**FOAM**

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**Facts – Opinions – Anecdotes - Metaphors**

So the theory is this – parts of our brains (the left and the right) work in different ways. The left is much more logical and the right side more creative.

The left side prefers facts and stats, the right side stories and metaphors. Although everyone will obviously have both a left and right side, most are more geared one way or the other.

So when you communicate, playing to different parts of the brain is a really good idea – that way the listener is likely to be all the more moved by what you say! That’s what FOAM is all about.

FOAM reminds us that when we are speaking we should pepper the talk with…

**F**acts - to serve the left side of the brain.

For example, 1.6 billion people live in abject poverty is a fact.

**O**pinion – again the left side of the brain values the opinion of others, particularly the more eminent.

A quote from say the evangelical church leader Tim Keller or perhaps one Mother Teresa could help.

**A**necdote – to get the right hand side of the brain working, tell a story.

Perhaps talk about someone you’ve met living in poverty or something that has happened to you.

**M**etaphor – put the right side of the brain in the situation!

Examples we might use could be ‘Unlocking potential’ ‘Jesus is our rock’ or ‘Break the chains of poverty’

Language of ‘it’s just like when you…’ is really helpful - Parables are in effect metaphors!

Take a look at this example [model talk](#_Tearfund_Model_Talk) that is colour coded to each FOAM element of the talk.

Facts are in red, Opinion is blue, green for anecdote and orange for metaphor.

If you have any great stories to share, or have found any interesting facts that you’ve found helpful, please get in touch with your Specialist Volunteer Manager.

We’ve gathered together a few interesting facts and stories to help with sharing Tearfund’s vision. You’ll find everything you need under the following themes:

[Water and sanitation](#_Water_and_sanitation)

[HIV/AIDS](#_HIV/AIDS)

[Livelihoods and food security](#_Livelihoods_and_Food)

[Governance and corruption](#_Governance_and_Corruption)

[Church and Community Mobilisation](#_Church_and_Community)

[Disasters](#_Disasters)

[Environment and climate change](#_Environment_and_climate)

[Integral Mission](#_Integral_Mission)

[Poverty and Justice](#_Poverty_and_Justice)

[Other Resources](#_Other_resources:)

[Model Talk](#_Tearfund_Model_Talk)

# Water and sanitation

**Facts[[1]](#footnote-1)**

780 Million people lack access to clean water 2 and a half times the population of North America. 2.5 billion lack the dignity and security that sanitation brings; to grasp the scale of 2.5 billion can you imagine a paper chain stretching from earth to the moon and back four times over.

5000 children die each day as a result or poor sanitation and dirty water. Based on a jumbo jet Boeing 747 with a capacity of 400 seats, that is the equivalent of 12.5 jets crashing daily. If this was a reality it would lead to a global outcry and calls for immediate action.

**Tearfund’s Statement**

Tearfund’s global network of church partners is enabling communities to build and maintain their own toilet and water facilities. Addressing water and sanitation through our local church partners is one of the most cost-effective ways to release people from poverty: for every £1 spent on water and sanitation, £8 is returned through saved time, increased productivity and reduced health costs.

**Quotes about water**

*Water is life’s mater and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water.* Albert Szent-Gyorgyi – Hungarian Biochemist, 1937 Nobel Prize for Medicine, 1893-1986

*Water and Sanitation is one of the primary drivers of public health. I often refer to it as “Health 101”, which means that once we can secure access to clean water and to adequate sanitation facilities for all people, irrespective of the difference in their living conditions, a huge battle against all kinds of diseases will be won*. Dr Lee Jong-wook, Director-General, World Health Organization.

Bible verses related to water:

Psalm 104:10

Isaiah 21:14

Isaiah 32:2

Isaiah 41:17

Isaiah 44:3

Mark 9:41

John 4: 13-14

**Stories from Tearfund’s partners**

[Stidia’s Story](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCM4PSayzrs)

[Doreen and Jouvellet’s Story](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rm7CpfuOhg8)

# HIV/AIDS

**Facts[[2]](#footnote-2)**

Around 35.3 million people in the world today (2012) are living with HIV.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected region, with nearly 1 in every 20 adults living with HIV.

Sixty nine per cent of all people living with HIV are living in this region.

In 2012, there were 1.6 million adult and child deaths due to AIDS compared to 1.9 in 2001.

(source for all of the above; UNAIDS)

**Tearfund’s statement**

The church has a key role to play – both locally and globally – providing services to affected communities and influencing government decisions.

By 2016, we aim to stop and reverse the impact of HIV where we work by supporting those affected, promoting access to health care and treatment, and tackling the stigma often associated with the disease.

**Quotes about HIV/AIDs**

The heart of the security agenda is protecting lives - and we now know that the number of people who will die of AIDS in the first decade of the 21st Century will rival the number that died in all the wars in all the decades of the 20th century.  [**Al Gore**](http://www.doonething.org/heroes/gore.htm)

Ignorance and prejudice are fuelling the spread of a preventable disease.  World AIDS Day, 1 December is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS.... [I]t's up to you, me and us to stop the spread of HIV and end prejudice.  **worldaidsday.org, 2006**

We cannot live only for ourselves.  A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men.  **Herman Melville**

Once you choose hope, anything's possible.  **Christopher Reeve**

Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work. [**Mother Teresa**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere133532.html)

**Bible verses around caring for the sick/the neglected**

* Ezekiel 34:4
* Matthew 10:8
* Matthew 14:14
* Matthew 25:36

**Stories from Tearfund’s partners**

**Rwanda /Burundi**

Integrated HIV and AIDS Prevention and Support Programme, Huye, Southern Province

This integrated HIV and Aids programme is implemented by AMU in the Southern Province of Rwanda in the District of Huye. The programme’s main focus is providing access for sustainable livelihoods for PLWH and those affected by HIV and AIDS with a special emphasis on Children affected by HIV and AIDS and their families.

Lydia “not a small miracle”

Lydia is 29 years old, when she was 16 and in her second year of secondary school, she was sexually assaulted, infected with HIV and AIDS and got pregnant as well. She dropped out of school due to pregnancy and after giving birth she became constantly ill. She became paralysed from the waist down, lost the use of her legs and right hand, her speech and hearing in the right ear. Weak from paralysis, she got infection after infection at a time when anti-retrovirals (ARV) were extremely expensive and her family could not afford them.

Her mother learnt about AMU from the local hospital and registered Lydia. They began counselling session at AMU and attended PLWA group discussions and received some nutritional information. She underwent treatment for two years and when ARVs became available she was placed under treatment.

With treatment and her will to leave, Lydia started vocational training facilitated by AMU while still paralysed with partial use of her right hand. After a year with AMU, she stopped using her wheelchair even though she was still paralysed and started using clutches dragging her feet, six months later she began to limp and by nine month she was on only one clutch. After one year she started walking and was able to work.

She joined a self help group and obtained a loan to buy a sewing machine. She started making school uniforms for local children, making and mending clothes. She continued to work, repaid her loan and was able to take out another loan to purchase another machine to expand her business. Her income now supplements her mother’s income at home and she is able to pay fees for her 12 year old daughter, repay her loan and save some money. Lydia now walks with slight limp, not easily noticeable. She attributes her recovery to strong faith that she got through AMU and AMU’s compassion for those who need support. I asked her if she had any other thing to tell me and she responded “you might not realise it but, I am God’s miracle through you and AMU’s work and it is not a small miracle”.

**South Sudan**

When Baba Joel Alex heard the clinical officers at a clinic in Uganda tell him that he was HIV positive in 2003, his world fell apart. He could not believe that the disease that he had always talked about as been a disease for dirty people had caught up with him.

“I was in complete denial and shock, I thought it was the end of my life and I had few months to live”.

He was with his wife whom he had taken to the clinic that day after she had been falling sick over a long period of time.

After much convincing from the clinic to undergo a HIV/ AIDS test, they decided to get tested and received the news that they were indeed positive. “My wife cried every day and night and wanted to commit suicide, she was very angry with me as she blamed me for infecting her with the virus…I did not even want to go back home, I thought my life had crumbled right in front of my very eyes..I saw myself as a useless person and all I wanted to do was die”.

Ten years later, Joel is still alive.

When he went back to his home in 2003, he happened to meet an someone from a group that had just started working with people living with the virus.

He remembers how he gathered courage to go and register with the group and how he was immediately put on medication.

His perception of life changed and says he immediately decided to live his life positively.

Joel went on to set up his own organisation known as the “friendship club” to encourage other people living with AIDS (PLWA) living in the area to live positively as well.

At the moment, they are 1, 266 members.

“I know that this disease is quickly spreading and killing our people, but I am determined to ensure that I will make a difference and fight it”.

Joel’s wife, passed away in 2005 after she refused to take the drugs and is a constant reminder to him that PLWA’s need to be encouraged and supported to continue with their lives.

“I felt sad that I had lost her, I tried to make her take the drugs but she refused, she could still be alive”.

He says that he has received immense support from the church who have made him an ambassador for their awareness programs on the virus.

“I have been to training as a participant as well as a speaker and I am really eager to ensure that less and less people get infected.   
I want people to know that you could choose to live positively once you have the virus, it doesn’t mean that you will automatically die.”

Joel has been an inspiration to many young people in the area as well as to him own children. “I openly talk about my status even to my children, because I want their lives to be different from mine”.

# Livelihoods and Food Security

**Facts[[3]](#footnote-3)**

**842 million people** in the world do not have enough to eat. This number has fallen by 156 million since 1990. That is 1 in 8 of the world’s population who go hungry every night. The equivalent of the population of Western Europe and Canada combined

**Quotes related to livelihoods and food security:**

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. [**Mother Teresa**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere105649.html)

The forgotten world is made up primarily of the developing nations, where most of the people, comprising more than fifty percent of the total world population, live in poverty, with hunger as a constant companion and fear of famine a continual menace. [**Norman Borlaug**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/n/normanborl372058.html)

This is the moment when we must come together to save this planet. Let us resolve that we will not leave our children a world where the oceans rise and famine spreads and terrible storms devastate our lands. [**Barack Obama**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/b/barackobam409152.html)

In a world of plenty, no one, not a single person, should go hungry. But almost 1 billion still do not have enough to eat. I want to see an end to hunger everywhere within my lifetime. **Ban Ki-moon**

**Bible verses related to feeding the hungry:**

Psalm 107:9

Psalm 146:7

Isaiah 58:7 – 10

Ezekiel 18:7

Matthew 25:35

**Stories about livelihoods and food security**

**Kenya**

Solomon Kariuki Kiama is 72 years old .

“I wish this process came when I was a bit younger”.

He smiles as he says, “it has taken more than 60 years for my eyes to see resources lying in my own land, for years unnoticed”

He has lived in a mud walled house his whole life unable to send his children to school beyond class seven due to lack of money for school fees.

After attending bible studies in his local community, the bible study on Elisha and the widow had a lasting effect on him. The question from Elisa to the widow of ‘what do you have in your house?’ made him reflect on his own resources.

All his life, Solomon had been using chemical fertilizer on his farm land but he started using traditional manure and compost.

The yield of coffee doubled from an average 500 kilograms to 1000 kilograms.

This new way of farming resulted in drastically reducing a coffee plant disease and meant Solomon was spending very little money on the chemicals used to spray on his coffee.

In 2011, his yield increased 5 times.

At the end of that year he was given a bonus of more than a half a million Kenya shillings and an award of the best and most improved farmer in their coffee society.

Solomon and his wife also decided to start farming fruits like passion fruit and avocados and have plans to introduce mangoes.

He has already 100 passion fruits and 80 banana stems that he has started harvesting. Solomon sells what he doesn’t need thus giving him regular income.

Solomon’s life and that of his family has been completely transformed in their old age.

He has built a modern stone house and is harvesting rain water.

Pointing to his house he said ‘this is a miracle, “I never imagined that one day I will sleep or own a magnificent house like this one, God bless those who brought CCMP to us.”

He was so happy that he almost shed tears of joy. “We eat well, you can see we are healthy. We are happy to support our children educate our grandchildren.”

**Burundi**

Mungaye Nesto is one of the few indigenous people known as Batwa who are generally discriminated and treated as untouchable or low caste in Burundi.

He is married with five children, three of them attend school, something that is rare among the Batwa.

Through a Tearfund partner project, Mungaye attended a community group where the main objective was to improve food security in the area to help reduce high levels of child mortality, improve nutrition for children under five, as well as the general health.

Mungaye received support for diversification of his crops and improved banana breed. He was given sixteen modern varieties of banana shoots for planting and three goats.

The goats were crucial in the early stages of the project as they provided him with the manure that enabled the bananas to grow.

Mungaye also started participating in one of the saving groups started.

He worked hard and saved all that he could with the group and one day when his child got sick, he was able to borrow 50,000 francs for his child’s eye treatment.

Meanwhile he continued to tend his banana grove and in two years, he started harvesting. On his first harvest, he was surprised that the bananas were so big and could fetch a lot of money. He realized that with a good variety of crops, with improved agriculture techniques and a little manure he could improve his income.

With just one harvest he could make between four and five thousand francs per bunch of bananas, while in the past, he would not have made more than a thousand due to their small size. Mungaye is now a respected banana producer and seller in Mutaho.

Mungaye no longer considers himself a Mutwa, an untouchable.

Now, he has a piece of land that he cultivates, keeps livestock and a business all to the glory of God.

# Governance and Corruption

### Facts

About 3.5 billion people[[4]](#footnote-4) live in countries rich in oil, gas and minerals, and revenue from these resources is often a great source of wealth for developing countries. Sadly, corruption means that the benefits of this wealth are often not experienced by the people living in these countries, especially those living in poverty.

In 2010 exports of oil and minerals[[5]](#footnote-5) from Africa were estimated at $333 billion, nearly 7 times the value of international aid

In 2011 developing countries lost approximately $1 trillion[[6]](#footnote-6) because of illicit money flows - money stolen through crime, corruption, tax evasion and other illicit activity.

**Quotes about corruption**

It’s hard to tell where Africa’s wealth goes when there’s a lack of accountability and public scrutiny – and corruption is shrouded in secrecy. That’s why the best way of tackling it is to maximize transparency **Bishop Munga, member of the Christian Council of Tanzania.**

Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts... perhaps the fear of a loss of power.   
[**John Steinbeck**](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/585.John_Steinbeck)

[Our earth is degenerate in these latter days; bribery and corruption are common; children no longer obey their parents; and the end of the world is evidently approaching.](http://thinkexist.com/quotation/our-earth-is-degenerate-in-these-latter-days/762218.html) **Assyrian clay tablet 2800 B.C.**

**Bible verses related to corruption and good governance:**

Exodus 23:6

Leviticus 19: 15

Deuteronomy 24:17

1 Kings 10:9

Ezra 7:25

Psalm 33:5

Psalm 36:6

Psalm 89:14

Proverbs 11:11

Isaiah 1:17

Isaiah 10:2

Isaiah 11:4

Isaiah 29:21

Isaiah 42:4

Isaiah 56:1

Isaiah 59:4

Isaiah 59:14

Isaiah 61:8

Jeremiah 5:28

Amos 5:15 – 24

Zechariah 7:9

Matthew 12:18

Matthew 23:23

Luke 18:7

Ecclesiastes 7:7

Ephesians 4:22

**Stories about advocacy from our partners**

**Honduras**

Osvaldo Munguia, director of Tearfunds partner, Mopawi in Honduras, shared an amazing story that began over 20 years ago and that shows that changes and justice require a lot of patience, persistence and prayer.  
  
The Mosquitia region is home to one of the largest indigenous groups in Honduras, the Miskito people. Unfortunately, its geographical distance and remoteness have made this area very difficult to access, resulting in high levels of marginalisation and governmental indifference.  
  
Mopawi has been working in this area for many years to promote development, justice and indigenous rights. Their persistence has paid off, as the government has recently granted significant land and territorial rights to the Miskito people. Osvaldo says, ‘This is a great achievement after so many years of lobbying for the rights of indigenous groups. There is much joy and motivation because of the titles granted to the Miskito people.’  
  
The titles apply to a considerable area of approximately 850,000 hectares, equal to eight per cent of the territory of Honduras. The government has already issued seven titles to the same number of Miskito regional councils. The rights are permanent; no one can sell the land.  
  
Osvaldo is keen to explain the significance of the rights that have been granted. ‘In principle we call these, “land and territorial rights”,’ he says. ‘This means that, beyond land rights, indigenous peoples now have rights to the natural resources on these territories. This includes both terrestrial and marine resources, such as forests and fisheries. They also have a say in any negotiations that the government may carry out on sub-soil resources within these territories.’  
  
Osvaldo describes how for many years the indigenous peoples had been displaced from their territories and reduced to small plots of land. Often this process involved terrible violence and crime. ‘Before the territorial titles were granted, these areas were considered “national land”,’ he says. ‘This meant that people from other parts of the country could occupy stretches of land, and within a number of years of “using it peacefully” could ask for legal tenure.’ Occupying land in these territories is now illegal, and indigenous people have legal capacity to prevent encroachment of their territories.  
  
‘This whole process started more than 20 years ago with the support of Tearfund – and other partners joined us over time,’ says Osvaldo. ‘We give thanks to everyone who contributed to the project, and especially to Tearfund, who believed in us when no one else did.’

# Church and Community Mobilisation

At Tearfund, we believe that local churches can offer their communities nothing less than total transformation. We work through churches in some of the world’s poorest places, helping them to respond to the needs around them.

Sometimes that means digging wells or pit latrines to improve sanitation, sometimes it means praying with the bereaved. Always it means challenging the greatest injustices of our day as well as supporting the most vulnerable people in the neighbourhood, whoever they may be.

So we work to inspire local churches to transform their communities – at home as well in the poorest parts of the world. The impact is miraculous: in Zambia the church provides nearly a third of the nation's healthcare. That's a big network plugging a big gap.

[Matthew Frost talking about the Local Church](http://vimeo.com/70042520)

[A 10 minute video explaining church community mobilisation – not for use in churches](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_kONAKySIA)

**Facts**

In 2010 there were 2.18 billion Christians around the world, nearly a third of the global population.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**Quotes:**

The local church is the largest civil society network on the planet, bar none, by miles, why wouldn’t you work through it? **Matthew Frost, CEO of Tearfund**

Our vision is not just an end to poverty – it’s about local churches being the body of Christ, bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth **Matthew Frost, CEO of Tearfund**

[We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere133532.html) [**Mother Teresa**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere121243.html)  
  
[Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere121243.html) [**Margaret Mead**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere121243.html)

The church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society.  
**Martin Luther King 1929-1968**

Now a confirmed atheist, I've become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good. **Matthew Parris (Former MP and writer for the Times)**

**Bible verses:**

Romans 12:1-2

Acts 2:42-46

You can also refer to our [bible study resource](http://www.tearfund.org/~/media/files/main%20site/resources/speaking/speaking%20essentials/tearfund%20speaker%20bible%20studies.pdf) on Speakers Corner.

**Stories - church recognising their resources:**  
  
A church leader from Uganda told a friend of mine about a village where people had very ramshackle houses.  They needed to rebuild them, but they didn’t have the materials.  
  
Thinking along the lines of ‘what do you already have?’ (loaves and fishes), they realised that they had huge anthills in their village – piles of churned-up soil that had been left behind by ants.  And these anthills are huge; as tall as a grown man.  
  
So, they used the churned-up soil from the anthills to make bricks, and with the bricks they rebuilt their houses.  They already had what they needed; they just didn’t recognise it.

**Zimbabwe**

Paster Patrick Mukonda in Zimbabwe was originally taught Tearfund Partner, Foundations for Farming, principles in 2009 and decided to share their approach to farming with the community to help them become self-sustainable.

And that was how he met Beauty Gwatura.

Patrick taught her and others to understand the value of small beginnings and being faithful with what you have.

In the first year, the size of Beauty’s first field of maize was only 6mx6m but things started to change.

In year 2 it became clear that Beauty’s efforts were bearing fruit.

In year 4 (2012/13) she has managed to not only increase her field size but also left the local Village Head man amazed by her accomplishments.

When she needed more space to farm on, he reluctantly gave her more land only to comment that nothing will come from it.

When the land was ready to be harvested, he was in disbelief that it was actually the same plot of land he had given her.

Beauty had harvested 21, 50kg bags, which is a total of 1050kg, of grain.

An average family would need about 750kg for a year’s provision.

This has not only changed her life because she has never harvested anything in this area before, but the Village Head has subsequently given his life to the Lord and has promised land to the local Pastor to plant a church in this village.

The location is quite peculiar and unique, as the community finds themselves completely separated from the surrounding areas by living on top of a mountain, An ideal spot to see transformation take place through the church!

May God’s praises go from the mountain tops right into the valleys!

# Disasters

When disaster strikes, local churches are often at the heart of the response: their buildings used as emergency shelters or feeding centres, their people reaching out with generosity to friends and neighbours who’ve lost everything.

That’s why at Tearfund we invest in local churches, helping them prepare for disaster. We know which communities are most vulnerable to flooding, to earthquakes, to droughts. And we know there are simple, tried-and-tested methods that can save lives in those communities – such as educating people about the early-warning signs of disasters, making sure they know where to go and what to do.

We make sure we don’t just tackle the fallout of disasters. We work on the bigger picture as well. That’s why as well as responding when disaster strikes, we also help churches hold governments to account; to agree policies and fund activities that reduce the impact of disasters and save lives.

Right now our Disaster Management Teams (DMT) are working in Haiti, South Sudan, Darfur, Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of Congo. Their work is vital in helping countries to prepare for disasters and recover when they happen.

**Facts about recent disasters:**

East Africa

The current food crisis in East Africa is estimated to put 12 million lives at risk.

South east Ethiopia is the hardest hit region, with 4.6 million farming-dependent people experiencing food shortages, while 3.2 million others are affected in northern Kenya and 3.7 million in Somalia.

Haiti

On January 12th 2010 an earthquake of magnitude 7.0 struck Port au Prince.

[DEC statistics]

* 3,500,000 people were affected by the quake
* 220,000 people died
* 300,000+ people were injured
* Over 180,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, 1.5m people became homeless
* After the quake there were 19 million cubic metres of rubble and debris in Port au Prince – enough to fill a line of shipping containers stretching end to end from London to Beirut.
* 4,000 schools were damaged or destroyed
* 25% of civil servants in Port au Prince died
* Over 600,000 people left their home area in Port-au-Prince and mostly stayed with host families
* At its peak, one and a half million people were living in camps including over 100,000 at critical risk from storms and flooding
* 4,000+ people were killed by cholera, and 216,000 were infected

**Bible verses:**

* Habukkuk 3: 1-19
* Psalm 104

**Stories from our Humaitarian Support teams**

**DRC**

The villages of Alongwe, Mukindja, Katalakulu, Kaseke, Mulongwe, Malinde, Lukongo and Kakela have no access to clean water, and every day women from these villages have to rise early and trek for many miles to the nearest water point. Many have been forced to clean their dishes, wash and drink from the same sources.

Through Tearfund these families will now have access to clean water through the Gravity Water System which will supply over 12,000 people. Access to water is going to make a huge difference to these villages. As well as improving general health within the villages this will have a direct impact on the safety of women and children, often those tasked with collecting water for the family.

Tearfund has also been working alongside these communities to help them to identify practices that expose them to diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera. Using a method called PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) the community work among themselves to establish risks and come up with solutions to improve hygiene within their village. The access to clean water makes these practices easier to implement, resulting in improved hygiene across the whole village.

**DRC**

Chantal Sabina lives in Sabiazo and received soya and other crops from Tearfund. After she harvested it, she was able to sell enough to buy 5 plastic chairs, costing $11 each. She uses the nutrition leaflet that she received from Tearfund to help cook meals for her family. That has prompted her to restart her vegetable garden which had been neglected. She continues to work with Tearfund as a Relais Communautaire (volunteer in the community). She has even turned her lounge into a room for the sensitisation sessions on hygiene, environment, nutrition and HIV/AIDS.

Suzanne is secretary of the community development committee in Libuyu village, and has earned the respect of people in her community. This has increased her self-esteem, and she is now willing to take a lead and mobilise others. Her husband is a teacher, and they have 2 children. She received an energy saving stove from Tearfund, and was delighted to find how much less wood it used – she told us that her energy saving stove used only a third than her previous stove. That meant that she only had to collect a bundle of wood once a week instead of three times a week – a task that takes 5 hours each time.

The president of the committee of Tchabangwa, Matthieu is very grateful to Tearfund. He and his young family were some of the first to grasp Tearfund’s ideas, and he has particularly been promoting the vegetable gardens. He has a lot of enthusiasm, and has been able to encourage others in his community. He has now had two harvests from his field of rice, and with the proceeds he’s bought a motorbike and is also building a house made of bricks. He’s wanted to do this for many years, but has never before had a large enough harvest.

**Haiti**

Lorgena is an elderly lady who was living in a shack just a ten minute walk from the Tearfund office in Tom Gato with another lady who she was hosting. Tearfund conducted a household survey in July and identified these two women as being extremely vulnerable and needing immediate assistance. In response to this Tearfund built her a transitional shelter in the traditional Haitian house design. In addition Tearfund is also in the process of building a latrine for her.

# Environment and climate change

Tearfund works on climate change because extreme weather patterns hit the poorest people hardest. Poor communities across the world tell us they are already feeling the impacts of changes to their environment.

Unpredictable rainfall means more droughts and floods. More droughts mean a greater risk of famine, more floods mean greater destruction of homes and livelihoods, and the potential for infectious diseases to race through the population

**Facts[[8]](#footnote-8)**

By 2050, climate change is expected to increase the risk of hunger by 10-20 percent compared to a no-climate change scenario .

By 2050 we can expect 24 million more malnourished children as a result of climate change.  Almost half of this increase, 10 million children, will be in sub-Saharan Africa.

Between 1980 and 2006 the number of climate-related disasters has quadrupled

**Quotes**

Our long-term security is threatened by a problem at least as dangerous as chemical, nuclear or biological weapons, or indeed international terrorism: human-induced climate change. ... The impacts of global warming are such that I have no hesitation in describing it as a 'weapon of mass destruction.' Like terrorism, this weapon knows no boundaries. It can strike anywhere, in any form.

**Sir John Houghton**

I want you to be concerned about your next-door neighbour. Do you know your next-door neighbour? [**Mother Teresa**](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere133286.html)

**Bible verses:**

Psalm 24:1

1 Timothy 6:3-10

Philippians 4:10-13

Mark 12:28-31

Proverbs 13:23

**Stories**

**Bangladesh**

In Dinajpur district, Bangladesh, is a village called Dolla.

It is a typically green Bangladesh village where about 100 families live.

Almost all of them are agriculturists. This is a village which does not have electricity. This village is also surrounded on three sides by the river Athrai, it is flood-prone.

This district is considered to be the most productive place in all of Bangladesh, for growing rice. At least three crops of rice are planted each year. Growing vegetables, wheat and corn is also possible.

In recent years, the weather pattern is becoming erratic.

A few weeks ago the temperature dropped down to 3.8 degrees.

Last summer, the temperature was up at 38 degrees!

Thanks to the Indian state of West Bengal and particularly its control of the flow of water upstream, no water was available for the people of Dinajpur to grow crops in June, July and August last year. When water was eventually released, it caused flooding in Dinajpur and many people had to evacuate their homes!

In spite of these challenges people in Dolla are determined to carry out their plans, come what may.

Tearfund's Partner Organisation LAMB had connected with the local Church in Dolla. The leaders of the Church and the community were trained to do a risk analysis of the village and draw up a plan to address those risks.

The consequences were exciting as the plans went far beyond just addressing the risk from flooding.

Quickly they drew up a plan to install solar panels in the village and in one home alone they were able to light bulbs, provide power for a television and charge mobile phones!

Carlus, a young person living in the villag is studying for a bachelor’s degree in the town about 20 miles away and lives with his grandmother. He now too has a solar panel fixed on the roof of his home. He makes it available for children in the village to come over and do their homework in the evenings.

Reeta, is a mother of two young children. She owns 5 cows and has enough cow dung to fire up her bio-gas stove to cook twice a day.

She explained that before, she would have had to go in search of firewood and waste plenty of time everyday.

She now has time, she said, to spend with her husband, her children, rear poultry and grow a wide variety of vegetables in her little patch of land.

“I never knew a bio-gas stove would make so much difference to my life!”

Change is happening all around her and she is making changes.

By working hard she is bringing improvement in the life of her community where she lives.

What is more inspiring is that she is demonstrating change in what seems a very uncertain & difficult place environmentally. Most inspirational of all, she says, without change from within, material change in itself is incomplete

As well as Reeta the other 100 families who live in the village no longer live on handouts. They now assess risks and make plans.

They work incredibly hard to pay for what they have – including the solar panels and the bio-gas stove.

Reeta plants paddy, sends her children to school, keeps in touch with others via her mobile phone, watches television with her neighbours, grows fresh produce, rears poultry, has time to milk the cows, cook . . . and she does all this while treading lightly on the environment that could actually destroy all she has.

# Integral Mission

Integral mission is the church living out its faith in Jesus in every aspect of life. It’s recognising that people are more than their hunger or despair. They’re complex and precious, made in God’s image. And they’re loved. Integral mission is answering God’s call to love one another, completely. At Tearfund, integral mission is how we operate.

People need material things to survive, and we choose to work through church-based partners who help people access these things. But our partners won’t stop there.

Local churches know the needs of their communities, and have the potential to change lives – bringing new perspectives, helping heal emotional scars, offering hope and togetherness. This is, in our experience, the most powerful and effective way to help people make lasting changes in their lives and escape poverty

Tearfund’s vision is to see 50 million people released from material and spiritual poverty. You can see how we are doing against our vision [here](http://www.tearfund.org/en/about_us/)

**Quotes about Integral Mission**

The Local Church is the hope for the world. **Bill Hybels**

“We give people fish. We teach them to fish. We tear down the walls that have been built up around the fish pond. And we figure out who polluted it.”  [**Shane Claiborne**](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/36103.Shane_Claiborne)**,** [***The Irresistible Revolution: Living as an Ordinary Radical***](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2827103)

Integral mission is a new way to explain a very old concept. It has emerged from the Church in Latin America to describe joined-up or holistic Christian mission that integrates actions and words. ‘Pan integral’ means wholemeal bread, bread with no part of the grain left out. Similarly, integral mission is more than lots of things held together, it communicates the fullness and integrity of mission which leaves nothing out, embracing the fullness of God’s work to restore and redeem the whole of creation. It is a concept very much rooted in the Bible’s insistence that faith and action must go hand in hand. E.g. ‘Faith by itself, if not accompanied with action, is dead’ (James 2:17). **Community Mission**

**Stories from our Partners**

**Malawi**

Living Waters Church in Malawi, were so inspired with the concept of Integral Mission and decided to take action.

One of the major problems identified was the increase in the number of people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. This prompted the pastor and the church to start visiting people who were chronically ill and those that are among the poorest in the community.

The church started a facilitated support group to enable people to come together once a week where they took part in bible studies and received lessons on positive living and livelihoods, such as how to have home gardens for vegetables and fruits.

Tearfund Partner Eagles worked with the church to start a Savings and Loan group. Since 2011 the church has managed to facilitate 3 savings and loans groups.

One member of the support groups is Ndaemi Chavunguma, 49 who tested HIV positive in 2005.

Since that time she had been living an isolated life due to stigma and discrimination. She had lost hope; had no friends, no food and the situation became unbearable.

For the period of 6 years Ndaemi and her 7 children (3 boys, 4 girls) suffered terribly as they did not know what to do.

They relied on begging for a long time until the Church, through their local pastor supporting the family’s basic needs.

Ndaemi is one of the many people whose life has experienced a positive turn-around. She is now singing a new song, after being part of the savings group from 2011. She has benefited spiritually and physically.

She now has a small business of baking and selling samosa where she is able to make a profit of the equivalent of between $8 to $14 a month.

She uses the profit to buy food and other basic necessities for her family.

She also has a home garden full of vegetables that she sells.

Ndaemi says that after joining the support group her life started breathing a new lease of life. She has had her hope restored .

She embarked on the Samosa making business, a business she had cherished for long-time but could not start because lack of capital. And the business has brought alot of change in her life and family.

“Because of this business, I am now able to feed my family throughout the year and buy some basic needs for my house,”

Things have indeed changed in Ndaemi’s life. Not only is she able to feed her family, she is has started going to church again after stopping for a long time, due to stigma and discrimination. She is a vibrant member of the Roman Catholic Church.

“Right now, my spiritual life has improved a lot because each time we meet as a support group, we start with prayers, and many times the pastor teaches us the word of God.”

Through the sharing of the word and the encouragement of the pastors and church leaders Ndaemi has gained confidence and started praying to God on her own, a thing which she could not do in the past.

“I have started trusting God more in my life because of the love the church demonstrated to me and my family,” says Ndaemi.

Right now Ndaemi is reaching out to other people whose lives are affected by HIV. She is one of the counsellors and has managed to help 8 people (2 men, 6 women), who have also started going to church and now they are members of the support group.

“If it was not for the pastor and the Living Waters Church to show God’s love to people like me who are living with HIV and AIDS, my life would have been more miserable…”

# Poverty and Justice

**Facts**

Universal primary education would cost $10 billion a year, that's half what Americans spend on ice cream[[9]](#footnote-9)

10% of the world’s population own 86% of the world’s wealth and just 1% of the population owns 46% of the world’s wealth[[10]](#footnote-10) Which means that the other 90% of the world’s population has a share of just 14% of the world’s wealth and resources

**Quotes about poverty and justice**

When those with money and those who need money share a vision, we see a central sign of new life in the Spirit of Christ. **Henri Nouwen, Theologian**

Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.  
**(Nelson Mandela 1918-2013 )**  
  
Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation.  
**(Nelson Mandela 1918-2013 )**

Stop asking God to bless what you’re doing. Get involved in what God is doing - because it’s already blessed  **(Bono)**

**Bible verses relating to justice and poverty**

* Micah 6:8
* Isaiah 58
* Isaiah 61
* Proverbs 31:8-9
* Matthew 5
* 1 Samuel 2:8
* Psalm 68:6

Jim Wallis Story  
I was a seminary student in Chicago many years ago. We decided to try an experiment. We made a study of every single reference in the whole Bible to the poor, to God's love for the poor, to God being the deliverer of the oppressed. We found thousands of verses on the subject. The Bible is full of the poor.  
  
In the Hebrew scriptures, for example, it is the second most prominent theme. The first is idolatry and the two are most often connected. In the New Testament, we find that one of every sixteen verses is about poor people; in the gospels, one of every ten; in Luke, one of every seven. We find the poor everywhere in the Bible.  
  
One member of our group was a very zealous young seminary student and he thought he would try something just to see what might happen. He took an old Bible and a pair of scissors. He cut every single reference to the poor out of the Bible. It took him a very long time.  
  
So much of the Bible was cut out; so much so that when he was through, that old Bible literally was in shreds. It wouldn't hold together. I held it in my hand and it was falling apart. It was a Bible full of holes. I would often take that Bible out with me to preach. I would hold it high in the air above American congregations and say, "Brothers and sister, this is the American Bible, full of holes from all we have cut out." We might as well have taken that pair of scissors and just cut out all that we have ignored for such a long time. In America the Bible that we read is full of holes.  
  
  
Other resources:

If the world were a village: This is a great animation to demonstrate the diversity in our world; wealth distribution, gender, education etc.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6eTr4ldDYg> (You tube 3 min film)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIUCTbi_XZs&feature=related> (3 min film with good sound track)

# Tearfund Model Talk

My name is (your name here). I’m part of Tearfund and I’m grateful that I'm getting to talk to you today. And I hope we'll all be changed by the experience!

Some months ago now I was somewhat rudely awoken in a mud hut in a suburb of a city in Mozambique.

The hut was largely bare. The roof was failing with the rains coming through the many gaps. There'd actually been so much rainfall that the house was unstable.

Not that the family could do much – they were young; their parents had died as a result of AIDS. They had nothing; no money for school uniforms that would allow the children to keep being educated, they didn't have a toilet and only had enough for a hot meal once a week. Gabriel and his siblings lived in abject poverty.

The night I was awoken it became apparent an intruder was in the house. The kids were concerned that might happen – a white person stood out in a poor urban community and, with no security, the risk of someone getting in was pretty high!

The intruder though didn't turn out to be a person. It was an insect – a mosquito to be the precise. The fear in the children's voices when they realised it was there came from the knowledge that if it spread malaria to one or more of them, they wouldn't have the money to go to a doctor.

Did you know around the world there are 1.7 billion people who live in abject poverty like Gabriel and his family – all made and created in the image of God, and the Bible has lots to say about how we and the church respond with them.

Passages like Matthew 25: 31 – 45 can be challenging. If you've got one, grab your Bible and let's take a look.

It was the author Mark Twain who said that it wasn’t the parts of the Bible that he *didn't* understand that troubled him most, but the bits he *did* understand! I think this passage in Matthew is one of them!

Jesus is teaching his disciples on the Mount of Olives. He says there will be a time when he returns in his glory, and he will begin to separate out two groups of people – both who call him Lord.

And he says it'll be like a shepherd coming among his flocks separating out the sheep from the goats. In many ways this would make more sense to a middle-Eastern audience, where sheep and goats are much harder to tell apart, than here, where a two year old can easily tell the difference.

And so the King walks among the flocks, he gets close up and personal identifying them one by one, putting the sheep on his right and the goats on his left – reading from verse 34 to 45…

*(Read aloud Matthew 25: 34 – 45)*

Jesus’ message here is simple and stark. You see our great God who needs nothing says, if I came to you in my glory, you wouldn't be able to do anything for me – so he makes this startling juxtaposition: I will wrap myself up in the poor and the oppressed. I come to you in the hungry, in the thirsty, in the refugee, in the naked, in the sick, in the prisoner. I come to you as Gabriel, and as you relate to him, you relate to me.

It’s actually interesting if you look at the scripture that both the groups – the sheep and the goats – called Jesus ‘Lord’. These weren’t people who were denying His Kingship – but rather recognising Him as the Lord of their life.   
  
Also their response to Jesus is the same. Neither group realised what they were doing or not doing – Jesus made a point of this in the story. ‘When did we see you…’ said those who had cared for the poor. The goats, Jesus says, will also answer ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger of needing clothes or sick or in prison and did not help you.’

1.7 billion people around the world live in extreme poverty. As a result of poverty, 24,000 people die every day. That’s like losing more than the number of people who live in Oxford in one week, or the size of an average (this) church whilst I’ve been speaking.

Of course if they were in this church or a nearby town, if they were on our doorstep we’d help them wouldn’t we. But when they are hidden from our view, when their faces don’t appear on the television – it’s easier to remain blind, ‘Lord when did we see you and not help you?’

Bono, the lead singer of U2, calls the poverty that means 1.7 billion people might struggle to access clean water, sanitation, health care, shelter, food and the like as stupid poverty. He knows, though, much of the answer to this sort of poverty lies in the church. 'The one thing, on which we can all agree’, he says, ‘is that God is with the vulnerable and poor. God is in the slums and in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house. God is in the debris of wasted opportunity and lives, and God is with us if we are with them.’

At Tearfund we, like you, love God. We want to help people who, as I talk, are not in a good or happy place… because of poverty and injustice. And what drives us is the knowledge that the local church can be and is already being the 'hope of the world' (Bill Hybel's word, not mine!) for people in poverty.

And so, at Tearfund we have a really bold and ambitious vision: to release 50 million people from material and spiritual poverty, through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches.

Our work is delivered as much as possible through the local church. We work with the local church because it’s already serving those who are the most poor. We work with the local church because it believes in whole life transformation – not just physical, but social, spiritual and psychological. It's what we call integral mission.

We work with the local church because it knows the problems and understands the solutions. Because the church will remain – the results are long-term. We work with the local church

because in some of the poorest communities it is so respected that it has the ability to confront and change society. We work with the local church because it's God's tool.

As a movement we're committed to mobilising the local church to speak out in unity to challenge Governments on behalf of those living in poverty, we call it advocacy. We’re also committed to responding to emergencies when we need to, such as in Haiti and Darfur, through the work of our Disaster Management Team.

It’s all part of our response to the challenge of Jesus. You see we know that as we and the local church respond to the challenge of Christ, we do it as Him – Christ in us, the hope of glory. But we also get the opportunity to serve Him ‘Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me’ – we come in wonder and awe to those living in poverty, to the marginalised, to the dispossessed and the destitute – and we do so in wonder and awe, knowing we are serving the King of King’s.

**Call to action**

As I close, I’d like to invite you to go on a journey with us to discover more of God’s heart for those living in poverty; to find out how you can be part of the response of the worldwide church in caring for the most marginalized in society and speaking out for justice. To invite you to open your eyes and see how Christ wraps Himself up in the most marginalised.

We have some absolutely brilliant Little Book of Growth – I’d love to give you one today; I should have enough for everyone who wants one. It tells you more about Tearfund’s life changing work in the name of Jesus, through local churches all over the world. It makes a great read. I’ve read it and can personally commend it to you – it challenged me, as it revealed more of God’s heart for those living in poverty, and changed me.

To get one is really simple. On your chairs you should have found this form. If you fill in your name, address and other contact details and bring it to me at the table at the back, I’ll swap it for one of the Books. In return we’ll simply keep in touch with you about our work. If you’re already on Tearfund’s mailing list, that’s fine - we’ll use the form to ensure all our contact information is up to date.

*Perhaps I can give you a minute to fill the form in now.*

I’d love to invite you to connect in a much deeper way with people like Gabriel and others living in poverty – to be part of an incredible vision, a God given vision, to release 50 million people from material and spiritual poverty, through a network of 100,000 local churches.

In Proverbs 19 the Bible says ‘He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done’

I want to ask you to consider being part of a movement of people committed to seeing stupid poverty come to an end; to pray and journey with a community; to see change unfold, to see change and be changed.

We’ve developed a great initiative where you can invest a small amount every month – whatever you can afford – and See For Yourself the impact of church mobilisation and the

transformation it brings to individuals and communities. You’ll experience, through the eyes of a small number of people living in a community in Africa, Asia or Latin America, some of the risks and the opportunities as the church is mobilized in a community and lives are changed. You’ll receive monthly updates and quarterly films.

To give an idea of the difference you can make, if you were to give just £6 a month you could help farmers in Uganda provide a future for themselves and their families; whilst £12 a month could help mothers in Ethiopia join a savings and credit group and turn their business ideas into income.

If you’re interested in giving to Tearfund on a regular basis, whatever the amount, simply tick the box on the form today. You’re not committing yourself – you’re simply saying I’m really interested and would like to know more.

Let’s pray.

Lord, thank you that throughout history the church has been at the forefront of social change – helping to abolish slavery; involved in the civil rights movement; bringing health care and schools in our own nation.

I simply pray that in our generation you would help the church to be everything it can be in tackling poverty – I pray for the work of Tearfund’s partners around the world and I pray for us, that you would guide us individually to respond as you want us to.

In your name. Amen.

Do come and collect your Little Book of Growth and give me your forms at the end of the service. Thank you.

1. http://www.unwater.org/statistics.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/infographics/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/extractiveindustries/overview> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Development At A Glance. ODA to Africa, p2 and WTO, (2011), International Trade Statistics, Merchandise trade by product, Table II.23 <http://iff.gfintegrity.org/iff2012/2012report.html>

   [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [Global Financial Integrity Report (December 2013) Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2002-2011](http://iff.gfintegrity.org/iff2013/2013report.html) <http://iff.gfintegrity.org/iff2013/2013report.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/ [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. http://www.wfp.org/stories/7-facts-about-climate-change-and-hunger [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report 2013 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)