

Prayer Request for Kenya



In Kenya 4 million people are currently facing hunger due to the worst drought in 40 years, with no rain at all for the last 4 rainy seasons. At COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh this week the newly elected President of Kenya William Ruto (left) pleaded for international action stating, “In Kenya 2.5 million livestock have died causing economic losses of \$1.5 billion. Climate change is directly threatening our people’s lives, health and future”. Although the rains that normally fall heavily in October have failed, there are signs of some rain in the current forecast over the next 10 days – please pray that this happens!

The impacts of this crisis are severe in Kayole, with huge price increases for petrol, water and food. The cost of cooking oil – a basic requirement for all Kenyan kitchens - has tripled in the last few months, while the increasing petrol costs have drastically put up the prices of public transport which everyone uses on a daily basis. Mains water – which has to be paid for in Kayole, unlike in Ireland – has also gone up in price, although it is only available sporadically. The Tujisaidie School uses a 5,000 litre water tank to provide for drinking, cooking and washing. This is filled every week with a delivery from a tanker lorry, also at significant cost.



In our partner Diocese of Kajiado the situation is much more acute, with hundreds of Maasai pastoralists forced to sell their herds of sheep and goats in order to buy food for their cattle, only to see their cattle die from starvation when this ran out. As Diocesan Accountant David Osoi wrote, “the drought is severe - many have lost their livestock and have been left with nothing”. With donations from



Ballyholme parish and other supporters, CMSI has this week sent out funds for emergency food distribution to 800 of the most needy families – but climate action at an International Governmental level is desperately needed.

There was a very clear and disturbing BBC World Service radio broadcast on the drought in Kajiado yesterday called “Africa Daily: How is climate change affecting livelihoods in Africa” (available on the BBC Sounds App at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0df3nw3>). This features an interview with a pastoralist from Amboseli National Park who says,

“A lot of our domestic animals are dying – cows, sheep and goats. Even in our villages we have almost lost about 40% of our cows, the same case applies to wild animals, they are falling down day in, day out – it’s getting severe. It’s very scary, it’s a bit heart-breaking and very disappointing.”

The prices of livestock have collapsed, with bulls previously sold for 100,000KSH (£700/€800) now going for 5,000KSH (£35/€40) or less, with goats normally sold for £42/€50 now fetching only £1/€1 or less.



The knock-on effects of the crisis are equally grave – with nearly half of schools in the Kajiado region reporting persistent pupil absenteeism, with many children dropping out of school in September and October in order to help their parents look for food, pasture and water. Those who do come to school (usually walking quite long distances) often arrive very weak without having eaten breakfast or even a meal the night before. Many schools don’t have food for school meals either, so the children have to sit through the day with only water to fill their stomachs, making it very difficult for them to study.

Girl students are suffering additional hardships, as their parents have no money to buy sanitary products, and the severe shortages of water means it is almost impossible to maintain adequate standards of hygiene. As they drop out of school it is likely they will not return, and may be married off or get pregnant, continuing the cycle of poverty.

World leaders at COP27 launched the Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda this week to rally global action to address the ongoing Climate Emergency in areas such as food security and agriculture, water and nature, human settlements, oceans, and cities. Although some countries have pledged new finance for adaptation, and loss and damage – including the UK who will triple its adaptation finance by 2025 - promises of future finance and Greenhouse gas reductions are not enough. Please pray for all world leaders at COP27 that they will carry through on their promises NOW, and begin to reverse the drift towards catastrophe.

For More information please contact:

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