

THE CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE CONTINUES

After the hope of the Zimbabweans for an improved future with the election of the new president Emmerson Mnangagwe last year, the country is beset by ever worsening political turmoil, ecological disaster, and economic hardship. Hurricane Idai in March of 2019 destroyed the crops and homes of many in Eastern Zimbabwe. Following the hurricane, a severe drought this year has left two million people without an adequate food supply. Because of the food shortage, food prices have skyrocketed, so that most Zimbabweans struggle to buy basic goods. The U.N. estimates that the number of hungry will increase to 5 million by 2020. The Zimbabwean government has requested \$300 million dollars in international aide to save its people from starvation.

Not only has the drought destroyed much of the food and water supply, it has also rendered a major hydroelectric plant in Zimbabwe virtually useless, making the scarce supply of electricity even more scarce. The electricity is available only from 11 pm – 4 am daily. Water supply at the Chileleko home is dependent upon electricity, so the staff gets up at 11 pm and fills the water barrels so that the children will have enough water for the next day. Because electricity is unavailable, email communications with our Zimbabwean team no longer occur very often.

Worsening the daily struggles of the people due to the lack of food, water, and electricity is the nationwide shortage of fuel. Not only is fuel too expensive for most people to buy, it is largely unavailable throughout the country. Lucia, the home director, shared that buying fuel necessitates that the buyers wait in queues all night for the gas stations to open in the morning. Lucia and her husband Conald have given up on driving their car because of the high prices. They carpool with a neighbor in the morning and wait two hours in a line every evening to catch a government van to their home.

Protests by Zimbabweans resumed this week over the harsh economic conditions, but these protests have resulted only in the physical assault of the protesters by the police. Despite this, many Zimbabweans vow to continue protesting.

Should you decide to read more about the Zimbabwean crises, much information is available online. We, the Jonathan's Impact team, are grateful that God has called upon us to help the orphans of this country through their difficult times. Your support is very needed and appreciated.

NEW ARRIVAL AT CHILELEKO

A 17 year old girl arrived at Chileleko last month. The home is a place of refuge for her as she escapes a home situation in which she was being abused. We have not yet been informed of her name. This brings the number of children at Chileleko to 11.

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JONATHAN'S IMPACT ORPHAN MINISTRIES – August 2019 Newsletter

Christian Alliance for Orphans Summit 2019

The DiLeo's, together with the home directors Conald and Lucia Dandahuni and the home Pastors Peter and Beauty Mabasa, attended the Christian Alliance for Orphans international summit in May. Jonathan's Impact covered the cost of the conference tickets only; the airfare was donated by an individual donor and other expenses were covered privately. The spiritual renewal and orphan care education that was provided at the conference exceeded our expectations. Here are some reflections from our African attendees about their experience:

Pastor Peter Mabasa: "Firstly it is with hearts full of gratitude that we would like to appreciate Jonathan's Impact for facilitating and funding our travels and stay in the USA for the CAFO conference." "The workshops/ breakout sessions were very educative and motivating and equipped us to among other things:

1. Obtain tools for use in mobilizing the wider church community to support the care, fostering, and adoption of orphans.
2. Handling trauma among teenagers.
3. The involvement of the church in training and supporting foster parents.
4. How to manage effective global partnerships.
5. Fifty ways of celebrating orphan Sunday to bring a greater awareness to the church community on the need for them to support orphan care. Although we have carried out orphan Sundays in the past we have not been very creative about it and this workshop helped us to make future Orphan Sundays more interesting and engaging than hitherto.
6. Launching a family support foster care /adoption ministry in the church community.
7. Effective fund raising methods and being good stewards of any donated resources."

Home Director Conald Dandahuni: "It was an eye opener and a pill to soldier on in Foster Care and looking after Orphans. I learned that looking after children from hard place needed to understand them first.

I was taught about trauma in children, that it was even traumatic for child to be in foster care or in a home. How it affects them and their behaviors. I was taught that a child from hard places is affected in his brain, body and behavior the way he responds even to love. Understanding these kids needs patience and you must know they will not behave in the way you expect them to behave. I was also taught that whatever they do the way they behave it's because they are not sure of their security. They could steal food in the house or at the home. They are not sure if they could have food tomorrow or they will be at the same house tomorrow. I was reminded do not forget they once never had food the whole day or two. I understood about the brokenness in their hearts and minds; this changed the way I responded and reacted to children in foster care and homes."

Home Director Lucia Dandahuni: "Thank you very much for affording us a chance to attend CAFO. At the CAFO conference:

1. I have learned that traumatized children behave the same globally and that they need our love to help them overcome their trauma. Healing is not something that can be prescribed, it is a journey and it differs for each child.
2. I have also learned that all the hopelessness I was feeling was normal and they are a lot of people who are as crazy as I am, who answers God's call to look after orphans and they pay the prize. I also realized that if it is not an easy journey but it's worth every effort. It's worth every broken cellphone, broken television, or even a burnt house.
3. I also learned that children portray their trauma differently and it takes someone who is trauma competent to be able to help them.
4. It was a healing session for me as well because I use to think that I was not normal having to endure all the things these children put you through.
5. This is going to help me help all the caregivers. I can reach out and help them to be trauma competent.
6. Help children go through their journey of healing. Being there for them no matter what.
7. Raise the community's consciousness of foster care and be an advocate for the children wherever I am.
8. Keeping integrity in the children's stages to help them and protect them.
9. Set up support system for new Foster parents.
10. Above all I have learned that it can be done.