

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER + FASTING

21 OCTOBER, 2016

Stand with us in prayer for Africa's vulnerable children and their communities during the widespread drought and food crisis.

SOUTH AFRICA

Water trucks have not been delivering water in some communities, causing people to have to search for streams to collect water. Pray for strength, energy and health for those carrying this extra burden to collect water.

Some Community Based Organisations, like Siyathuthuka and Pfunani, are working hard to grow vegetables in gardens at the Life Centres. However, as the Care Workers are trying to save water they are becoming difficult to maintain.

SWAZILAND

There is a desperate lack of water in the Swaziland communities – people are having to wake up at 2am to line up for the water hole in order to collect water. Please pray for strength, energy and endurance for them.

The few water holes that are left in some communities are dirty, being shared by both animals and people, and many people are getting sick.

Care Workers in Bhandeni community are having to walk very far, sometimes even crossing the border into Mozambique, to collect water. Pray for energy as they walk long distances, and for their safety, as there is ongoing conflict in Mozambique.

Food prices have risen very high which makes life very challenging, especially for the most vulnerable.

MALAWI

As the drought has affected many areas in Malawi, pray that God would intervene since even basic commodities are increasing in price.

Many communities rely on only a few boreholes that are left; the rest have dried up. If the remaining boreholes become dry, there will be no source of water.

People are extremely hopeful and desperate for rain this season; plots are all ready for planting. Please pray for rain to fall so there will be a good harvest next year.

Power and electricity are reliant on hydro-electric dams and because there is such little water available in the country, the government is having to cut power, even in the hospitals.

ZIMBABWE

Pray for the communities in Zimbabwe as food prices continue to rise and times are getting harder because of the drought.

Many people only had enough maize this year to last until August, and now are in a desperate situation with no food.

Pray for the Care Workers who are struggling to provide food for their own families

MOZAMBIQUE

The price of maize has increased significantly and with no harvest from this year, people struggle with no staple foods to rely on.

Please pray for rain. It is crucial for rain to fall in the next few months in order for there to be a harvest next year.

ZAMBIA

Please continue to pray for rain to fall in the upcoming months so there can be a good harvest next year. People are desperate, but hopeful that rain will come.

Our communities in Kabwe region have been hit hardest by the drought. Pray for the families that are struggling in this season.

Visit our website for the most up-to-date information on Hands at Work's response to the Drought Crisis in Southern Africa.

handsatwork.org/DroughtRelief

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

TOGETHER CARING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

THE DROUGHT CRISIS

Southern Africa faces an extreme drought crisis, which has gripped a huge part of the population, specifically those described as 'the poorest of the poor' in a way that is unprecedented in human memory. Hands at Work is a non government organization with a unique existing infrastructure which already reaches and cares for these families. A million children right now face dire consequences because of hunger, sickness, and lack of water. Within these people exists a layer – vulnerable children like Chuma* and grandmothers – who will not survive unless there is an intervention.

Chuma* lives with his mother and two sisters in the community of Honde Valley, Zimbabwe. Chuma's mother is left on her own, and must provide food and basic needs including school fees for the three young children. This year, the drought has affected Chuma's family in a very real way – in the past their small harvest has helped to support them, but this year the entire crop has failed to grow. She has nothing to sell, which means no food on the table and no money for school fees.

Planting season in Africa is between September and October, and harvest season between April and May. As a result of the drought, the harvest planted in October 2015 was a total failure. The earliest next crop to be planted will be in October 2016, only to be harvested in May 2017. At best, the first time staple foods like maize and beans could be available will be June or July 2017, once dried and prepared. Should there be another year with poor rainfall like this year, not only would planting be prevented again, but we could be facing a complete humanitarian catastrophe. What we are already seeing is a crisis on a large scale. This drought has caused widespread hunger, and millions of people are on the brink of starvation.

Though media outlets are beginning to report on the crisis affecting Southern Africa, it is far from 'big news' yet. Few people are aware of the drought challenges in Africa, let alone able to engage and make a difference. However, it is in these very communities that Hands at Work is already working and seeing first-hand the scale of the crisis busy unfolding.

South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and the south of Zambia have been hardest hit, directly impacted by a severe lack of rainfall. However, all of our countries – including further north in Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, are suffering from escalated food prices and limited availability of staple foods (in Malawi, for example, staple foods like maize have risen by 73%). Hands at Work is engaged in a very real crisis which is estimated to continue for at least the next 18 months.

The only way Hands at Work will be able to respond to this crisis in a meaningful, strategic and timely way is by uniting together in a response.

“This is a key moment for the Hands at Work family. Not only to be with the people it serves, but to speak on their behalf. Even though it is a crisis, it is also a huge opportunity to go deeper in the communities Hands at Work is working in and to align itself with their suffering.”

– George Snyman
Co-founder Hands at Work
in Africa

31.6 M

people are food insecure in Southern Africa right now — this could double by the end of the year.

Statistics from The World Food Programme - OCHA Report April 2016

Malawi has been hit by the combined effects of flooding and drought, leading to the most severe food crisis in a decade.

75%

Less rain fall in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland from Oct 2015 - Feb 2016