

FOOD CRISIS IN UGANDA

The food crisis in Uganda is affecting very many people. We decided to do an informal survey and found some alarming fact and situations but at the same time the amazing resilience of Ugandan people. The food crisis affects all areas of Uganda but the more affected are those living in the cities that have no access to land to grow crops to eat.

The mother in this picture is a grandmother who is caring for nine children the youngest is 3 and a half. All of them are orphans. She considers herself blessed because at least five of them are in sponsorship but for the others she struggles to pay in bits and pieces. Sometimes they sit at home for a few weeks until she can make a little money from doing the laundry washing for other people in the village this is arduous work as she has to walk a kilometer to collect water and all laundry is done by hand. Hard work on an empty stomach.



The family live in a one roomed mud house no running water or electricity. For cooking they used to use charcoal but that has become so expensive that it is no longer viable. In the last six months the price has more than trebled so now the children have to walk around the village to look for twigs and sticks to be used for cooking. The diet in this home is posho, a dough made from maize flour and beans. This food was once the cheapest on the market but the prices have also more than trebled so the meals have had to be halved. The children eat only once a day and rely on the school to provide the lunch meal. This is only possible in the school where the children are sponsored but even the schools are struggling



to make ends meet and cannot give the children beans daily sometimes they can only be given porridge so all around it becoming a very critical situation.

Courage and Commitment



This is a story of courage and commitment. Since the death of his wife this father aged 62 looks after four of his children the youngest being twins.

He gets up at four every morning to make the fire so that he can boil water to give his children a cup of black tea for breakfast he then cooks a simple lunch for the twins who are not at school but are looked after by a neighbor and then after waking the children sets off for a ten mile bike ride to his work. He spends all day carrying

heavy bags of maize for milling from which he earns an income to feed his children a basic meal a day. They live in a rented one roomed mud house which is seen behind them. His complaint was simply people do not have enough money to buy the food they used to buy so that means less bags for him to carry and therefore less income. He really gives his all for his children and looking at them they look healthy but as for many children the big tummies and healthy look is mostly due to carbohydrates from the posho maize dough and not from the nutrition they require.



SO MUCH HARDSHIP BUT IN THE MIDST STILL SMILES

The stories of our families are all much the same. Everyone struggling to make end meet. Those who have sponsored children are blessed because some of their burdens are lifted.

Unfortunately due to the global economic crises many sponsors also seem to be finding it difficult to continue meeting their desires to sponsor a child but if only they could know what happens to the child and the family when that sponsorship stops.

The women below are struggling widows many whose children are not sponsored .



We wonder what will be the solution to these problems? There are of course many causes which are far beyond our control. One of them is the severe drought in most of East Africa, The global economic down turn and people gripped by fear as to what will happen to them if things get worse. Then we have South Sudan a new nation in great need so much of the Ugandan resources are going there. We are left wondering what will happen to the desperate families. There is no easy answer to that question. We are however very grateful to the sponsors who are doing their best to help them and pray that

others will also come on board to assist us in helping the needy children in Uganda. Sometimes the best time to help is when we ourselves have the greatest need because God often challenges us this way and He in turn is faithful to bless and keep us.

God Bless your sponsors.

Trudy Odida

