CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

WE WON’T STOP UNTIL POVERTY STOPS.

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

tearfund
WELCOME TO YOUR 2018 CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

The year 2018 marks 50 years of Tearfund. What better way to spend it than by drawing even closer to God as a global family, praising him for his constant faithfulness and relentless love, and reaffirming our commitment to follow Jesus where the need is greatest.

We believe that an end to extreme poverty is possible. We’ve seen it halved in the 50 years since we started, but we won’t stop until poverty stops.

We’ve set some inspiring goals for this year, to help drive us forward. They include:

- SEEING FIVE MILLION PEOPLE RESTORED FROM MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL POVERTY
- RAISING ONE MILLION PRAYERS

This resource will make sure you and the churches you visit are at the heart of making these goals a reality. We all have a part to play.

IN THIS PACK
- Campaign overview
- Step-by-step guide
- Six posters
- Sample response card
- USB (plus a spare) containing film and photo slideshow.

ONLINE (www.tearfund.org/speakerscorner)
- Campaign overview
- Film and slideshow
- Adult talk
- All-age talk
- Five-minute children’s talk
- Film showing the giving ‘ask’ being delivered
- FAQs
- Webinar recordings

For advice and information, or to order more posters and response cards, contact your Volunteer Manager. Or, if in any doubt, email volunteer@tearfund.org

Without you, we wouldn’t be where we are today, and we wouldn’t be able to go where we’re needed tomorrow. Thank you for all that you do as a Tearfund Speaker. You play a vital role, and we praise God for you.

With every blessing,

Jo Mummery
Head of UK Volunteering
ABOUT THIS CAMPAIGN

In the 50 years since Tearfund started, extreme poverty has halved. We believe that it can be ended, and it’s our determination to push on towards this goal that inspired our 2018 campaign:

WE WON’T STOP UNTIL POVERTY STOPS.

You will feel the theme of restoration flowing through our stories this year. That’s because we’ve learnt that poverty is rooted in broken relationships – with God, ourselves, others and our world – and that freedom comes through the restoration of these relationships.

As ever, the church is at the very heart of all we do. We the global church are blessed so we can bless others, restored so we can by God’s power bring restoration to the world around us.

‘The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners... They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.’ (Isaiah 61:1, 3b-4)

We are transformed by Jesus’ relentless love. We are his living body here on earth, and we are God’s agent of change. The church is more than a match for poverty. So let’s say it together and say it loud:

WE WON’T STOP UNTIL POVERTY STOPS.

‘THE SPIRIT OF THE SOVEREIGN LORD IS ON ME, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR.’

ISAIAH 61:1a

WELCOME TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Our focus this year will be on the amazing story of Birungi, a young woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

With a population of more than 80 million, the DRC is the second largest country in Africa. Despite being rich in natural resources, it’s one of the world’s poorest countries.

- 2.3 million people are internally displaced as a result of ongoing conflict in DRC
- life expectancy is 49
- 87 per cent of people live below the poverty line
- 39 per cent of adults cannot read and write
- 54 per cent of people lack access to safe drinking water
- 45 per cent of children don’t complete primary school

Poverty in the DRC is fuelled by brokenness. Relationships are broken, with the country devastated by repeated conflicts including the First Congo War in 1996 and the Second Congo War between 1998 and 2003. Turmoil is ongoing: the country is socially, politically and economically fragile.

The needs are great in the DRC, but so is the opportunity and desire for restoration.
Meet Birungi

This is 22-year-old Birungi. She lives near Bunia, in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

As a child from a poor, rural family – and a girl – Birungi wasn’t given the opportunity to go to school. In her own view and that of her community, Birungi had nothing to offer, and no opportunities available to her. She was very nearly married off to an older man.

‘Girls are not given the same priority as boys,’ explains Kalongo from our partner, Action Entraide. ‘They think girls are born to get married and to bring a dowry to the parents.’

Birungi’s uncle saw potential in her, however, and stepped in to help. Through his local church, her uncle had heard about a skills workshop for young adults run by Action Entraide. He encouraged Birungi to look into it.

Although the workshop was far away from her home, Birungi applied and was accepted. She learnt a number of skills, including sewing, at which she excelled. She grew in her faith and understanding of God as she spent time with the teachers, and her self-belief blossomed.

‘God’s word says we are all equal,’ says Birungi.

At the end of her training, our partner provided Birungi with a sewing machine, which she took home and used to start a business making clothes to sell. She sewed, she earned and she saved. She spent some of her earnings on a better sewing machine, enabling her to sew faster, and soon she had saved enough to buy a piglet. She continued to sew while she raised the pig; once it was big enough, she sold it and used the profit to buy a calf.

Birungi now plans to breed and sell cows – a good, stable livelihood in the DRC – as well as grow her sewing business. ‘Now I’m able to buy food and clothes and to take care of myself,’ says Birungi, who has become an inspiring role-model for the wider community.

Birungi rejoices over her newfound stability and economic independence. But even more important to her is the restoration and freedom she has experienced.

She has found true self-worth, and is no longer brought down by the social brokenness that labels her as ‘just a woman’. She is now confident in her identity as a precious child of God, capable of great things. She has been set free by her ability to choose her own path, and is now overcoming the limitations put on so many young girls from poor families in the DRC.

‘I LONG TO SEE OTHER GIRLS RESTORED AND SET FREE.’

BIRUNGI

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.’ (Romans 8: 14-16)
Meet the partner

Tearfund partner Action Entraide – which means ‘self-help’ in French – was founded in 2009 to help communities in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to recover from conflict and overcome poverty.

Action Entraide staff are not afraid to go to difficult places. Birungi’s village is so remote, that many organisations would be put off. From Bunia, the nearest town, you must drive by truck, boat across a river and then motorcycle down a narrow track to reach it.

Kalongo and the rest of the Action Entraide team are passionate about equipping the church to be agents of change in their own communities. So they have been rolling out the Church and Community Transformation approach to development – helping churches fulfill their potential to bring about material and spiritual change.

They have also started a number of livelihood-building initiatives, including the skills workshop attended by Birungi.

Action Entraide is also working to heal divides between different communities, crucial given the long history of conflict in the DRC, as well as equipping communities to care for the environment and adapt to the changing climate.

In all they do, Action Entraide include those who are marginalised, for example women and those from ethnic groups traditionally looked down upon. They seek to open people’s eyes to their God-given potential, restoring their self-worth as well as their belief in a better future.

‘Truly speaking, I don’t know how I can thank the supporters of Tearfund,’ says Kalongo. ‘You have seen with your eyes someone who had no opportunities since childhood, now able to run a business, earn money and help others. Without Tearfund supporters, this miracle could not happen. So I just say thank you. May God bless you.’

Action Entraide is just one of Tearfund’s many brilliant partners around the world. The money, prayers and awareness raised at the churches you visit this year will play a massive part in fuelling their work and other projects like it.

‘TRULY SPEAKING, I DON’T KNOW HOW I CAN THANK THE SUPPORTERS OF TEARFUND... MAY GOD BLESS YOU.’

KALONGO,
HEAD OF TEARFUND PARTNER
ACTION ENTRAIDE

SPEAKERS’ STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Hopefully, you’re starting to look forward to the year ahead as much as we are. Here are some simple steps to help you inspire the churches you visit to join us.

1. Go online to make the most of the extra resources we’ve produced for you, including pre-written talks, FAQs and more.

2. Take your posters along to the churches you visit. Ask the Church Leader if they would put a poster up somewhere in the church, so people remember Tearfund after your talk.

3. Don’t forget to put the response cards on chairs before your talk. Just contact your Volunteer Manager to order more.

4. At the start of your talk, tell your audience that this is a special year. Explain that it’s Tearfund’s 50th birthday, and that we want to see five million people restored from spiritual and material poverty during 2018.

5. Show the film on the USB enclosed, which sets the scene and tells Birungi’s story.

6. End your talk with Tearfund’s new prayer, printed on the next page. It was written especially for this year by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

7. Send in any completed response cards plus your speaker report form. Use the address on your form, supplied by your Volunteer Manager.
A prayer by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Gracious and generous God, you became poor so that we might be enriched by your love, and you gave the world’s wealth and resources as a common inheritance of all human beings.

We pray you would strengthen your church to be a beacon of hospitality for the poor.

We pray that, seeing the light of Christ’s love, the nations and peoples of the world may fight not to kill, but to outdo one another in care for the poor, and in actions of gracious generosity.

Through him who for our sakes did not grasp the wealth of heaven, but instead gave all to live for us as a slave, and die for us in pain, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen