

One Voice

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Worst cholera outbreak in Nigeria for years hits families fleeing violence

Attacks by armed groups in northern Nigeria are causing entire communities to go on the run. With families forced to live in temporary camps in poor conditions, outbreaks of disease are common. In recent weeks, however, the worst outbreak for many years of cholera – a disease caused by dirty drinking water – has killed hundreds of people. Many of the victims are children. For people like Fati, it's yet another hardship to face.

Leaving life behind

Fati, a 25-year-old mother of three, had to leave her life behind when armed groups began to overrun nearby villages.

After a long journey on foot with three small children, Fati had to find somewhere to live. With armed groups occupying so much land, other villages are having to host the thousands of people who have been displaced. Fati was able to rent a small home in one of these villages.

Life is hard. 'One of the major challenges we have was the fact that we don't have a toilet,' Fati tells us. 'We have to go to our neighbour's house... or go to the toilet in the open.'

A lifeline

Conditions like these make it easy for diseases like cholera to spread. But Tearfund's local partner CRUDAN – who bring grassroots communities, including local churches, together to respond to humanitarian emergencies – have provided a lifeline to people like Fati.

CRUDAN built a toilet for Fati's family. They also received buckets for water collection and a hygiene pack including essentials such as sanitary products and soap. In addition, CRUDAN staff regularly share messages on good hygiene practice.

These steps will go a long way in keeping people safe from cholera. 'I would like to say a big thank you,' says Fati. 'My prayer is that God will help us that one day we will have peace in our community and get back to our village.'

Please join us in praying for people like Fati, and for Nigeria as it struggles with violence and the outbreak of disease.

Pray with us

Loving God,

We lift up the nation of Nigeria to you, and pray for your hand of protection and peace to rest upon it. We pray for an end to both the violence and the outbreak of diseases like cholera. Bring families like Fati's the peace that they so urgently need.

In Jesus' name, amen.

A note from...

'The situation in Nigeria is causing great pain – but we know that prayer is powerful. Let us call out to our merciful, loving and almighty God and pray for peace, healings and breakthrough in Nigeria.'

Lucie N'guessan, West Africa Team

Pray for the world



Tearfund is launching a new initiative in India to create jobs and support small businesses that will benefit local communities affected by coronavirus. This includes hiring people to build roads to connect people to markets, healthcare and job opportunities. Pray for wisdom and for continuing good relationships with local communities as we launch this. And pray for the people this will help; that it will support them to overcome poverty.



In many of the countries where we work, such as Zambia, there are challenges in how rural and hard-to-reach places will get access to coronavirus vaccines, due to issues of storage and transportation. Pray for solutions to these challenges and that everyone will be able to have fair access to this vaccine no matter where they live.



In South Sudan, an estimated 90,000 people have been affected by flooding during this year's rainy season (June to September). Flooding has damaged homes and agricultural fields, and forced families and their livestock to higher ground. Pray for provision and for protection against waterborne diseases. And lift up our team in South Sudan who are helping those most affected.

‘No more’: how churches in Honduras reduced violence against women

Warning: contains mention of sexual and gender-based violence that some readers may find upsetting.

Every three hours, a woman in Honduras reports a sexual assault. Countless more women never report the violence they experience, and some don't survive. To tackle this abuse epidemic, Tearfund's local partner in Honduras is equipping church leaders to challenge harmful behaviours and attitudes that perpetuate sexual and gender-based violence.

All her life, Estella* has experienced violence and abuse from men. As a child, Estella was physically and emotionally abused by her step-father, and abuse continued in her relationships with men as an adult. ‘If it had not ended, I think I would be dead by now,’ she says. Estella first heard the truth of how women deserve to be valued, and treated with respect and care when she attended a support group run by Tearfund's local partner.

Tearfund and our partner are working closely with ten churches in Honduras, establishing community groups to support women like Estella. The groups discuss healthy relationships between men and women, raise awareness in the wider community, and provide emotional support for survivors. So far, at least 120 women and girls have been supported in their emotional, spiritual and physical recovery.

Breaking free

Through the group's support, Estella realised the behaviour she had accepted as normal was abuse. She gained confidence that she should not be subjected to violence.

‘I decided that I am a brave woman,’ says Estella. ‘That's when I said: “No more. Enough violence.” It has not been easy. But, thank God, the day came that I had to end this situation.

‘The meetings have helped to heal my soul. I can help other women who have suffered the same. I am no longer afraid. I don't feel ashamed because I know that there are women who have gone through the same.’

Empowered to help

Training from Tearfund's local partner empowered church leaders to help even more women like Estella. Husband and wife pastors Marvin and Dilsia now speak out against violence from a biblical perspective. They can also spot the signs of abuse and respond appropriately.

‘This project taught me how to support women who have suffered violence,’ says Pastor Dilsia. ‘I am already more confident to talk [about it] and empowered to help others.’

Pastor Marvin has started challenging the harmful beliefs held by many men in the community. ‘Thank the Lord, many things have changed,’ says Pastor Marvin. ‘We have a weekly men's meeting, where we talk about our problems and support each other. Now there is less violence.’

A new way

Survivors like Estella have noticed a difference in their communities. There is hope that both men and women can move forward together, free from abuse and violence.

‘For a long time, women have suffered violence from their husbands,’ says Estella. ‘God does not want this, so he sent women from Tearfund’s local partner to help us. I thank God for them, because today we have recovered.’

In just two years, violence has decreased, relationships have been transformed, and survivors have started to heal. But this is just the beginning. Sexual and gender-based violence affects women and girls globally. It is something that grieves God. Please pray that we can expand this work in Honduras, and beyond.

Pray with us

Find a space to pray without distractions. You could play some worship music to focus your time with God.

Lift up women and girls who have been affected by violence. Maybe you know someone who has been personally affected, and you can pray for them by name?

Don’t rush to move on. Spend time in God’s presence, praying however you feel led. You could write your prayers down or speak out God’s promises for those who are hurting.

Ask God what you can do to be part of the solution to this problem in your everyday life. Try to identify one or two simple actions that you can start taking now. For example, could you set time aside each week to pray for this issue? Or talk to your church leader about how your church can raise awareness of violence against women in your community?

Thank God for the progress already made – that women like Estella are now living free from fear. Commit all that you have prayed for to God, as you commit to the small changes you are able to make.

**Name changed to protect identity.*

Creation on the brink: the climate emergency explained

A UN report released this week has given the direst warning yet that we're facing a climate emergency. This comes as the world reels from months of extreme weather events. Here, we break down exactly what's been happening, what can be done about it, and how you can pray.

What's been happening?

Right now, wildfires of an enormous scale are sweeping across Greece, Turkey and California. In July, China experienced its worst flooding in over a thousand years, while Europe also saw devastating floods. At the same time, North America was scorched by a record-breaking heatwave.

Last week, scientists warned that the Gulf Stream – the flow of air in the Atlantic that has a huge influence on the world's climate – is at risk of collapse. These are just the latest developments after years of increasingly frequent and severe weather events.

But aren't these just natural changes in the climate?

No. A landmark report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said 'it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, oceans and land', and that this warming is 'already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.'

This confirms the message that the scientific community and organisations like Tearfund have been communicating for years: the climate emergency is here, now, and it is being caused by human activity.

Should we be concerned?

Yes. People living in poverty are already facing the devastating consequences. Across sub-Saharan Africa, the weather in many countries is swinging between extreme floods and extreme droughts. This is causing havoc on food production, putting millions at risk of hunger. According to the UN, more than a billion people could be forced from their homes within the next few decades as they try to escape the climate chaos.

The new report makes it clear that any further heating of the planet will cause irreversible damage – and that we will all be affected. This is a fight for survival.

What is the international community doing about it?

Currently, not enough. In 2009, \$100 billion a year of funding was promised by world leaders to help tackle the climate emergency in vulnerable countries. That promise has yet to be fulfilled.

In November, the UK is hosting the UN Climate Talks – COP26. This event has always been of crucial importance, but now looks as though it could be a make or break moment for our world. As host, the UK Government needs to answer this wake-up call by pushing to end support for polluting fossil fuels and prioritising a sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

Is there hope that things can change?

Yes – if action is taken now. The IPCC report says that rising temperatures can be stabilised if widespread and deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are made within the next few years. It is vital that we keep putting pressure on governments and businesses to make this happen. And the church can help lead the way – loving our global neighbours and shining the light of Christ by boldly speaking out on this issue together, as well as making changes in our own lives.

What is Tearfund doing?

In our work around the world, Tearfund has been seeing the effects of the climate emergency for years. We're supporting vulnerable communities by working through the local church and other partner organisations. This work includes building homes that are more resistant to storms and floods; giving farmers the seeds, tools and training they need to cope more effectively with drought; and campaigning for governments to make good on their climate pledges.

Pray with us

God of creation,
At this time of great need and urgency,
we pray for your kingdom to come.
We pray for world leaders to wake up
and see the need for immediate action.
We pray that industries that are polluting the world
will start to put people before profits.
And we pray for all those who are suffering now
because of the climate emergency –
bring comfort, bring protection, bring relief.
In Jesus' name, amen.