

NOTE: These stories do not need to be shared. It is background information for the teacher and provides an opportunity to tell the delightful story with students as it fits with the learning taking place.



The story behind the photograph:

Photo: Leticia, age 10, stands with her family in their town.

Story: Leticia is a cheerful and chatty 10-year-old who enjoys school and hopes to be a doctor or nurse someday.

The youngest of four girls, Leticia and her sisters Maribel (17), Monica (15), and Elizabeth (13) have a strong bond and all attend the same school.

Leticia loves to play soccer, play with her friends, dance, and participate in community activities.



The story behind the photograph:

See stories about Salima* and Jannatul at:

<https://www.wvi.org/article/better-home-camp-jannatul>

Photos of Rohingya widow Salima, 26, and her sole-surviving daughter, Jannatul, 5, inside their camp home in Bangladesh. Jannatul's name means "the best heaven."

*Name changed to protect her identity.

Story: "Could your country pray that we would have peace in Myanmar?" asks Salima*, 26, whose husband and two of her three children were killed in the violence against the Muslim-minority Rohingya people in September 2017. The family became separated when shooting erupted in their village. Homes were burned down. "Jannatul was with me, but I didn't know what happened to my husband and my children," she says. "Later, I saw them dead." Mohamed, 30, was shot; and their son, Hafej, 2, and their daughter, Kalima, 1, were stabbed to death.

Today mother and daughter live in Cox's Bazar, a city in southern Bangladesh, along with more than 920,000 other refugees in camps built on soft hilly earth where eucalyptus trees once grew and elephants roamed. World Vision made sure Salima and Jannatul, 5, had a sturdy home in the camp, reinforcing their makeshift shelter with cement, tarps, and bamboo to help protect them from monsoon rains.

Jannatul goes to a World Vision Child-Friendly Space to play and learn. Her regular attendance and sunny smile endear her to the staff.

Salima recently started working with a cash-for-work project run by World Vision in partnership with the World Food Program. She fills sandbags for construction crews preparing the camp for the upcoming monsoon rains in May. The Rohingya are not allowed to work outside their camp, so the

money she earns as a single mother helps buy food for Jannatul. World Vision's cash-for-work programs include building a drainage system for when the monsoon rains come. They are working to stabilize the land all over the camps.

At first, there was a problem with women working. But at the time of this writing (January 2019), there were 33,362 female-led households — comprising 16 percent of the 208,512 families in the camp. The leaders in the camp knew that these women needed help. “They feel that desperate times call for desperate measures,” says Karen Homer, a humanitarian worker. Leaders helped by allowing women to work. The women wear orange vests and yellow construction hats over their burkas. They’re able to work for eight days, earning enough to buy a chicken or a basket of fresh fruit each day.

Salima’s two sisters watch Jannatul during the day. They hide in the house all day, in the small space where the family cooks. “I am shy of people outside. Where would I go?” asks Jannatara, 12. “We don’t do anything. If we got training on sewing, it would be good for us,” They play with Jannatul when her mother is not there. “The latrines are very far from here. We go very early and at night. We take a flashlight and company when we go.”

Jannatul’s name means “the best heaven.” “Heaven is a place where children can play,” says Jannatul. “There are many flowers. Many gardens. Many leaves. There is a big pond of water. Heaven is a place where children can take care of the flowers.”

Everything is challenging for this widowed mother. Salima says, “If I didn’t have to work, and if I could take care of my daughter, I could create a heaven on earth,” she says. “Life is tough here. We have no emotions. We have neither joy nor sorrow. We just work. At the end of the day, I eat, and then sleep with my daughter in my arms. Then the day is done.”

At night, Salima lulls her daughter to sleep with a quiet lullaby. “I pat her back and hold her closely in my arms,” she says. There, in the dark, there is peace until morning.”



The story behind the photograph:

Photo: Hani, an 8-year-old Syrian refugee, colors with his father and younger sister, Fatima, age 6.

Story: Hani, an 8-year-old Syrian refugee, currently lives in Lebanon with his mother, father, sister Fatima, 6, and their little brother Hakim, 2. The family left Syria after their home was hit by rockets.

Some of their family members were lost in the conflict. So much of

Hani’s life is different now. He had to leave behind all of his toys, and he misses his friends a lot. Hani isn’t sure what the future has in store.



The story behind the photograph:

Photo: The Ghazaryan family sits on the sofa in their home. Left to right: Ani holds her 18-month-old daughter Lilit, who is sick. Next to them sit 7-year-old Anahit, 6-year-old Vahan, and their father, Vartan Ghazaryan, who holds their 5-year-old sister Mariam in his lap.

Ani, 28, is the mother, and Vartan, 32, is the father. Their children are Anahit, age 7, wearing a white jacket and track pants, Varhan, 6, wearing a yellow-blue sweater, Mariam, 5, wearing a pink shirt, and 18-month-old Lilit.

Story: Varhan Ghazaryan is a 6-year-old boy. Today, he and his sisters Anahit, 7, and Mariam, 5, have received a gift from World Vision, along with food for their entire family. Since the 1988 earthquake, families like Varhan's have used a shipping container as their home. Though it has been added to over time, it is still a small space for a family of six people. Because their house is drafty and in poor repair, it's hard to keep the place warm with just one old stove.

His older sister, Anahit, shows her warm gloves and hat from World Vision. "Before I had warm gloves, my hands would get so cold on the way to school that I couldn't write. It took a long time to warm them so I could do my work," she says. "I feel warm and safe in this sweater," says Anahit, trying on a gift from World Vision.

"It means a lot to me that my children are sponsored and receive gifts from someone who cares about what they eat and what they wear," says Ani. In addition, World Vision taught Ani important skills about child development.

"Before, I didn't know how to make simple toys and didn't spend much time with the children. Now I'm busy with them most of the time, and we go outside so they can play. I know that's important for them," Ani says. World Vision also gave them educational books, including fairy tales and books about animals that she reads with them.

Ani is grateful for her children's sponsors. "It means a lot to me that my children are sponsored and receive gifts from someone who cares about what they eat and what they wear," says Ani. "I know someone far away loves them too."



The story behind the photograph:

Photo: Chadni, 16, wearing pink, sits in the family home with her mother Beauty (around 35 years of age) and her brother Omar Faruk, nearly 6.

Hanging on the wall behind them is the vision board they created with World Vision staff to have a reminder of their dreams and goals.

Story: Nearly six years ago, Chadni's father abandoned her family, leaving Beauty Begum as the sole parent to raise daughter Chadni, then 10 years old, and 6-month-old son Omar Faruk on her own.

Even when Chadni's family had two incomes, there wasn't enough money to provide for all of their needs. With one income gone, Beauty struggled even more.

She worked at a shrimp processing depot, but had to bring her children along because there was no one to care for them.

Beauty soon realized that her income wasn't going to be enough to support her growing children. She had to pull Chadni from school to join her at work.

Chadni watched as her friends continued with their education while she worked. As a result, the young girl began to grow angry.

Then in January 2017, World Vision launched a program to combat child labor using a multi-faceted approach. They established a Child-Friendly Space where children involved in hazardous labor could come for a few hours a day. While there, children like Chadni have time to play with others. They receive tutoring that helps them catch up on lessons missed and learn other helpful life skills. The goal is to get children back into school and out of their hazardous jobs.

World Vision also helps families establish businesses that help them earn more income than they would have received if their children worked. Parents also receive a conditional grant to cover school expenses for their daughters and sons.



The story behind the photograph:

Photo: Jouri (wearing a pink sweater) sits with her family at home. She lives with her mother, grandmother, and active little brothers.

Story: Jouri (wearing a pink sweater) is an 11-year-old Syrian refugee girl who attends a World Vision Child-Friendly Space in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Her father is missing in Syria.

Jouri was very shy and stayed by herself when she first came to the CFS. Then her teacher realized Jouri could read well, with emotion, and was able to tell great stories. Jouri was made the class storyteller, a position she takes seriously. Now she enjoys taking part in all the activities, especially storytelling, reciting poetry, and singing. Jouri also attends school. "Going to the CFS has made me a better student," she says. "Now I'm not so shy. I'm better able to answer questions and read aloud in class."



The story behind the photograph:

See articles on Peru in the Summer 2015 issue of *World Vision Magazine*.

Photo: The Rafaelo family outside their home in Carhuahuran, Peru.

Left to right: Ortencia Rafaelo Curo (22, a former sponsored child) stands with her 1-year-old son, Jack, her sister Silvia Rafaelo Curo (also a former sponsored child), their mother Juana Rafaelo, two of Silvia's four children, and Marcos Rafaelos Cente (Ortencia and Silvia's father). Squatting: Silvia's husband and their daughter, Rosaura, 8.

Change here happens slower than in cities. The daughters' lives look a lot like their mother's, dominated by collecting wood, tending to small animals, and cooking. The advantages of Carhuahuran's entrée into the modern world won't likely affect them as much as it will affect their children.

The women in the family still dress in the traditional Quechua way — a hat, cardigan sweater, full skirt, and a small blanket around their shoulders. All five children in the family are sponsored: Yobert, Elizabeth, Silvia, Ortencia, and Maritsa. Their grandfather Marcos was a sponsorship promoter and helped deliver letters to sponsored children in the community.

The family attends a Pentecostal church in town. Life in this remote community, located in the mist-shrouded highlands of Peru's Huanta province, was in the crosshairs of violence between Shining Path terrorists and the military in the 1980s and 1990s. Life improved when World Vision began working in Ayacucho in 1996, offering sponsorship for local children. At the time, the village was reachable only by foot, so staff hiked in, carrying sponsors' letters to deliver to the sponsored children. In 1999, a road was built to reach Carhuahurán, ushering in a new identity as a proper town. World Vision's work phased out in 2012, but staff helped facilitate a game-changer: Carhuahurán is now part of a newly created incorporated district, Uchuraccay, ensuring government recognition and funding for generations to come.

**The story behind the photograph:**

Photo: Sponsored girl Rosemary, 10, (holding goat), with her grandparents, siblings, and other relatives at her grandparent's home in Moyo, Zambia.

More of Rosemary's story:

<https://www.worldvision.org/blog/magical-moments-kitchen>

Story: 10-year-old Rosemary's family had a bumper crop of corn.

Now that they have goats they can sell to buy improved seeds, her grandparents Patricia and Danford continue to improve their crop yields. The extra income from the goats also lets Rosemary's grandparents pay people to help them in the field and gives them access to farm tools they need to expand their fields.

Previously, Rosemary's family never could have considered helping anyone else, because their own struggles were too profound. Now, they are a family who generously helps others in their community. One of the ways they've helped is by participating in a World Vision goat project that encourages families to help others in their community.

When a family is selected to receive goats, they agree to donate the same number of goats in the future. World Vision relies on community volunteers to ensure that the program runs smoothly. A committee of 10 people selects the most at-risk families and oversees the collection and distribution of goats.

Rosemary's grandfather Danford says, "I'm happy that my family is now living well, that we are healthy. It is exciting. But importantly, that excitement should not just end up at my household. That excitement — I have now a responsibility that I pass it on to someone else." Danford continues, "The way we struggled is the way others also struggle. So once we pass on the goats, we know it will ease the lives of the next family just like it has happened to us." Rosemary's family passed the goats on in 2015.