

Dear friends and family,

I've got a story to share. But it's not my story, it's from the "Jajas" of Uganda. Jaja is the Ugandan word for grandparents or elders. In recent years, their way of living has been turned upside down.

I first caught wind of these stories when I studied away in Uganda my Junior year of college. During my time there, I interned with an organization called Reach One Touch One Ministries that supports elderly Ugandans who are experiencing poverty.

For decades these Jajas have relied on the consistent rhythm of rainy and dry seasons for their daily bread. Unfortunately, that rhythm is gone and the seasons are in chaos. The Jajas once knew the exact month the rainy season would start, signaling planting time, now it comes months late or early. When the rains do come, they pour, washing young crops away. The plants that do survive are often burned in sudden dry spells. Entire fields of crops are dying. It is unlike anything they have seen in their long lives, and many are going hungry because of the broken seasons.

The great injustice of this situation is that elderly Ugandan farmers are not the ones responsible for causing these sudden changes. Their lifestyles produce little to no greenhouse gasses, unlike those who live in wealthy countries like ours. And yet, with total reliance on the land, they are among the most vulnerable to climate change.

I believe that people would be compelled to reflect on their lifestyles and begin making changes if they could hear stories and warnings from Uganda's elders. That is why I, in partnership with Reach One Touch One Ministries, am launching a project to create a documentary called *Jajas for Justice: Stories of Climate Change*, to highlight these stories and share them in the US.

Our vision is to show audiences that climate change is a humanitarian crisis for this generation. We hope to inspire individuals in wealthy countries to live in ways that are better for the planet, as well as generate support for Uganda's elders as they face the immediate effects of climate change.

However, we can't do this alone, which is why we're asking you to consider contributing financially to help this project take the next steps forward. Our initial budget is \$25,000 to cover 6 months of production work. Any funds raised beyond that will allow for distribution to a wider audience. The more resources we have, the more change we will be able to ignite. Climate change is an issue that requires all hands on deck, so I hope you will join us in our effort to make a difference.

With love and justice,

Summer Spell

To contribute to the making of *Jajas for Justice*, please visit jajasforjustice.org to donate online, or write checks payable to Summer M Spell. Additionally, if you know someone who would be interested in this project, please forward this letter—a copy can be found on our website!