News from Global Care and our partner projects

Summer 2026

NEWSBRIEF

RENEWED

Emergency relief for South Sudan

Around 1,250 people made homeless by violence in South Sudan received clothing, food and materials to build shelters, thanks to an emergency relief initiative delivered by our local partners and funded by Global Care.

A brutal attack in Abiemnhom County, South Sudan, in the early hours of Sunday 1st March left up to 200 people dead and dozens wounded. In an attack lasting around four hours, homes and markets were set on fire and civilians massacred as they tried to flee.

The perpetrators are disputed, with some blaming an armed opposition militia group, and others blaming armed gangs of youth from a neighbouring area carrying out revenge killings.

As a result, more than 2,000 internally displaced people fleeing the violence, including unaccompanied children, made their way to neighbouring Abyei district, where Global Care's local partners work. They were homeless, hungry and in desperate need of help.

Our partners, the Episcopal (Anglican) Diocese of Abyei, said: *"Many of them arrived with no basic necessities, facing severe socio-economic challenges, including food insecurity, lack of shelter and limited access to livelihoods.*

"The Diocese, through its church structures, wanted to alleviate immediate suffering and restore dignity amongst the most vulnerable households. We are grateful Global Care is there to help us address these needs."

"The assistance arrived at a crucial time when options for survival were limited."

Thanks to a generous donation, Global Care was able to help immediately with a grant of USD $23,000 to help the 250 most vulnerable households identified by our diocesan partners – around 1,250 people – for up to three months.

"The assistance arrived at a crucial time when options for survival were limited," say our partners. *"It brought hope, dignity and tangible support to the displaced families of Abiemnhom during a moment of great need."*

Food parcels, to last three months, included flour, lentils, sorghum, rice, oil and sugar. Non-food relief items included sleeping mats, mosquito nets, plastic sheeting for shelters, and second-hand clothing.

STANDING in tragedy and disaster

A cyclone struck Thurlith School in early March, damaging the roofs of all the classroom shelters.

It was the first of two weather-related crises to affect the school this year. In the second, a 14-year-old pupil at the school tragically died in May, after being struck by lightning while in the local village, causing great distress amongst her friends, fellow pupils and staff.

Thurlith School is a primary school for extremely vulnerable children, including unaccompanied displaced and refugee children under the care of our diocesan partners. The school is in Abyei district, one of the most unstable regions in South Sudan, itself one of the world's most fragile countries.

Global Care has been supporting Thurlith School for several years, including funding traditional shelters for classrooms, and building a kitchen which allowed the school to qualify for vital food aid from the World Food Programme (WFP).

Thanks in part to Global Care's investment, the school, which was started by a local vicar, has grown from 150 children meeting under trees, to a well-respected school of 450+ pupils with access to books and learning resources, food and medical care.

In a country where six out of 10 school-aged children never step foot in a classroom, let alone benefit from feeding and health support, this is a significant achievement.

The cyclone damage was not only disruptive to the children's education, but also to their essential feeding support.

If the damage was not repaired promptly, the school's eligibility for food aid from the WFP would have been compromised, but our partners did not have the necessary resources.

Thankfully, we were able to fund repairs costing just over £3,000, to ensure the children's education and feeding was only minimally affected.

Head of Operations, Steve Wicking, said: "*As if the chaos of conflict and the sheer instability of living on the cliff edge of extreme poverty were not enough to contend with, climate and weather-related issues are creating fresh challenges for vulnerable communities around the world.*

"These two incidents in such a short space of time, combined with renewed violence sending another flood of displaced people into this unstable region, illustrate the complex challenges facing our partners as they work to bring hope and relief into the lives of marginalised children and their families. We are proud to stand alongside them, fighting on the frontlines of the war against poverty."

"...fighting on the frontlines of the war against poverty."

PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE

Bangladesh **Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, with a huge 51% of girls married before the minimum legal age of 18.**

Numbers are even higher in rural areas, and amongst the poorest families, as many parents lack the means to educate their daughters, and see early marriage as a solution. In Khulna, the district where our partners work, over 61% of girls are married before the age of 18, making it the region with the second highest rate of child marriage in Bangladesh.

Early marriage leaves girls at higher risk of maternal mortality and domestic violence and almost always means a premature end to education, stunting girls' academic and personal development, and trapping them in inter-generational poverty.

One of the most heart-warming and impactful results of our partners' Learning Booster programme has been hearing the stories of girls enabled through this project to avoid early marriage, to complete their schooling and even to begin higher education.

The Learning Booster programme was initially funded as a short-term post-Covid initiative helping children catch up on learning after lockdown.

The project supported 300 young children in 20 village learning centres by offering older students, at risk of dropping out of school due to financial issues, the opportunity to act as coaches and mentors.

Mentors receive a small stipend to enable them to continue their own studies. The initial project was extended for a further year, using trust funding to help 150 children at 10 centres. Of the 20 mentors currently helping to run this programme, 19 are girls.

Global Care's involvement with this project will end in the autumn of 2026. Our partners tell us that community ownership of this initiative has been so positive they expect the existing centres to continue without our input. We are currently working with our partners to establish a new preschool initiative focussing on remote locations - look out for further details in our Harvest Appeal later this summer!

Changing the course of *Joy's life

Despite a stellar academic record, 17-year-old *Joy was on the verge of being married off as her parents could no longer afford her school expenses.

They needed the money for her two younger sisters and medical bills for her elderly grandmother. It looked like Joy's dreams of training as teacher would come to an abrupt end.

But then Joy's dad heard about the Learning Booster Programme, and Joy was offered a place as a mentor. It meant her father could cancel her planned marriage, and Joy could pursue her education.

"Growing up in an impoverished household, Joy's education was constantly at risk," say our partners. *"The financial strain came to breaking point when she was studying in higher secondary education, and her father felt forced to arrange an early marriage for Joy to ease the family's financial burden. Joining our programme has significantly changed the course of Joy's life."*

Today, aged 20, Joy coaches a class of 15 children for four afternoons each week and uses her stipend to support her own studies. She completed her secondary education and is now in the second year of college. She still wants to become a teacher, and with the experience and education this project has delivered, Joy has every reason to look to the future with hope.

Joy's ambition is to be a teacher. Thanks to her participation in the Learning Booster Programme, she has every chance of seeing her dream come true.

BRICKS AND MORTAR FOR A BETTER BEGINNING

Lent 2026: A transitional home for boys in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to our 2026 Lent Appeal. Your generous gifts raised a wonderful total of £28,874, smashing our initial target.

The funds are building a transitional home for young men ageing out of the Houtberg Childcare Centre (HCC) in Zimbabwe. Outcomes for care leavers forced into early independence are often poor, and we believe the new home will provide a supported transition into adulthood for young men who are forced to leave HCC once they reach the age of 18.

Progress on building the three-bedroom home, on land owned by HCC, has been rapid. These photos, taken in May, show how quickly it is taking shape! We hope the home's first residents will be able to move in later in the year.

> In just a few short months, your generous donations have become the beginning of a home. Our partners are excited to welcome the first three boys into this transitional home very soon!

Once the building and equipping of the home is complete, any excess funds from the Lent Appeal will support the running of HCC, a residential shelter for young people who have been abandoned or abused, who do not have safe family members able to care for them.

CEO John White said: *"We were so thrilled with the very positive response to this appeal, which has enabled our partners to move very quickly in bringing this initiative into being. A huge thank you goes to all our donors!*

"We know from our experience in Romania, years ago, that this kind of supported-living arrangement can be crucial in helping vulnerable young people make a successful transition into independent adult life. We are very excited to see it taking shape and know it will be a resource which helps smooth the path for young people leaving HCC for many years to come."

Young men will be able to stay in the home for two years after leaving HCC, with support from staff in managing independent life skills including finances.

"Prayers, encouragement, unity"

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MYANMAR

Since the military coup in 2021, Myanmar has experienced an escalating civil war between government forces and powerful ethnic militias and pro-democracy resistance groups.

Thousands of people have been killed, and millions displaced. Airstrikes are destroying civilian infrastructure, including health centres and schools, and the conflict is driving acute food insecurity and soaring humanitarian needs.

Global Care's partner DS travels into Myanmar to support the education of children in Myanmar's smallest state – Kayah State, home to the Karenni people. Karenni resistance fighters and government forces are fighting across the region. Although DS is very experienced, the journey is dangerous.

"Without God, I am afraid to go there," he told us. *"The army is now using more advanced drones and jet fighters almost everywhere in Karenni. But because of prayers and encouragement and unity of many leaders and friends, I can go there and finish the job."*

Last year DS supported 110 students and 69 teachers at two village primary schools and two high schools.

Schooling is often disrupted in a conflict zone, but DS is determined to do all he can to help children continue to access education.

> "Without God, I am afraid to go there..."

Whenever possible, early warning systems of attack by government forces give time for schools to be evacuated, and students and teachers run and hide in the jungle. Some schools move from place to place to keep safe. Most schools have trenches and 'foxholes' to provide some protection when there is no warning of an attack.

Turnover of teachers is high due to financial pressures. Teachers supplement their wages by farming - financial support from Global Care through DS means teachers can be in school more consistently without having to work on their farms.

Where middle and high schools are some distance from family villages, children travel to live in shared houses near the school during term time. Students are supported by local elders and church leaders.

Teachers identify the neediest students to receive support from DS. They can buy school materials and food, toiletries, and clothing with the money they receive. The children all work together to look after their lodgings, sharing the cooking, fetching firewood, and cleaning.

"I thank God for touching your hearts to help the needed people," wrote DS. *"Without your help, the situation of the people will become bigger and bigger. They all send their prayers and thanks to you all. On behalf of all these people, I thank you and all Global Care."*

Our vision is to see marginalised children thrive, with a particular ministry not just to the poor, but to the poorest of the poor – to the most vulnerable children.

How this works in practice can look different in different communities, depending on the vision, skills and capacity of our international partners. However, across all communities, the combination of poverty and disability is especially toxic.

Children with disabilities and their families face huge barriers to breaking out of poverty. Issues include lack of affordable treatment and restricted access to treatment, mobility problems, limited access to education, reduced ability for parents to work causing greater poverty, cultural stigma and rampant discrimination, to name just a few.

It is often more expensive to support children with disabilities effectively, compared to children without disability, but over the last decade we've been challenging both ourselves and our international partners to consider more closely how we can meet these children's needs.

Thanks to a gift in a former supporter's will, we recently funded a disability assessment in Zambia to help our partners improve their understanding of the particular needs and challenges of disabled children in their local area, with a view to developing an initiative to help them.

Our partners in Zambia describe their findings as *"overwhelming"* and discussions are now underway to consider how to move forward.

Accessing education is hard enough for children in rural Zambia - but nearly impossible for children with disabilities.

We are so grateful to those donors who choose to include us in their will.

Gifts in wills can equip us to explore new ways of helping marginalised children when current funding is tied up in delivering existing programmes.

The impact of such gifts often extends well into the future, helping us rewrite the futures of vulnerable children for years to come.

The disability needs assessment in Zambia is a good recent example, along with the restoration of running water and irrigation systems at the Houtberg Childcare Centre in Zimbabwe, as reported in our last edition of Newsbrief.

From scoping out need to building essential infrastructure, gifts in wills change children's lives for the better.

Thanks to our new partnership with estate planners Octopus Legacy, Global Care's supporters can now write a simple will free of charge or benefit from discounted fees for a more complex will.

Please see the enclosed leaflet for further details or visit

globalcare.org/legacies

WHAT SEEMS TO BE IMPOSSIBLE LOOKS POSSIBLE

Our disability project in Rukungiri, Uganda, was a huge success for the children involved, as well as an important source of learning for us.

*We built accessible toilets to enable *Gift to go to school. In gratitude for the new facilities, her school are covering her fees for the rest of her primary education.*

Instead of delivering an established intervention, our Rukungiri team were tasked with using an action research framework to investigate the best ways of helping children with mobility difficulties to access education.

This took place between May 2018 and December 2022, with the initial three-year timeframe extended due to Covid delays.

The final report assessing this initiative was published in late 2025, outlining the learning outcomes for our Ugandan partners and for Global Care UK, as well as some wonderful outcomes for the children involved.

the children

19 children were recruited, aged between four and 15, who were excluded or had limited participation in education due to mobility difficulties.

At the end of the project 14 children were settled in school. 13 had vastly improved school attendance and 13 were promoted to the next class each year, showing academic progress, compared to just one child at the start of the project.

13 children had improved social interaction and seven had improved mobility.

During the project one child died, and one child moved away. Two older boys dropped out of school again after experiencing academic difficulties. One child dropped out of school for medical reasons.

changing perceptions

Our Rukungiri team said the project changed their assumptions about the potential of children with disabilities, saying: *"What seems to be impossible looks possible after some time."*

Schools benefitting from accessibility investments reported a more positive attitude amongst parents about children with disability. One school reported: *"Even children who are normal no longer discriminate children with disability."*

One school given an accessible latrine now has 16 children with disabilities enrolled, showing how the project continues to benefit local children with disabilities. Another school employed a special needs teacher for the first time.

key interventions

Accessible latrines, built at five schools, were extremely effective. Other accessibility improvements included paths and ramps. Additional impacts included schools creating lifetime bursaries for children whose needs had stimulated the investment, increased general enrolment and increased enrolment of children with disabilities.

Transport to school. Initially the project paid for boda boda (motorbike taxi) transport to get children to school regularly and punctually. Those capable of walking home, albeit slowly, made their own way home. This proved too expensive to sustain, so bicycles were bought for families, which proved popular and effective. Additional impacts included providing families with a free means of transport for other needs, including visiting clinics and taking goods to market.

Livestock. Families were given pigs or goats to stabilise family finances. This was effective for less than half of families. At the end of the project only 47% of families still owned livestock – the animals died, were stolen or were sold to meet a short-term financial crisis. Only 18% said their financial security had improved. Verdict? Good short-term solution but less effective in the long-term.

key learning for global care uk

Partnership is key: involve people with disabilities and caregivers from the beginning, and work with other local organisations tackling disability

Carry out local needs assessments first, to best understand local needs and challenges

Ensure your actions end isolation for children and families

learn more at

globalcare.org/disability-action

all it took was transport...

Before he joined the disability project, eight-year-old *Benjamin took three hours to walk to school, which was only one kilometre from his home, due to muscle weakness in both legs, an uneven gait and high levels of pain.

Unsurprisingly, he never arrived on time and didn't attend school every day. At the age of eight, he was still in nursery class as he wasn't learning enough to progress.

The project paid for motorbike taxi transport to school, and then for a bicycle, so his grandparents – his guardians - could take him to school. Attending school on time every day transformed Benjamin's learning experience.

By the end of the project he had progressed to P2, and by last year, during the final evaluations, aged 15, had risen to P4.

His grandparents had been given a goat, and at the end of the project still had four goats, having sold a few over the course of time to pay for school fees and equipment.

His family are confident Benjamin can continue his schooling without further support. He wants to become a tailor like his aunt. His grandparents told our team: *"After the intervention of the project, the community has started valuing disabled children."*

Enabling Mervin's ambition

"Going to school on boda boda and bicycle that helped me attend morning lessons was the most positive experience," **recalls *Mervin, now aged 14.** ***"I want to continue at school and become a lawyer."***

What a wonderful ambition for a boy born with cerebral palsy to an impoverished rural family, whose only hope was that he would survive.

Mervin joined our disability programme when he was aged six, in nursery class. His mother carried him to school, and he attended three or four days a week, but he never arrived on time. He could walk only limited distances, with a staggering gait.

Travelling to school by taxi, and then by bicycle, was a gamechanger. Now Mervin is in P5, has many friends and even joins in football games.

He told our local team: *"May God bless you and continue loving children with special needs."*

taking on the

SHACK SUPPER CHALLENGE

Huge thanks to our trustee Jane Edwards and her husband Chris who raised over £4,000 for initiatives in Africa by undertaking our Shack Supper Challenge for not one, but two weeks!

The Shack Supper Challenge asks challengers to live on the contents of a typical emergency relief food parcel for a minimum of five days.

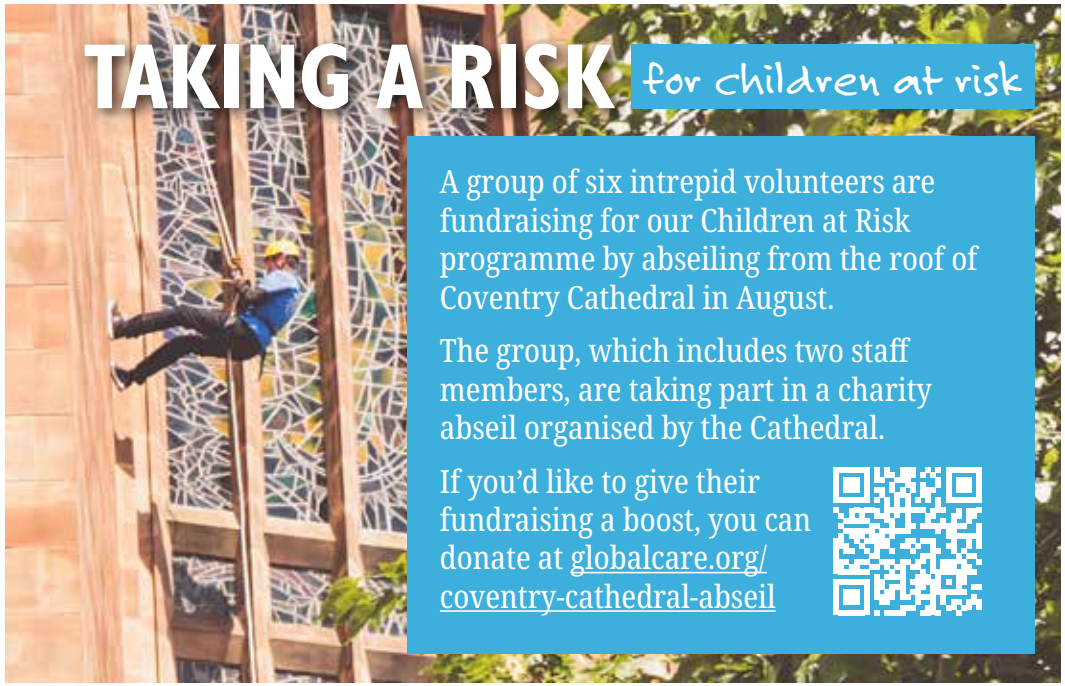
You'll get a shopping list and some suggested recipes from us. The creative ingenuity to cook appetising food and the willpower to continue are all yours!

Ingredients include defined quantities of potatoes, onions, chick peas, vegetables, rice, flour, oil and more.

Ingredients DON'T include caffeine, dairy or sugar, but it's possible to unlock a few bonus items like salt, spices or black tea if your fundraising hits certain targets.

Why not give it a go? Challenge yourself, get a new perspective on our food privileges, and raise funds for marginalised children while you're at it!

globalcare.org/ shack-supper



TAKING A RISK

for children at risk

A group of six intrepid volunteers are fundraising for our Children at Risk programme by abseiling from the roof of Coventry Cathedral in August.

The group, which includes two staff members, are taking part in a charity abseil organised by the Cathedral.

If you'd like to give their fundraising a boost, you can donate at globalcare.org/coventry-cathedral-abseil

GOING TO CHURCH

We love to share the work of Global Care with new and old audiences alike, and particularly value speaking engagements in churches, as well as other groups.

If you'd like to welcome a Global Care speaker to your church, we would love to meet you! Please do get in touch at **donor.relations@globalcare.org** or phone Anita on **030 030 21 030**.

for vulnerable children Global Care

*Names have been changed to protect the identity of children.
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