



Village Water Zambia

Neil Brighthouse

Providing clean water to communities in Africa is one of CMA's top priorities.

We usually achieve this by partnering with small organisations, with expert local knowledge, that we trust to deliver. One such partner is Village Water Zambia (VWZ) and since 2009 CMA's funded safe water to 30 communities with VWZ - that's well over 4000 people!

How does it work?

Communities are encouraged to dig pit latrines, build hand-washing stands and to attend training on basic hygiene. When a Village Water Committee has been established the well is then drilled manually by the VWZ team, as illustrated by their video on our website (see www.meal-a-day.org/manualdrilling).

The difference that this makes to the lives of people in the villages is profound. Since CMA's funded wells for four villages in 2016 their inhabitants have seen a 90% reduction in cases of

diarrhoea, a 25% reduction in eye infections and an 81% reduction in girls' absences from school.

Joseph Nteula, from Santeula in Zambia's Western Province says, 'We are happy. As a village we used to have diarrhoeal disease because we used to drink dirty water filled with faeces. We had worms and other diseases. The distance [to collect water] has reduced, so our women have more time now to do other things. We appreciate you providing us with a protected source of water.'

Three things are key to the life changing programme you have generously helped fund. First - the well and pump that brings the clean water to the village.

Since CMA's funded wells for four villages in 2016 their inhabitants have seen a 90% reduction in cases of diarrhoea, a 25% reduction in eye infections and an 81% reduction in girls' absences from school.

Second - the training of appointed pump 'caretakers', who are able to undertake basic maintenance on the pump and ensure its longevity. And third - the hygiene and sanitation training provided to the villagers, to maximise the health benefits of the clean water.

Thank you so much for your support of programmes like this.



Registered Charity No. 1133337

CHRISTADELPHIAN

MEAL A DAY

Autumn 2017

www.meal-a-day.org

Post and Donations:
Christadelphian Meal a Day Fund
PO Box 17124,
Tamworth,
B77 9NU

Sign up for information and quarterly email updates:
info@meal-a-day.org

Keep up to date with our work on Facebook at 'Meal-a-Day (CMA's) UK'



Welcome to our Autumn 2017 newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about how you are helping Christadelphian Meal a Day (CMA's) continue making a difference.

East Africa Drought

Paul Lucas

Much of East Africa appears to be experiencing long term change in its weather patterns. The annual rains are not as predictable as they were. Traditionally, in Kenya, rain is expected in November and April - like the early and latter rains we read about in the Bible. A poor harvest in 2016

has been followed by drought. When the rains came, much later than normal, crops were washed away in many places or failed to take hold, so the harvest yield in 2017 is also expected to be poor. Emergency food stocks in the country are low and shortages are being reported, with escalating prices. Read on to find out how CMA's is helping to ensure some children in Kenya are fed...



Digging for water in a dry river bed

Psalm 140v12-13 (NIV)

I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. Surely the righteous will praise your name and the upright will live before you.



May We Eat 2017

Luke Whitehorn

In May this year, for the fourth year running, we ran 'May We Eat' - a dedicated month of fundraising for Meal a Day. This year was another successful effort. You reported shared lunches, car boot sales, sponsored runs - some of you even gave up chocolate for the whole month! In total you raised almost £10,000. We're amazed by your incredible generosity and support, so thank you!



Ngunyumu ECD school

Feeding Programmes in Kenya / Paul Lucas

Around 900 young children in Kenya, aged between 3 and 7, are benefitting each school day from the feeding programmes supported by CMaD. That's 4,500 meals a week plus a morning porridge drink - 180,000 meals each year!

There are now thirteen feeding projects in Kenya – four more than at the beginning of the year. The extra projects are our response to a call for help following the serious drought experienced in Kenya earlier in the year, and support an additional 295 children.

As of three years ago, teachers at infant schools (called Early Child Development Centres or ECDs in Kenya) are now largely state funded, in addition to those

at primary schools and secondary schools. However, the government doesn't pay for voluntary projects which are outside the state sector. At the projects supported by CMaD many families cannot afford to make a contribution to costs. Nor can they afford for their children to have a meal during the school day. And hungry children don't learn well.

Two of the feeding programmes are at primary schools, as discussed at the end of this article. Two are at ECDs where CMaD also funds the teachers and other project costs - one in Kibera (Nairobi), and one at Boyani, near Mombasa, each catering for 90 children.

At the remaining nine ECDs, described below, the support provided by CMaD is restricted to providing a meal a day and some learning materials.

Chwele Riverside ECD, Western Kenya

This project has been supported for more than 20 years by a UK Christadelphian congregation and CMaD. It was started by the Chwele Riverside Christadelphians in response to the needs of nearby families, refugees in the area as a result of land disputes near the border with Uganda. Initially it was held in their meeting hall, but since then classrooms have been funded by CMaD. The teachers at Chwele are now state-funded.



Ngunyumu ECD pupil

Eastern and Western Kenyan ECDs

In other places, ECDs continue to be run on a voluntary basis by Christadelphian congregations based in their meeting halls. Four of these are located near the Timboni Tiva Children's Home in Eastern Kenya. They are at Syomithumo, Ngunyumu, Imathoka, plus a new project at Mwaathe.

Another ECD is run at the Lela Children's Home at Kamukuywa, Western Kenya, for the youngest children at the Home and children of local families. A further three are run by Christadelphian congregations from their halls in Western Kenya at Luuya, Songhor (Nyanza) plus a new project at Sibale, near the city of Bungoma.



Crown City ECD School

It costs less than £1 a week to feed a child at one of these projects - a very manageable amount to secure through collections.

Crown City School, Chwele Town, Western Kenya

The most moving project being supported this year as a response to the drought is a voluntary ECD and primary school in Chwele town, Western Kenya. It is called Crown City School and is located on land adjacent to the Christadelphian meeting hall compound. Again it is aimed at very poor families who are living at the margin of the town centre. The children cannot attend local primary schools because their families do not have the funds for school levies and uniforms. The project had some local support to enable it to function, but the impact of the drought has led CMaD to agree short term funding of meals until the drought situation improves. Trustees will visit later this year, God willing, to assess its long term sustainability.



Imathoka ECD School

Kibera Remedial School

Another project currently receiving support is adjacent to the existing ECD at the Christadelphian meeting hall on the edge of the Kibera slum in Nairobi. This is part of a national programme, 'Education for the Marginalised Child of Kenya' (EMACK), which is part-funded by US Aid and others. CMaD has stepped in to support the feeding programme for 105 children following the withdrawal of another funder. The project is based in four classrooms on the meeting hall site and it aims to help children who have missed out on part of their education, due to illness or poverty, to get back into mainstream school.

Costs

All thirteen projects described are sponsored to some degree by Christadelphian congregations in the UK and Germany. It costs less than £1 a week to feed a child at one of these projects - a very manageable amount to secure through collections. Further offers of sponsorship will be gratefully received.

Key facts

- 13 locations: 900 meals a day
- Eastern Kenya: 220 children
- Western Kenya: 395 children
- Kibera, Nairobi: 195 children
- Boyani, Mombasa: 90 children
- Around 4500 meals a week - 180,000 meals a year
- Total cost for food: £30,938 pa
- 17p a meal; £35 per child pa



Kibera ECD School