

World Vision 



Jetë

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**Every photo,
every story, is a
life that awaits for
a **Tu ngjat jeta!****

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Foreword

28 photos that tell about 12 lives. All in black and white because it is a journey through pain. They are witnesses of facing indifference with solidarity, love with pain, battle between the possible and the impossible.

Each of these children, lives in the remote areas of Librazhd, place of forgetfulness, where poverty, lack of roads and services make them face every day the inability to live their childhood. The whole family suffers with them, in silence, in solitude! They wait, with the hope that tomorrow their lives will be better!

Therefore we decided to say Tungjatjeta* to them! They decided that you know their stories, and give hope to their eyes!

The first national study on the prevalence of disability showed that there are 70,000 disabled children in Albania.

Only 8% of them receive basic services. World Vision launches the social program "Tungjatjeta" A team of experts, offers visits and services for children with disabilities, in the remote areas of the country, in their homes.

Join us: www.tungjatjeta.al

*Tungjatjeta is an Albanian greeting that means:

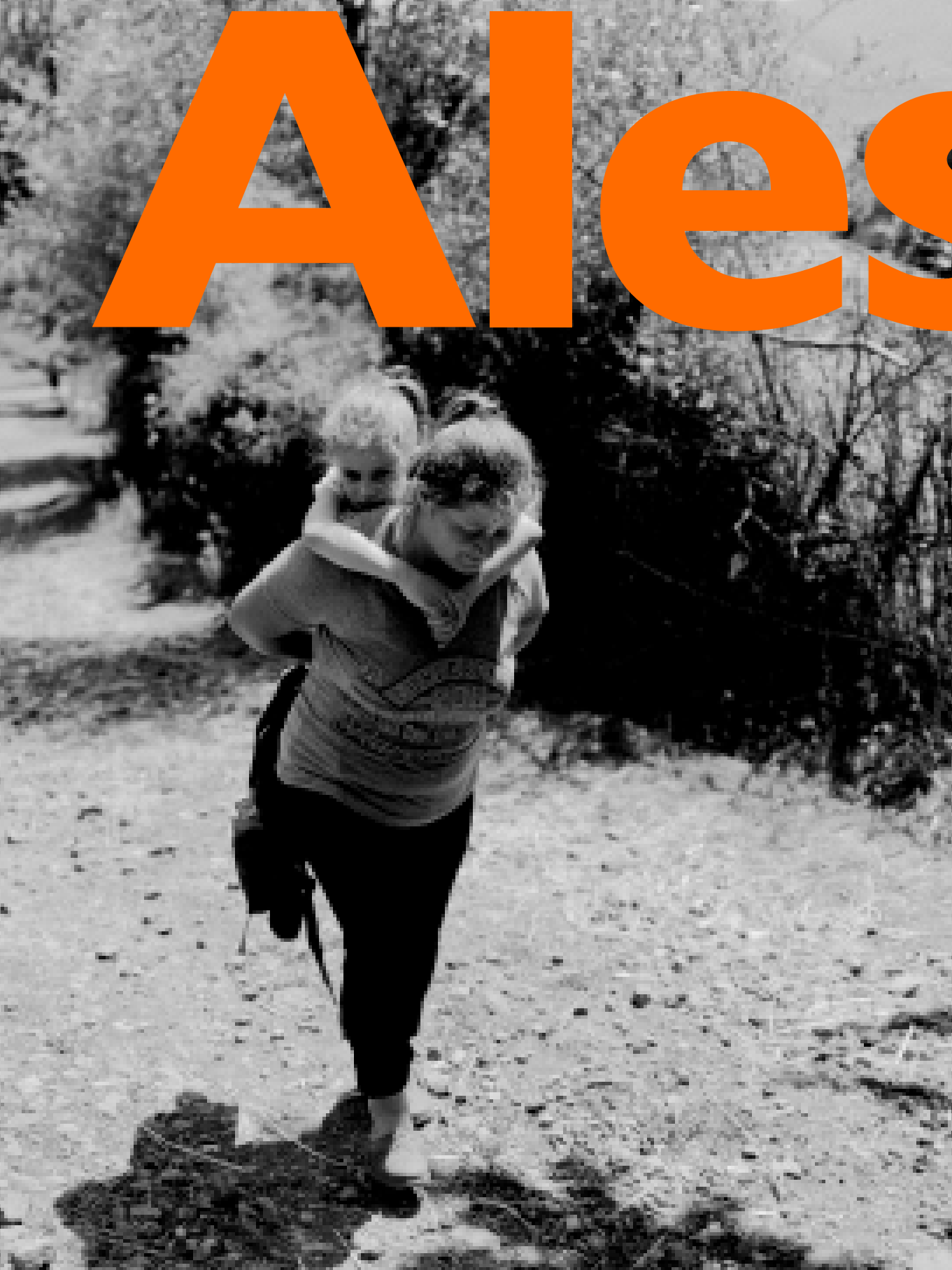
"May you live a long life!"

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A black and white photograph of a dirt road lined with trees and a wooden fence. The road is in the foreground, leading towards a line of trees and a fence in the background. The trees are dense and leafy. The fence is made of vertical wooden posts. The overall scene is rural and somewhat desolate.

sia

Aies



Hello Alesia!

“The world crushed for me! I could not believe it! I was thinking to myself: maybe the doctors are wrong? Maybe they got the medical tests of my daughter wrong?”- confesses Zhaneta, mother of Alesia, the 9-year old girl from Skroska village-Librazhd.



After three girls, they were wishing for a boy, but the family was delighted with the fourth daughter, which they called Alesia. The little one was born with cerebral palsy, but despite difficulties, she goes to school every day. Her mother carries her on her back, and together they walk a long way for 40 minutes. Alesia is the best student in the class and she excels during the math class. She needs the physiotherapy because she has constant physical pain. The only

specialized centre where she can obtain this service is at the centre of Librazhd. The mother says that they need to pay 400 ALL for minibus transportation, and for the family of Alesia, where none is working, that is a lot of money. "We buy her medication every month which costs 3000 ALL. Not to count also the diapers that she needs. It is a lot of money. I swear on my children that we cannot make both ends meet"- confesses the mother, while she cannot hold back her tears.





ra



Sa

Hello Sara!

“Sara cannot tell us what kind of toys she likes, what she wants to eat or what pain she has. When she has a toothache, we don’t know that until her gums swell”- says Sara’s mother.

The father tells the horror of a winter night in January 2011. “We went to bed and suddenly we heard Sara crying. She was only one month and a half old. It was midnight. She was shaking. She had high fever. We wanted to put her in a water tub, but we had no water. The pipes were broken because of the cold. We only found one bottle of water. We put some of it on her. Then in the morning we took her to the hospital”- Besim recalls. She

was diagnosed with encephalopathy and she did not speak or walk any more. The 5-year-old has a special bond with her father. His caresses are what make her happy the most. She can make some sounds to him as well. Ba...- she calls him. Sara smiling-eyes needs physiotherapy and speech therapy. Once a week for her is very little, but for the unemployed parents the transportation costs to the city are not affordable.



oriela



a

Gab

Hello Gabriela!

“She did not move from where they put her; nor would she turn her head. She did not look at or touch any toy either. When I washed her, she would not react. Imagine, she was not even afraid of the water. I would tell everybody: I’m afraid the girl has a problem, does she?” – Adriana says in tears.

She tells us that when the girl was born, everything went well. The little one cried as soon as she came to life, but with the passing of the months, her silence started to worry her: “They would tell me that she is a quiet child. But I felt it in my heart...something was not right... until one day, when she was 10 months old we decided to take her to the hospital. The doctor told us she had retardation” – Adriana says in tears.

Gabriela and her family live in Skroskë village- Librazhd. The 15 year-old needs speech therapy for her to communicate with people around her, at least with a few words.

“The girl needs also physiotherapy to be able to walk better. She has started to improve. Before she would not let go of the things she wanted. Now I tell her: How did you learn it at the centre? Things are of everyone, and then she gives them up. She has started to obey me somehow”- her mother says.



van

EN



Hello Elvan!

“He was our first joy! I have had the most special moments in my life, when he was still a baby. We would have never imagined this...”- Vjollca starts to confess.

Elvan was 2 months old when his parents noticed an unusual eye movement in him. “We realized it was not a good thing, but we did not know what problems it had caused to our son”- his mother says. The doctors told them that the boy had undergone internal fever. He is 8 today and he speaks very little. It is difficult for the parents to understand him because sometimes he repeats their words. Last year he should have started the first grade in school. “I registered him at school, but the teacher did not accept him, because he was a little distracted.

Let him attend the kindergarten for another year, she told me. Let him learn the colours and numbers”- she said. I did as the teacher told me, she says, but I noticed that he started to behave smaller than he was. He would imitate the other children, she concludes. “I would like to become a football player, play with a ball”- Elvan tries to tell us. Elvan needs speech therapy sessions for him to speak more fluently. During these years he has not received any service. Distance from the service centre, transportation costs, and lack of information have left Elvan without the necessary treatment.





ggerent

oi



Hello Oligert!

“He would leave the house to school together with his friends, but he would lag behind. He would walk and feel very tired on his way to school. When he returned, everyone would walk upwards the hill, but my sweetheart would not...”- confesses Berija, who has tied her life with “Gertushi” as she calls him.

Oligert is 11. He suffers from muscular dystrophy, a disease that weakens the muscles. But he dreams to become a football player. Like all future football players, the thing he likes the most is to play with a ball. His mother, Berija, tells us that they started to realize that their son had difficulties when he started first grade at school.

“I never knew that there are centres for this purpose, for physiotherapy. Then ...

we need a car to get there. I barely take him to school and he barely walks”- Berija says.

They live in Dragostunja village- Librazhd. Oligert needs physiotherapy so that he does not give up his fight to live his life on his feet.

The only income they have are those earned from her husband. Anytime he can, he goes to work to Macedonia, but with that money they hardly secure the daily food.



ta



Ar

Hello Arta!

“Mom, why can’t I walk?”- this is the most frequent question Arta asks her mother, Florina.



She is 7 years old and she can walk only if she holds on to her mother. Arta was only 2 months and a half old when she had high fever. Her parents took her to the hospital immediately. "We had her go through many checks and the doctors said that she had cerebral palsy", - says Florina.

Arta grew up without being able to walk, although this is her dream. Her mother says that the daughter wants to walk all the time. Last year, Arta started school. Florina would escort her to and back from school every day. "I would hold

her hand and when she would get tired I would carry her in my arms"- she says. It was hard for Arta; she was not able to write because her hand would get tired very quickly. She cannot go out to play with her friends. Her dolls are her friends. She takes them, draws them closer to herself and starts playing.

She cannot even have a chair suitable for her condition. Her family members share only one room, at the house where the grandmother and Arta's youngest uncle live too.





diian



Arc

Hello Ardian!

“The first and only word the little boy ever said was: “Mom”. Since then, he didn’t speak any more and started to become nervous. The doctors told us that he has autism,” – Ardian’s parents recall.

The 8-year-old lives only on milk, but this affects his health because he is always insufficiently nourished and has insomnia. Nexhmije, Ardian's mother, says that her son was never given the necessary services. They live in Qukës- Librazhd, and he is the youngest of the three children. The only centre where he can have the therapies he needs to improve are located at the city centre. The road

leading there takes over one hour and the transportation cost is high for them. When he turned 5, Ardian went to kindergarten for 4 months. Nexhmije says that he liked to sit in the classroom, play with his peers, and listen to his teacher. After 4 months, he became very sick. The kindergarten is 1 hour away. For the family it was impossible to send him there, so he did not attend kindergarten any more either.



annual





Emma

Hello Emanuel!

“I want my son to get better, at least to say 2 words, or to be able sit on a chair...I’m not asking for him to walk... I would go to the end of the world only to have my son healed!” – says Mira, about her son, also her first child.

Emanuel was only 3 months old when he was diagnosed with encephalopathy. Today he is 4 years old, and due to the serious illness, he cannot speak, walk or sit... Mira says that the most beautiful moments are those when he follows them with his eyes and smiles from time to time.

The little one needs physiotherapy and speech therapy. She carries him in her arms, and together they get down and take the van to the city, to the service

centre. From Skroska, the village where they live, it takes about 1 hour to get to Librazhd. After Emanuel finishes the therapy, with him in her arms, she goes to take the van to drive them back to the village. When they are lucky, they wait at the station for 1 hour, but there are cases where they wait for 2 or 3 hours ... “His favourite toy is a small car; the only one he can carry in his hands”- says Mira. That is sufficient for Genta, the little girl with cute eyes to come. She dries away her mother’s tears and kisses “Lali”, the name she calls her brother with. It seems like her caresses give him life.





njidi

Kia



Hello Klajdi!

“When he was 3 weeks old, one night, he started crying and sobbing non-stop. We did not sleep that night at all... The next day in the hospital the doctor said that it was paraplegy... I don’t know very well. Then we went to Tirana. Even there we did some medical tests. Then we returned to the village...I don’t know...since then we have taken the boy only to the family doctor”- Klajdi’s mother says.



To date, there is no clear diagnosis for the boy. All these years, he has been living isolated from others. He never went to school. But, he likes very much to meet new people. Klajdi is very kind and smiling. His look follows his mother and brother constantly. "He likes very much to go out here at the balcony and look at the landscape. I carry him in my arms"

– Ligjëria says, while by caressing him she calls him "mom's bunny". They live in Hotolisht, a village of Librazhd. The only one who works in a family of 6 members is Klajdi's father:

Klajdi needs a medical check up to have a clear diagnosis set and then be able to get specialized services.





son

viis



Hello Soni!

“Soni was able to walk when she was 3 years old. Since then he crawls on the floor...” – says Lina.

They live in Xhyra village- Librazhd, together with a family of 6 members. Vilson is 11, but he is very shy. With the persistence of his relatives, his mother Lina took the boy to the doctor. Soni needed medication because his body was very weak.

After the treatment, he started to walk. “He could walk, but he would get tired very quickly. Even now he complains a lot”- says Lina. He has constant back pain due to a deformation in it. Soni

has not been medically treated for 8 years. The mother says that he wakes up at night and he cries from the pain he feels.

Marioli, the 8-year-old brother says that at school, the other pupils mock him, hit him, push him and that is the reason why he does not like to go there. Soni should have finished fourth grade, but he has gone there only for a few days. Despite difficulties, Soni has a big dream. “I would love to become a policeman”- he says with low voice.





una



Br

Hello Bruna!

“Pregnancy went very well, and also the first months, we did not realize anything. When she turned 1 year old she would say “ma”, “ba”... and that’s it. Then she lost the words. I would talk to her, but she would not answer. She would not even listen to me” – says Mimoza, the mother of Bruna, who is her third daughter.

After struggling to accept the difficult reality, the parents brought her to Tirana. “The doctors told us that she should have a scanner and x-rays, but we could not afford them, so we had no money for them”, - the mother tells.

Afterwards, when Bruna was 4 years old, she was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

Only 3 months ago, she started to get

the services that she needs. Together with her mother, they go to the centre of specialised services in Librazhd. There she receives speech therapy. “The girl is having improvements. She has started to make sounds. If she would talk, she could take care of herself! That’s all I wish for. Because when I’m not around anymore, who is going to take care of her? – confesses Mimoza.

Bruna is a friend of everyone in the neighbourhood. She likes to play with other kids, also with the dog they have behind the house, and collect fruits from the trees.





ilijano



O

Emmi

Hello Emiljano!

“He was not skilled like the first two children, and he would not move like them and not even make sounds. In the beginning, I did not want to accept it. I could not believe it that my son was born with problems. Then, with time, I had no other solution”- the grieving mother says of the smallest in the family.

Emiljano is two years and a half old, has thick half-curly hair, long eyelashes and deep eyes. He is very connected to his mother and sister, Sarina. He was diagnosed with encephalopathy and he needs physiotherapy and speech therapy. “The doctors have said that if he continuously attends physiotherapy sessions, he could be able to walk. I even dream about him being able to walk.”

– his mother says. She will hold him in her arms and together they walk a long distance to the van that drives them to the city. There, Emiljano undergoes the therapies he needs. They can go there 2 times a week, but not more due to distance and high transportation costs, which are difficult challenges for them. “I don’t want to him to stop the therapy because he is improving. He has started to call me now. Mom- he says...He follows me with his look in every step”- his mother confesses.





Tungjatjeta is a social program that aims to socially integrate children with disabilities in remote areas of Albania. The first national study on disability prevalence showed that one in 10 children in Albania suffers from at least one disability. 92% of these children have no access to the basic services they need. The reasons vary from economic inability, distance from specialized services provision centers, to lack of transportation.

Given this situation, World Vision, through Tungjatjeta social program, provides an intervention to overcome these obstacles. It enables a team of experts composed by a physiotherapist, a speech therapist, psychologist, two social workers, a nurse and a developmental pediatrician, to travel to the remote areas of the country and visit these children in their homes. The team of experts designs individual development plans for each child with disabilities and follows them step by step.

Based on each specific need, the child benefits the support in the form of:

Physiotherapy, speech therapies, psychotherapy, family counseling, basic auxiliary materials

What is more, the means of transport enables children to access existing specialized centers that in long term will help them to socially integrate and move toward a more independent life.

The social program Tungjatjeta has started in Librazhd town where, according to MEDPAK association there are identified 470 children with disability. Actually there are selected the first 30 children with disabilities that will benefit directly from it.

This program is implemented by World Vision which aims a life in all its fullness for every child, in cooperation with MEDPAK association and the Municipality of Librazhd.

Due to the efficiency and impact in the lives of Child with Disabilities, this program is intended to spread beyond Librazhd and come to help other disadvantaged children throughout Albania.



World Vision is an international, Christian, development and advocacy organization. Its goals focus on child wellbeing through community development and long-term humanitarian programs. World Vision started its activity in 1950 and is currently operating in almost 100 countries around the world. World Vision offers its assistance based on needs, regardless of religious affiliation. World Vision began working in Albania in 1999, in response to the Kosovo refugee crisis. Since then, its focus has shifted to long-term development and support for the most vulnerable children and youth.



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