

There is nothing as powerful as seeing the work of our partners with your own eyes.

Visiting the field on one of our insight trips means you can feel the ground and smell the air, you can see the challenges our partners face and the incredible impact they're making on the faces of people in their community.

**WHEN:**  
We'll be running a Supporters Insight Trip to one of our Asian partners in 2025 and a Pastors Insight Trip in 2025 so if you're interested to join, please get in touch.

# Opportunities to transform

Right now, our partners have a number of exciting projects that are ready to launch but still need to secure funding to go ahead.

Each of these projects is an incredible opportunity to transform people's lives and communities overseas. We've included a quick overview of three of the most urgent needs below and so if you are interested in funding any of these projects, or would like to know more, please get in touch.

## Building ventilated toilet blocks at a Vocational Training Centre for the deaf in the DR Congo

Deaf people in the DR Congo face heavy stigma, which often prevents them from accessing basic healthcare, education, and opportunities for employment.

Our ministry partner provides the only specialist services for the deaf community in a region of around 9 million people. This includes a primary and secondary school, a vocational training program, a health clinic, and churches, all of which communicate in sign language.

Their vocational training centre is particularly transformative as it equips and empowers deaf people with the skills they need to earn an income, gain their independence, and integrate into the 'hearing' community.

Right now, the centre critically needs new ventilated toilet blocks (including 10 toilets) to ensure that students have adequate sanitation while attending the centre.

FUNDING REQUIRED **\$41,600**

## Launch a new Child Sponsorship Program in Cambodia

Our ministry partner in Cambodia provides vulnerable children with access to education through school fees, uniforms, and supplies.

They also work with parents and teachers to provide safe and supportive environments at home and school.

Through this they are giving these children their best chance to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and have hope for a brighter future.

Right now, our partner has the opportunity to expand their program into a new neighbouring community, where they already have a number of schools and families ready to partner with them.

So, we're looking to launch a new child sponsorship program, to both serve this new community and also give supporters a chance to connect with vulnerable families in Cambodia.

FUNDING REQUIRED **\$48,400**

## Launch a new Child Sponsorship Program in Indonesia

Our ministry partner in Indonesia recently launched a program in southwest Sumba in response to the region's incredibly high rates of child malnutrition and stunting.

The program is providing improved agriculture and sustainable food sources, improved health practices and nutrition awareness to prevent illness, micro-finance and business training to move families from subsistence living to reliable income generation, and improved family communication and parenting skills (with a focus on children's rights and preventing family violence).

Right now, we're looking to launch a new Child Sponsorship program in the region to help supporters connect with these vulnerable children and their families, and to continue serving them through healthcare, food security and family strengthening programs.

FUNDING REQUIRED **\$78,600**

[At the time of printing the above needs were available. However, in the event of surplus or insufficient funding, those funds will be shared to support other programs. These programs will commence once the total necessary funding has been raised.]



# Get involved!



## PRAY

Sign up for our monthly prayer and praise newsletter with daily prayer points from our partners in the field.

Sign up by emailing us at [worldshare@worldshare.org.au](mailto:worldshare@worldshare.org.au).



## JOIN

Join in our Transformation Project by signing up to give on a monthly basis.

[worldshare.org.au/transformation](http://worldshare.org.au/transformation)



## SPONSOR

Transform a vulnerable child's life through child sponsorship.

[worldshare.org.au/donate/sponsor-a-child](http://worldshare.org.au/donate/sponsor-a-child)



## GIFT

Give your friends and family a gift that shows your love for them and share's Jesus' love for the outcast and forgotten through our Harvest of Hope gift catalogue.

[gifts.worldshare.org.au](http://gifts.worldshare.org.au)



## LEAVE A LEGACY

Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most powerful ways to see lives transformed through Jesus' love for generations to come.

[worldshare.org.au/donate/leave-a-gift-in-your-will](http://worldshare.org.au/donate/leave-a-gift-in-your-will)



# THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US!

### WorldShare

1300 009 109

[worldshare@worldshare.org.au](mailto:worldshare@worldshare.org.au)

[www.worldshare.org.au](http://www.worldshare.org.au)

Head Office

Suite 14, 16 - 18 Malvern Street  
Chatswood NSW 2067

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