

One Voice

Your weekly
prayer resource

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

The rains won't stop: no escape from floods in South Sudan

Last year, entire villages were wiped out by the worst flooding South Sudan has faced in years. Many of them are now abandoned and large areas have turned to swamps. The water hasn't receded in the majority of places – more rain keeps falling and it's putting everyone at risk. Here is an update on what's happening and how you can pray.

'The flooding changed so many things for people in South Sudan,' shares Anthony Rama, who leads Tearfund's work in South Sudan. 'People were forced to move around on boats, risk drowning or being attacked by crocodiles.'

'The harvests were also completely destroyed... Hunger is a pressing issue now for too many people.'

Returning to nothing

Tabitha* fled with her family to a refugee camp in northern Uganda when the floods came. She returned to her home earlier this year to find her house completely destroyed. Her family now live in an abandoned house – and are aware that the owners could return at any time.

'I am now surviving through very difficult means, going out using the canoe to fetch firewood in the water and later on come and sell it to get little money to buy food for my children,' shares Tabitha. 'There is nowhere one can cultivate to grow crops for survival.'

And to add to this, Tabitha's home is still surrounded by water – which keeps rising.

Reaching those in need

Tearfund is helping families like Tabitha's. With the continuing rainfall, the risk of waterborne illnesses is high and can be fatal. Therefore, we have been improving access to clean water and safe sanitation.

Although Tearfund's nutrition centres – where we support families facing hunger – have been damaged by the floods, we have been able to secure funding for four temporary sites. These are closer to where communities have been forced to move to and means we can continue this vital work. Tearfund has also acquired canoes so that we can support communities cut off by flood waters. The need is great – please join us in praying for the people of South Sudan.

Pray with us

- Families need mosquito nets, blankets, soap, utensils, food and long-term safe shelter. Bring each of these things to God in prayer and ask him to provide these for the people of South Sudan.
- Pray for wisdom and resources for our team in South Sudan as they continue to reach people in need and look for long-term solutions.
- Pray that the current rains will not lead to further flooding.

*Name changed to protect identity

A note from...

'If the weather patterns continue to change and we see even more flooding, people will have to find new land to live, grow crops and graze cattle on. It is uncertain what land will be suitable for this. We really value your prayers as we seek wisdom in how we can best continue to support people in South Sudan in these challenging times. Thank you for continuing to stand with us.'

Anthony Rama, Country Director for South Sudan

Pray for the world



In Afghanistan, bank closures and currency shortages have led to rising prices, putting more people at risk of hunger and poverty. Pray that banks will be able to safely reopen. Ask God to give discernment to our local partners about how they continue their work in the country. And pray for wisdom for international leaders in how they engage with Afghanistan over the coming weeks and months.



In Niger there is an increase in children being killed or targeted for recruitment by armed groups in the conflicts at Niger's borders with Mali and Burkina Faso. The relentless conflict is impacting children's mental and physical wellbeing. Pray for young people's safety in Niger. Ask God to protect them from violence and recruitment. And keep praying for peace.



In Lebanon, the new government has been announced – more than a year after the previous administration quit following the devastating Beirut port explosion. The country is currently facing multiple crises – including fuel and medicine shortages, and rising costs of essentials, such as food. Pray that this new government will lead justly and will resolve the issues facing the country.

How children's dreams just got bigger in Pakistan

In one province in Pakistan, more than half of the poorest children do not attend school. But our local partner is working to change that – and it's making all the difference to children like Sumra, whose future just got brighter...

Tearfund's local partner, The Primary Education Project, is building schools in some of the most marginalised areas of southeast Pakistan. They are focusing on improving access for girls and minorities, with guaranteed places and support to enable these groups to be able to attend and thrive.

The Primary Education Project currently has 132 schools and more than 6,000 children enrolled. Sumra* is one of these pupils.

Sumra's story

Sumra lives in southeast Pakistan. Her parents are farmers. They rent land to grow crops so they can earn a living. The hours are long and it is hard work for little pay. Sumra's parents wanted her to attend school, but it wasn't a possibility before The Primary Education Project built a school nearby.

Sumra is now in her final year of primary school and is flourishing.

'In the beginning, I was scared... but when I went regularly to school, I saw the teacher is very responsive and he teaches the students in a friendly environment,' she shares.

And it's not just Sumra who is overjoyed.

'I want my daughter to study further and earn a good name for family. I do not want her to work like me; in the fields, in extreme weather and earning too little,' shares Hafsa*, Sumra's mother.

'I feel indebted to The Primary Education Project and supporting partners for providing education to the marginalised children, especially in the remote areas.'

Cycles of poverty broken

'Access to education – like the work of The Primary Education Project – is a key way we can end cycles of poverty,' explains Martin Leach, who oversees Tearfund's work in Eurasia and North Africa.

'When children can attend school and learn, meet other children and grow together, the opportunities for their future expand greatly. It is exciting to see.'

'Many of us have been faithfully praying for children around the world to be able to attend school and get an education. Stories like Sumra's remind us that God is at work and these prayers are being answered.'

Let us pray for even more answers to prayer.

Pray with us

Dear God,

We thank you that you hear our prayers for children to be able to attend school. Thank you for how you are at work around the world to enable children like Sumra to get the education they deserve. We pray for even more barriers to be removed that stop children – especially girls – from going to school. Thank you for the work that The Primary Education Project is doing – bless them, Lord, and give them the resources they need to reach even more children in need. Amen.

*Names changed to protect identities

The grandmother facing up to the climate crisis

As we seek and pray for increased global efforts to halt the worst effects of climate change, families are already suffering. In Malawi, farmers like Beatrice are struggling with the change of weather, which threatens to push them back into poverty. Meet the grandmother who is learning new skills so her family can survive.

The odds were already stacked against Beatrice, a 60-year-old grandmother who lives in a small rural village in central Malawi. The family live season-by-season and rely on the crops they grow themselves for food and – if there's any surplus to sell – extra income for essentials.

But for many years there was no surplus, in fact the harvests were reducing year-by-year. Beatrice was too busy furiously farming to consider why, but she noticed the seasons were changing. Weather patterns that families relied on for generations were becoming less predictable.

In the past, farmers like Beatrice could plant, cultivate and harvest at regular intervals. Now, increasingly, seeds sown would produce shoots that shrivelled in the ground when the rains failed to come. Or crops would be washed away after torrential floods.

'Yes, I have known hunger,' says Beatrice. 'I am not educated so I can't tell you how long it has been. But it has been a long struggle. It was difficult to grow maize. The size of the crop wasn't big enough.'

The poverty and struggles that Beatrice endures is widespread across rural Malawi, with hunger a regular occurrence. Families like hers have to grow enough food to eat because there is no backup.

Learning to farm anew

Thanks to the support of people like you, Tearfund's local partner is helping Beatrice's community to find more effective ways to farm and protect the local environment.

They have supported families with an ingenious farming method known as conservation agriculture. It's a sustainable approach that protects soil from erosion, degradation and improves its quality and

biodiversity. Conservation farming also contributes to the preservation of natural resources, water and air, while increasing crop yields.

As part of this, our local partner has been training communities on how to make their own organic fertiliser to increase soil quality. Beatrice is now an expert.

'They taught us how to produce the best fertiliser. That is what the women here do,' says Beatrice. 'Then we plough the soil and plant. We now have more maize to harvest. 'We are seeing a great change... [They are] bringing many skills into the community. Now things are much better.'

Dung good now

Beatrice's new fertiliser skills and improved farming techniques mean Beatrice has surplus crops to sell at the market. This has considerably improved her family's life and living conditions.

'Thanks to my farming success, I have been able to build a house.' Poorer families build thatched roofs out of straw and leaves. Not only are they liable to leak when it rains, they're also a fire hazard in dry conditions and harbour insects and disease. These are no longer issues for Beatrice and her family. 'I have bought iron sheets to cover my house,' she says. 'So many things have improved.'

Village life has also benefited. Families no longer struggle alone as our local partner has brought people together in groups to address the wider issues facing the community such as deforestation. 'Wind storms often hit our village,' says Beatrice. 'So I joined the reforestation committee, we work together to help protect our homes.

'Now the trees are growing, I often let out a cheer when I see them. We are very, very happy.'

The love of Jesus

As a Christian organisation, our local partner is also demonstrating the love of Jesus to the communities they serve, and they encourage people like Beatrice in their faith.

'I trust in God,' says Beatrice. 'God gives us the assurance and strength to farm. God is very good.'

While in the past Beatrice has struggled to pay school fees for all her grandchildren, now she can afford it. 'They now have great aspirations. They tell me they want to be doctors and teachers.'

But more than that, Beatrice can now look to the future with hope. 'I joke with the children, saying that when I am old they will need to pay me back!'

Join us in prayer for families like Beatrice's – who are facing the worst effects of the climate crisis – let us pray for hope for their future.

Pray with us

- Thank God for how Beatrice is now able to support her family and pay for all her grandchildren's school fees. Pray a blessing over their futures.
- Pray for provision for families in Malawi who are facing hunger because of the changing weather patterns. Pray that help will reach those in need.
- Pray for world leaders to take urgent action to address the climate crisis.

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