

Changing the world  
with **women and girls**  
**act:onaid**

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James Elliman Academy  
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SL2 5BA



Child details: Berner Oliverio - GT01402400  
Sponsor reference: 7442166

### Important news about your sponsorship of Berner Oliverio

Dear Tajinder Dhaliwal,

I am writing to you today with some important information about your generous sponsorship of Berner Oliverio, who lives in Guatemala.

Our Sponsorship Manager in Guatemala recently informed me that Berner Oliverio is no longer able to be sponsored. I know this news will be disappointing to hear, so I wanted to let you know as soon as possible and explain what this means.

The reason why your sponsorship of Berner Oliverio has come to an end is because Berner Oliverio's family have moved away from the community where we work. Families move for many different reasons such as finding different work or to be closer to other family members. Sadly, this means we can no longer keep you in touch with Berner Oliverio, so your sponsorship of him has now come to an end.

I'd like to reassure you that through your generosity, the skills and knowledge gained by participating in ActionAid's projects will stay with Berner Oliverio's family in their new community. Thank you for being part of this positive change in Berner Oliverio's life.

Child sponsorship is a vital way to help communities make lasting change. Without you, we could not support the variety of projects to improve family incomes, increase school enrolments and attendance, tackle the health and wellbeing of children, and ensure the voices of women and girls are heard. And as I know you will appreciate, there is so much more still to do together with some of the world's poorest communities - this is the other reason for me writing to you today.

**Even though your sponsorship of Berner Oliverio must now come to an end, I hope you will be able to continue your generous support of our work by sponsoring Keily (GT01620037), whose details I have enclosed. By sponsoring Keily, you will continue to support families to lead positive and lasting change in their lives.**

We would love to continue to tell you about ActionAid's work and how you can help us. If you no longer wish to hear from ActionAid UK, you can opt out by sending an email to [dataprotection@actionaid.org](mailto:dataprotection@actionaid.org) or calling us on **0800 012 2038**

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If you agree to sponsoring Keily, you don't need to do anything further; we will continue to collect your sponsorship donations. And of course, you can look forward to receiving messages, photos and news from Keily. These special updates from Keily and her community show how your commitment continues to transform lives, something that would not be possible without you.

But I very much appreciate your original commitment was to Berner Oliverio, so if you would like to discuss your ongoing support of our work, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can call 01460 23 8000 between 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday, or email [supportercontact@actionaid.org](mailto:supportercontact@actionaid.org) – our dedicated Supporter Contact team will be happy to help.

Your continued support means so much to the children, women, and communities we work with. All of us at ActionAid share your determination to make positive, long-lasting change by working in partnership with families and communities like Keily's. So, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you have done so far, and for what you will continue to help us achieve in the future thanks to your sponsorship of Keily. We cannot do it without you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Murrell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Murrell  
Child Sponsorship Team  
ActionAid UK

# All about Kelly



## Hello!

Welcome to this special introduction to Kelly, where you'll get to learn a little more about her life, their family and community. Kelly was born in 2014, and lives with her family in Kik Komasanil. Kelly's family speak Spanish, the language most commonly used in Kik Komasanil. Many families also use Mayan languages, such as Chuj Maya and Myan Mam.

Kik Komasanil is located in the municipalities of Nentón and Santa Cruz Barillas in the northwest of Guatemala, over 500km from the capital, Guatemala City. Historically, families living here have relied on farming to earn a living, but in recent years falling food prices, reduced access to markets and unpredictable weather patterns has seen an increasing number of people migrating to Mexico in search of seasonal work. Many schools in the area have faced years of underfunding, leading to insufficient educational resources and a lack of trained teaching staff, directly impacting the quality of education children receive. Many families also lack access to safe, clean water supplies and electricity. Through child sponsorship, we are working in partnership with families like Kelly's to tackle locally identified issues and develop solutions to overcome them.

## Education

Kelly attends a local primary school, which is free and compulsory in Guatemala. However, schools in Kik Komasanil lack funding, which has led to insufficient classrooms, a shortage of trained teachers and limited educational materials. Despite primary education being free, many parents find it difficult to cover the costs of uniforms, books and transportation. Children particularly struggle to progress to secondary school – this is not free. There is also only one secondary school available, and traveling to this school is both difficult and expensive.

## Earning a living

While many families keep livestock like chickens, Kelly's family does not own any livestock. This limits her family's ability to vary their diets and income. Kelly's family own a small plot of land that they use to grow crops including corn and beans. But in recent years, the over reliance on chemical pesticides and fertilisers has reduced the quality of the soil, and crops yields have declined.

## Homelife

Kelly lives with her family in a home made from cement blocks. Homes typically have just two rooms – one space is for sleeping, and the other for cooking.

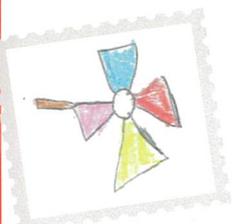
Kelly's family collect water from a tap within their home compound. This helps to reduce the burden on women and girls in the family, as collecting water is often placed on their shoulders.

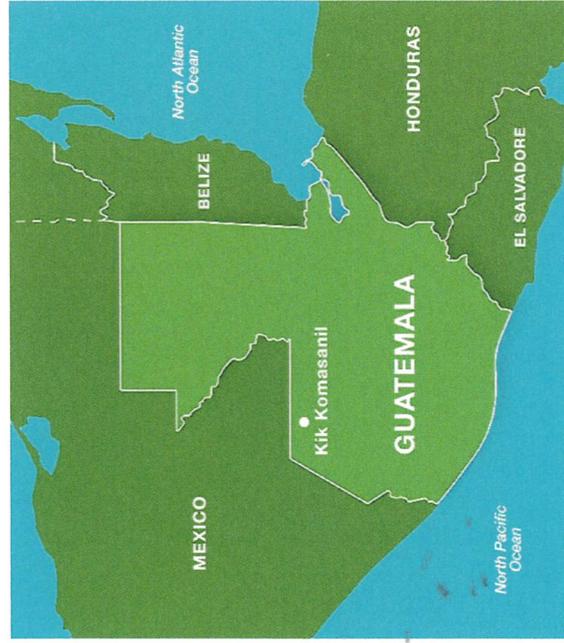
## Changing lives in Kik Komasanil

ActionAid is working in Kik Komasanil in partnership with families like Kelly's to improve farming skills, develop employment opportunities, help ensure children receive a quality education and hold leaders accountable. The rights of women and girls are at the heart of everything we do, and our programmes are developed to ensure they have an active voice in the development of their communities. By sponsoring Kelly, you are standing with women and girls to improve lives for the whole community – men and women, girls and boys.

If you would like to write to Kelly, they would love to hear from you.

The address is: *ActionAid, UK Child Sponsorship Office, Chard Business Park, Jarman Way, Chard, Somerset TA20 1FB*





### Working together to make lasting change

By sponsoring Keily, you are partnering the communities of Kik Komasanil to lead positive change. Key priorities and activities include:

**Strengthening the voice of women and girls:** We are supporting women to stand up to injustice and violence. This includes establishing savings groups where women can save money and take affordable loans, so that they can start small businesses and earn an independent income. Community groups and workshops are also raising awareness of women's rights and domestic violence laws.

**Tackling hunger** – Land-grabbing, unreliable rains, soil erosion and limited access to water all contribute to the food shortages faced by many in Kik Komasanil. We are working with communities to develop farming practices, including building resilience to climate change, improving irrigation systems and increasing soil fertility.

**Education in Kik Komasanil** – We are working with communities to demand greater government investment in schools to tackle the issues of overcrowding, insufficient teachers and lack of basic facilities like toilets. We are also working with communities to tackle the issues that may prevent girls from receiving an equal education to boys.



## Meet Keily

