

# ONE VOICE

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

## **THE ELEPHANT AND THE MOSQUITO**

*A reflection by Tearfund's Dan Preston, one of the organisers of The Justice Conference*

I'd never heard a positive word about them before, but last weekend I joined with 500 others as we shared some mutual appreciation for the much maligned mosquito. I was at the first ever Justice Conference in the UK. Hosted by Tearfund, it was two days spent exploring the theology of justice, hearing from people on the frontline of various ministries and charity work, and sharing inspiration, ideas and encouragement.

Celia Apeagyei-Collins shared something in her talk that became my key takeaway from the event. 'You describe the elephant by its size, but the mosquito by its impact,' she said. 'Even the smallest thing has an impact.'

We know the mosquito's impact is a negative one – at best an inconvenient buzz, at worst magnifying the spread of disease. But what struck me is how we're often quick to dismiss the contributions we could or do make, as insignificant.

### **We all have a part to play**

It can feel like any impact we have is small, but even small actions have the potential to make a difference in the lives of others. At Tearfund, we're privileged to see this first hand. We see it when one small petition card is the tipping point for governmental change, and when a short, faithful prayer makes all the difference. We see it when a supporter runs a sponsored event that raises crucial funds.

We see the power of seemingly small things in the communities we work with around the world, too: that one new farming technique that doubles a harvest; that act of kindness and inclusion that restores someone's hope and confidence.

I left The Justice Conference last weekend thinking, 'How can I use the power of small actions to change the world?' Sometimes, we feel as small as a mosquito, not as big as an elephant, and that's OK. God calls us to use what we have to make a difference – no matter how small it seems.

### **Please pray:**

9 November 2018 One Voice weekly prayer email  
[tearfund.org/praying](https://tearfund.org/praying)

*Father, we praise you for the incredible ways that you take our small actions and turn them into lasting change for your glory. Thank you for using us to help build your kingdom. Please open our eyes to opportunities and ways that we can make a difference. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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

'It was amazing to see so many people from different walks of life come together at The Justice Conference, with a heart and mind to make justice a way of life. Please pray that everyone who attended will continue to be inspired and challenged to seek justice for themselves and others.'

**Iyisha Rocke, Theology and Networks Team**

## **FIFTY YEARS, FIFTY COUNTRIES: TANZANIA**

*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 Tanzania.*

Tanzania has vast natural resources, trades across Africa and sends peacekeepers to UN missions. And yet, 32 per cent of the population – more than 17 million people – live in extreme poverty. Reasons for this include lack of access to basic services, poor infrastructure and epidemics such as HIV have stalled growth and development.

Tearfund has been working alongside the people of Tanzania, with our partners and through local churches there since 1969. We praise God for determined people attending self-help groups lifting themselves out of poverty. And we thank God for the heart of local churches embracing their calling to care for the communities around them. But there's still more to be done...

One of the problems Tearfund is tackling is the lack of electricity that hinders the education of children, slows the delivery of medical care and jeopardises the safety of people travelling at night in rural areas. Access to electricity can transform the lives of people like Peter and his wife Rachel, who live in Makutupora, central Tanzania, with their two sons, Amos (10) and John (7).

### **Electricity creates community**

Getting electricity to rural areas is expensive! Rachel and Peter couldn't afford electricity, they used to rely on kerosene to light up their home, which is both pricey and endangers the health of their family – the smoky fumes from kerosene lamps can cause dizziness, headaches and vomiting.

After seeing how a Tearfund-supported local self-help group was benefiting other people in their village, Peter and Rachel signed up to join the group. Through saving with the group, they have

been able to take a loan to buy solar panels, as well as form new friendships within their community.

### **Electricity nurtures futures**

Solar power has changed the lives of Rachel, Peter and their children. Their sons can now study after dark when they get back from school: 'The children want to have more education,' says Peter, 'maybe to be a doctor, to be honourable people. Having solar will help them to fulfil these dreams.'

Peter works as a farmer, while Rachel is a tailor. Now that they have a solar light, Rachel can work in the evenings. By working three or four hours more every day, she has increased their monthly income from 70-80,000 TZS (£24-27) to as much as 150,000 TZS (£51).

Solar power and clean energy may not be a new concept for many of us, but it can be life-changing. And it brings new possibilities to families like this.

### **Please pray:**

- Peter asks that we pray for peace, success and health for his family. Pray also for Rachel's business.
- Thank God for the provision of solar power and pray that even more people will sign up to savings groups to be able to afford access to energy.
- Pray that Amos and John will continue to pursue their ambitious dreams for the future. Ask God to inspire them to work hard and feel fulfilled with everything that they are achieving.

If you'd like to know more please visit our Sierra Leone page at [www.tearfund.org/tanzania](http://www.tearfund.org/tanzania) And if you've missed any other articles in this series you can find them at [www.tearfund.org/pray](http://www.tearfund.org/pray)

## **CHURCHES STEPPING UP TO TACKLE EBOLA IN DRC**

**Tearfund church partners are leading a mass awareness campaign to prevent the spread of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).**

Since the beginning of August, there have been 300 cases of Ebola (265 confirmed, 35 probable), including 186 deaths. The latest onset began soon after the DRC declared an end to another outbreak on the Western side of the country.

The virus has been most prevalent in the North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

On Monday 5 November, leaders from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations (UN) visited the DRC to monitor response efforts.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council has declared a resolution calling for an immediate halt to attacks by armed groups in the DRC that are jeopardising the response to the Ebola outbreak.

### **Troubled times**

Tearfund's DRC Country Director, David McAllister, says the most recent outbreak has come as a huge shock to people there:

'People here are already living in extreme poverty and there has been considerable fear about the disease spreading. Tearfund is already working in this very troubled region with a network of partner churches.

'The ongoing and violent massacres are causing many thousands of people to flee their homes. Our deep connections with the church have allowed us to uniquely access remote communities and provide immediate assistance.'

### **Raising awareness**

Church pastors and faith leaders have been key in educating their communities. Tearfund's awareness campaign aims to reach 494,821 people at risk.

Pastors are sharing vital advice on washing hands, seeking medical help at the first sign of symptoms, and issuing guidelines on how to handle dead bodies, to curb the spread of disease. Some congregations are coming together to buy enough bleach for everyone in their church to maintain hygiene.

In addition Tearfund is also working to ensure that health facilities in the affected areas are equipped with adequate water and sanitation systems to prevent the further spread of Ebola.

David says he's hopeful that this is making a vital difference: 'We are confident that through all these measures, and together with the Government and other NGOs, this outbreak can be contained, and a large-scale crisis averted.'

### **Please pray:**

- Please pray for those people who are infected with Ebola or who have lost loved ones in the DRC. Pray for healing and comfort.
- Thank God for the courage of our church partners who are working in a very challenging context to bring hope and insight to communities.
- Lift up the nation of DRC and pray for peace, and an end to the violent clashes.

## **PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**



Please continue to pray for Yemen. According to the UN, 14 million people are facing 'pre-famine conditions'. This means they are entirely reliant on external aid for survival. Pray also for our partner organisations – for their health, strength and protection.



Pray for the people of Nicaragua, where recent social unrest has seen many people killed. Pray for peace and stability, and for Tearfund's partner staff there as they continue their life-changing work amid difficult circumstances.



Sexual and gender-based violence is a challenge for a number of communities in the Ivory Coast. Pray for those affected, that they will receive support and be protected from future violence. Lift up our partners who are working to raise awareness and reduce this kind of violence.