

Hello from Kenyan Kids!

Safe Haven Over the Years

While living on Rusinga Island, Kenya, 2011-2013 as Peace Corps volunteers, we got to know some of the precious children and a few of the many challenges they face every day, including food insecurity, lack of adequate medical care, and educational needs.

The Rusinga Island Children's Fund was started in 2013 with one child and now has approximately 30 children cared for with focus on food, medical care, and education.



Above: Children eating food outside under a tree, 2015. We've known Ruth, bottom right, and her brother Kevin (blue pants) since first moving to Kenya in 2011.

Left: Wilson enjoys lunch of beans and corn, 2016.

Coronavirus and Kenya

The virus is primarily in the large cities of Nairobi and Mombasa. As in the US and much of the world, all schools are closed. Children have the extra challenge of food insecurity any time they are out of school.

The Kenyan Ministry of Health has given the usual precautions of hand washing and distancing. However, precautions are **regarding people who already have flu-like symptoms**. Examples:

“Avoiding shaking hands, hugging or kissing with people with flu-like symptoms. Staying at home and avoiding travel when you have flu-like symptoms.”



Coronavirus and Rusinga Island Children

Rusinga Island children are all back home, as schools closed March 18. Most children attended local schools, and other children are now on Island from their schools for the deaf and the blind. Safe Haven continues to care for the children with food, medical care, and some limited help with education.

Children gather daily for morning porridge and again for a large, late lunch. Since the limit on group size is 15 in Kenya, eating in shifts is possible. They also continue to receive medical care as needed.

With the ban on larger group sizes, Safe Haven is focused on staying open for crucial services – food and medical care. Education is limited to the “candidates,” those four who are in the 8th grade, including Kevin from the School for the Visually Challenged, who are expected to take national exams later this year. Their choice of high school, and literally their entire lives, can depend heavily on this one exam.

Today at the Market

We are fortunate to be able to buy a little extra food as the prices begin to soar. These photos just came in today, April 21, from the market. Thanks, Benard. It’s not a busy “market day,” with the usual crowds.



We wish you good health as we all move through our challenges!



Rebecca & Dave

Facebook: Rebecca Rowson **Email:** Rebecca.Rowson@outlook.com

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Home Address: 360 Skymont Drive, Holly Springs, NC 27540
Rusinga Island Children’s Fund

Phone: 919 600 2843