

## PRESS RELEASE: Reconstruction in aftermath of severe storm & loss of life

June 2020: We are sad to report that heavy rains during May have caused severe flooding that significantly damaged communities in the Western province of Rwanda. Overflowing rivers that crippled roads, bridges and destroyed hundreds of village homes. The worst damage was the human toll that tragically claimed hundreds of lives. This recent disaster not only highlights the danger of heavy rains and storms but the overwhelming resilience of locals to respond to emergencies and the need to support reconstruction efforts.



The start of 2020 began with unusually heavy rains. Recently in Shyira 380 homes were destroyed

causing 1534 Rwandans to be left homeless. Landslides and overflowing rivers near Rubagabaga damaged or destroyed 64 bridges and 124 sections of road and took the lives of 75 villagers. The uncharacteristic force of the storms may indicate changes in Rwanda's climate that require new considerations.

After Kigali experienced similar destructive storms, a program launched to build structures in areas that are less vulnerable to landslides. We at EAP are developing methods for better loss prevention, risk minimization and emergency response to situations like the recently experienced floods.



EAP has also been supporting the Musanze District providing funds for food. We also have an ongoing collaboration

with our utility partner REG to raise funds for families in need. Now we find ourselves close to the epicenter in Shyira and we have risen to the call to action! Since the storms, we have been financially supporting villagers to clear washed-out roads, rebuild destroyed bridges and slopes and plant trees to avoid future landslides.

EAP has arranged with local leaders to provide paid employment to rebuild community areas, schools, and houses of those most vulnerable. Currently, villagers still without homes are staying temporarily in the local school and community buildings. EAP is working with local leadership to provide needed supplies.



We are supporting government efforts to help those in need as quickly as possible. We are launching a Go-Fund-Me campaign to continue to pay for relocation costs, materials and salaries of local workers. **EAP**

**will match all donations up to 10,000\$ CAD**

We hope you will join in and support the rebuilding and relocation efforts. Contributions to the fund go directly to rebuild affected villages and support community needs. We will continue our work in the region to share the power of electricity and human solidarity.

**Go-Fund-Me Shyira Rwanda Disaster Fund**  
<https://gf.me/u/x8dpmr>