

Moving Stories

Zimbabwe

[Rebecca Kapaira](#), is from the village of Shamva in Zimbabwe. “Being a single mother, I have to work doubly hard,” she says. “Our economy is so unstable it becomes difficult for us to survive.”

Under lockdown, Rebecca fears not being able to put food on the table. Rebecca is a farmer, and like most Zimbabweans, she depends on just one, increasingly unreliable rainy season each year.

However, climate-induced droughts mean only one season in five has normal rainfall. Experts predict that the upcoming 2020 harvest will be even poorer than those preceding it. “For the past two years we haven’t harvested anything,” says Rebecca. “Our community hasn’t been able to predict rainfall patterns. Our timing seems wrong every time. The crops never mature enough to make it to harvest.”

Life has become harder each day for Rebecca and her children. Hyperinflation has sent food prices soaring. Rebecca is one of the over four million Zimbabweans experiencing emergency food insecurity.

“At the end of the day, women and girls are at the receiving end of the coronavirus. It will affect us more than anyone else. Why? Because it’s us women who do the household chores all the time.”

“We are the ones who fetch firewood for cooking from the bush. We are the ones who fetch water from unprotected wells, and it needs two to three people to pump

it. We cannot do social distancing. We are the most at risk.”



Pic: Zach Vessels Unsplash

Commitment for life supports Christian Aid’s phenomenal work in Zimbabwe, which includes implementing the [Resilience Framework](#). This framework focusses on climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management, in addition to the sustainable management of land, water, soils, forests, agriculture and agro-pastoralism that reduces poverty and hunger in the face of climate change.

The URC’s very own Diana Paulding is part of Christian Aid’s Prophetic Activist Scheme. These young Christians are working for climate justice. The activists launched the Stop Fuelling the Fire Campaign, which is petitioning the UK government to end using UK Export Finance to fund fossil fuel projects overseas. Diana feels strongly about this issue, and with training from Christian Aid has, in collaboration with other activists, organised a petition to Boris Johnson. Please do sign their important petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/SFTF>

