

Tearfund *Inspire*: how it works



What can I expect from a Tearfund *Inspire* trip – and what does Tearfund expect in return?

Tearfund's ten-year vision is to see 50 million people released from material and spiritual poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches. That's a big vision. We need prayer, financial and campaigning support from churches across the UK and Ireland to make it happen.

That's where you come in! To help you mobilise support from your church, and other churches in your area, we want to make it possible for you to go overseas and see our church partners in action. By understanding the issues surrounding poverty, and witnessing the impact of some of the incredible work that's taking place, you will see how God's people are at the heart of this miracle.

Tearfund invests in the *Inspire* trips financially, and with prayer, to ensure they are a worthwhile experience for all participants. As such, Tearfund expects the volunteer to invest in certain activities before, and after, the Tearfund *Inspire* trip.

What you can expect from Tearfund

Tearfund will provide:

1. Information and materials prior to departure to help you maximise the benefits of the experience including advice on medical requirements.
2. An orientation meeting so you can get to know other team members and be advised on practical issues.
3. A comprehensive itinerary with UK and Ireland staff acting as tour guides, and with local Tearfund or partner staff in country as hosts.
4. A complete package including food, accommodation and travel.
5. Opportunities to meet with partners and beneficiaries that give a real flavour of the work that is going on in the particular country you are visiting.
6. Learning experiences that will enable you to have a deeper understanding of the way Tearfund and its church partners support integral mission – addressing the spiritual, social and material needs of people in poverty.
7. An opportunity to study and reflect on the Bible during the tour, and relate this to the context of the partners' work.
8. Support as you work through the experiences and seek to relate them to your local activities at home, including a reunion a few months after you return.

What Tearfund will expect from you

Prior to the Tearfund *Inspire* trip, each participant will:

1. Attend the orientation events and read any supplied materials.
2. Read up on the country and ask for prayer support from friends and church.

During the Tearfund *Inspire* trip, each participant will:

1. Work as part of a team, recognising that members have different reactions to what they see and hear.
2. Respect cultural differences and accept this as part of the learning experience.
3. Be flexible, recognising that western schedules can't always be maintained in a developing country.
4. Keep a working journal of all the experiences, lessons learnt, challenges and interesting stories.
5. Maintain accurate notes on stories that may be used back home, including the names of individuals or changing those names where appropriate on the request of partners – to maintain the dignity of all involved.
6. Take an active part in discussions, Bible studies and prayer times.

After returning, each participant will:

1. Tell the stories of people they've met as if they were right next to them, listening to every word being said.
2. Submit a personal report on the *Inspire* trip to Tearfund within four weeks of returning to the UK.
3. Put together an article that will be suitable for use in local newspapers, denominational or church magazines.
4. Inspire churches in the local area to pray, campaign and give more to Tearfund.
5. Commit to being part of the *Tearfund Together* network in the local area for at least two years after returning.
6. Share a passion for ending poverty, in order to encourage others to become part of this miracle.
7. Aim to undertake 15 speaking engagements within the following year to encourage increased financial, prayer and campaigning support for Tearfund's life-changing work. Ideally, these engagements will generate financial support totalling £5,000 or more.
8. Keep in regular contact with the local Tearfund office, to keep up-to-date with the work of Tearfund's partners, and let the Regional Manager know how local churches are responding. Remember: Tearfund's local office is always on hand with help and advice.

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above and will carry out the responsibilities required from me as outlined in this document.

Signed _____ Date _____