

Sharing your Compassion Overseas Experience

Welcome back! We hope you had a memorable and insightful trip, exploring the culture and beauty of the country you visited and witnessing the work of Compassion first-hand.

If you met your sponsored child, you'll have seen the difference your support is making, and you're now in a unique position to share your experience. We've put together some guidance to help you develop your story:

- **Reflect!** Take some time to process what you saw ahead of sharing about your experience. Perhaps re-read any notes in your handbook journal if you went on a Compassion Insight Trip to jog your memory.

- **Get visual.** Make use of photos. Show photos of your sponsored child, their family and home environment to bring your trip to life. Use a map to show where you travelled.
- **Be selective.** You may have met lots of different people with many stories. The temptation is to tell everything you heard, but this is too much information for your audience. Take some time to think who really inspired you and which stories impacted you the most.
- **Show and tell.** Souvenirs and items you purchased or were given during your visit can be a fascinating way to 'take people with you' as you relive your experience.
- **Personal experience.** Your friends want to hear what was unique about your experience. Be yourself and write down quirky facts, unusual events or even the mundane to bring personality to your story.



USE THIS TEMPLATE TO HELP SHAPE YOUR STORY

Introduction: Today I want to tell you about a life-changing experience I had in *[country]* with Compassion.

The reality of poverty: Whilst there, I visited homes and communities caught in the grip of extreme poverty. Poverty can mean different things to different people. To me, it's the lack of opportunities as well as a lack of resources. What really impacted me was... *[Share a few factors that made you register the reality of poverty.]*

An emotional moment: I want to share a moment with you that stays with me even now. *[Share a memory which moved you or broke your heart.]*

The Compassion Difference: I saw first-hand the difference that sponsorship makes in the lives of children and families caught in extreme poverty. *[Share what benefits you saw children receiving from Compassion.]* This has given me hope that we can personally take part in ending extreme poverty for a child.

If you met your sponsored child, add a paragraph on that experience:

Although *[child name]* lives in extreme poverty, I saw the difference sponsorship has made so far in *[his/her]* life. *[Share what benefits you saw the family receiving from Compassion.]* This has given me hope that ending poverty for *[child's name]* is possible.

The challenge: After what I've seen, I can't keep quiet about the injustice of poverty. There is something very practical which we can all do to fight this injustice. I have with me today a number of children like *[child's name]* who are looking for sponsors.

These are all real children with their own unique stories. Each child needs a sponsor who believes in them and is willing to pray for them. Sponsoring a child is so much more than meeting physical needs, it's also about telling a child they are valued and loved by God.

As well as education, nutritious food and medical check-ups, a Compassion-sponsored child also receives health and hygiene training, vocational skill training and mentoring to help them discover their God-given potential.

Will you join me and change a life by sponsoring a child? Will you reach out and change a child's story? I would love to talk more about this with you, so please come and find me to hear more.



Questions for Reflection

What impacted you most when visiting a Compassion project?

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When you met your sponsored child, what emotions did you feel?

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What was it like coming home?

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