

Term Break – Safe Haven Program for 3 weeks in April



Happy times at
Safe Haven School
Break Program!

1. FOOD
2. Learning
3. Medical care



All the children were back on Rusinga Island, having lots of fun activities, except for Seth, whose only close relative passed during the break. The children have food every day, while so many local kids go hungry. They also have the security of “Safe Haven,” especially if they are full or partial orphans or have serious illnesses. We love these precious children and will visit them later this year! After the Safe Haven program ends and school begins, the year round feeding program takes over for them again.

On Rusinga Island, Drought Continues for the 2nd Year

In April we normally have the heavy rains for the year, and this is the only time when rains last long enough for the maize to fully grow. In 2016, the maize crop failed. In 2017, these heavy rains have been sporadic, and most families on Rusinga lost their maize crop again. Their next chance for a good crop will be June, 2018. Many cows and donkeys had died before the rains came, since they usually scavenge for food.

How does this affect the people?

1. With skyrocketing food prices during the drought, hunger is a major part of their lives, especially the most vulnerable children, those who are orphaned and/or physically challenged, as are many of those we serve.
2. HIV spreads more rapidly for two reasons: (1) more men depend on Lake Victoria for fishing when farming is not productive, and (2) more women must go to the fishermen and trade sex for fish when they have no other food for their children. Job opportunities are extremely rare on Rusinga Island.
3. Lake Victoria water, which is notoriously dirty, becomes even more polluted, increasing the cases of water borne diseases such as typhoid fever and malaria, of which our children are often victims.

The good news:

Safe Haven is blessed with an 8000 liter water tank, provided in February by CanAssist Africa. Although rains were too sporadic for most crops, the tank was full after just a couple nights of heavy African rains. Rains come and go, and what a blessing to have clean water for the children at the year round Safe Haven programs.

What Can You Do to Help?

Can you provide a one-time or monthly gift to help sustain the children in this crisis situation? You can see below or on our website how to contribute to save a child's life with food and medical care.

Do you know a local charity that may wish to hear more about the children? We are pleased to provide them with more information about the children, about Rusinga Island, and about the work we do.

Do you wish to join us late this year in Kenya? If you are interested in traveling with us, we plan to visit the children on Rusinga Island for 2-3 weeks in late November and early December. We may even go together to visit a world famous animal park such as Masaai Mara. Please contact us for further information if you are considering getting to know the children and the Island first hand.

The Kids Need Your Help

Drought often leads to hunger and medical problems.

YES, I want to support the precious children.

\$10 \$25 \$50 Other

We are grateful for all the food and medical help through gifts from caring friends. Even with the terrible drought, the children continue to eat and get medical care, with your help.

100% of every gift goes directly for food, medical care, and education for the children.

Online: <http://rusingaislandchildrensfund.org/>

By Check: To "Rusinga Island Children's Fund"

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Thank you for everything you do for these beautiful children.



Dave & Rebecca

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RusingaIslandChildrensFund.org 501(c)(3) charity

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