

Prayer news update from Women of Migori: February 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued and loyal support for Ripple Effect's work in Migori, Kenya. Knowing that you are standing with us in support of this vital work is truly amazing. I write to you today with news of a farmer called Erma who is flourishing. I also have news of a triple crisis happening in rural Africa. We would really value your prayers for these situations. Let me introduce you to Erma.

Erma's story

Erma, a widow, lives in Migori with five dependents. Before she joined Ripple Effect, she used to buy vegetables for her family. As she didn't have much money, the family would regularly go without food. She told us: "Life was not easy."

She joined Ripple Effect in 2017 and applied her training to growing a range of crops but as her first bananas started maturing, her family took away the land saying it did not belong to her. She lost everything. However, Erma did not give up, she leased some land and started again. She now grows bananas, cassava and a variety of vegetables. Last season, due to her climate-smart training, she had a healthy harvest despite the short rains.



Erma tending her crops



Erma on her bicycle

Erma and her family now eat a healthy, balanced diet. She has enough surplus to sell and she is able to save money in a group scheme. From her savings she has bought a cow and some chickens and has expanded her home from a one-bed to two-bed house. She is self-reliant and independent and is very grateful to Ripple Effect who have brought back hope in her life.

As a Peer Farmer Trainer (PFT), Erma received a bicycle, as you see in the photo. She now saves on travel expenses by cycling everywhere and told us that nowadays she is never late for her group meetings!

Please pray for Erma in her role as PFT. Pray for her as she shares vital training and knowledge with farmers in her community and beyond, so that they too might be able to grow food on their land and feed their families despite the climate crisis and growing inflation.



The triple crisis - will you pray?



The new name for Send a Cow



Doreen is working alongside Ripple Effect to fight the triple crisis

Families in rural Africa are facing the worst hunger emergency of a generation. Right now, farmers like Doreen, should be preparing to plant their next season of crops before the rains hopefully come.

Recent world events have meant families like Doreen's have faced crisis after crisis after crisis. First the Covid-19 pandemic, then the cost-of-living crisis, and now the worsening climate crisis.

The global cost-of-living crisis has made the support we provide to farming families more expensive, meaning we may need to make the devastating decision to not help every family we promised to this year.

In the countries where we work, the effects of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine - where a large proportion of wheat is imported - have led to over 10-30% inflation rates. The increased cost of food has had a devastating impact on families like Doreen's.

As the climate crisis has worsened, rainfall has become less predictable, disrupting growing seasons. Over the last two years, persistent drought has led to multiple crop failures.

We have a commitment to keep our promise to Doreen, and the 92,000 people like her, so that they can plant and harvest - now, and in the future.

**Will you pray for Ripple Effect as we launch an emergency appeal to raised funds?
Will you pray for Doreen and families like hers? We truly value your support.**



Three ways you can help

1. Join our prayer event

We are hosting an emergency online prayer event with Ripple Effect supporters and staff both in the UK and in Africa on:

Wednesday 15 March, 9.15-10.00am

Let's pray for the triple crisis emerging in rural Africa; for the farming families it's affecting and the Ripple Effect team who are directly supporting them.

[Sign up today at rippleeffect.org/pray](https://rippleeffect.org/pray)

2. Continue to support Women of Migori

Join our Mission Partner churches, virtually, to hear the latest updates from Beatrice, project manager of Women of Migori.

Wednesday 24 May, 18.00- 19.00 (UK time)

There will be an opportunity to ask her questions as well as a time of prayer for Beatrice, her team and the families she works with.

Details to follow, but please do add this date to your diary now!

3. Pray for the triple crisis in rural Africa

- Thank God for the Ripple Effect team, working tirelessly in rural east Africa. Thank him for the lives that have been transformed through them over the years. Thank him for Doreen who has been working so hard to feed her family even in the face of the triple crisis.
- Pray that God would bless the work of Doreen and farming families like hers. Pray that he would bless them as they share their knowledge, seeds and training with others, creating a wave of change in their own communities and beyond.
- Pray for the 92,000 people in rural Africa who are facing severe hunger this year if they do not receive the seeds, tools and training to start planting this March. Pray that a hunger crisis will be averted.
- Pray for every member of the Ripple Effect team, including Beatrice in Migori, as they seek to be your hands and feet amongst some of the most vulnerable people in rural Africa.

Thank you and bless you for your continued support for our work in Migori. Please do join me for one or both of our online events. It would be great to see you there!

Best wishes,

Ann Hatton, Church Development Executive

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with me :



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