GOING THE EXTRA MILE

INTRODUCING TEARFUND
WHO WE ARE

We are a Christian international relief and development organisation passionate about ending poverty and seeing communities flourish. We are determined to include everyone – especially the most vulnerable.

The world has taken huge strides forward in reducing global poverty. We’re determined to go the extra mile to ensure that no one is left behind, especially those who are hardest to reach:

- One in ten people lives in extreme poverty, half of them in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2 billion people live in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence.
- 21.5 million people are forcibly displaced by weather-related hazards every year.

As a Christian organisation, we want to unlock the huge potential of many more of the millions of local churches and community organisations globally. We are committed to working alongside them to tackle the root causes of poverty, injustice and fragility in their wider communities. We understand the dynamic nature of poverty is not just physical: people have social, environmental, spiritual and emotional needs too.

Over five decades, we have gained valuable experience and expertise, in both humanitarian and development contexts. We have seen vast numbers of communities transformed – people on the brink of disaster becoming resilient to shocks, self-sufficient and empowered, boldly speaking up for their rights. We know our approaches work. Now we want to take it to the next level.

We are committed to the Sustainable Development Goals because we believe that, together, we can ‘end poverty in all its forms everywhere’ by 2030.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to see all people freed from poverty, living transformed lives and reaching their God-given potential.

*Images:
- Above: Kalpana uses the tap in the newly repaired gravity-fed water system in Bahungaun village, Nepal. Photo: Tom Price/Tearfund
- Front cover: Villagers from Hillé Bar near Dabkere, Chad, face extreme hunger as crops have failed due to exceptionally high temperatures and lack of rain. Photo: Peter Caton/Tearfund
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OUR PARTNERS AND OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

To ensure aid is localised, we work through local churches wherever possible. Otherwise, we work through Christian partners or key social entrepreneurs and influencers.

In emergency situations and protracted crises, we launch operational programmes through international teams. We are currently operational in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Iraq.

OUR STRENGTH

Working through the local church is our area of expertise and an approach cross-cutting all our programmes. It is what helps us reach further, as the church is already there in the thick of it. The local church is a huge untapped resource:

We work with local churches to help them identify their skills and abilities, then the resources and tools they need to mobilise their wider community. The result is local people of all faiths and backgrounds working together to solve local problems with local resources, for the benefit of all. This approach – church and community transformation – is sustainable, replicable, cost-effective and dramatic in its impact.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We help communities build their capacity to become resilient to shocks and stresses, to work for peace and unity,* and to build better futures for themselves and others. We help them unlock the potential that lies in existing resources and relationships.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

We respond to rapid-onset disasters and protracted crises, and target emergency support at those in greatest need. We are committed for the long haul, staying to help communities work towards recovery, resilience and peace.

ADVOCACY

We make sure the poorest communities have their voices heard on issues affecting them, and help them access government resources. We influence the church and government at all levels to change systems and policies in favour of those on the margins.

HOW WE WORK

OUR APPROACHES

Ever since we began in 1968, we have partnered with local communities, equipping local people to make change happen for themselves.

These remain the three key approaches in our work:


* As at January 2018

Reach: it is the world’s largest civil society organisation extending into even remote areas.

Access: it is deeply embedded in society.

Influence: it can shape attitudes as it has respect and authority in the community; it can speak up for the poor, including at government level.

Permanence: it remains long after NGOs have left and is sustainable.

Trust: it understands local needs, shares local values and has a biblical mandate to help.

Whole-person approach: it believes in the health of the whole person – body, mind, heart – so enables real transformation.

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Creating child-friendly spaces was an important part of our response to Nepal’s 2015 earthquake.

Photo: Ben Keenan/Tearfund
WHERE WE WORK

We’re working in more than 50 countries*

ASIA & MIDDLE EAST
• Afghanistan
• Bangladesh
• Cambodia
• Central Asian States
• China
• India
• Iraq
• Jordan
• Laos
• Lebanon
• Myanmar
• Nepal
• Pakistan
• Philippines
• Thailand
• Syria
• Yemen

AMERICAS
• Bolivia
• Brazil
• Colombia
• Guatemala
• Haiti
• Honduras
• Nicaragua
• Peru
• USA**

PACIFIC
• Vanuatu

EUROPE
• UK**

AFRICA
• Angola
• Burkina Faso
• Burundi
• Central African Republic
• Chad
• Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
• Egypt
• Ethiopia
• Ivory Coast
• Kenya
• Liberia
• Malawi
• Mali
• Mozambique
• Niger
• Nigeria
• Rwanda
• Sierra Leone
• Somalia
• South Africa
• South Sudan
• Tanzania
• Uganda
• Zambia
• Zimbabwe

* Countries as of 2018
** Raising awareness and mobilising the church to act and speak out on justice and poverty

WHO WE WORK WITH*

We are in partnership with donors, networks, alliances and local partners

KEY NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES
• ALNAP
• Anglican Alliance
• BOND
• Cash Learning Partnership
• CHS
• Crisis Action
• DEC
• EU-CORD
• Integral Alliance
• Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities
• Micah Network
• START Network
• World Evangelical Alliance
• We Will Speak Out

CONSORTIA
• Passages
• Start Network – Shifting the Power
• SWIFT WRP
• The Liberia WASH Consortium
• What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls
• Global Programme

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS
• Belgian Government
• Canadian Foodgrains Bank
• Canadian Government
• DFID – United Kingdom Government
• Dutch Government
• ECHO – European Community
• EuropeAid – European Community
• FCO – United Kingdom Government
• Food and Agriculture Organization – UN
• German Government
• Irish Government
• OFDA – United States Government
• Pooled Fund
• Scottish Government
• States of Guernsey
• States of Jersey
• Swedish Government
• Swiss Agency for Development
• UNDP
• UNICEF
• USAID – United States Government
• World Food Programme – UN

*International partnerships as at May 2018
Impartiality
We respond to need and support beneficiaries regardless of their race, nationality, faith, gender or background. This principle of impartiality is embedded in our own Quality Standards and we uphold it as a signatory to internationally recognised operating codes and standards, including certification to the Core Humanitarian Standard.

Inclusion
We recognise the importance of addressing the unique needs of those who are likely to be discriminated against or excluded, including the elderly, people living with a disability, women and children. We work hard to remove any barriers that might prevent them from taking part in our programmes.

Excellence and accountability
We work to the highest standards, irrespective of the context. We are committed to having the greatest possible impact and using our resources wisely, efficiently and transparently. Effective communication with the communities we serve, through their participation and feedback, is paramount.

Evidence
We are committed to gathering robust, credible evidence from the frontline, and to conducting research into our effectiveness. We can track progress and outcomes, adapt and fine-tune our approaches, and explore the drivers of change, through:

- monitoring data collected quarterly and annually
- evaluations as a key part of our project cycle management
- in-depth, rigorous impact assessments of our programmes
- research studies, often in partnership with academic institutions and researchers including Institute of Development Studies, Overseas Development Institute, Bath Social and Development Research Ltd and Georgetown University

Learning
We are committed to learning from others, sharing our learning and resourcing our partners and the wider development sector, by:

- investing in systems and digital technologies (eg mobile phone apps) to aid programme design, monitoring, evaluation and learning
- spreading good practice, ideas and advice through our international publications for development organisations, grassroots workers and small community groups
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IN THE PAST 10 YEARS WE HAVE SEEN:*  

- **154,000** local churches envisioned  
- **32,000,000** people reached through community development work  
- **300** local, national and international policies influenced and changed  
- **13,000,000** people benefiting from our response to disasters

*Data for 2006–2016

WE WANT TO SCALE UP THOSE AREAS OF OUR WORK WITH THE GREATEST TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT, TO GO THE EXTRA MILE...

Tearfund has been training communities in Haiti to rebuild using disaster-resilient techniques

Photo: Richard Hanson/Tearfund
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VISION
We want to strengthen and scale up our work in fragile states through:

Collaborative humanitarian response
- continuing to meet immediate needs in WASH, food security, livelihoods and cash programming
- accessing sustainable funding. Balancing humanitarian response with developing long-term local partnerships to embed increased resilience and empower local-level responses to future emergencies.

Localisation
- enabling and upskilling grassroots partners, networks and social entrepreneurs and influencers to respond to contextual need. Strengthening the capacity of local churches, recognising their unparalleled reach and access in their local communities.

Scaling up our work on SGBV in our humanitarian response
- using our survivor-support programmes such as ‘Healing of Memories’ and ‘Transforming Masculinities’ to restore relationships, promote gender equality and end SGBV for good. Harnessing local churches’ unique ability to end stigma and bring healing.

Expanding our emergent work on peacebuilding
- recognising that conflict creates poverty. Engaging local churches and other faith groups as catalysts to address conflict from a faith perspective. Mobilising young people in fragile states to build mass movements for peace and positive change.

PRIORITY 01: FRAGILE STATES
We’re committed to places of protracted crisis and conflict for the long haul – ensuring everyone’s included, especially the most marginalised. Our vision is to see communities thrive as peace, hope and relationships are restored.

It is estimated that by 2030 the overwhelming majority of the world’s poorest people will live in fragile states. Many of these countries have experienced frequent humanitarian disasters compounded by conflict, which has weakened their capacity to absorb shocks – at state, community and individual levels.

The roots of fragility are complex and multifaceted and require creative, innovative and diverse responses through local changemakers, partner organisations, local churches and operational programmes. We recognise the dynamic potential of faith in restoring relationships, addressing root causes, and building fresh vision and hope for the long term.

Our work in the Democratic Republic of Congo illustrates our commitment and holistic response to a complex fragile context, and includes:

- emergency support for tens of thousands of internally displaced people, leading into longer-term food security programmes and resettlement of thousands of families
- WASH programmes as part of the DFID-funded SWIFT Consortium and also with UNICEF funding: longer-term projects extending into even the most remote areas
- sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) responses, funded by UK and US governments. In just over two years, more than 730 faith leaders have been trained to speak out against SGBV and support survivors, reaching 20,000 people
- church and community transformation (CCT) programmes working on self-help groups, agri-business, resilience and peacebuilding
- building young people’s resistance to armed groups’ recruitment drives, working through our social entrepreneurs and influencers to develop leadership and advocacy skills in young people
VISION
CCT puts sustainable development at the heart of what we do. We want to expand and scale up our CCT work. To achieve this, we will:

Scale up sustainably
- influencing church denominations and networks so they take ownership of scaling up CCT at regional and country level, to impact thousands of communities
- increasing substantially the number of excellent CCT facilitators who can facilitate cross-learning on a regional, national and global scale and train others to do the same

Strengthen our impact
- encouraging strategic influencers and theological colleges to promote a holistic approach to church mission, including poverty reduction
- gathering robust evidence of how the local church and CCT approaches lead to community transformation, to inform college curricula and spread best practice among churches doing development

Enhance our contextualisation
- running pilot projects to establish what works locally, using lessons learnt to fine-tune training materials and CCT practices, and ensure approaches are perfectly tailored to the local context
- creating safe spaces within communities to address hidden issues and harmful practices, including sexual and gender-based violence

PRIORITY 02: CHURCH AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
This approach is born of the belief that people have the power to build a better future for themselves.

Since we launched the first pilot in Tanzania in 2001, church and community transformation (CCT) has reached more than 10 million people across 41 countries. It is simple and sustainable, holistic and hugely cost-effective, and its impact has been far-reaching. We believe it is a key tool to reach those in remote areas – and one that will enable us to reach tens of millions more people.

We have already worked closely with partners to tailor the approach to different contexts, developing 18 programme variations. Now we want to mobilise the global church to take responsibility for growing and resourcing CCT in their regions.

EVERY £1 INVESTED IN SELF-HELP GROUPS DELIVERS UP TO £173 IN RETURNS.

Our church-led self-help group programme in Ethiopia has the potential to transform a nation.

Since our pilot with the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church in 2002, a vast network of 20,000 groups has spread across urban and rural areas, involving more than 1.8 million people. These simple savings and loans groups set up through local churches are empowering the poorest households to collaborate and grow their livelihoods. The model is now being replicated in eight other countries.
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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES TO GO THE EXTRA MILE

PRIORITY 03: ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

If the whole of humanity is to flourish, we must radically rethink the global economy and live within our environmental limits.

Conflict and climate-related shocks are proving to be powerful drivers of food insecurity and hunger – and a significant threat to development gains. Our response is to promote environmental and economic sustainability (EES) and more specifically a circular economic model that ensures natural resources are reused not wasted.

We can speak to and influence a vast, global church network to promote a ‘restorative’ global economy through which everyone can meet their basic needs, inequality in its current extremes is no longer tolerated, and the world lives within its environmental limits.

We have a strong track record of research, policy papers and campaigning on climate change. Now we want to scale up and mainstream EES in all our work.

VISION

We want to scale up our work on environmental and economic sustainability. To this end we will:

Grow substantive EES programmes in at least ten countries
- creating green jobs/livelihoods which generate real income and are economically sustainable
- contributing to the restoration of the environment, at local, national and global levels, using finite resources in the most sustainable way
- reducing local inequality through tried-and-tested CCT and peer-mentoring approaches

Mainstream EES into all our programmes

Influence church leadership on EES
- embedding this with partners in at least ten countries, in theological colleges and in the teaching of denominations, mega-churches, influential churches and networks, across 20 countries

Strengthen an existing movement for change
- seeing Christians from 20 countries take political and lifestyle actions

Persuade governments to do more to build EES
- including keeping their Paris Agreement pledges to reduce emissions quickly enough to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and providing US$100 billion of climate finance per year by 2020

Environmental degradation in Nigeria is threatening livelihoods, jeopardising food security and deepening poverty.

The Jos Green Centre in Plateau state is inspiring a national youth movement to reverse this trend. Young people set up the centre after being trained and mobilised by Tearfund Nigeria. Their work so far has included promoting recycling and clean energy, starting eco-friendly enterprises, advocacy, and mentoring their peers across the country to follow suit.

Members of Jos Green Centre exhibit some of their recycled goods to mark World Environment Day. Photo: Chalya Dul/Jos Green Centre
We are hugely motivated by our mission to reach those in greatest need whatever their gender, faith or background. And we are confident in our ability to deliver impact at scale. It’s challenging work but we are committed to going the extra mile. The Sustainable Development Goals set us all an ambitious target. The communities we work with want us to do more. The complexity of the world’s current problems means this is no time for complacency. No organisation can do everything by itself, so we seek strategic partnerships and creative collaboration to see real breakthroughs in reducing extreme poverty.

We’re not intimidated by the scale of the challenges ahead, because we know we have a strategy that works. The local church, working with its local community – an integral part of our added value – can bring transformation that is sustainable and empowering. And we know this vast global network has huge potential to have far greater impact still.

The opportunities ahead are tremendous. We want to replicate the impact we and our partners have already seen, but at a truly global level. We won’t stop until poverty stops.

Nigel Harris, Tearfund CEO
'Tearfund journeys with us and our relationship is one of partnership, rather than receiver and giver.'

Jane Acheloi,
Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Uganda