

FLOODING IN KENYA

BRIGHT HOPE NEWS



During our visit to Kenya in September last year, everywhere we went people were in drains clearing them out. There was an air of anticipation, like something was coming. El Nino, they said, was predicted to hit Kenya and cause major flooding. After the floods that had hit our own country last year, we knew first-hand the devastation this can cause. We had also just walked through Mathare slum, home to roughly 500,000 people, making it one of the largest slums in Kenya. A polluted river ran through it, lined with makeshift houses that would not survive if the floods hit as they were predicting.

In early April this year the torrential rains hit, causing devastating floods in Kenya, where more than 200 people have died, thousands have been displaced and nearly 2,000 schools have been destroyed. While climate events such as El Nino – the warming of the surface water of the Pacific Ocean, which causes heavy rainfall in some parts of the world – have been linked to the increase in rain, many Kenyans believe the flooding has been exacerbated by a lack of investment by the government. This was heartbreaking news.

For our partners it is these natural disasters, that are so out of their control, that continue to challenge and set them back. We walk alongside them as they work hard to build up their projects to support those in need in their communities and it is always devastating to see these setbacks. I am always challenged by their resilience and capacity to rise up in these situations, finding solutions, hope, rebuilding, and reaching out to those that are in need of support in their communities.

Our partner Bob has a project in Kisumu training vulnerable women in tailoring and then assisting them to establish their own income generating business in the markets. He reported that the flooding was very severe in their area, sweeping away the kiosk where they run their businesses. Homes of some of the women in the project have been destroyed, many have contracted water-borne diseases and roads have been damaged. He also said doctors have gone on strike and many children are becoming ill. Bright Hope World has been able to send funding for Bob to establish a food programme for those impacted as well as rebuild their kiosk.

Another partner who runs a children's home said the perimeter fence at the children's home had been completely destroyed. They are situated by the Nairobi River which broke its banks and destroyed many houses, leaving many homeless. Bright Hope World has been able to support them in rebuilding the fence to ensure the children continue to live in safety.

We would love prayer for our partners and their communities as they support those impacted and rebuild that which was damaged. If you would like to donate to those impacted by the Kenyan floods, please get in touch with the team at Bright Hope World and we will ensure the money goes to those most in need of support.

Becky Kemps

BHW Partnership Facilitator for Kenya

As Becky notes in our main article, there are quite a few challenges among Bright Hope World partners at the moment.

On top of drought in Zimbabwe and Zambia, and flooding in Kenya, we are seeing huge surges in inflation. In Zambia – again – the price of maize has more than tripled since last year!

But our partners are characterised by resilience, and they keep working to help their people and adjust to whatever trials come their way, and we will stand by them and support them as best we can.

As part of our ongoing emphasis on self-sustainability, we are busy planning our first significant strategic foray into agriculture in India. India, particularly in the north, has been a strategic focus for us for some time, and now we are looking to support the work happening in India with Foundations for Farming (FFF) training.

This, likely supported by microloans, will enable partners to generate food and funds for ministry, and support local communities to provide for their own needs. This is an exciting step for our Agricultural Team, and we are fortunate to have found a great local FFF trainer that we can partner with.



Beatrice is nearly 19 years old. She is the firstborn in her family and has a younger brother. They lost their father in 2016 when she was 11 and family life became unbearable as their mother could not take care of them.

Beatrice was brought to Kariobangi Children’s Home in 2018. She is a bright girl and a natural leader and is the leader for the children at the home. She has also been the deputy head girl at her high school for two years. After her examinations she joined Moriah School of Discipleship (<https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=233>) where again she was one of the top students.

A private donor has sponsored her to complete her diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Zetech University.

Phiona is 14 years old and is in grade 8. She was brought to the home in 2019 after her father passed away. Her mother could not support the family with her small business. The death of her father had a huge impact on Phiona, and she was failing school.

With counselling and proper care, she has improved in her schoolwork and is now one of the top girls in her class. She would like to become a nurse one day.

Elvis is 13 and in grade 7. He was brought to Kariobangi in 2021 from his rural home. His mother came to Nairobi and has been doing casual work in a factory. He is a bright boy and was able to pass the grade six exams and join Marura Junior School. He is a spiritual leader as an assistant leader of devotions.

Read more at <https://www.brighthopeworld.com/partnerships.asp?pid=374>.

1. Pray for the people of Kenya struggling after devastating floods. Pray also for our partners in Kenya who have seen their work set back dramatically. Pray for a fast recovery and provision of urgent needs.
2. Pray for those in Zambia and Zimbabwe that are facing food shortages and huge inflation as a result of failed crops. Pray for relief for families that are struggling to pay for food and other essentials.
3. Pray for Beatrice, Phiona, Elvis and the other children at Kariobangi Children’s Home, for hope for the future.
4. Pray for a number of BHW team travelling in the next two months – Jerry Field to Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda; Fraser Scott to the UK; and Kevin Honore to Egypt, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.