HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER CHILDREN

A personal tale of change in Basa

EVERY CHILD FREE FROM FEAR
Dear friend,

This year in Basa, your sponsorship has enabled us to focus on protecting the health of vulnerable children. You have helped communities to understand the importance of child rights, so children know what protection their community must ensure for them. You’ve also helped us to train health workers in how to better care for young babies, lowering death rates among mothers and newborns.

And to ensure good health continues through each child’s life, you’ve also helped local farmers to obtain tools and seeds. They’re growing more varied food, and more of it. They have peace knowing they will be able to feed their families in the coming months, thanks to you.

Even more important than nutritious food is clean water. As you’ll see from the story that follows, having easy access to water has made a huge difference to the lives of the women and children here. Thanks to you, new wells have transformed fetching water from a desperate struggle into a much easier activity.

André Faye
Area Development Programme Manager, Basa

The joy of safe water flowing through the community

Diao is a young mother of four children. Like many of the women in her area, she faced a daily struggle to find water. There was rarely enough to drink, let alone to cook and clean with.

“In our village women faced enormous difficulties,” she recalls. “We had all the world’s problems every day to find enough water for domestic tasks, washing and for drinking for the whole family. The reason is that our wells are usually

Thank you from The community in Basa

André
very deep in the area, making it a very painful manual system.”

The only available wells near the village were 20 metres deep. Drawing water was exhausting, and left little energy for Diao’s other work. “It was a very hard job and I returned from it already very tired to face the other chores awaiting me,” she says. It became something she dreaded doing each day, but she knew she had little choice if she was to look after her children.

Thanks to your generosity, the lives of all the women in the village have been changed for the better. New well-shafts have been drilled. Now they have access to water without the daily backbreaking work. Diao says: “Now we have the functional wells drilled in the walls of the local kindergarten building.” This means mothers are able to take their children to school then draw water before they return home, freeing up time for other activities.

The new well shafts have made an enormous difference to the health of both

“We had all the world’s problems every day to find enough water for domestic tasks, washing and for drinking for the whole family.”

For people of Basa, fetching water used to be an exhausting, painful and lengthy struggle. Now, having water at the turn of a tap means mothers are saved of the burdens of journeying to distant wells.
children and mothers in the village. The children have good quality fresh water to drink, meaning they do not get ill so often. And their mothers are not exhausted from drawing it, helping them stay healthy too.

In addition to the new wells, the villagers have been able to install a system of solar panels and valves. Using energy from the sun, these make drawing water from the well even easier, and provide running water.

Diao says: “The wells and solar panels are a wonderful thing to the entire community in general, but particularly for us women. I want to strongly thank our sponsors for helping us to get water easily from wells – and now being able to just simply turn the tap so that water flows. Drawing water from it was a very hard job and I returned from it already very tired to face the other chores awaiting me,” she says. It became something she dreaded doing each day, but she knew she had little choice if she was to look after her children.

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With this solar panel, children no longer fear their mothers getting injured when collecting the day’s water. Drawing water is no longer a burden, but a joy, and accessible to all.
I want to strongly thank our sponsors for helping us to get water easily from wells – and now being able to just simply turn the tap so that water flows. Drawing water from wells in the back-breaking way we used to before, is now a distant memory.

Your support has also enabled other well projects in Basa, and not just in rural areas. In one town, for example, two wells have been sunk. Now the poor area of Bagadadjis has four basins supplied by the wells, from which locals can enjoy clean water: Basics such as these are helping make life easier for people in Basa, and the villagers are much healthier. None of this would have happened without you, so thank you.

Having clean water closer to the community’s homes means that children no longer fear catching illnesses from unsafe water. Now they themselves can get involved in fetching water, too. It is no longer a daunting task, but part of daily routine.
Tools of the trade

With your help, we have been able to equip three rural communities with essential tools and seeds. The 18 drills and over 45 tonnes of seed enabled farmers to improve the quality of their crops. As a result, some 237 households are better off. “The harvests in previous years have been either bad or insufficient for us,” says Ousmane Balde, a local farmer. “This year, on the same area of land, the crops look very promising. This is mainly due to quality seed, provision of fertiliser and pesticides.”

Farmers are using their newfound skills and tools to reap better harvests. Now, their families’ incomes are more secure, and their children are eating healthier.

Singing for their rights

This year we have worked hard to spread awareness of your sponsored child’s right to avoid violence and abuse. A caravan giving out information on child protection visited 42 villages. Twelve schools hosted radio shows, in three different languages, shining a light on the issue of child abuse. Children led drama, dance and music performances, and young local musicians created songs on the theme. There were even community talks in 11 areas where music performance is banned. You made this campaign possible, and as a result a forced child marriage was discovered, and those involved were taken to court.

This community are using performing arts as a powerful tool to spread awareness about protecting their children. Children do not fear abuse or exploitation as much, as now they know how to demand their rights.
Senegal lies on Africa’s west coast and the capital, Dakar, is the westernmost city on the continent. Almost half of the population is unemployed, with 54% living below the poverty line. The vast majority work in agriculture, growing groundnuts, corn, rice and cotton. Many families face chronic food shortage, and the World Food Programme estimates that 16% of children under five are chronically malnourished.

There is low enrolment in schools as few can afford uniforms and supplies, and schools often lack basic necessities, including electricity and running water. Healthcare is also undermined by a shortage of funding and trained personnel.

World Vision is working in partnership with the local community to improve household income, agriculture, access to food and safe water, education, health care and community sustainability. Building these strong foundations will enable the communities to achieve a better quality of life and more sustainable future.

Taking care of the little ones

Your generosity has helped 13 midwives and 13 local health workers receive training this year. They are now equipped to identify and deal with the danger signs affecting newborn babies, in three separate communities. They provide home visits for pregnant mothers and monitoring for newborns and new mothers. Thanks to you, Basa has seen a fewer maternal and baby deaths.

Here are the facts

- Infant mortality per 1,000: 93
- HIV awareness among adolescents: 20%
- In rural areas, 31% of under fives suffer from stunted growth
- Enrolment in education: 45.7%

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/senegal_statistics.html

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Mothers and babies are healthier and safer thanks to the training and medical attention you’re helping to provide.
Lifecycle of a World Vision sponsorship programme

**Phase 1**
Building trust and laying groundwork.
Partnership with community established. Communities and World Vision plan long-term projects together.

**Phase 2**
Contributing to child well being together
World Vision and communities work together building skills so children and families benefit and participate in projects such as education, nutrition, clean water, child protection, food security and healthcare.

**Phase 3**
Preparing to leave behind more resilient communities
As World Vision prepares to leave, communities are better equipped to continue their own development: caring, protecting and providing for children.

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In some instances, names have been changed to protect children’s identities

Registered Head Office address: World Vision UK, Opal Drive, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes, MK15 0ZR
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