

# One Voice

Your weekly  
prayer resource

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

## Rising from the ashes: life after the volcanic eruption in Goma

In May, we shared an urgent call to prayer for the people of Goma, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A volcano – Mount Nyiragongo – had erupted, causing hundreds of thousands of people to be evacuated. Here is an update from our team in the DRC on how God has moved and how you can pray.

Goma is a lakeside city where around 1.5 million people live. Homes and businesses were destroyed by the lava, and more damage was done by hundreds of aftershocks.

The city is trying to get back to normal, but thousands of families who lost their homes remain living in temporary accommodation. Areas that were damaged remain closed and those who used to live there are not yet able to return. It's unclear when it will be safe for them to move back and rebuild.

### Rush to help

The eruption also damaged water supplies. Tearfund has been organising deliveries of clean water by truck so that thousands of vulnerable people can access it. These trucks are driven from areas where there is water available, on a regular basis, to cover until long-term measures can be put in place.

We have also built toilets and showers where people who have been displaced are staying, enabling them to live with dignity.

Alongside this, we continue to train people to share messages on hygiene and sanitation to keep people safe from illnesses, and are providing kits for people with the essentials they need, such as soap and sanitary items.

### God at work

'We praise God that we were able to get funding to allow us to reach people in need in the immediate aftermath,' shares Hebdavi Muhindo, who leads Tearfund's work in the DRC.

'Thanks to this, we were able to act quickly and meet the needs of thousands of people who had nothing.'

Please join us to pray for the ongoing recovery efforts in Goma.

## Pray with us

- Ask God to bless the people of Goma. Pray for provision of new, permanent homes for those currently don't have one.
- Thank God for the resources that became available that enabled our team in the DRC to respond quickly.
- Pray for long-term solutions to fix the water supplies so that everyone has access to clean water on demand.

## A note from...

'While life is beginning to return to normal in Goma – which we thank God for – the volcanic eruption was incredibly frightening for all involved. Those who haven't been able to return to their homes face the ongoing stress of living in temporary accommodation. Please keep the people of Goma in your prayers as we do everything we can to help them rebuild their lives.'

**Hebdavi Muhindo, Country Director for the Democratic Republic of Congo**

## Pray for the world



The situation in Afghanistan remains uncertain. Financial systems are not working properly – some people have not been paid, others can only withdraw money from the banks in limited amounts. Pray for these systems to be restored so that people can buy what they need, and so our local partners can continue to pay their staff and be able to access money to carry out their vital work.



Some areas of the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh are extremely hilly and difficult to move around – especially for elderly people and others who cannot walk easily. Praise God for the work our local partners have recently completed to install and repair stairs in the camps, making it easier for people to access facilities like shower blocks.



In Ethiopia, fighting has broken out again between the government and armed groups in the Tigray region, leading to thousands of deaths. Tensions between these groups are already at breaking point and it is unclear what will happen next. Pray for reconciliation for all involved in this conflict, and for peace to reign.

# Blackout: praying for Lebanon

**Last weekend, Lebanon suffered a power outage and the country was plunged into darkness. Power has now been restored but there is fear this could happen again as fuel supplies remain low. Let us commit this time to lift up Lebanon in prayer.**

‘It is difficult to explain how hard this is for us – for the people of Lebanon,’ shares Farah Bou Kheir, who is part of our team there. ‘There is no warning before something like this happens and there is no way of knowing when or how it will be resolved either.

‘It is a feeling of frustration and abandonment.’

Due to rising inflation in the country and problems with supply chains, food, medicine and fuel is getting harder to come by. This has led to difficult decisions being taken – like shutting down many street lights across Beirut to save on power.

But it’s also led to rising hunger and discontent within the country.

## Breakthrough

Many of us have been faithfully praying for Lebanon and the supply issues it has been facing in the last year. It is hard when we don’t see immediate breakthrough on issues like this – it can be discouraging when it feels like the situation is getting worse.

In the Bible there are times of unanswered prayers. Some of the psalms that King David wrote question God’s timing and when he is going to move. But he doesn’t stop lifting his petitions to God. And we see the same in the New Testament – Paul encourages us to keep praying (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Your prayers also encourage our staff and local partners in Lebanon at this time.

‘When you work in challenging circumstances, like in Lebanon, it makes all the difference knowing that there are people lifting us and the work we do up in prayer,’ explains Farah. ‘It strengthens our team and helps us feel a closer connection with how God is moving in the global church.

‘Thank you for standing with us – please keep praying for Lebanon.’

## Pray with us

- Pray for supply chains to be restored so that people have everything they need to thrive.
- Pray for comfort and peace in this time of uncertainty and that people’s hope will be renewed.
- Lift up our staff and local partners and pray for wisdom and resilience as they continue to help people lift themselves out of poverty in increasingly challenging circumstances.

# How young people around the world are tackling the climate crisis

**Young people are growing up in a world in crisis. People living in poverty are already experiencing the devastating effects of climate change. But, despite the challenges, young people from around the world are boldly stepping out to find creative ways to tackle the climate crisis.**

In Jos, Nigeria, young people have started pioneering projects that reduce waste and the use of polluting fossil fuels. Tearfund has partnered with a group of young Nigerians to set up the Jos Green Centre, which employs them to recycle and repurpose waste which would otherwise be dumped.

By recycling electronic waste into solar units and batteries, the young people are making renewable energy more accessible for people living in poverty and reducing the use of fossil fuels.

Switching to renewable energy can also help young people in business reduce their costs and have a more reliable source of electricity. For example, Tina, a hairdresser, was unable to run her salon properly because the electricity would frequently get cut off.

She attended a training course at the Jos Green Centre and learned how to make and fit a solar power system, which she then installed on the roof of her salon.

Now, Tina's salon is the only one in the area with reliable electricity and she attracts many more customers each day. She uses the money that she used to spend on diesel to buy beauty supplies for her business. She now earns enough to save and plan for the future.

## First responders

In other parts of the world, young people are coming face-to-face with the life-threatening consequences of the climate crisis as they experience more extreme and frequent disasters. Tearfund is preparing young people in at-risk areas by training them in how to protect their communities from the impact of future disasters, and how they can respond to emergencies.

In Honduras, 25-year-old Darwin witnessed two deadly hurricanes rip through his community in just two weeks, followed by extreme flooding. He had to flee his own home to escape the rising waters.

Darwin was able to put his training from Tearfund into practice as he and other young people helped clear out and clean flooded homes. They also recommended that the flood barriers be repaired and strengthened, to reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

Similarly, in Haiti, young people were first on the scene after an earthquake and tropical storm caused chaos. Within a few hours the Tearfund-trained youth network had assessed people's needs in the most affected areas and organised relief efforts.

‘Often young people wait for the church to tell us what to do, but now I am the one who proposes to the church actions that we can do to benefit the community,’ says Darwin. ‘Now we see ourselves not only as affected people but as people who can also bless others.’

### Speaking up to world leaders

In the UK, young people may not see the devastating effects of the climate crisis first hand like Darwin, but they are well aware of the problem.

Our research found that nine out of ten Christian teenagers in the UK are concerned about the climate crisis, but only one in ten believes their church is doing enough to respond.

With the UK hosting important climate talks with world leaders in Glasgow at COP26 this November, we gathered a group of passionate young Christians to support them in developing their own campaign to shine a light on the injustice of the climate crisis.

The young people have written an open letter to world leaders, calling for them to choose people and the planet over profits, by limiting a rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C. Their online *Take a Stand* campaign quickly gained support, capturing the attention of the media, MPs and church leaders.

Ahead of COP26, the group will meet with the Archbishop of Canterbury, along with church leaders and politicians to discuss their climate concerns.

Please join us in praying that the voices of young people – from the UK and around the world – will be heard, and that leaders will take action as a result.

### Pray with us

Dear God,

Thank you for raising up these young leaders who care passionately about caring for your creation and protecting the most vulnerable people. We ask that leaders will listen to the concerns of young people and take action to prevent further harm to the planet and the world’s poorest communities. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

**tearfund.org**

100 Church Road, Teddington TW11 8QE

T 020 3906 3906 E [info@tearfund.org](mailto:info@tearfund.org)

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