

# Your Impact Through Highly Vulnerable Children







# Your global impact this financial year

Not all neighbourhoods are safe. Poverty can make children especially vulnerable to threats like early marriage, joining gangs, online sexual exploitation or abuse at home. It is the staff at local churches who notice something isn't right. They know children and can tell when their facial expressions or family situations change. Thanks to your support, they can step in before the worst happens or be the strong pillar children need when it does.

**You didn't look away from your neighbours. You moved with compassion—and this is what changed.**

*Please take care as you read these children's stories as you may find some content distressing.*





## Hannah\* received counselling after sexual assault

Hannah was sexually assaulted when she was 14 years old and fell pregnant with twins. During this time, the local church in Ghana held Hannah as she processed her trauma and figured out how she would care for her babies.

“When it happened, I thought my life was over. I never thought I’d be here today. The hospital counsellor and the Compassion staff kept telling me that I didn’t have to drop out of school. I didn’t want to believe it, but they continued to encourage me. My mother told me she would take care of the baby and even my older sisters said they would help too. I felt so happy. I could stay in school!”

*\*Hannah’s name has been changed to protect her identity.*



## Sendama and his siblings stayed in school

In Tanzania, 93 per cent of children who are engaged in child labour do unpaid family work for long hours, limiting their time to study. The local church saw that children like 10-year-old Sendama were missing school to work and decided to address the root cause. Parents were provided with seeds and fertiliser, education on how to improve farming techniques, and connected with groups that meant caregivers could plan the farming season and support one another with their work.

Badi, Sendama’s mother, shares, “Most of us are forced to take our children out of school because we cannot afford to hire help. With our children’s help, we can farm a bigger area, which may give us more food. The groups have helped us. Together, we can do more work than before, which shows in our harvest. If the church hadn’t helped us, we would take our children from school, and they wouldn’t reach their dreams.”



## Alice recovered from life-threatening malnutrition

Beauty, a mother in Zambia, fought poverty each day to provide food for her five children, but her youngest daughter Alice was losing weight and strength. Terrified, she called on the local church, and they answered. Through a special nutrition program funded by Highly Vulnerable Children, Alice is recovering.

“I remember asking, if I can’t find food from anyone, may God take my life and my children’s lives. Neighbours would whisper sentiments such as she’ll never walk or whisper doubt if she would even survive. That would break my heart so bad. Now, whenever people look at Alice, they can’t recognise her. My ‘Bubu’ has gained weight, and the church is supporting us.”





# Thank you

Isaiah 1:17 says, “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow” (NIV). Your generosity has meant the world’s most vulnerable are protected and their local churches are empowered to move in line with the Father’s heart.

Thank you for moving with compassion by giving to Highly Vulnerable Children. To learn more about the fund, visit [www.compassion.com.au/donate/highly-vulnerable-children](http://www.compassion.com.au/donate/highly-vulnerable-children)





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VIC (FR0010734), QLD (CH1569), SA (CCP2632), TAS (F1A-208) and  
WA (20740). No authority required in ACT or NT.