



Photo: Malumbo Simwak/Tearfund

## Prayer station

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# Praying for Tearfund's work through the global church

Tearfund works in close partnership with local churches and Christian organisations in more than 50 countries around the world.



# Churches transforming communities

Tearfund believes that working through local churches is the best way to transform communities. Edith's story powerfully illustrates why.

Life was tough for Edith from Abbebroukoi, a neighbourhood in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). Eleven extended family members depended on her for support, including her own children.

'I feel a deep duty to care for each of them,' Edith says, 'including making sure my children get a good education, which I pay for myself.'

Often Edith felt overwhelmed.

'Providing three meals a day was always a major struggle. I worried every day.'

Help came from the Rehoboth savings and loans group run by the local Methodist church in Abbebroukoi. It was set up through Transforming Communities, the key way that Tearfund works to release whole communities from the grip of poverty.

It's a Bible-based guided training approach that helps people to identify the resources they already have. The programme offers training in how to set up and manage a small business and provides other income-boosting ideas and inspiration.

'Joining this group was a major turning point in my life and the lives of my family,' Edith says.

Tearfund-supported savings groups each have about 20 members who meet regularly to save money together. They use these savings to make small loans to individual members that are repaid over an agreed time period. The loans can be used to set up or develop a small business or enterprise. Edith was so inspired that she went the extra mile...



‘I realised this was a great opportunity for personal improvement and financial stability,’ she says. ‘So I decided to double the amount I saved each month.’

This enabled Edith to start a business that has become her family’s main income. With her savings, she bought 500 plates and 500 glasses, which she hires out for parties and events. Her business has not only given Edith a steady income but has also brought her respect and a sense of purpose.

‘Since I became a member of the Rehoboth group, I have felt a deep sense of freedom and satisfaction,’ Edith says. ‘Besides the financial benefits, the Transforming Communities programme has greatly changed how I see life and my place in it. This powerful process made me think deeply and understand that God made us not to rely on the kindness of others, but to work hard with our own hands.’

After struggling daily to provide for her extended family, Edith now draws deeply from the well of God’s provision. She has become an inspiration to many others in her community who are following her lead.

## The power of transformed communities

Transforming Communities is a powerful testament to the lasting change that is possible when local churches and communities work together. It does not just offer temporary support – it encourages people to use their God-given potential to lift themselves out of poverty, leading to sustainable transformation.

Eight out of ten communities involved in Transforming Communities go on to build or improve facilities such as schools, health clinics and access to clean water as a result.

Unexpected events such as natural disasters or illness can be devastating to people living in extreme poverty. Where Transforming Communities is taking place, 83 per cent of people feel confident in their ability to face unexpected events like these.

### Prayer points

- Pray for Edith and her family, for continued financial security through her own efforts and God’s provision
- Pray that Edith’s journey inspires many others to realise their God-given potential, embrace self-reliance and take charge of their own lives.

Use the map to pray for Tearfund’s vision to see lives transformed through the church in the 50 plus countries where it works. Pray for the expansion of Tearfund’s Transforming Communities programmes, so that more churches and communities across the world will be inspired and equipped to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.