



Transformers

**You don't have to be a  
superhero to be a **transformer!****

Around the world people are  
doing amazing things to  
transform their lives and make  
the planet a better place.



## Transformers

Christian Aid is a charity that works with poor communities all over the world. Thanks to our supporters, we are able to help people in around 50 countries make changes to their lives. Christian Aid does not work in isolation but with partner organisations throughout the world.



Andrew from  
Scotland found an  
unusual way to  
raise money for  
Christian Aid.



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Andrew (13) hopped across the Erskine Bridge in Scotland on a pogo stick. He is just one of many people who are helping transform the world by raising money for Christian Aid and speaking out about things that are unfair.

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Luís and his family live in Peru. They are learning to grow vegetables and be healthier.



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In this photo Luís (10) is sandboarding on dunes near his home. He and his family are learning how to grow vegetables. 'We grow a lot in our garden,' says Luís. 'Mum was shown how to plant the seeds and look after them. We've got beetroot, radishes, carrots and lots more.' Now the family's diet is a lot healthier.

In Peru, Christian Aid works with partner organisation The Spanish Institute of Foreign Missions (IEME)

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Tolik from  
Tajikistan is  
learning new  
skills on a  
camping trip.



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Tolik (13, right) is on a camping trip run by a local youth club. The club teaches new skills to children who have a difficult life at home. 'We are having a good time here,' says Tolik.

In Tajikistan, Christian Aid works with partner organisation Zumrad.

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Bianka from  
Guatemala is  
making friends  
at carnivals.



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Bianka (6) takes part in carnivals run by a local group in Guatemala City. There is a lot of fighting there so the group helps young people learn to get on together. Bianka's big sister Tirza (9) says, 'We dress up and go out on parade, dancing and marching. I like dancing best.'

In Guatemala, Christian Aid works with partner organisation Caja Lúdica Civil Association.

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In Sri Lanka,  
people are getting  
help to rebuild  
homes and schools  
after a disaster.



Christian Aid/Brenda Hayward

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When a huge wave – the 2004 tsunami – destroyed thousands of homes, many children and their families had to live in places such as schools. Local organisations helped people rebuild their homes and reopen schools.

In Sri Lanka, Christian Aid works with partner organisation The Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation (OFERR).

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In Ghana, people  
are asking for more  
and better schools  
so more children  
can go to school.



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Now everyone can join in at school in Savelugu, thanks to the headteacher and a group asking the government to make changes to classrooms. Zahara (14) says, 'The school had ramps built and I could get to school without help. Then I felt good. It has made it easier for me to be at school and study.'

In Ghana, Christian Aid works with partner organisation Social Enterprise and Development Foundation (SEND).

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In Senegal, farmers are getting better tools so children don't need to work on the farms. Now they have more time to learn and play.



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Children in Senegal sometimes have to work on farms, which means they miss out on school. In one village, near a place called Mehke, a local group has helped the farmers get better tools so the children don't need to work. Now they have more time to learn and play.

In Senegal, Christian Aid works with partner organisation Réseau Africain pour le Développement Intègre (RADI).



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# Real-life stories: Ghana

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**Names:** Musah and Fatimata Ziblim

**Ages:** Musah is 13 and Fatimata is 11

**Where they live:** Ghana, west Africa

**The problem:** Ghana is a poor country and there aren't enough schools for everybody. Musah and Fatimata weren't able to go to school as the nearest school to their village was many hours' walk away.

Fatimata and Musah have just started school.



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**What happened:** SEND is an organisation in Ghana that receives help from a charity called Christian Aid. SEND helped people in Musah and Fatimata's village to ask their government to set up a school. It took time and hard work, but the government did pay for a school to be built.

**How have things changed:** Musah and Fatimata can now go to school and they are more hopeful about what they will be able to do in the future.

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Fatimata  
doing her  
homework.



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Fatimata says, 'I really want to be at school. I think it's good for me because it means I will be able to get a job and buy things for myself and my family.'

### Ghana facts

- The capital of Ghana is Accra.
- Musah would like to be a farmer when he grows up. In Musah and Fatimata's village they grow groundnuts and tomatoes.
- The currency in Ghana is the Ghana cedi.
- The main religions in Ghana are Christianity, Islam and some traditional religions.
- The official language in Ghana is English, but lots of other languages are spoken too.
- Primary and middle-school education is free in Ghana but pupils need to pay for their uniform, books and pens.

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# Real-life stories: Guatemala

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Bianka and  
Tirza live in  
Guatemala.



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**Names:** Tirza and Bianka Barán Cornejo

**Ages:** Tirza is 9 and Bianka is 6

**Where they live:** Guatemala City, Guatemala

**The problem:** There was a war in Guatemala for many years. This has now ended but many areas are poor and there is a lot of crime. Lots of young people get involved with gangs, which can be violent and dangerous.

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A carnival  
parade in  
Guatemala City.



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**What happened:** Caja Lúdica, an organisation that works with a charity called Christian Aid, started to organise carnivals and arts classes to help young people join in with peaceful and fun activities. Caja Lúdica also started using a ruined old building to hold classes, so that people had a shared space to learn new skills.

Caja Lúdica now runs all sorts of events and classes from dancing and stiltwalking, to acrobatics and acting. Tirza and Bianca go to the classes and enjoy the parades and carnivals.

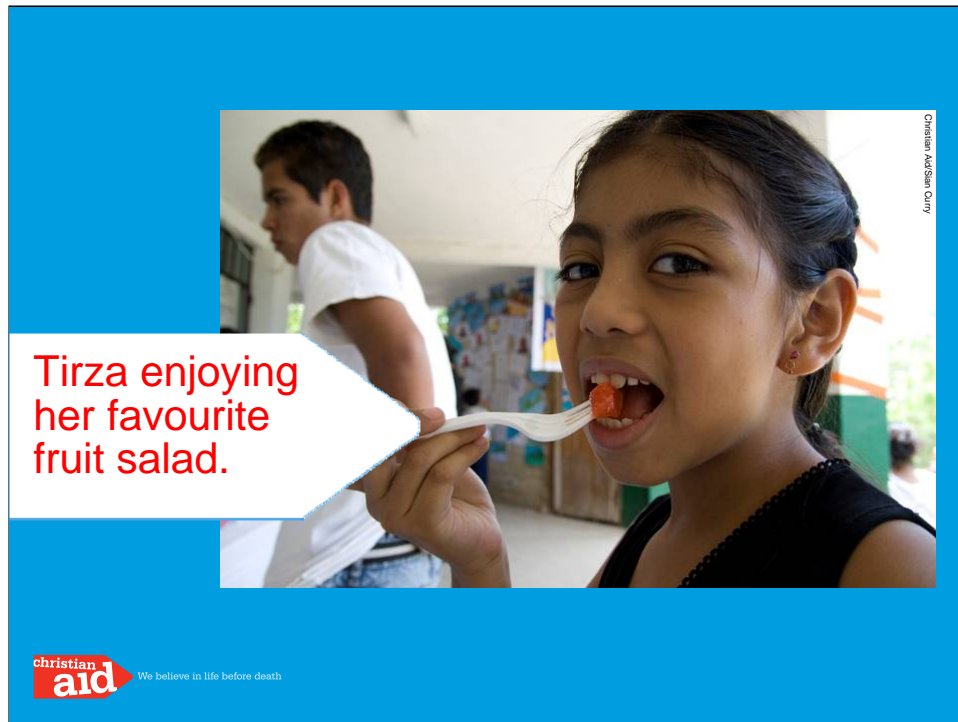
Tirza says, 'We dress up and go out on parade, dancing and marching. There are people on stilts and everything. I like dancing best.'

**How have things changed:** People who take part in Caja Lúdica's activities are learning to be peaceful and get on together, and this is reducing violence. Tirza explains, 'I feel proud when I'm on stage dancing. If there were no dance classes, I'd be bored.'

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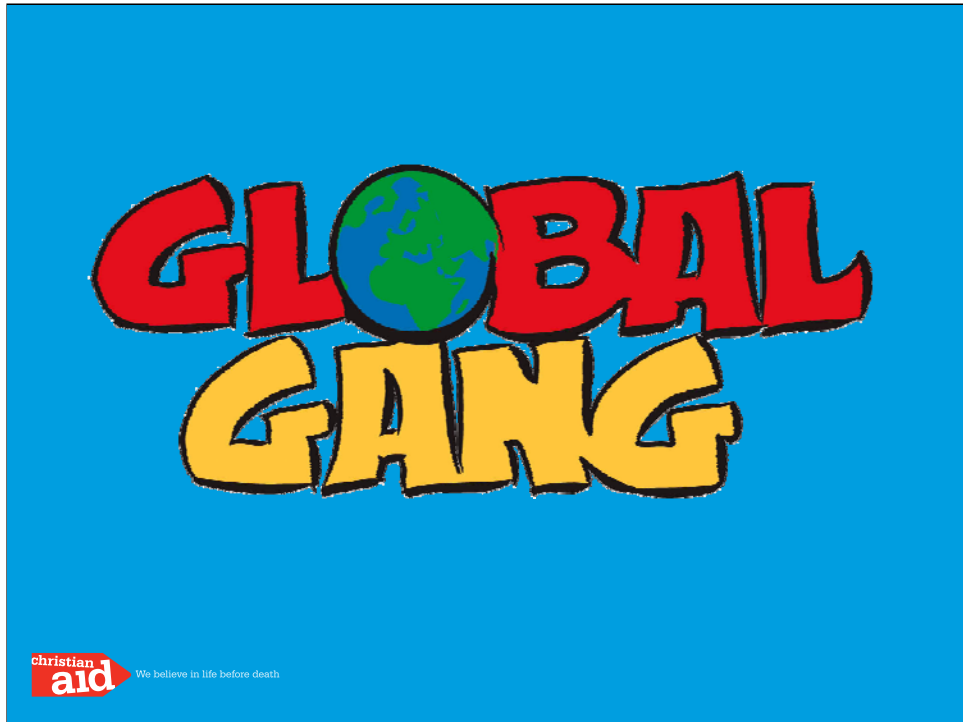
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### What do they like about living in Guatemala?:

Tirza says, 'The best thing is the arts, the worst thing is the violence.'

### Guatemala facts

- The capital of Guatemala is Guatemala City.
- The currency in Guatemala is the quetzal.
- Spanish is the main language spoken in Guatemala.
- There was a war in Guatemala that ended in 1996. However, there are still poor areas of the country known as 'red zones' where there is lots of violence.
- Bianka and Tirza like playing 'matado', which is a bit like dodgeball.
- Bianka's favourite food is fried chicken and chips and Tirza's is spaghetti sauce and fruit salad with banana, papaya, melon and watermelon.
- Tirza and Bianka's house has electricity and a toilet but no television. They buy their water from a water lorry.



[www.globalgang.org](http://www.globalgang.org)



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