

# ONE VOICE

TOGETHER IN PRAYER FOR AN **END TO POVERTY**

## **VIOLENCE RETURNS TO CAR**

**There are renewed calls to pray for peace in the Central African Republic (CAR), after violent scenes in recent days.**

On Thursday 15 November, more than 40 people were killed and dozens wounded in an attack on a Catholic mission sheltering 20,000 refugees (Reuters). This took place barely two weeks after a different site for internally displaced persons (IDPs) was burnt down, leaving 12,000 people in a desperate situation.

Since the latest conflict began in 2013, an estimated 1.27 million people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of the violence.

In a statement, the UN said they are 'greatly concerned at the rise in violence in recent days in the Central African Republic.'

### **Building peace**

Tearfund works alongside partner organisations in CAR on a number of peacebuilding projects. These range from helping communities to talk about ways to live peacefully together, to running football tournaments, and staging drama sketches with local people.

Other initiatives involve tackling sexual and gender-based violence, promoting good hygiene practices, and teaching literacy and numeracy skills.

### **A new path**

Tearfund's Country Director for CAR, Athanase Ndayisaba, says: 'Millions of Central African people have suffered for too long; they are tired and traumatised by the predicaments they endlessly have to endure.'

'A political solution to the current crisis is urgently needed to help people return to their homes, mourn the loved ones they have lost, and forge a new path for their lives.'

### **PRAYER FOCUS:**

- Pray for those people who have been displaced by the conflict – for protection, provision and hope.

- Pray for peace to come to CAR and for the violence to end.
- Ask God to protect our team, partners and all humanitarian workers in CAR.

### **A NOTE FROM...**

'Not only has conflict worsened poverty in CAR, it has increased gender-based violence. Just this week, I met with a 22-year-old woman called Fabiolla who has suffered violence and is being supported by our team. Thank you for praying for the peace and stability desperately needed by women like Fabiolla.' **Benoit Barutwanayo, Livelihoods and Business Manager, CAR**

## **FIFTY YEARS, FIFTY COUNTRIES: ZAMBIA**

*To mark 50 years of Tearfund, we're sharing about 50 countries where we've worked, celebrating God's provision and power to transform, and praying for each of these nations. This week we're in Zambia.*

The landlocked country of Zambia sits in Southern Africa. It's known for being the home of the beautiful Victoria Falls, but what is less known is that 350,000 people in Zambia lack access to a regular food supply.

Tearfund has been working in Zambia for more than 20 years. The foundation of our work is church and community transformation (CCT). We work with our partners and local churches to empower people to unlock their God-given gifts and use their potential to become agents of change in their community.

### **Mobilising change**

In the community of Nsanjika, churches are filled with farmers whose livelihoods have been affected by climate change. Many children also have to work, herding cattle, crushing stones, farming and trading. If there is a bad harvest, the whole community suffers.

The introduction of CCT has envisioned many changes in Nsanjika: Bible studies and regular prayer meetings have united divided churches; congregations have fundraised to build toilets, making churches safer and more functional places for communities to meet. And congregations have realised that they have local resources which can help them solve their own poverty problems.

### **An inspirational role model**

Evelyn is living proof of how CCT can change lives. Widowed 10 years ago, with four children to care for, as well as her own younger siblings, she has become an entrepreneurial role model within her community with the help of our church partner.

Her courage and persistence to use income-generating skills such as baking, knitting and gardening has enabled her to care for her family. Selling her knitting and baking in the community has provided the opportunity to build and furnish a home, make enough money to install and use electricity and kept her children and siblings in school.

Many of the women in Evelyn's community are inspired by her success in building her own business. She is showing others around her how they too can use their God-given skills and the resources around them to overcome poverty.

PLEASE PRAY:

- Pray that Evelyn will have the strength to continue caring for her family. Ask God to encourage her by showing her how much she has achieved and to reveal even more gifts and skills to her.
- Ask God to continue working through the CCT approach in Zambia, to inspire individuals and families to make sustainable changes to improve their own lives.
- Praise God for the growth of the church in Nsanjika, and pray for even stronger relationships between the churches in the wider area.

## **WILL IT BE GOOD COP OR BAD COP?**

**Tearfund is committed to tackling climate change. Millions of people living in poverty are already being affected by more frequent storms, droughts and floods.**

Weather patterns people rely on for growing food are changing, pushing people deeper into poverty. This is not imagined: our staff, partners and the people they work with see and feel the effects on a daily basis.

Crucial climate talks called COP 24 are taking place in Poland from 3 to 14 December – please join us in prayer.

### **Why pray about COP 24?**

In 2015, world leaders signed up to the Paris Agreement. This was a huge leap forward in the fight against climate change. It was the first time nations from all over the world agreed to take collective action to limit the world's temperature increase to 1.5°C.

At COP 24, from 3 to 14 December, leaders will be taking the vital next steps, agreeing how to fulfil the Paris Agreement. With strong actions agreed, COP 24 could be instrumental in protecting people from climate change as well as supporting them to adapt to already altered weather patterns.

PLEASE PRAY:

- Lift up in prayer the individuals, families and communities suffering because of climate change. Pray that God will give them hope, working through our partners and others to help them survive and adapt.
- Ask God to work in the hearts and minds of leaders attending COP 24. Pray that they will recognise the urgency of climate change, and be moved to take strong action. And pray they'll be convicted to use their power to benefit people who are vulnerable.
- Pray that commitments made at COP 24 will include fair and transparent rules, so nations and leaders can be held to account. Pray also that funding will be provided to help developing countries adapt to the changing climate.

If you have a minute, please also sign our petition to leaders attending COP 24 at [www.tearfund.org/COP24](http://www.tearfund.org/COP24)

## PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Pray for the thousands of people leaving their homes as a result of poverty, corruption and violence in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Ask God to protect those walking the long and dangerous journey through Mexico towards the North American border as they seek safety and asylum.



Millions of people in Yemen are facing starvation. Ongoing conflict is preventing aid from reaching some of those in most need. Pray that the peace talks currently taking place in Sweden will be the first steps towards securing a peaceful future for the people of Yemen.



Wednesday 5 December was International Volunteer Day. Tearfund is supported by more than 1,000 amazing volunteers a year, helping at UK events as well as taking up placements around the world. Join us in praising God for them today, and praying they'll be blessed through their service.