

PROFILE: PAKISTAN



Pakistan was created as a homeland for Indian Muslims during the 1947 partition of the Indian sub-continent. It formed two parts: West Pakistan, bordering Iran, Afghanistan and India, and East Pakistan, which is today Bangladesh.

In the trauma following the 1971 war, when Bangladesh separated from Pakistan, the government emphasised religious uniformity. The 1973 constitution made Islam the state religion.

Two of the three India–Pakistan wars have been over the disputed northern territory of Kashmir, and fears persist because of the nuclear capabilities of both states.

Pakistan became a key US ally in the ‘war on terror’ following the September 11 attacks in 2001. Meanwhile, much of Pakistan’s internal insecurity is caused by the vast division between rich and poor, and between different regions and classes.

Pakistan is vulnerable to many hazards, both natural and human-induced, such as cyclones, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, oil spills, pollution and conflict. In October 2005, an earthquake hit Kashmir and North West Frontier Province, killing 73,000 people, injuring another 70,000 and leaving 3.3 million homeless. Over the summer of 2010, devastating floods swamped much of the country and affected 20 million people.

Literacy is low, especially among women, and is estimated at 54 per cent. Uneducated women share an unfair burden of poverty as they take on an increased workload but receive less food and nutrition.

TEARFUND’S WORK IN PAKISTAN

Tearfund has been working in Pakistan since 1973. Today, Tearfund works through eight partners on issues ranging from disasters to education, and from drug addiction to theological training. Where appropriate, we are strengthening the ability of local churches to meet the needs of their communities – and working through other Christian groups where there is no local church.

Tearfund helped survivors of the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan to rebuild their homes to an earthquake-proof design. In May 2009, when the military launched an operation against militants in Malakand Division, more than 3 million people were displaced. Tearfund supported 300 families and continued food support for two months.

During the floods of 2010, Tearfund’s partners and Disaster Management Team responded by providing emergency food, shelter and medical kits to more than 10,000 households. Longer-term work will repair water pumps and provide sanitation, livestock, seeds and tools.

Tearfund’s work treating tuberculosis in Pakistan was featured in our 2004 fundraising campaign *Killer TB*.

- **Pray for people living in poverty in Pakistan.**
- **Please pray for our partners as they seek to help others.**
- **And pray for the country of Pakistan, for justice, peace, good health and hope for everyone.**