



01

This is Nomatter, her brother Forward, and their mother Thandekile. Nomatter will be twelve on her next birthday. Forward will be nine on his next birthday. Does anybody here have a birthday coming up? What age will you be?

Thandekile (31) with her daughter, Nomatter (11), and son, Forward (8), inside their house in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

**Trōcaire**





## 02

Nomatter and Forward like to play. Some of the games they play include football, handball and hide-and-seek. Nomatter likes to teach her mother, Thandekile, the dance moves she learns in school.

Nomatter (11) practises her handstands while her brother, Forward, her mother, Thandekile, and Aunt Cynthia look on, in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

Nomatter (11) and Forward (8) play football with their cousin, Blessing (10), outside their home in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

# Trōcaire





# 03

Nomatter and Forward's mother, Thandekile, moved to their house twelve years ago when she got married. She has lived in the same village all her life.

Their home has two rooms, each in a separate building. One room is used during the day and for eating. The other is used to hold their belongings and to sleep.

In the yard of their home, Nomatter and Forward have donkeys, goats and chickens. There are many trees nearby. They wash their dishes on a small wooden stand outside their house in the yard.

Look closely at the picture. What can you see? What parts of the buildings and garden are the same as your home? What is different? What colours are the earth, the sky and the plants? Can you see anything in the photo that you might like to play with?

There is a swing on the tree made from a car tyre, which the children called *umjinga*. *Umjinga* is the Ndebele word for a swinging place.

Clothes hang out to dry outside the home of Thandekile and her children, Nomatter (11) and Forward (8). Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

# Trōcaire





# 04

Here are Nomatter and Forward on their way to school. What are they wearing in the photograph?

The children start school at 7.15 a.m. The children in the school travel long distances each day, mostly by foot. They travel up to 10 km by foot (over 1.5 hours walking).

Nomatter's favourite subjects in school are maths, English and Ndebele (the language of her village). She would like to know more about what Irish children learn in school.

Nomatter (11) and her brother, Forward (8), walking to school, Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

# Trōcaire







# 05

In the yard of their home, Nomatter and Forward have donkeys, goats and chickens. Here are Nomatter and Forward feeding the chickens in the yard outside their house. They help their mother by doing jobs at home.

Every morning when she wakes up, Nomatter goes to get water for her family to use that day because there is no water in their home. She gets the water from a type of well that is far away. She washes the dishes and cleans the floors, and she spends time playing with her brother.

Nomatter wants to be a nurse when she grows up. She would like to help people who are sick, and to work at the local hospital in her neighbourhood.

Nomatter (11) and Forward (8) feed the chickens outside their home in Zimbabwe while their mother, Thandekile, looks on. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

Thandekile's goats outside her home in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

# Trōcaire







# 06

Here is Thandekile, the children's mother, on her way to work.

Every day, Thandekile does many jobs to take care of Nomatter and Forward.

She cleans the house, gets water from the well for her family to use during the day, and goes into the woods to look for firewood.

Then she goes to work. She cycles many places when she is working. She sells clothes in the villages nearby, cycling from home to home, and she is a farmer.

Sometimes the children's aunt, Cynthia, helps by minding Nomatter and Forward when their mother is at work.

Thandekile (31) cycles through her community in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

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07

Thandekile helps the children with their homework, so they can learn to read well. The children work hard to learn to read.

Thandekile (31) helping Nomatter (11) and Forward (8) with their homework inside their home in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

**Trōcaire**





08

Thandekile, Nomatter and Forward's mother, believes food is one of the greatest gifts that people can give one another, because when we share food we make sure everybody has enough.

Some of the children in Nomatter and Forward's school are hungry, because they do not have enough to eat.

Here you can see Thandekile preparing a Ndebele dish called umxhanxa, which is made from a type of melon.

Thandekile (31) prepares melon inside her home, with her children, Nomatter (11) and Forward (8), looking through the window.  
Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

**Trōcaire**







# 09

Nomatter and Forward's mother, Thandekile, grows much of the food they eat in a nearby community garden that is shared with other families. She grows leafy vegetables and carrots and brings them home to her family. If there is too much rain, or not enough rain, the food does not grow, and Nomatter and Forward have less to eat.

In Nomatter and Forward's neighbourhood, it used to rain every year during the 'rainy season'. This was very important to help the food they eat grow. But now, many years there is little or no rain.

A field near Thandekile's home in  
Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R.  
Matonhodze

# Trōcaire





10

Nomatter's favourite food is rice. When she eats her meals at home, she eats with her entire family. In school, Nomatter sometimes gets a meal of sadza, beans or corn greens. Sadza is a food made from maize meal (like corn).

In this photo, the family are eating umxhanxa, a dish made from melon and boiled dry corn.

| Thandekile (31), Nomatter (11) and Forward (8)  
| have dinner inside their home. Photo credit:  
| Cynthia R. Matonhodze

**Trōcaire**







11

Here is Thandekile, the children's mother, washing the dishes after their lunch. She washes them outdoors in a basin, using water from a bucket. She dries the dishes on the wooden rack above her head.

Like you, Nomatter and Forward use water every day to clean, wash, cook and drink.

| Thandekile (31) wash dishes outside her  
| home in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia  
| R. Matonhodze

**Trōcaire**







# 12

Nomatter and Forward have no taps in their home. To get water, they must walk a long distance. Here they are collecting water from the well (called a borehole). They will fill their buckets and bring them back to their home.

Because there is no water near their home, they cannot grow food in their garden and their mother, Thandekile, must walk a long distance to a shared garden to grow food.

Thandekile (31) and Nomatter (11) bring water back to their home in Zimbabwe. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

Thandekile (31) and Nomatter (11) collect water. Photo credit: Cynthia R. Matonhodze

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