

Pray with us



The Climate Change Advocacy Group in Masue village, Kenya. The group is made up of women who come together to protect their natural environment.

Working together

In Masue village, Kenya, Christian Aid partner Anglican Development Services East (ADSE) worked with the community to build water tanks. These tanks collect run off from nearby hills and are essential in providing back up water during dry spells. The tanks made a dramatic difference to the life of the community, increasing people's vegetable harvest and shortening the time spent collecting water.

But recently, the dry spells have lasted longer than anyone envisioned and even the storage tanks have run out of water. According to Kenya's Government: "The evidence of climate change is unmistakable. Temperatures have risen throughout the country. Rainfalls have become irregular and unpredictable, and when it rains, downpour is more intense. Extreme and harsh weather is now a norm in Kenya."

ADSE supported and trained both a local climate change planning group and a women's climate change advocacy group that Esther Mutindi Mwololo leads:

"I am in charge of the climate change advocacy group. Our

job is to build the environment, to do tree planting and to make sure the surroundings are good. When we are working as a group I sing and motivate them as a group, so we can do more. We come together, we weave baskets and ropes, so we can sell them to get money. We distribute the money among ourselves. We sit down and agree whether to plant, or to go dig terraces to control soil erosion. We come together and choose one person's home where we will dig, so we can control soil erosion. Then, the next time we will go to another person's home and plant trees."

The community is doing everything it can to deal with the present and future impacts of a changing climate. But unless there is dramatic global action, communities like Masue will only see the situation worsen.

Prayer points

- Pray for Esther and her climate advocacy group, that they have impact locally and beyond. May their community, solidarity and action be an inspiration to us all.

- Last February, floods caused damage and loss of life in the UK, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Peru, Bolivia and

and Indonesia. Pray that all those affected received support to recover and rebuild, and that this year all communities facing extreme weather are better supported in advance to cope with the impacts.

- In early February, leaders from across Africa will meet for the African Union Summit. Africa is the continent most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and the least responsible for causing it, so pray that the summit makes good progress in helping communities overcome the challenges that they face.

- As Lent starts, reflect on whether Lent feels different this year in these more uncertain and difficult times. Pray for all those who face uncertainty because of the changing climate, due to lost harvests, lost jobs or lost homes.

- As part of the UN process ahead of COP26, every country had to submit a climate plan outlining how it would contribute its share of emissions cuts. At the end of February, the UN will analyse how these plans add up. Pray for all those preparing this report, that they are given the information they need and are able to communicate it well. Pray that if the evidence shows that rich countries are not yet doing enough, they heed this advice and improve their action plans.

A climate prayer for Lent

You spoke into the silence
Light suffusing darkness.
You spoke into the silence
Blowing clean life giving air into the space
You spoke into the silence
Warmth and cold infusing the air
You spoke into the silence
Solid ground formed out of gushing water.
You spoke voice carrying over the sound
People, plants and animals came to life.
You spoke each creation balanced against the next so life would be abundant and sustainable.
You saw everything you had made and declared it to be

very good.

You spoke choosing to give us humans stewardship over all that You had made.

We speak and act

Darkness of pollution limits light levels and damages the air we breathe.

We speak and act

Ground poisoned, burnt, stripped bare.

We speak and act

Without hearing Your call over the noise of the world to be good stewards.

You speak. You create. You want us to be stewards of Your creation.

We come to You to re-learn how to care for the earth and people you have made.

Amen

Katrina Rowland

Keep the prayer chain going

Don't forget to sign up to join the prayer chain, so that we can fill every day with prayer ahead of the crucial COP26, encouraging ourselves, our churches and our leaders to strive every day for climate justice. [Caid.ie/prayerchain](https://caid.ie/prayerchain)

Sign our latest petition at caid.org.uk/climate-justice-petition

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