

GOD CARES; WE CARE DISTRIBUTION REPORT

Report by Joseph – God Cares; We Care (ZW) Team member

Zimbabwe hunger emergency is driven by climate and economic collapse. It has the highest inflation rate in the world and is gripped by drought. There are fuel shortages, widespread poverty, lack of clean drinking water, power outages and the situation set to worsen as the COVID – 19 Pandemic spreads.

The poverty Rate in 2007 was nearly 80%, while the unemployment rate was ranked the world's largest, at 95%. Zimbabwe remains in the grip of severe food insecurity, with more than half of the children are affected by malnutrition, where 20% of the children between 6-23 months received a minimally adequate diet further comprising their lifelong quality of life. About 1 in 4 children under 5 years were stunted and at risk of impaired physical and cognitive growth.



Above is a picture of children alongside Masvingo road picking up spillages of grain on the roadside spilt by haulage trucks transporting grains from South Africa to Zimbabwe as relief assistance to the drought in Zimbabwe.

It has been noted by the World Health Organization (WHO) that hunger brings out constant worrying about where your next meal will come from and it can cause mental health problems such as depression, anxiety and even posttraumatic stress.

In a country currently facing drought, and having economic challenges, **God Cares; We Care (ZW) Relief and Development Program** was greatly appreciated by all the people in the places we visited. The expression of their gratitude for the food hampers they received was remarkable. The recipients sang and danced in appreciation of the provision of food in this hard time of COVID – 19. Most of the recipients are unemployed and are elderly and are no longer able to work, whilst some survived through the informal business sector as vendors.

“God Cares; We Care came in the right time”, said Ms Molly Mushonga, a widow who is elderly. She is living with her granddaughter who had a stroke and her grandchild They are members at Glen Norah Baptist Church. She went on to say that it has been hard during the

current lockdown to survive, or get piece jobs so as to earn money for food, and with tears she was grateful to have been chosen among the individuals who received.



In the last five years the country has been facing a drought with no adequate rains in an economy where almost half of the population depends upon subsistence farming. The happiness touched our souls as we got time to speak to some of the recipients. A woman in Norton, Ms Petronella Gwekerere, with four children expressed her gratitude and said, “we thank God we are now going to be eating relish with cooking oil, because it has been long eating relish without cooking oil”, she went on to say “may God bless you all for remembering us in this time of need.”



A lot of families lost their relatives in a disaster that took place on the 14th of March 2019 leaving 129,000 children and homeless, some losing the ones they were depending on. The number overall affected 270 000 people. Cyclone Idai struck southern Africa killing 1 300 people in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. A year after the disaster the survivors are still living in tents. Peter Mutisi, a Cyclone Idai Survivor struggles to come to terms with his loss each time he visits the place that used to be his residence. His house and 200 others were destroyed when the cyclone swept through the once-busting township of Kopa Chimanimani. “I lost confidence, we do not know what to do and what is next. It is tough when someone losses confidence” Mutisi said, who was once a businessman but is now left with nothing.



We have mentioned a few events and disasters that greatly impacted Zimbabwe. Though many do not regard our suffering as much, great help is still needed as many families who were affected by the disasters are still homeless to date.

So far, at every destination we distributed, we are learning that indeed the need was there and the beneficiaries are appreciative.

James 2:26 "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead"

Congregants at Revelations Baptist quoted the scripture saying, "indeed your faith and word is alive as it is backed up by works, May God bless you."

