

Michael's House Responds to African Food Crisis

Across Africa our care partners have urgently contacted us as food prices have soared. The high prices have triggered a global crisis that is driving millions more into extreme poverty, magnifying hunger and malnutrition. Staple food (cassava, maize, palm oil, rice, and wheat) prices in sub-Saharan Africa surged by an average of 24 percent in 2020 through now in 2022—the most since the 2008 global financial crisis.

In Nigeria for example, the prices of both cassava and maize more than doubled. Better-off households can afford a wider range of foods, but for the poor there are very few substitutes for staples, which make up nearly two-thirds of their daily diet. In addition to our existing programs, Michael's House just responded to a request to provide aid to elderly in Kapsoya, Kenya, who were in dire need of food.

You are Michael's House and it is your donations that enable us to feed our needy elderly. *We have provided a small increase in funds to all our care partners to help with food purchases, but we need your help to meet their needs. No donation is too small. Below are a few of our programs which are struggling to provide food to fill empty stomachs.*

Kenya

Michael's House provides funds for food and medical care at the Cheshire Home which sits on the edge of the Kariobangi slums in Nairobi. The price of maize flour used to make ugali (porridge) has increased from 100 to 250 shillings. For the fortunate, ugali is served as a side, for the destitute it is the primary food they eat every day. In addition to those who live at Cheshire Home, more than 260 destitute elderly from the slums visit the home weekly for food and medical care.

Top left: Making ugali, which requires special skill as it is made without expensive cooking oil.

Top right: Michael's House recipients waiting for food distribution.

Bottom left: Michael's House recipient receiving medical care.

Bottom right: The edge of the Kariobangi slums which covers four square miles.



Rwanda

The Rwanda Consumer Price Index published in August showed food prices increased 29 percent. But in the remote area of Gikongoro the price increases are even higher due to food transportation costs. Beans have increased from 500 to 1,100 Rwandan Francs (Rwfr) per Kg and Maize flour from 400 to 800 Rwfr. Near right: Therese preparing food for her mother, Felicite. Far right: Felicite.



Togo

Our program in a remote area of Kara in North Togo requires costly travel to the small villages where the food is then delivered by bicycle to homes. To the left are examples of the rising cost of food there. Far left: Price increases: Canned tomatoes, 250 francs(f) to 300f, fresh tomatoes, 125f to 200f, green pepper, 45f to 100f, and onions 25f to 50f. Near left: Bowl of dried beans, increase from 150f to 220f.



Tanzania

In addition to the other factors causing food prices to spike, there has been a severe 24-month drought in Tanzania and Kenya. Near right: Delivery of food provided by Michael's House. Middle right: Awaiting help to carry food home. Far right: Elderly woman waiting for delivery.



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TO
MICHAEL'S
HOUSE**

Michael's House is run entirely by volunteers and your donations go directly to those programs we support.

Please donate online at www.michaels-house.org, via Pay Pal using the QR code to the right or make checks payable to:
Michael's House Inc., Post Office Box 856,
Burtonsville, MD 20866



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