

Group leader resources



Harvest
Appeal
2022

Notes and ideas for a harvest talk or service

Use this outline to reflect on the importance of good harvests for communities around the world and to inspire your group about WaterAid's work.

Harvest is a wonderful time for coming together, celebrating and giving thanks for all the food we have on our tables.

But it's also a time to reflect, and to think about families around the world who don't have enough to eat.

In the world's poorest communities, most people are farmers, relying on the crops they grow to feed themselves and to earn an income. Their lives depend on their produce, which must pay for household expenses, school, medicines, and more.

But growing successful crops depends on having a reliable water supply, which many of these families don't have. Instead, they have to depend on rainfall. And when the rains don't come, they have to watch their precious crops fail.

Justine lives in Burkina Faso – a hot dry country in West Africa, where the rainy season is short and unpredictable. She grows millet, beans and groundnuts to feed her family and earn money. But when the rains failed, her harvest was ruined.

Unfortunately, our changing climate is impacting people like Justine the most, who tread lightest on this planet, and who are least able to protect themselves. Unpredictable rain, droughts and floods are all becoming more common, making life even harder.

That's why our group is supporting WaterAid this harvest, to make sure other communities will have harvests to celebrate too.

WaterAid is working with Justine's community to make their water supplies last all year long. By measuring rainfall and monitoring water levels, farmers like Justine can make better decisions on how their precious water should be used, to make it last even through the driest months. And with a steady supply of water, communities will be able to thrive, even when the rains fail.



Like most people in her village, Justine is a farmer. She relies on rain to grow millet, beans and groundnuts, and earn an income to support her family.



As a newly trained water monitor, Justine measures rainfall using a rain gauge, and shares this information with her community. Bonam, Burkina Faso.



All age talk: Harvests to celebrate

You can use this interactive talk to engage your group in our 2022 Harvest Appeal.

Begin by asking the group what harvest is about. What do we celebrate?

Then get everyone thinking about what we need to grow food: good soil, sunshine, water. Where does that water come from? And where can it come from?

Next, talk about how our climate is changing. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is becoming more unpredictable, and floods and droughts more common. How do these impact people's ability to grow food?

Share Justine's story, and how scarce water is where she lives. Farmers like Justine rely on rain to grow their crops. The rainy season is very short, so her community have to make the most of every drop. Now climate change is making rainfall more unpredictable. If rains don't come on time, whole harvests can be ruined. It's now much harder for Justine to feed her family and earn a living.

Explain that the poorest communities – like Justine's – are impacted the most by our changing climate. Without a reliable supply of clean water, families are least able to prepare and protect themselves.

In Justine's village, local people are now working together to make sure their supplies last all year round. They are measuring rainfall each day using rain gauges, and monitoring water levels in wells. With this information, the community can make decisions together on how best to use and preserve what they have.

That's why this harvest, we're fundraising for WaterAid. We'll help more communities like Justine's have a steady supply of water, all year round. Together we can give people like Justine harvests to celebrate.



"Water comes from rain. If it doesn't rain, there is no water. In the months of March, April and May, our land usually cries out for water here and so do we."
Justine, Bonam, Burkina Faso



You will need:

Our accompanying All age talk PowerPoint (available to download at wateraid.org/uk/harvest)