



tearfund

# INSPIRING CHANGE

IMPACT & LEARNING REPORT 2017

*celebrating a 10-year vision*



📍 Nigel Harris, CEO, visiting Lebanon. Photo: Edward Woods/Tearfund

## FOREWORD

I am continually inspired and moved by people's resilience to withstand shocks and crises in their lives; to lift themselves out of poverty; and to build hope and confidence, relationships and assets. I am also inspired and moved by the way the church is stepping up to engage with local communities to bring transformation and restoration.

This year we have been looking back over our 10-year vision to see 50 million people released from material and spiritual poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches. It has been a great opportunity for us to look at what has worked well, what we can scale up and focus on, and how we can improve the way we and our partners work with millions around the world. I want to thank our donors and supporters for your trust, generosity and sacrificial giving, which have contributed hugely to the remarkable impact we are seeing across the world.

Since 2006, when our strategy was launched, we have seen some notable global changes. Absolute economic poverty has reduced more in the last 50 years than in the previous 500 years, and life expectancy has dramatically increased.<sup>1</sup> The number of people living in extreme poverty is set to fall below 10 per cent of the global population for the first time.<sup>2</sup> This is progress, but there is still work to be done.

Within Tearfund, we've seen the continued growth of our church and community transformation work, including growing and multiplying the self-help group model, nurtured in Ethiopia (as featured in last year's Impact Report), in other countries. We've responded directly to crises and events across the world to bring relief and hope to those displaced and affected. With partners we have been

*'The real change here is not financial – it's a mindset change. It's the return of hope to those who had lost hope. And it's the church being salt and light.'*

BISHOP JOHN, TANZANIA

responding to sexual and gender-based violence, developed emerging work on peacebuilding, and helped communities affected by climate change to adapt and be resilient. Our global influencing and advocacy work seeks to mobilise the church and civil society to be agents of change, shifting public perception on key issues, and influencing leaders and decision-makers in both the church and public square. This has led us to speak into key issues including the restorative economy and the role of faith leaders in crisis response.

The greatest privilege of my role is the opportunity to meet communities and hear their stories of change. In Tanzania this year I saw church and community transformation in action. I visited a community where I met a Pamoja group holding its weekly meeting, collecting savings and debating the disbursement of the next loan. Pamoja in Swahili means 'Together' and it was clear to see this in the way the group was making decisions and relating to one another. In this one village over four hundred families have participated in such groups and seen real change. Houses now have leak-proof roofs, children go to schools and villagers eat three meals a day.

Another trip took me to Lebanon, where I heard many heart-breaking stories of those who have fled the crisis in Syria. People have lost livelihoods, homes and dignity. In Beirut I visited a church providing food vouchers

and counselling to refugees crammed into half-finished buildings. Ninety per cent of the refugee children our partner meets have experienced some degree of trauma. The church is bringing hope, rebuilding lives and responding to the needs of the community.

I hope you will be inspired and encouraged by this report, in which we share insights and stories of impact from our 10-year journey and touch on our vision for the future: to see all people freed from poverty, living transformed lives and reaching their God-given potential. Our mission is to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, responding to crisis and partnering with local churches to bring restoration to those living in poverty. Development is much more than economic, and is rooted in whole-life transformation. Ultimately we are motivated by our passion to see the restoration of broken relationships, and the flourishing and transformation of individuals, communities and nations across the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Harris'.

Nigel Harris,  
CEO Tearfund



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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our third annual impact and learning report. This year we have ambitiously looked across our work over the past decade, as we come to the end of our current 10-year strategy period. As with previous years we have drawn together evidence of impact from a mixture of sources, staying true to our desire to learn, improve and adapt our work where required.

## OUR 10-YEAR JOURNEY

In 2006, Tearfund set a vision to see 50 million people lifted out of material and spiritual poverty through a worldwide network of 100,000 local churches by 2016. So what have we achieved and where have we been? Read on to be inspired by Tearfund's journey of impact.

In pursuit of our 10-year vision we have been working towards four main outcomes:

-  **Churches envisioned:** The church is envisioned, empowered and equipped to play its part in the transformation of the poorest communities.
-  **Communities developed:** The poorest communities are resilient to shocks and stresses, working for peace and unity, and contributing to better futures for themselves and others.
-  **Policies changed:** Social, political, economic and environmental systems and policies work for the poorest communities, ensuring access to basic needs, reduced inequality and sustainable growth.
-  **Disasters responded to:** Immediate needs are met when crises and natural disasters hit and community structures and mechanisms are affected.

The key approaches we use to work towards our outcomes are: community development, humanitarian response and advocacy. We have a distinctive partnership model that seeks to maximise the impact of our work and value for money. Our partners include grassroots communities and individuals, churches and local organisations. Where it is not possible to work through local partners, our operational teams respond to crisis situations.

Tearfund and its partners are committed to working with and empowering local communities, irrespective of grouping or religion, and our work is driven by where the need is greatest. We are also committed to learning and to resourcing our partners and the wider international sector. This enables replication, scale-up of ideas and good practice, and the upskilling of local capacity, which are all critical drivers of change.

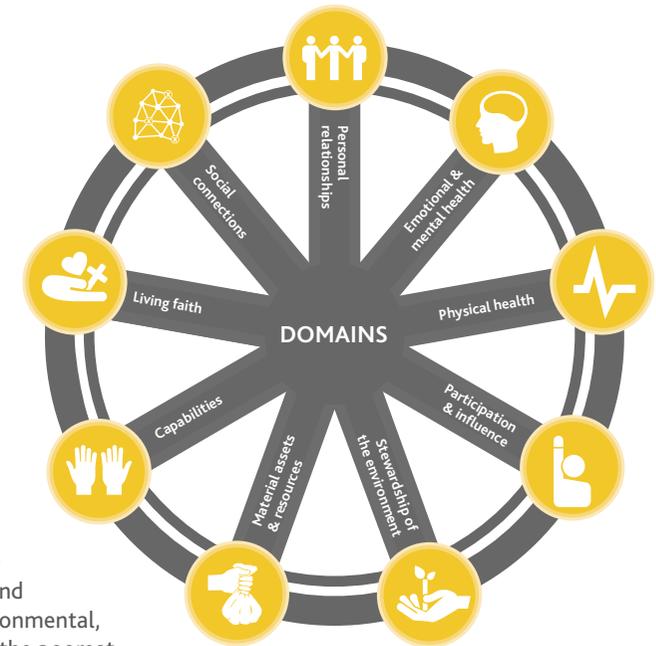
One of the ways we do this is through *Footsteps*, our publication for grassroots development workers, which shares information, ideas and experiences from across the world.

## THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE

We view poverty as being complex, multi-faceted and the result of broken relationships. We focus not only on the economic and physical, but also the social, environmental, emotional, and spiritual needs of the poorest and the most vulnerable. The breakdown of systems (political, economic and social) also affects people's abilities to live well and flourish. Understanding where the power lies and engaging it at its source is therefore critical if we are to see the transformation of negative relationships. Restored relationships and whole-life transformation of individuals, communities and nations are the changes we seek.

Tearfund has developed a framework called the LIGHT wheel to measure holistic community and personal transformation across nine dimensions (see diagram above) and to explore how external factors influence an individual's and a community's ability to live well. In this report we bring to life, through case studies and stories, how individuals, groups, communities and nations are seeing signs of transformation and progress across these dimensions.

The LIGHT wheel



## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Tearfund is strongly committed to supporting the church, at local, national and global levels, to see mission as holistic and to carry out its calling to serve those living in poverty. We believe that local churches are best placed to serve their communities. Transformation happens as the church develops and strengthens its vision for holistic mission and becomes an agent for change in the community. We call this 'church and community transformation'. When the local church works with its local community to identify and respond to needs together, this is called 'church and community mobilisation' (CCM). On page 11 you can see a timeline of how the CCM approach has gone from a pilot to a global scale.

## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS



**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



# 10 YEARS OF GLOBAL WORK

## KEY 10-YEAR STATISTICS



80

countries worked in



700

partners worked with



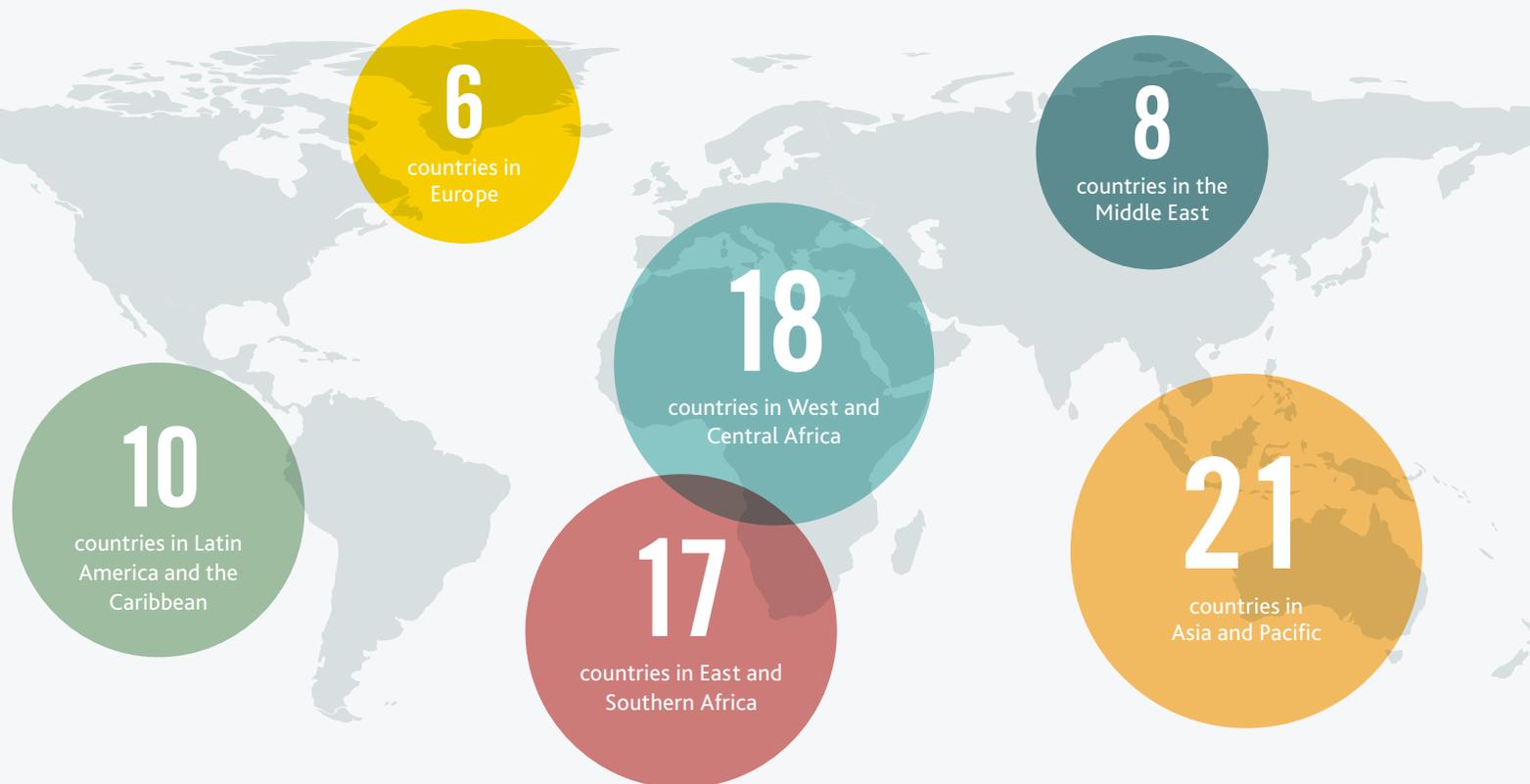
41

countries implementing the CCM process



£700M

raised



## Emergencies Timeline

These are some of the significant disasters and crises Tearfund has responded to over the last 10 years (dates indicate when Tearfund began responding).



# REPORT OVERVIEW

This special 10-year edition looks at the work of Tearfund and its partners in eight places that we have been working in since 2006: Uganda, Myanmar, Malawi, Cambodia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Haiti and the Middle East.

The eight places in the report have been chosen to showcase key areas of our work across the geographic areas and contexts we work in. The quality of the evidence has also been taken into account. This is only a snapshot of what we do. For more information on other areas of our work and previous impact and learning reports, please explore the Tearfund Learn website (formerly known as TILZ) - [www.tearfund.org/learn](http://www.tearfund.org/learn).

## HOW TO READ THE REPORT

Each chapter is focused on one place, showcasing a selection of Tearfund's work over the last 10 years, demonstrating the impact we have and how we have developed and adapted our work as contexts and needs have changed.

### Each chapter includes:

- a description of the context between 2006 and 2016, including: demographics, poverty levels (Human Development Index), fragility (Fragile States Index) (see boxes on the right for more details), and the key reasons for Tearfund's and its partners' response
- an overview of Tearfund's work between 2006 and 2016 and how we have been working to achieve our four main outcomes

- a description and timeline of key events over the last 10 years including: significant events, interventions, outputs and changes seen (note: timeline dates indicate when the event or response began)
- a case study and personal stories delving deeper into one area of work from the timeline

In addition, there is a timeline showing the journey of our advocacy work on climate change and the environment, at the local, national and international level, over the past 10 years. This timeline shares what we have learned, our influence and our impact in this area.

## METHODOLOGY

The evidence of impact comes from evaluations, research studies, and observational and qualitative evidence over the 10 year period. The data in this report has been verified with our country and technical teams. The quality of the significant evaluations and research reports used has been assessed against the Bond Evidence Principles – see Annex A.

### The Human Development Index (HDI)

The HDI is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into very high, medium and low levels of human development (0 being the lowest and 1 the highest).<sup>3</sup>

### The Fragile States Index

The Fragile States Index is based on 12 indicators that measure state fragility in pre-conflict, active conflict and post-conflict situations. By highlighting vulnerabilities that contribute to the risk of state fragility, the Index makes political risk assessment and early warning of conflict accessible to policymakers, field practitioners and the wider public (1st being the most fragile and 178th the most stable).<sup>4</sup>

## NOTES

All data and evidence included in this report was correct at the time of publishing. The reach data provided against our corporate outcomes and vision statement is to demonstrate the scale of Tearfund's work. The figures represent those churches and individuals who have been reached through the work of Tearfund and our partners in the countries in which we work. This data is taken from internal monitoring systems across the organisation and is based on a number of assumptions. Where possible, double counting of data has been factored in and the data does not include those indirectly reached through our advocacy work.

Many of our partners receive additional support from other donors and partners. In this report we include evidence of where Tearfund has made a direct financial contribution, provision of resources and support to partners.

For the protection of beneficiaries included in this report, some names have been changed in the personal stories.

Conversion between £ and US\$ has been calculated using the exchange rate on 14 June, 2017 (£1 = US\$1.27).

*'We have never come across a partner like Tearfund before; Tearfund journeys with us and our relationship is one of partnership rather than receiver and giver. With Tearfund's support we have made strides towards realising our vision for holistic change.'*

JANE ACHALOI , CCM MANAGER,  
PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD





## WHOLE-LIFE TRANSFORMATION: MOBILISING THE LOCAL CHURCH AND COMMUNITY IN UGANDA

The local church has enormous potential to bring about transformation in the community. Over the last 10 years Tearfund has been inspiring and equipping churches in Uganda to touch many aspects of people's lives through the church and community mobilisation (CCM) process. From small beginnings, CCM is now an integral feature of many of the country's churches.

### REASONS FOR OUR RESPONSE

Over the last 10 years Uganda has seen economic growth, political reform, and a halving of the number of people living in extreme poverty.<sup>5</sup> However, these gains have been fragile and many households remain vulnerable to poverty. Between 2006 and 2009, for every three Ugandans who were lifted out of poverty, two fell back in.<sup>6</sup>

The changing climate is leading to irregular rainfall and drought, preventing people from being able to generate enough food and income to support their families. Uganda also has one of the highest population growth rates in the world, placing great strain on the country's natural resources and basic services, which are already weak and under-resourced.<sup>7</sup>

As a result it is hard for the poorest to access good quality education and healthcare, causing children to miss out on education and leading to high incidences of life threatening but preventable diseases, such as malaria and HIV.<sup>8</sup>

Poverty is highest in northern and eastern Uganda, where the total number of people living in poverty increased from 68 per cent in 2006 to 84 per cent in 2013.<sup>9</sup> This region has been most severely impacted by the changes in climate, and conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army and the government, which has displaced over a million people. Since the conflict ended in 2008 it has taken a long time for people to rebuild their lives. Thousands continue to live with the trauma of what they have seen.

In response, Tearfund has been inspiring and training churches in Uganda to play a role in meeting the needs of their communities. This builds on the unique position of the church as a trusted and respected institution, with local expertise and knowledge, wide scale and reach, and a faith-based motivation for serving others.

Through the church and community mobilisation (CCM) process, churches are envisioned to understand their role and calling to contribute to whole-life transformation in their community. With Bible studies,

facilitation, training and mentoring, churches are empowered to work with their neighbours to identify key issues in the community and mobilise their own resources to address them together.

Research tells us that CCM is unlocking the potential of churches, communities and individuals to be agents of change and provides a sustainable model for them to start overcoming the vulnerabilities they face.<sup>10</sup>

The success of this work shows what an important role the local church has to play in touching all aspects of people's lives – from social and emotional dimensions, including building self-confidence and community relationships, to physical and economic aspects, such as improving health and people's ability to provide for their families.

Tearfund's CCM work in Uganda has also been a shining example that teams and churches in other countries have learned from, to scale and replicate this work in their own contexts.

### OUR WORK IN UGANDA

**CHURCHES ENVISIONED**  
Churches envisioned to work with their communities to address the problems they face through CCM.

**COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED**  
Churches and communities working together to improve access to safe water and sanitation, increase food security and improve understanding and treatment of HIV.

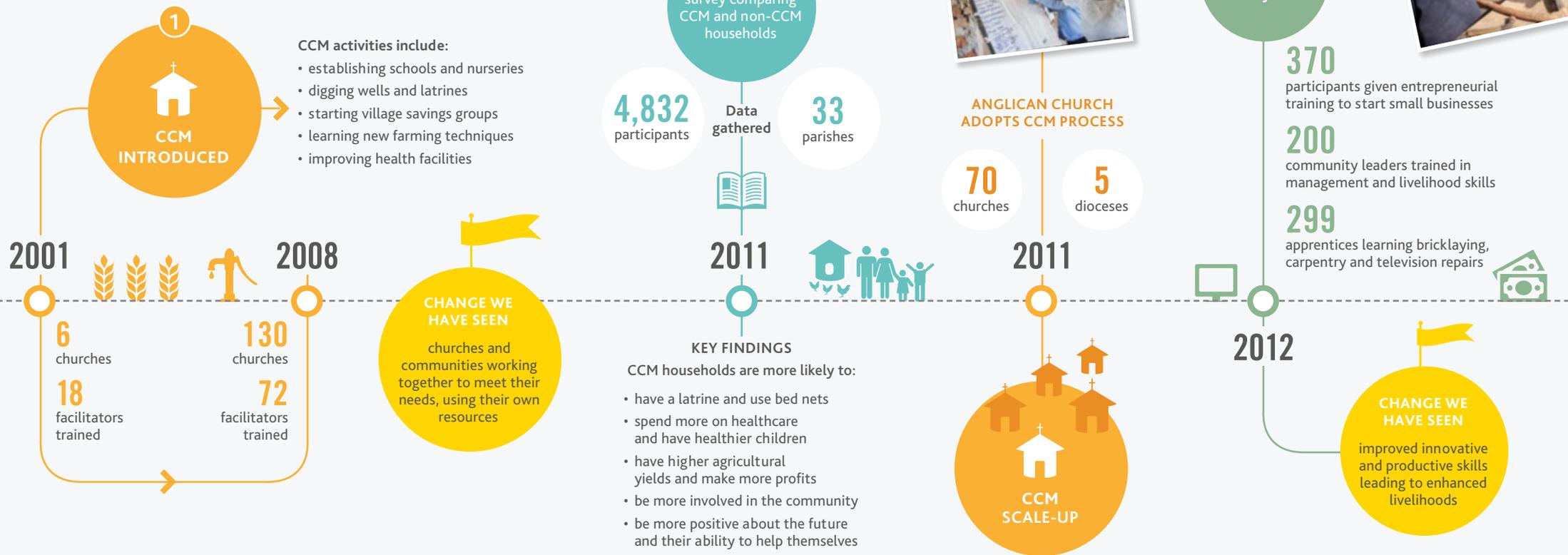
**POLICIES CHANGED**  
Churches and communities supported to identify public policy issues, such as gaps in government services, and to lobby their national and local government officials, leading to improvements in health, water and education.

**DISASTERS RESPONDED TO**  
Support given to refugees fleeing to Uganda from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan, and to those affected by neglected diseases in the north.

COUNTRY PROFILE	2006	2016
POPULATION*	30 MILLION	41 MILLION
LIFE EXPECTANCY*	52 YEARS	59 YEARS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**	0.442	0.493
FRAGILE STATES INDEX***	21 <sup>ST</sup>	23 <sup>RD</sup>

\*Data obtained from the World Bank (data.worldbank.org), \*\*1 = most developed, \*\*\*1st = most fragile

# UGANDA HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



## 1. CCM INTRODUCED

In 2001, Tearfund introduced CCM to Uganda through local partner Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG). Church leaders were trained to inspire and mobilise their churches to work with the local community to take practical, positive actions to address the issues they faced, using their own resources. An external evaluation at the end of the pilot found that CCM had a profound effect on people's confidence and commitment to transform their situations, and helped to strengthen community relationships.<sup>11</sup>

The CCM process gained a reputation in Uganda as an effective model of community-led development, and the pilot grew from six to 130 churches by 2008. The Anglican Church of Uganda adopted the process in 2011, training pastors in five dioceses, reaching another 70 churches.

## 2. BENEFITS REVEALED

In 2011, Tearfund commissioned research to understand more about the impact of CCM on the communities where PAG had been working. CCM households were found to have significant

improvements in their quality of life, including improved health, livelihoods and community participation.<sup>12</sup>

## 3. ENHANCING CAPABILITIES

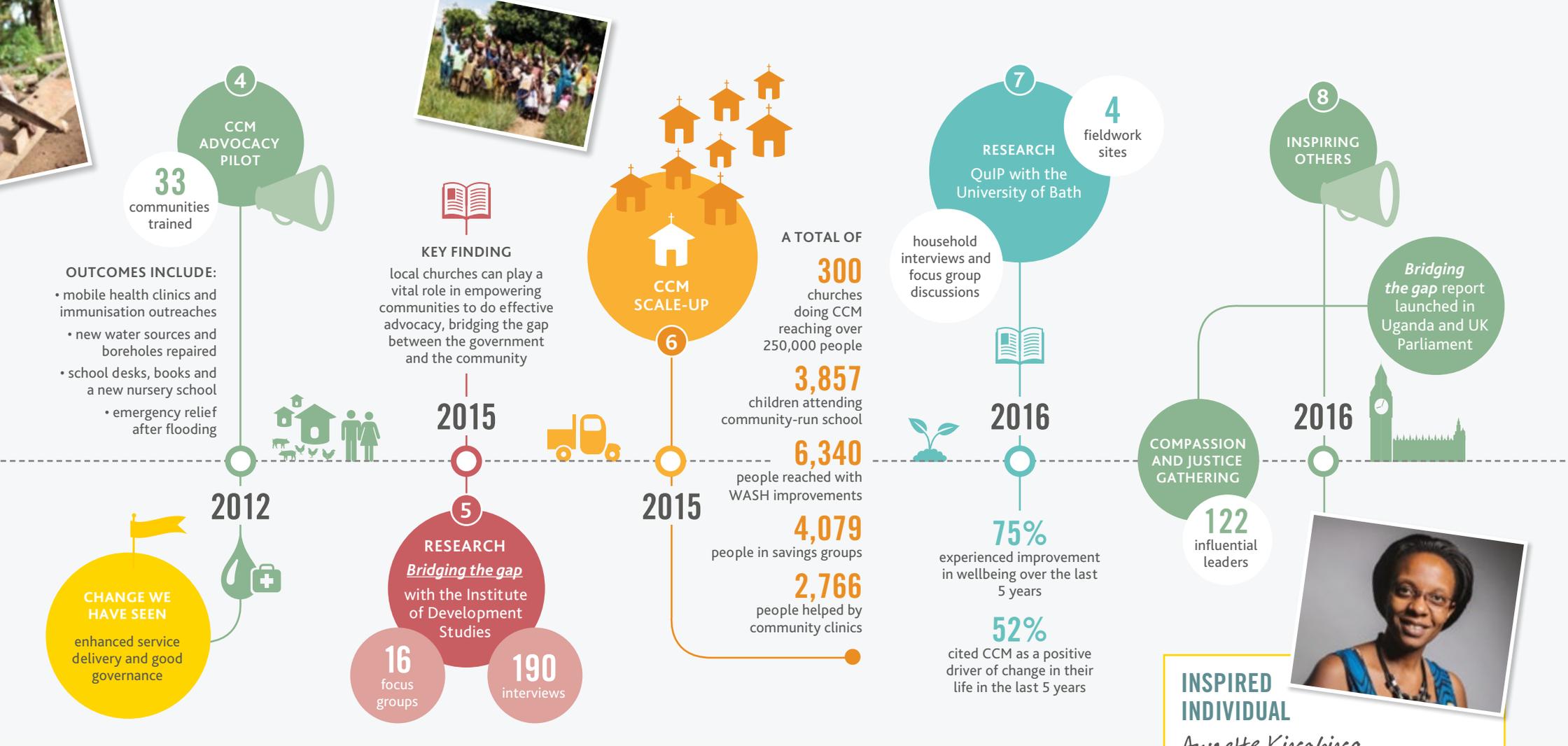
To enable the communities doing CCM to incorporate new activities and technical skills into their community projects, Tearfund ran a capacity enhancement project, between 2012 and 2015, including business training, livelihood skills and sustainable agriculture techniques. Many new income-generating activities were started as a result.

## 4. CCM ADVOCACY PILOT

However, for many poor communities their own resources are limited. So in 2012 Tearfund integrated advocacy training into the CCM process, teaching local communities about their entitlements and giving them social accountability tools to help them identify and access local government resources to address their development needs.

## 5. CCM ADVOCACY RESEARCH

In 2015, Tearfund conducted a research project, *Bridging the gap*, to assess the impact of the



**INSPIRED INDIVIDUAL**

Annette Kirabira

Tearfund supports Annette who runs Rahab Uganda, an organisation that raises awareness of some of the most difficult and sensitive issues in society, such as sexual violence, trafficking and prostitution and mobilises churches to respond.

Since 2006, Rahab Uganda has worked with eight churches to run awareness campaigns reaching over 7,300 people and has supported 600 vulnerable girls and women. As a result, churches have been changing their attitudes towards survivors of sexual abuse and have started their own support programmes.

CCM advocacy training. The results confirmed that the church is uniquely placed to build a bridge between local communities and local governments, to help communities draw down government resources, because of the trust both sides have in the church.<sup>13</sup>

**6. CCM SCALE-UP**  
 By 2015, CCM had become an embedded model for community development in 300 churches in Uganda, with very effective results: 'CCM changes people's mindsets, from thinking they cannot be empowered, to realising that they can

do things themselves. It's a lifestyle that allows the church to fulfil its vision for holistic work in the community,' reflects Jane Achaloi, CCM Manager for PAG.

**7. NEW RESEARCH METHODS**  
 In order to measure the holistic impact of CCM in a more robust way, Tearfund trialled a new methodology called the 'Qualitative Impact Assessment Protocol' (QuIP) in 2016 (see case study). The church and CCM came out as the most significant drivers of holistic change in people's lives, demonstrating the continuing

success of the CCM process and the importance of engaging with churches and faith leaders in development work.<sup>14</sup>

**8. INSPIRING OTHERS**  
 Tearfund hosts international gatherings to inspire and train influential leaders worldwide to stand up against poverty and injustice in their communities. In 2016, Tearfund held a gathering in Uganda, with 122 church and community leaders, from 14 countries. At the end of the gathering, the participants committed to finding ways to bring about transformation in their contexts, starting small and dreaming big.<sup>15</sup>

Photos (left to right): Charlotte Flowers, Layton Thompson, Andrew Philip, David Cavan/Tearfund



## UGANDA CASE STUDY

## Demonstrating impact: Building evidence of church and community transformation

Experience tells us that the church and community mobilisation (CCM) process impacts people's lives in a holistic way, touching many dimensions including relationships, livelihoods, physical health, emotional health and spiritual life. Tearfund calls this 'whole-life transformation'. Unlike traditional development projects, with set activities, in CCM the church and community decide and lead their own initiatives, meaning that change is more organic and can be challenging to measure.

### QuiP: A NEW METHODOLOGY

Tearfund has been collaborating with Bath Social and Development Research Ltd on a research methodology called the 'Qualitative Impact Assessment Protocol' (QuiP). The methodology is the product of the Assessing Rural Transformations work at the University of Bath funded by the UK government between 2012 and 2015.

QuiP provides a straightforward and cost-effective mechanism to ask intended beneficiaries about significant drivers of change in their lives and to analyse and present the data collected. The methodology offers Tearfund a robust approach for independently measuring the extent to which CCM is bringing about whole-life transformation.

In October and November 2016 Tearfund used the QuiP methodology with households who had been trained in CCM by Tearfund's partners, Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) and the Anglican Church of Uganda (CoU), in the districts of Kitgum, Soroti and Serere. Forty-eight households were selected at random from four fieldwork sites to take part in the research.

Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions were used to find the key drivers and outcomes of change in people's lives over the previous five years, with respect to a range of dimensions, including food security, assets, environment, relationships, health and faith, based on Tearfund's LIGHT wheel framework (see introduction).

Crucially, to avoid project-bias, both the respondents and researchers were 'blindfolded' so that they did not know who had commissioned the research. This provided an independent and more reliable reflection of impact since respondents were free to attribute change to any source.

The qualitative feedback gathered was then coded to give a quantitative reflection of the most common changes and most significant drivers of change in people's lives.

*'CCM gave us comprehensive mind-transforming functional education that touches every aspect of life. After CCM came here, there has been a lot of behavioural change towards self-help and development.'*

CCM PARTICIPANT, ANGOPET VILLAGE

### EVIDENCE OF WHOLE-LIFE TRANSFORMATION

The QuiP results came back with clear evidence to suggest that CCM is having a positive impact on people's lives across a wide range of dimensions. Seventy-five per cent of respondents reported that their overall wellbeing had improved over the last five years and 52 per cent of households cited CCM as a positive driver of change.<sup>16</sup>

Many respondents had seen an improvement in their material assets, livelihoods, and capabilities. However, the most often cited improvements were in the softer areas of life, such as increased sense of empowerment and self-worth, improved community relationships, and hope for the future.

Eighty-three per cent of informants said that community relationships and decision-making had improved over the past five years, anti-social behaviour had reduced, and tolerance and equality had increased.

### WHAT CONTRIBUTED TO CHANGE?

Tearfund's local church partners, and their CCM programmes, were ranked by participants as the most valued external organisations in the area.

Embedded and trusted among the community, the local church is well placed to influence changes in relationships, attitudes, and behaviours, which is key for changing the cultural and social practices that drive community and individual wellbeing. This demonstrates the need for development programmes to engage with local faith groups and consider change holistically.

### EXTERNAL ACCREDITATION

At a Tearfund Talk event in March 2017, James Copestake, Professor of International Development at the University of Bath, and originator of QuiP, praised Tearfund's commitment to gathering credible evidence:

*'The QuiP study demonstrates that Tearfund aspires to being both a faith-based and an evidence-based organisation: committed enough to learning and to self-improvement to expose its most treasured actions and assumptions to independent reality checks.'*

The QuiP results will be used to enable communities and partners to improve practice and leverage more impact in the future. Tearfund is applying for funding to replicate the methodology in other countries where we and our partners are actively engaged in CCM.

### MIRIAM'S STORY

Miriam is a married mother of six, and lives in the village of Angopet in the Soroti district of Uganda. Her story is a clear example of whole-life transformation in action. Five years ago her family lived in a cramped and basic house, she couldn't send her children to school, and she faced daily worries about how to feed and support her family.

Then Miriam was invited to take part in the CCM process facilitated by her church, with the support of Tearfund's local partner, PAG. Over time, Miriam began to see a range of positive changes in her and her family's quality of life. Their future now looks bright.

Through CCM, Miriam joined a women's self-help group where she learnt the importance of saving. She started pooling a small amount of money with other women from her village each month and was able to access credit to build a permanent brick house for her family.

She also received livelihood training and through increasing her crop yields she was able to start a small shop, which is giving her income to invest in her children's education. Now all her children are able to attend school and Miriam has better physical and mental health thanks to having fewer worries.

Miriam has increased her participation in community life by becoming the chair-person for women in her community: 'Freedom of expression has improved,' she says. 'When you go to a meeting and you put up your hand, you are given a chance. Five years back, women were less likely to be invited or to talk in meetings.'

She has also seen improved relationships within her household and increased community cohesion, particularly between different church denominations, 'We share problems and we visit each other, in the past it was not the case.'

*'Five years ago we lived in poverty, now our situation has improved in many respects. I feel empowered to contribute to improving the wellbeing of my community; my hope is high!'*

MIRIAM, ANGOPET VILLAGE



📷 A focus group as part of the QulP research at Angopet Pentecostal Assemblies of God Church in Soroti, Uganda. Photo: Charlotte Flowers/Tearfund



### CCM Timeline

**CCM is now happening in 41 countries around the world. Here's how it grew from a pilot to a global phenomenon:**

○ 1999

#### CCM IN ITS INFANCY

- Small scale CCM pilots were run by Tearfund partners in Kenya and Tanzania
- 10 local churches
- Evaluation showed promising results but found that the local church was only on the fringe of the work and yet was vital to its success
- The approach was revised to put the local church at the centre

○ 2001-04

#### SCALING UP

- CCM gradually spread throughout East and Central Africa, including Uganda
- Significant early results led CCM to pick up a good reputation in wider Tearfund

○ 2009

#### SHARING LEARNING

- Tearfund developed the *Umoja* training manual to share CCM more widely, including Bible studies and technical skill training
- CCM pilots began in West Africa, Southern Africa and Asia
- A CCM gathering in Kenya catalysed the widespread adoption of CCM by the Anglican Church across Africa
- Shifts were seen in the development approaches of a number of development organisations who increasingly adopted the CCM model themselves

○ 2011

#### GOING GLOBAL

○ 2016

- 18 contextually adapted variations of CCM are supported by Tearfund around the world today
- CCM is contributing to the transformation of around 10 million people across 41 countries around the world

*'Church members might be economically poor, but through community action they gain a deep confidence inside their hearts and work together to bring about positive change.'*

ANTHEA, FORMER CCM COORDINATOR,  
MYANMAR BAPTIST CONVENTION





## FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES: EMPOWERING THE CHURCH TO BE THE CHANGE IN MYANMAR

Despite being small in number, the grassroots presence of the local church in Myanmar makes it uniquely placed to respond quickly and appropriately to the needs of the local community. Tearfund has been empowering churches in Myanmar to respond when disasters strike, to build resilience for the future and to catalyse sustainable development for flourishing and thriving communities.

### REASONS FOR OUR RESPONSE

In the last 10 years, Myanmar has experienced many rapid and significant changes which have set the country on a promising path of development and change. After 60 years of isolation and military rule, the country started to open up and transition to democracy in 2010. Since then, political, economic and legal reforms have led to improved foreign relations, new employment opportunities, and an influx of new, affordable technologies.<sup>17</sup>

An example of this is the dramatic decrease in the price of a mobile SIM card, which dropped from over £1,200 (US\$1,500) in 2006 to just £0.80 (US\$1) in 2016, resulting in a more connected and globalised population.<sup>18</sup>

Despite these advances, many people in Myanmar still face insecurities that threaten their safety and stability on a daily basis. Sectarian and ethnic conflict continues to affect communities in many parts of the country, displacing large numbers of people from their homes.<sup>19</sup>

The country is also one of the most disaster-prone in the world, with large and small-scale natural disasters frequently causing devastation to people's homes and livelihoods, undermining their ability to flourish and thrive. The negative impact of conflict and natural disasters is particularly felt in rural areas where poverty is high and access to healthcare and education low.

In 2008, Myanmar was hit by the world's third deadliest storm on record. Overnight, the extreme winds and storm surges of Cyclone Nargis caused catastrophic destruction to the densely populated Ayeyarwady Delta of lower Myanmar. The cyclone claimed 140,000 lives, and communities were torn apart by the loss of family members, livelihoods, shelter, clean water and resources.<sup>20</sup>

It was almost impossible for the international community to respond quickly due to the restrictions of the military rule and the destruction of infrastructure caused by the storm. However, Tearfund's partnership with the Myanmar Baptist Convention

meant that Tearfund was linked with an established network through which to channel resources and deliver assistance, quickly and appropriately, to those most in need.

Over the last decade, Tearfund has continued to build the capacity of the local church in Myanmar to respond to the poverty and insecurity on its doorstep. This has involved helping the church to deliver emergency relief and rehabilitation in the wake of further natural disasters; to instigate longer-term development and resilience building through introducing the church and community mobilisation process (CCM); and to start speaking up and acting to prevent hidden issues, such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Looking back at the journey of Tearfund's work in Myanmar over the last 10 years we see how the grassroots presence of the local church gives it enormous potential to bring transformation and hope to the local community.

### OUR WORK IN MYANMAR



#### CHURCHES ENVISIONED

Churches envisioned, equipped and active in serving their communities through CCM.



#### COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED

Partners and churches working on projects including livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, self-help groups and sexual and gender-based violence.



#### POLICIES CHANGED

Influencing policymakers to make major changes in law related to disability inclusion and equal rights, and advocacy related to governance and environmental management.



#### DISASTERS RESPONDED TO

Providing emergency relief and rehabilitation after conflict and natural disasters, including frequent floods and cyclones.

COUNTRY PROFILE	2006	2016
POPULATION*	49 MILLION	53 MILLION
LIFE EXPECTANCY*	64 YEARS	66 YEARS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**	0.484	0.556
FRAGILE STATES INDEX***	18 <sup>TH</sup>	26 <sup>TH</sup>

\*Data obtained from the World Bank (data.worldbank.org), \*\*1 = most developed, \*\*\*1st = most fragile

# MYANMAR HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

*'Our eyes have been opened,  
we now work more closely  
together. We are now responsible  
to write our own history.'*

DRR TRAINEE



## 1. DISASTER RESPONSE THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH

When Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar in May 2008, Tearfund was quickly able to deliver emergency aid, to meet people's basic needs, through a network of international and local partners. This included food, clean water, bed mats and blankets.

One of our local partners was the Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC), a network of 5,000 local churches. Tearfund shared its knowledge

and experience gained from responding to disasters in other contexts in order to support MBC's Nargis Relief and Rehabilitation Committee to effectively deliver emergency assistance and disaster risk reduction (DRR) training throughout its network.

Although Christians are a minority in Myanmar, they are present in some of the poorest communities, meaning that MBC was ideally placed to respond where the need was greatest and help people to start rebuilding their lives.

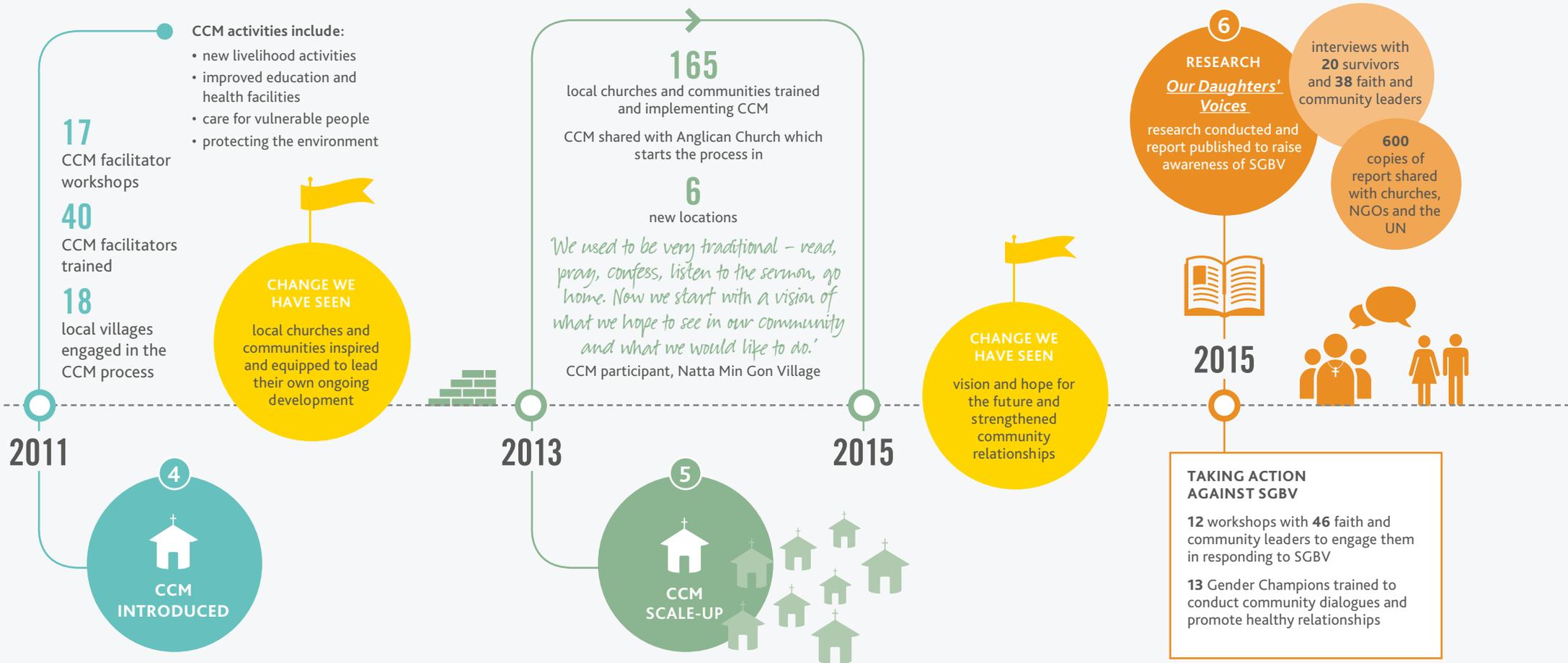
## 2. RESILIENCE RESEARCH

After the cyclone, Tearfund commissioned a research project to assess local churches' effectiveness in helping communities recover. Village A, where the church was very outward-looking and inclusive of the wider community, had recovered well, with improved infrastructure and strong social connections. In contrast, Village B, where the church had remained insular, showed few signs of recovery, resilience or community cohesion.<sup>23</sup>

This demonstrates that when the church engages outwardly in its community it can play an instrumental role in building resilience, trust and support networks between different groups.

## 3. CYCLONE GIRI

In October 2010, Cyclone Giri landed on the western coast of Myanmar, causing severe damage to infrastructure, food, water and shelter. Thanks to Tearfund's long-term capacity-building work and DRR training, local churches were actively preparing their response before the



cyclone had even hit. With Tearfund's funding they were able to deliver emergency relief to help affected communities survive.

#### 4. CCM INTRODUCED

In 2011, Tearfund worked with MBC to introduce the church and community mobilisation (CCM) process in Myanmar, to equip local churches to resource and lead their own ongoing development, along with the wider community. CCM (known locally as Eden) catalysed change throughout community life: new income-

generating activities, improved education opportunities, better care for the environment, and support for vulnerable people.

CCM also profoundly affected social relationships, helping the church to find its place and purpose in the wider community and to foster new friendships between faith groups (see case study).<sup>24</sup>

#### 5. CCM SCALE-UP

The success of the pilot encouraged MBC to roll out CCM throughout their church network, reaching 165 new churches by 2015.

Tearfund also shared the model with the Anglican Church which captured the vision and started CCM training with its network too.

#### 6. TAKING ACTION AGAINST SGBV

In 2015, Tearfund began working with the Myanmar church on the issue of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Tearfund conducted the country's first sexual violence-focused research, supported by faith leaders who were passionate about getting the church to engage with the issue. The subsequent report,

*Our Daughters' Voices*, challenges the church to act and enables survivors, who had previously been stigmatised, silenced and disowned, to share their stories.<sup>25</sup>

Tearfund now works with churches to run community dialogues to address harmful norms that make women vulnerable to sexual violence. Through engaging church leaders, Tearfund is helping the church to be a force for preventing SGBV and providing healing for those affected.



## MYANMAR CASE STUDY

## Creating Eden: Stewarding local resources and assets for change

Despite being small in number, the local church in Myanmar is having a big impact on the wider community. Since 2011, Tearfund partner Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) has been supported by Tearfund to train local churches in the CCM process, known locally as Eden. Through CCM, churches are given the vision and skills to mobilise their own resources and assets, and work with the wider community, to bring about positive change.

'Local churches are ideally placed to understand the needs of their local contexts', reflects Anthea, who helped to run the CCM pilot. 'Through CCM, churches are encouraged to reconsider their role and realise their calling to serve their communities in many ways, like addressing health, education, clean water and hygiene.'

### PASTOR AUNG ZEYA'S STORY

Pastor Aung Zeya's church, in the Ayeyarwady region of Myanmar, is a great example of what can be achieved when the church and community are mobilised to work together towards a common goal.

'Before CCM only three or four adults and a few children attended church on Sunday,' Pastor Aung Zeya explains. 'The church community was weak and had no understanding of how to work together.

But through CCM the church began to collaborate, to identify resources already at their disposal and to take action.'

Literacy levels were incredibly low, so the congregation pooled their resources to run a daycare centre, supplementary tuition programme, and a mini-library for the whole community. This has helped to raise awareness of the importance and value of education.

The congregation were trained by MBC to produce bio-fertilizer and bamboo vinegar (a multi-purpose substance that can be used as pesticide and disinfectant), which enabled them to improve their agricultural productivity and increase their income.

Pastor Aung Zeya says: 'I started producing bamboo vinegar to set an example, and I can sell what I produce for income.' The congregation then branched out into raising chickens and pigs as a cooperative, sharing the profits for the most important needs of the church and the community.

The church members have also been working hard to develop the village's infrastructure by mobilising community members to build a road. Each family contributed financially and worked in shifts to complete the work in just over a month. This had a huge impact on accessibility to the village throughout the

*'We used to live for ourselves, but now we understand that we need to work together, we have learned how to use our own resources.'*

PASTOR JOHN, SHAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

year, especially during the rainy season when previously people would struggle, sometimes waist-deep, from the main road to the village.

### FROM DEPENDENCY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The CCM process challenges traditional 'top-down' development approaches where resources are handed out, and instead takes a 'bottom-up' approach that empowers churches and communities to take ownership for the changes they want to see and to make a start using their own resources.

'Through practical, Bible-based teaching and facilitation, CCM empowers local churches to love and serve their communities in a host of very tangible and sustainable ways,' reflected Matthew Frost, former Tearfund CEO, after a visit to Pastor Aung Zeya's church in 2013.

This is not only a more localised and sustainable approach to community development, but it also reduces the risk of conflict within communities, by reducing competition for external resources and promoting collaboration. It puts the church and community in the driving seat of their own development.

### ENHANCING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Beyond the physical improvements, CCM has also made significant changes to the less tangible, relational aspects of community life. The strength and capability of the local church has increased and congregations have been unified around a common goal as they grow in confidence in what they can achieve. This has led some churches to engage with local institutions and authority figures to campaign for resources and better service delivery.

There has been a lot of spontaneous shared learning and connections made between churches who did not work together before. An 'Eden Family' was formed as a learning network for churches at different stages of the CCM process. Neighbouring churches have noticed the positive changes being achieved and have wanted to find out more, often mobilising their own resources to contribute to the projects taking place in their community or observing at training events to learn from others:

*'Pastor Thet shared with me all that they are doing - the Bible studies, the technical knowledge, the CCM process. So we decided to start trying to do the same in our church, we are stealing their ideas!'* Pastor Saw Kar Aw

*'CCM brings attitude and mindset change, it encourages confidence and creates harmony in the community, it is about working together and starting with what you have.'*

ANTHEA, FORMER CCM CO-ORDINATOR,  
MYANMAR BAPTIST CONVENTION

Churches, who previously isolated themselves from other faith groups, are now engaging with the wider community and they are working together to fix issues that they had previously not been united enough to solve. This is fostering new friendships and support networks, overcoming previous segregation. As an evaluation conducted in 2014 states:

*'In most communities that consist of Christian and other faiths, there has been some distance and isolation that existed for a long time. The design and purpose of the CCM process encourages the people from the church to work not only within the church, but also outside the church...the immediate impact is the reduction of distinguishing among the different groups and the positive changes in relationships among the people.'*<sup>26</sup>

At the heart of Tearfund's approach is the belief that developing strong and healthy social and personal relationships in this way is key to ensuring resilience for the future and building the capacity of communities to dream and initiate their own change.



*'The work of Tearfund should spread to all parts of Malawi so that many lives and families can be transformed and sing a story similar to mine.'*

HASWELL, SELF-HELP GROUP MEMBER





MALAWI

## BUILDING RESILIENCE: ADAPTING AND RESPONDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN MALAWI

Food insecurity is threatening lives and livelihoods on a massive scale in Malawi. Tearfund has been teaching sustainable farming techniques to local farmers, as well as playing a pioneering role in raising awareness of environmental challenges at the local, national and global level, so that rural communities might be released from hunger and supported to adapt to local changes in climate.

### REASONS FOR OUR RESPONSE

Progress has been made in Malawi over the last 10 years, shown in the improvements in the Human Development and Fragile States Indexes. But this progress is at risk of being reversed by climate change, which is causing acute food insecurity, malnutrition and prolonged periods of hunger for many.

Malawi is among the countries most affected by climate change in the world today. Over the last decade, extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have increased in frequency and magnitude. This unpredictable weather is causing crops to fail, meaning that rural communities cannot harvest enough to eat.

On average, the country loses 4.6 per cent of its maize production each year due to droughts, and 12 per cent due to flooding.<sup>27</sup> In terms of economic loss, that is £9.8 million (US\$12.5 million) each year, but the local cost can be much worse, with whole communities experiencing crop failure in badly affected areas.<sup>28</sup> It was projected that 6.5 million

people (40 per cent of the population) would experience food shortage between April 2016 and March 2017.<sup>29</sup>

The negative impact is felt most severely by the poorest whose livelihoods depend on small-scale agriculture. When the harvests fail they lose vital food and income. This can place a strain on personal relationships and force families to turn to negative coping strategies, such as debt, selling valuable items or eating 'hardship foods' such as wild tubers and maize husks. Children may have to leave school and instead go to work or enter into forced marriage to bring in extra income for their families.

Rapid population growth, deforestation and poor farming practices have exacerbated food insecurity and caused flooding and water pollution, meaning access to clean water is also scarce in many areas.

As Malawi is a low-income country, the government's resource and support to help communities adapt and cope with these environmental challenges is limited.

From 2006 to 2015, Tearfund's work in Malawi has been delivered through a consortium of local partners, known as the Malawi Church Partnership Programme (MCPP). Food security, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) have been major priorities in their work. By teaching farmers how to farm sustainably and improving access to clean water, Tearfund has released many families from hunger and enabled people to reach their full potential.

This grassroots work has been combined with local, national and global advocacy actions in order to hold those in power accountable for reducing the future effects of climate change and supporting rural communities to adapt to the impacts they are already experiencing. You can read more about the journey of Tearfund's global climate change advocacy work on pages 54 to 55.

### OUR WORK IN MALAWI



#### CHURCHES ENVISIONED

Local churches working with communities, through the CCM process, to tackle the challenges they face, using their local resources.



#### COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED

Consortium of local partners working on building resilience to climate change, HIV prevention, education promotion, girls' empowerment and ensuring access to clean water and sanitation.



#### POLICIES CHANGED

Advocating for significant changes in disaster risk reduction policies as well as laws to protect girls from forced and early marriages.



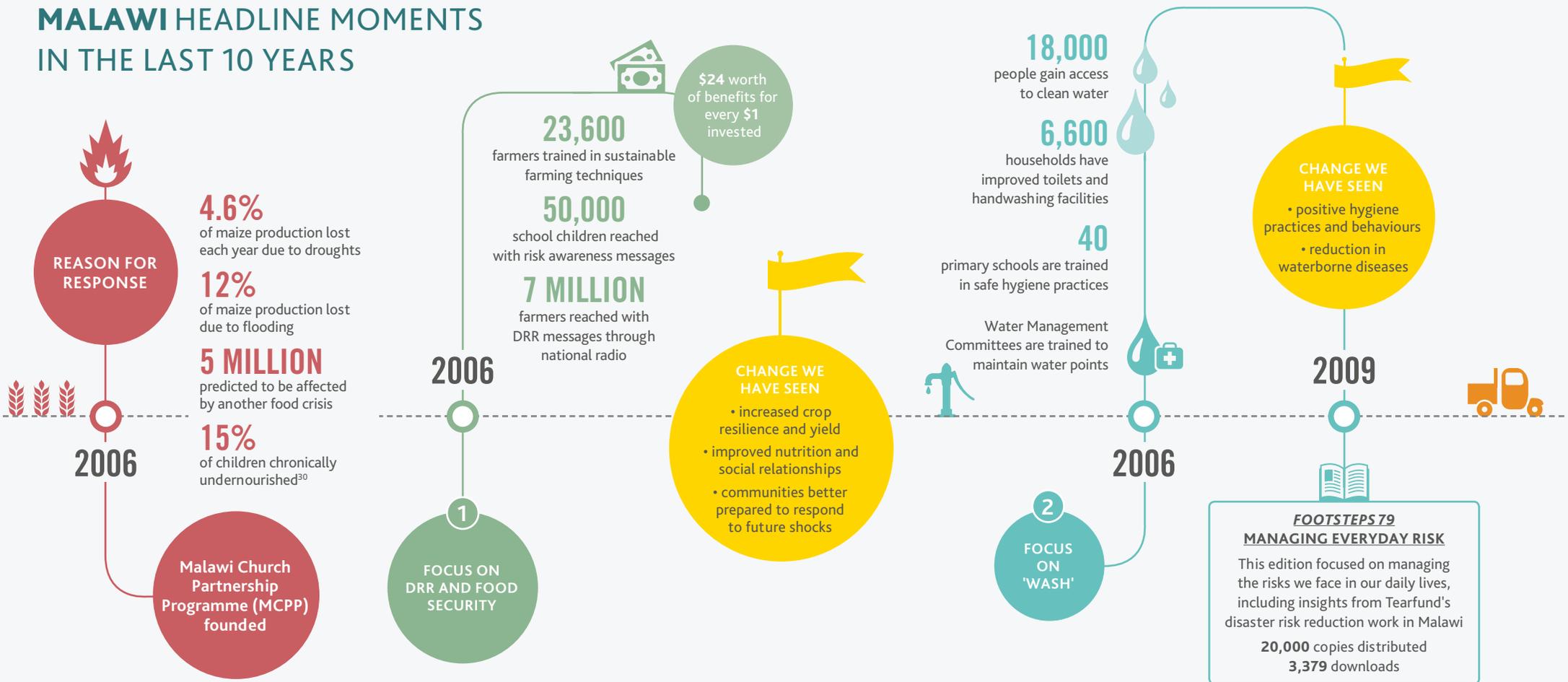
#### DISASTERS RESPONDED TO

Local partners responding to disasters and giving communities dignity in times of crisis, including the Karonga earthquake, flooding and drought.

COUNTRY PROFILE	2006	2016
POPULATION*	13 MILLION	18 MILLION
LIFE EXPECTANCY*	50 YEARS	64 YEARS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**	0.387	0.476
FRAGILE STATES INDEX***	29 <sup>TH</sup>	44 <sup>TH</sup>

\*Data obtained from the World Bank (data.worldbank.org), \*\*1 = most developed, \*\*\*1st = most fragile

# MALAWI HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



## 1. DRR AND FOOD SECURITY

The Malawi Church Partnership Programme (MCP) was established in 2006 with a significant focus on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and food security. Working in six key regions, farmers were taught sustainable farming techniques to build their resilience to the changing climate and increase food production in a very cost effective way. This included crop diversification, soil and water conservation practices, and communal grain banks.

An external evaluation found that families using these techniques benefited from increased crop yields; improved nutrition; and surplus income to spend on essential items, schooling and medicines. This in turn strengthened relationships and wellbeing by reducing tension between family members and helping people feel more confident about coping in the future.<sup>31</sup>

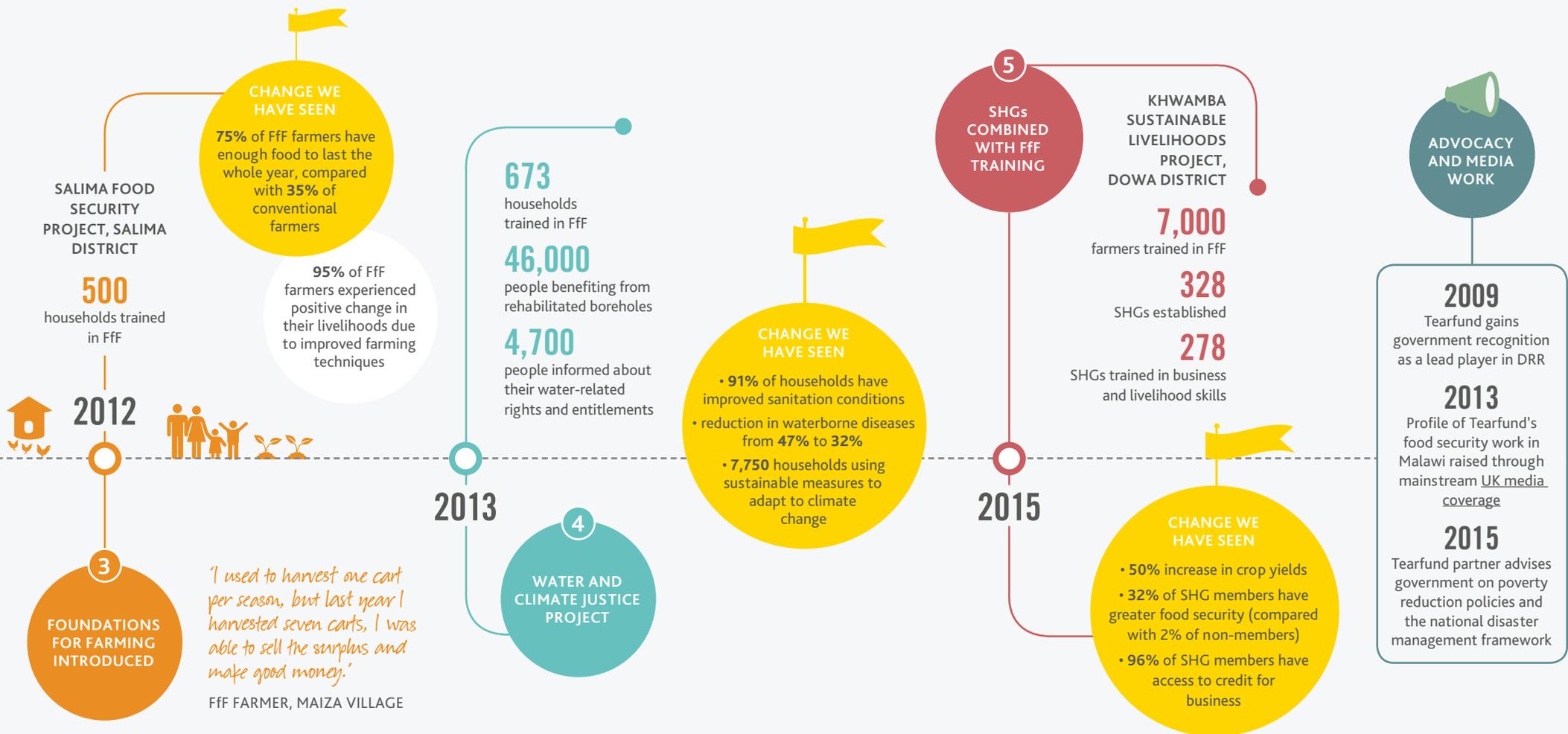
The programme also focused on raising awareness of climate change and advocating for policy change at the local and national level.

Risk awareness messages were shared in schools and via national radio. Disaster Management Committees were trained to build their communities' resilience to future shocks.

The Malawian government soon recognised Tearfund as a leading player, and model of best practice, for DRR programming in the country. This opened the door for Tearfund's partners to represent Malawi at the 2009 international Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, and to contribute to government policy and planning discussions.

## 2. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The MCP also focused on increasing access to safe water and sanitation for some of the poorest communities in Malawi by constructing and repairing boreholes, wells and latrines; training local people to maintain water points; and promoting hygiene education. As a result there was a reduction in both the occurrence of waterborne disease and the distances women and girls had to travel to collect clean water.



### 3. FOUNDATIONS FOR FARMING

In 2012, Tearfund started training Malawian farmers in an innovative, alternative farming technique called 'Foundations for Farming' (Fff). Setting the proven principles of conservation agriculture (CA) within a biblical framework, the method has been very successful in improving crop yields and taking families from the point of starvation to being food secure (see case study).

In the Salima District, for example, farmers using Fff techniques were able to harvest 15 months'

worth of maize from their 2013 to 2014 season, compared with just four months' harvested by farmers using conventional methods.<sup>32</sup>

### 4. WATER AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

In 2013, Tearfund combined food security and WASH activities in the Water and Climate Justice Project, funded by the Scottish government. The aim was to share the Fff method and enhance access to clean water, while also educating communities about their water-related rights and how to protect the natural environment.

This ongoing project is improving food production and access to clean water, empowering communities to engage in advocacy on climate change, and encouraging people to live in an environmentally friendly way.<sup>33</sup>

### 5. INTRODUCING SHGs

Then in 2015 Tearfund began integrating self-help groups (SHGs) into Fff projects so farmers could come together and save small amounts of cash from their surplus crops. They could then access credit on a rotational basis to purchase productive assets, such as new farming tools,

or invest in entrepreneurial activities. In the Khwamba Sustainable Livelihoods Project, for example, 96 per cent of SHG members accessed credit to develop their businesses.<sup>34</sup> The SHGs also provide an organised structure through which to share valuable knowledge and learning, including business skills and agricultural techniques such as making organic fertilisers:

*'We applied the technology that we learnt for making organic fertilisers and my family now has a very healthy crop of maize.'* – Haswell, SHG member



## MALAWI CASE STUDY

## Foundations for Farming: Securing food and resources for sustainable futures

Malawi's climate means that rains fall in brief intense periods, which can wash away ploughed lands and prevent moisture from being retained in the soil. Conservation agriculture (CA) is a farming technique that aims to reverse this damage by improving soil fertility and water retention through three key principles:

1. Disturb the soil as little as possible
2. Keep the soil covered
3. Rotate and mix crops

The Foundations for Farming (FFf) method uses the innovative and scientifically-proven principles of CA and sets them in a biblical framework, teaching farmers how to produce high crop yields in a sustainable way that makes a profit. At its heart are four management principles that are supported by biblical teaching:

- farm on time
- farm to a high standard
- farm with joy
- farm without waste

The method was developed many years ago by Zimbabwean farmer Brian Oldreive, and is now used in more than 30 countries worldwide. The tools required are simple and the method can save time and energy in the long run. The principles are radically different to the practices used for generations that can take goodness from the soil without always replenishing it.

When the principles are applied well, crop yields can increase by up to 200 per cent. As a result, communities trained in the method are being released from the cycle of poverty and hunger and are better prepared to survive the challenges of climate change. Tearfund has been supporting Fff in Malawi since 2012.

### WHAT CHANGES HAVE WE SEEN?

In 2015, Tearfund partner Ministry of Hope (MoH) began a three-year sustainable livelihoods project, funded by the Scottish government, in Dowa district, central Malawi, where 45 per cent of the population survive on less than £0.80 (US\$1) per day.

The project reached over 7,000 people with Fff training and also established 328 self-help groups (SHGs) to enable farmers to save small amounts of surplus cash and share their knowledge and learning.

*'Thanks to the Foundations for Farming techniques we have learnt, we now have enough food to eat from our harvest, and the money we make from our business can be spent on other things, such as improving our home and helping others in the community. We feel very happy.'*

KATERINA, CHAGUNDA VILLAGE

An evaluation conducted in February 2017 found the project was impacting communities in a holistic way, improving food production and household income, and enhancing people's capabilities and social relationships.<sup>35</sup>

### Some of the key impacts include:

**More food to eat:** On average, agricultural yield increased by over 50 per cent for families using the Fff method. As a result, there was a decrease from 88 per cent to 74 per cent in the number of families experiencing food shortages during the most food-insecure months. Beneficiary households were able to diversify the range of crops they grew, in order to improve nutrition. Now 85 per cent of Fff farmers grow two or more crops, compared with 39 per cent at baseline.

**Increased purchasing power:** SHG members earned significantly more income from their crops than non-members and benefited from the opportunity to save as a group and access credit. This gave them surplus cash to invest in livestock, home improvements, education and new assets, such as mobile phones. It was found that 78 per cent of SHG members owned livestock, compared with 23 per cent of non-members.

**Improved knowledge and capabilities:** SHGs provided an organised group structure through which to pass on new skills and learning to the farmers. Each SHG leader received training from the project facilitators and passed on their knowledge to the rest of the group to create a 'multiplier effect'. As a result, farmers in the project had increased knowledge about business skills, environmentally friendly practices such as making organic fertiliser, and how to prepare nutritious meals.

**Enhanced social connections:** SHGs encouraged people to work together in groups, sharing ideas and assisting vulnerable community members. This improved social interactions and strengthened social cohesion, which will help to make the community more resilient to future shocks.

### KATERINA'S STORY

Katerina and her husband, Stanley, have experienced many positive changes in their life since Tearfund began teaching FFF in their area. Where once they could barely harvest enough to feed their family day to day, they now have plenty to eat and are even able to share their surplus with older, more vulnerable members of the community.

'I used to be so worried about feeding my family,' Katerina says, 'but now we have food, there is no more pressure, the family is secure and our worries are reduced; there is happiness unlike some years back.'

For 30 years Katerina's husband worked as a fishmonger and spent all his income buying food for the family. Now the family are able to produce enough food for themselves, and the profits they make from their business can be invested in other assets to improve their quality of life.

They have built up a small flock of goats, and have also been able to build themselves an iron-roofed home, furnished with new chairs and a radio.

These changes have improved the couple's emotional wellbeing and positivity for the future: 'We can listen to agricultural programmes and sermons on our radio. When you listen, you can laugh, you can ease yourself from any pressures.'

Less worry about where the next meal will come from has brought a positive change in their marriage, too. 'I used to go out and leave my wife worried as to how she will take care of the children,' explains Stanley, 'but now my wife is always happy, so I am happy; we are closer than ever before.'

Katerina's story demonstrates how the Fff method can take families from living on the edge, to being able to produce enough food to thrive and be generous to others. Having food security not only brings good health, it transforms people's whole life by giving them freedom, time and choice to develop in other areas, such as their businesses, their assets and their social relationships.

*'I used to be so worried about feeding my family, but now we have food, there is no more pressure, the family is secure and our worries are reduced; there is happiness unlike some years back.'*

KATERINA, CHAGUNDA VILLAGE



Thanks to Foundations for Farming Katerina and Stanley are now harvesting enough food for their family to flourish. Photo: Tom Price/Tearfund

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a white dress with a vibrant floral pattern of red, yellow, and black flowers, is the central focus. She is smiling and has her arms raised in a dance-like gesture. The background is a blurred crowd of people, with bright, out-of-focus light spots suggesting an outdoor setting with trees and sunlight. The overall mood is joyful and celebratory.

*'Tearfund's partnership is not just about financial support, they understand the issues we are dealing with, they work closely with us to help us achieve our vision, they encourage us a lot and they help build the capacity of our staff.'*

CAMBODIAN HOPE ORGANISATION



## DEVELOPING CAPABILITIES: SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN CAMBODIA TO PROTECT CHILDREN AT RISK

By providing the tools and training for families to develop their own sustainable livelihoods, Tearfund has been reducing the risk of children having to engage in exploitative economic activities, giving them back their right to a childhood.

### REASONS FOR OUR RESPONSE

In situations of poverty children are very vulnerable. Childhood as we imagine it – a time of innocence and play, free from the responsibility of work – may be stolen from children. When parents struggle to find sustainable livelihood options for themselves, they may be left with no choice but to send their children to work to bring in extra income.

In Cambodia, human traffickers prey on poor, vulnerable families and may recruit or abduct children to work in unsafe conditions, where they are often mistreated or held against their will without being paid. This deprives children of an education, stunts their potential and exposes them to dangerous conditions. In the worst cases, trafficking can result in a child's disappearance or even death. This denies children their right to protection, development and survival, as laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990).

High levels of trafficking take place in the northwest of Cambodia, along the border with Thailand. Here, many families live in poverty because they do not own land or have a reliable source of income. As a result, hundreds of Cambodians – many of them children – cross the border illegally every day to find informal work as porters pulling carts of merchandise, or on farms and in markets or begging.<sup>36</sup>

No child should be exposed to such danger and exploitation. Over the last 10 years Tearfund has been working to put a stop to child labour and trafficking in Cambodia for good. Tearfund's partners work in some of the poorest communities along the Cambodia-Thailand border, raising awareness of the dangers of trafficking, supporting children to stay in education, and equipping parents to provide for their families through sustainable livelihoods training. This has been changing lives and helping to keep vulnerable children safe.

In this period, Cambodia has achieved remarkable economic growth, halving the number of people living in extreme poverty from 45 per cent in 2006 to 17.7 per cent in 2012.<sup>37</sup> This has brought with it a reduction in inequality and improvements in income levels and quality of life for some people. As a result, the World Bank officially gave the country middle-income status in 2016.

With this, the nature of Tearfund's work in Cambodia is transitioning to focus on capacity building, equipping, and accompanying local churches and organisations to meet the needs of their local community themselves.

This demonstrates the sustainability of Tearfund's approach; as the need for Tearfund's direct involvement reduces, local communities are empowered and equipped to be the future catalysts of change.

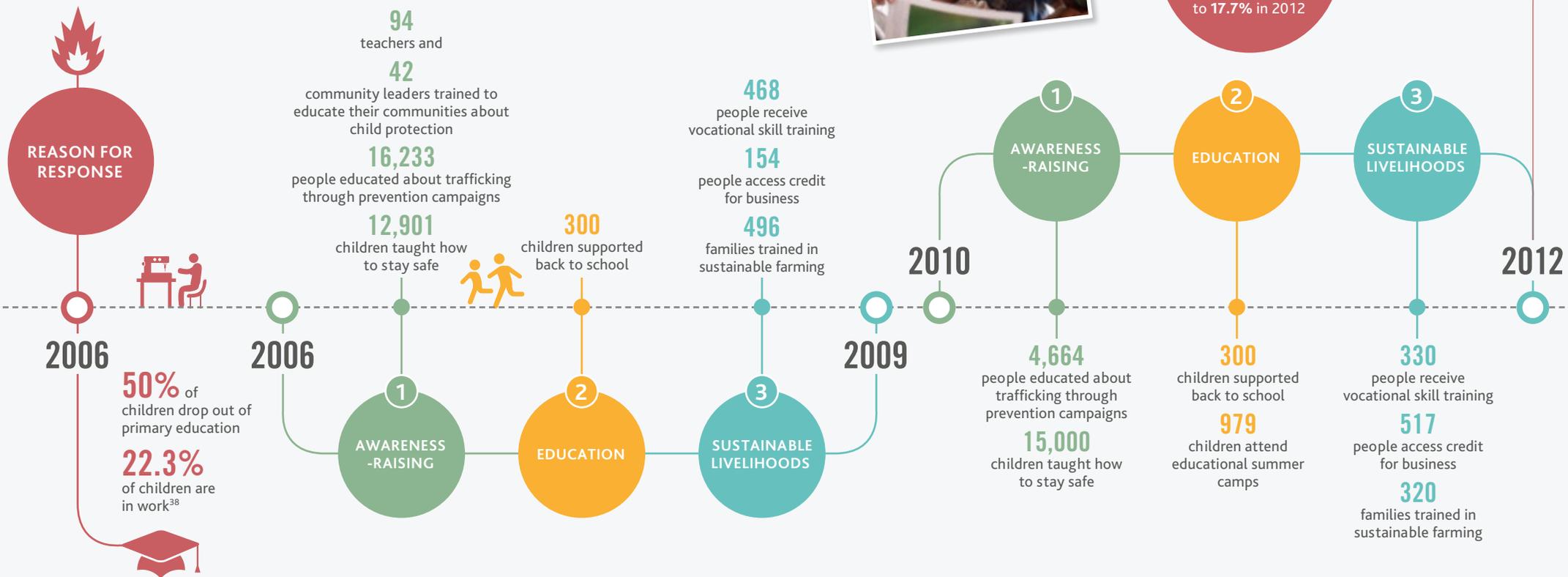
### OUR WORK IN CAMBODIA

- 
**CHURCHES ENVISIONED**  
 Churches envisioned and equipped to address poverty and injustice in their local communities.
- 
**COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED**  
 Partners working on poverty reduction projects including livelihoods, WASH and addressing social issues like child trafficking.
- 
**POLICIES CHANGED**  
 Partners raising awareness and working with local authorities to protect vulnerable women and children.
- 
**DISASTERS RESPONDED TO**  
 Meeting the needs of communities affected by major flooding and building resilience through livelihoods diversification projects and self-help groups.

COUNTRY PROFILE	2006	2016
POPULATION	13 MILLION	16 MILLION
LIFE EXPECTANCY	64 YEARS	69 YEARS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX*	0.495	0.563
FRAGILE STATES INDEX**	47 <sup>TH</sup>	46 <sup>TH</sup>

\*Data obtained from the World Bank (data.worldbank.org), \*\*1 = most developed, \*\*\*1st = most fragile

# CAMBODIA HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



Over the last 10 years Tearfund has partnered with the Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO) to run the Integrated Community Development (ICD) programme, which takes a holistic, preventative approach to protect children from the dangers of trafficking.

Working in 17 vulnerable communities along the Cambodia-Thailand border, the programme combines awareness-raising and school scholarships with sustainable livelihoods training to address the underlying causes of poverty,

which can force families to turn to child labour in desperation.

Tearfund has worked closely alongside CHO to help them achieve their vision through financial support as well as capacity building, technical support and resources, and overall encouraging and coaching to develop their work.

## 1. AWARENESS-RAISING

Traffickers prey on vulnerable families who are not aware of the lies they tell. A significant focus of the programme is to raise awareness of the

dangers of trafficking among children, parents and the wider community through workshops and campaigns.

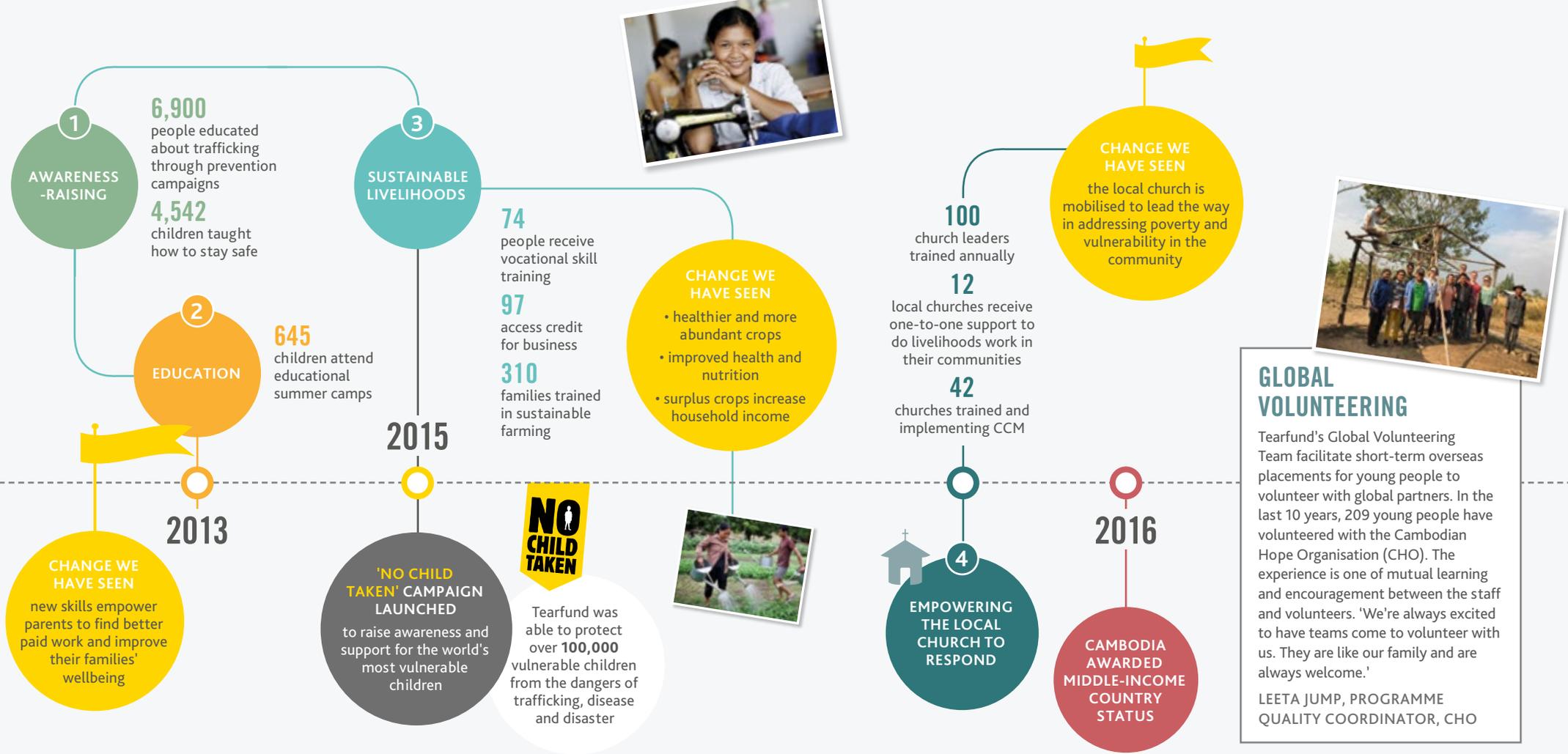
Teachers and community leaders have been trained to share vital information about keeping children safe. Government officials were taken across the border to witness the conditions trafficked children live in to encourage them to uphold anti-trafficking laws.

This has increased communities' understanding of children's vulnerability and child protection, and

built trust between communities and the officials responsible for upholding the law. Breaches of the law have occurred less frequently as a result.

## 2. EDUCATION SUPPORT

When parents do not have to worry about school fees children are more likely to stay in school where they are less vulnerable to trafficking. The programme provides scholarships to help children from the poorest homes to stay, and succeed, in education. Children's clubs are also run in the holidays, including teaching on how to stay safe.



*'I wanted to go to school but I had to work to support my family. The programme provided me with a uniform and enrolled me in school, now I can read and write!'* – Chann, 13

### 3. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

The programme also delivers vital livelihoods training, such as sewing, carpentry and mechanics, to help parents find better-paid employment and a more stable income for their families. They can also access credit to start their own businesses. This is helping to break the cycle

of low-income jobs, unemployment and poverty, which can force families to resort to child labour (see case study).

*'From a non-productive life, we are now very busy sewing clothes for our customers and can support our family.'* – participant from sewing training group

Alongside this, there is an agricultural programme to teach families sustainable agriculture and provide seeds, tools and livestock to improve their food security. This is reducing child

malnutrition and provides families with an extra source of income through selling their produce.

### 4. EMPOWERING THE LOCAL CHURCH

From 2015, the ICD programme began to inspire and train local church and community leaders to take responsibility for the programme's activities themselves. They have been given training on a range of issues including trafficking, business skills, agriculture and self-help groups, to diversify the range of support they can provide their community, and to ensure the programme continues in a sustainable and locally driven way.

Churches have been introduced to the church and community mobilisation process (CCM) to help build resilience to poverty by bringing the church and community together to work on development projects, using their own resources. As one church leader reflects, 'I am very happy with CCM because it provides us with a lot of knowledge that we can use to help our community. It has given us a vision as a church.'



## CAMBODIA CASE STUDY

## Skilling-up: Creating livelihood opportunities for families to protect against vulnerabilities

Reducing poverty in a sustainable way is about giving people the capabilities and skills to help themselves. Tearfund is supporting local partner the Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO) to provide life-changing skill training programmes for rural communities in northwest Cambodia, as part of their Integrated Community Development (ICD) programme.

Participants are trained in areas such as agriculture, sewing, motorbike repairs, computer skills, and carpentry. They are also given business training and the chance to apply for microloans to start their own enterprises, which creates jobs for others in the community.

An external evaluation conducted in 2015 found the training to be expanding people's capabilities and providing them with new livelihood opportunities, breaking the cycle of low-income jobs and unemployment which causes poverty and vulnerability: *'the excellent and committed instructors are greatly assisting those who complete the skill training courses.'*<sup>139</sup>

The opportunity to obtain new skills is also raising people's self-esteem, confidence and hope for the future. Fifty per cent of trainees went on to start their own businesses between 2013 and 2015.

Chenda and Kosal's stories demonstrate how lives are being transformed through these essential skill training programmes.

### CHENDA'S STORY

Chenda is a hard-working and successful farmer who grows and sells enough produce to support her family, but life has not always been so good. Chenda grew up in a very poor family, and when she was 15 her parents had no choice but to take her out of school and send her to work.

A visitor to their village promised Chenda a well paid-job in neighbouring Thailand. Out of desperation her family let her go. 'I went to work in Thailand through a guy who took people across the border illegally,' she recalls. 'He promised to take me to work in a restaurant that paid well. I was very happy thinking that I would be able to get a lot of money for myself and my family.'

It was only when Chenda reached Thailand that she realised she had been tricked. She found herself being exploited by her employer, robbed of dignity and not paid a penny. 'When I got there my beautiful dream turned into a nightmare. My life and body were dedicated to serving men.' After a year Chenda made the risky decision to run away, her dreams in tatters.

She made it home but her troubles did not end there. She took a job working in a factory in Poipet. The conditions were so poor and the hours so long that she became sick and had to leave. She was so unwell that she became dependent on her parents again and was unable to work. The family often went to bed hungry. The future looked bleak.



📷 Agricultural training is bringing people food security and hope for the future.  
Photo: Will Baxter/Tearfund

Then Tearfund's partner, the Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO), drew alongside Chenda's community. They invited her to learn how to grow vegetables sustainably, as part of a small group of trainees, and gave her seeds, tools, training, and a fresh confidence that she could turn her life around.

Chenda is now cultivating enough food to feed her family and with the excess she has started to run a market business, which is bringing in a small income. With the little she is able to save from her profits she has invested in a larger plot of land to grow her business. Already, she can see that things are getting better and the future looks bright.

*'Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn, I'm growing vegetables and selling them in the market which helps with our finances, we are now able to save a bit of money to buy land to help with our agriculture.'*

*'The business has helped me and my family in our daily life and has also prevented me from having to go and work abroad. In the future I want to save enough money to buy my own land so that I can make my business bigger.'*

KOSAL, POIPET



Many of the graduates from CHO's skill training programmes have gone on to set up their own businesses. Photo: Michael Owen/Tearfund

### KOSAL'S STORY

Before Kosal enrolled in one of CHO's vocational skill training courses he struggled to make enough money to provide for his elderly parents and five younger siblings. Without training in a particular skill or vocation, he relied on irregular, low-paid jobs as a building labourer to make money. Times were very hard.

The work was exhausting and paid very little: 'For my job I received US\$2 (£1.60) a day, because I was not skilled. Construction labour is a gruelling job and I had to do this every day. Sometimes I had no energy and couldn't go to work.'

In search of better income, Kosal took up the offer of a job in Thailand. But after working there for five months his employer refused to pay him and Kosal was forced to come back to Cambodia with nothing.

Kosal was offered a lifeline when he heard about CHO's vocational skill training programme offering free training in motorbike mechanics. He successfully completed the training and was provided with a loan to open his own motorbike repair shop. This has enabled him to become self-sufficient and earn enough to look after his family, including supporting his siblings through their education.

'Now I am repairing for a lot of customers and saving around \$5-\$10 (£4 to £8) each day,' he remarks happily. 'I have repaid my loan and I can pay for my siblings to go to school and support my parents.'

Kosal's training has given him new capabilities, purpose and improved self-esteem, and allowed him to support others. His family are now looking forward to a more secure future.



*'The Jos Green Centre is not only a visible expression of the impact of Tearfund's engagement with youth for shaping the future of the Nigerian nation, it is a model to African nations of a youth movement building for positive change on the continent.'*

BENJAMIN OSAWI,  
TEARFUND ADVOCACY OFFICER, NIGERIA

**NIGERIA**

## SEEKING JUSTICE: STRIVING FOR PREVENTION, PEACE AND PROTECTION IN NIGERIA

Tearfund's work in Nigeria includes improving maternal and infant health, peacebuilding between religious groups and influencing policy and practice around climate change. A key feature of this work is the engagement of young people in shaping the future direction of their nation.

### REASONS FOR OUR RESPONSE

Nigeria is a country of contrasts, with widespread poverty in the midst of plenty. Endowed with immense natural resources, the country has the largest economy in Africa and is the seventh largest oil producer in the world – a powerhouse of the region.<sup>40</sup> However, this wealth has remained in the hands of a minority and years of military rule have resulted in poverty and low access to social services for many.

Nigeria's fast-expanding population faces a range of humanitarian and development challenges, including high rates of HIV, ethno-religious conflicts and environmental degradation.

### HIV AND MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY

Back in 2006, an estimated 4.4 per cent of the population was HIV positive, making Nigeria the third worst affected country in the world.<sup>41</sup> Low levels of contraceptive use, low availability of antiretroviral drugs and

stigmatisation contributed to the rapid spread of the disease, while progress in addressing HIV was even slower than in poorer countries.

In addition, Nigeria has one of the highest rates of maternal and infant mortality in the world, with 814 maternal deaths per 100,000 births (90 times higher than the UK) and 69 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.<sup>42</sup>

### CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

With over 400 ethnic groups, Nigeria has a long history of ethno-religious conflict between Christian and Muslim neighbours and nomadic and sedentary populations fighting over land. This has resulted in huge loss of life and escalated poverty further. Young people have been used to instigate much of the violence. Women, children and the elderly have been the primary victims.

In 2009, extremist group Boko Haram began posing a significant threat to security in the northeast. In 2015, they started capturing and killing civilians. Many fled their homes to escape the brutal attacks and ended up

in makeshift camps and host communities where food, water, sanitation and healthcare are greatly under-resourced. People cannot provide for their families and the overcrowding brings a high risk of disease.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Nigeria also faces massive environmental challenges. High levels of pollution, mining, deforestation, poor waste management and climate change are causing mass loss of land, vegetation and ecosystems. This leads to lost livelihoods, food insecurity and deepening poverty.

Faced with this complex picture, Tearfund has been working closely with local partners and churches to help them address development issues in their communities. Throughout, Tearfund has been working closely with young people, who are often marginalised from economic, political and development processes, to unlock their potential to be the future ambassadors of change.

## OUR WORK IN NIGERIA



### CHURCHES ENVISIONED

Mobilising local churches and theological institutions to contribute to whole-life transformation in local communities.



### COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED

Partners working on projects relating to WASH, HIV, food security, peacebuilding and environmental sustainability.



### POLICIES CHANGED

Advocacy work on good governance, anti-corruption and climate change issues through local churches and the Jos Green Centre.



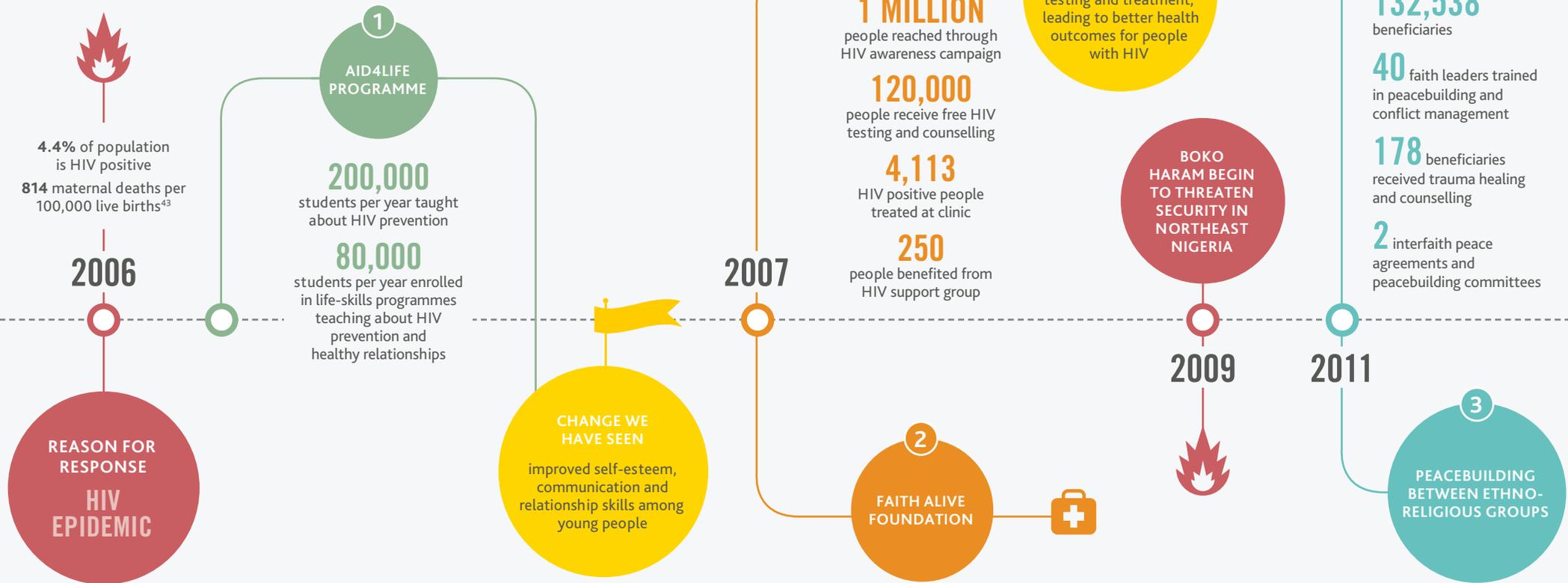
### DISASTERS RESPONDED TO

Provision of emergency relief to people displaced by the Boko Haram insurgencies in the northeast.

COUNTRY PROFILE	2006	2016
POPULATION*	143 MILLION	186 MILLION
LIFE EXPECTANCY*	49 YEARS	53 YEARS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**	0.477	0.527
FRAGILE STATES INDEX***	22 <sup>ND</sup>	13 <sup>TH</sup>

\*Data obtained from the World Bank (data.worldbank.org), \*\*1 = most developed, \*\*\*1st = most fragile

# NIGERIA HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



## 1. ADDRESSING HIV: AID4LIFE

Tearfund has been working through local partners in Nigeria to provide life-changing treatment and support for people living with HIV, as well as to raise awareness of HIV prevention methods and to fight stigma, particularly within churches, which prevents people from seeking treatment. As a result there has been a shift from HIV being perceived as a moral issue to it being recognised as a public health concern.

Since before 2006, Tearfund supported local partner Fellowship of Christian Students to run the Aid4Life programme teaching life skills to young people, including HIV prevention, healthy relationships and positive self-esteem.

## 2. FAITH ALIVE FOUNDATION

From 2007, Tearfund supported the Faith Alive Foundation to provide free HIV testing and treatment in communities, whilst also running support groups, skill training and awareness-raising activities to reduce discrimination and increase church support for people living with HIV.

## 3. PEACEBUILDING

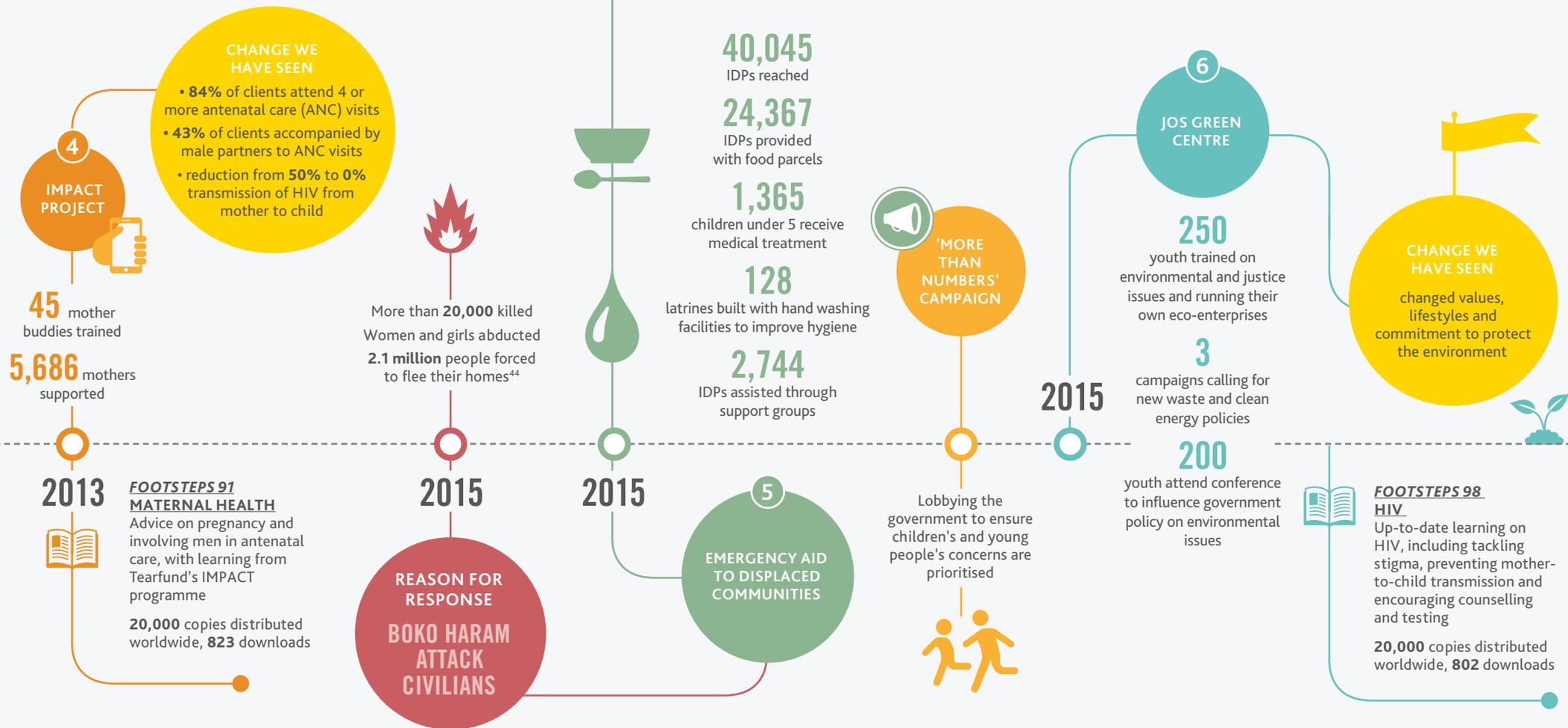
Tearfund began piloting peacebuilding initiatives to foster reconciliation between ethno-religious groups in 2011. This involved addressing the root causes of conflict and suspicion; encouraging social, political and economic cooperation; and building local and national institutions that could manage conflict without resorting to violence.

Tearfund trained four partners to do this reconciliation work, including Scripture Union West Africa, which worked in Jos to train Muslim and Christian youths as 'Peace Ambassadors'.

Over time the two religious groups began interacting in business and social engagements. The young people, who were once at the forefront of the fighting, led the way in achieving peaceful coexistence.

## 4. IMPACT PROJECT

Then in 2013, Tearfund developed its work on maternal health and HIV in Nigeria by introducing the IMPACT project (Improving Parent and Child Outcomes), using mobile phone technology and a network of trained 'mother-buddies' to monitor the pregnancies of vulnerable women in order to



eliminate parent-to-child transmission of HIV and improve maternal and infant health, with great success (see case study).

### 5. EMERGENCY AID TO IDPs

In 2015, Tearfund received Dutch government funding to respond to the escalating humanitarian crisis caused by Boko Haram in the northeast. Internally displaced people (IDPs) were given food, shelter, medicines, clean water and livelihoods training. Community leaders were trained in counselling to provide emotional support and help to address people's trauma and fear.

Fifty per cent of IDPs are young people whose futures are threatened by the lack of education, food and healthcare. In response, Tearfund's 'More than Numbers' campaign is calling for the government to prioritise young people's needs in its reconstruction plans for northeast Nigeria.

### 6. EMPOWERING YOUTH TO PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

2015 also saw the beginning of Tearfund's youth-focused movement mobilising young people to speak out and act against environmental issues.

Following workshops on caring for the environment, living justly and advocacy training, the young people began an initiative called 'The Jos Green Centre' to advocate for environmentally-friendly lifestyle and policy changes. Their work to date includes promoting recycling and clean energy, starting environmentally friendly enterprises, advocacy around green issues and mentoring peers across the country to do the same.

This forms part of Tearfund's wider global advocacy work (see p 54-55), which promotes a restorative economy in which little is wasted and resources are reused efficiently.

The Centre is giving young people confidence and influence in the development of their communities and country. As one young person reflects, 'Tearfund has given us an opportunity to grow a movement in Nigeria to deliver an alternative nation.'



## NIGERIA CASE STUDY

## Adopting technologies: Maternal and infant health improved through mobile phones

Many women in Nigeria face complications during pregnancy, including high risk of infant and maternal mortality and parent-to-child transmission of HIV. The IMPACT project was introduced by Tearfund to Nigeria in 2013, to mobilise churches and communities to engage in a comprehensive approach towards ensuring that children are born HIV free, and improving maternal and infant health overall.

Working in the three states in Nigeria with the highest prevalence of HIV, the programme targets vulnerable pregnant women in rural communities, who tend to be at the greatest risk of maternal and infant mortality, especially those living with HIV (as this increases the risk of maternal death six-fold).

### WHAT MAKES THE IMPACT PROJECT DIFFERENT?

**Mother Buddies** – Central to the project is the network of community-based volunteers, called 'Mother Buddies', who are trained by Tearfund in key areas of HIV and maternal and infant health to provide information and care to mothers before, during and after their pregnancies. This includes encouraging mothers to make at least four antenatal care (ANC) visits (in line with WHO guidelines),

ensuring that all testing (including HIV testing) is carried out, and ensuring that the birth is attended by a professional.

**Mobile technology** – Each Mother Buddy is equipped with an innovative mobile phone system, known as MiHope (Mobile Interactions Bringing Hope), which guides them through the visits, providing information, appointment reminders and a means of tracking women's progress.

'The IMPACT phone is my strength; I use it to record information about my clients,' says Martha, one of the Mother Buddies. 'The women I work with are very happy with the support I can offer them; they understand that coming to the clinic is very important for their health.'

**Male involvement** – Fathers are also encouraged to play an active role in supporting women throughout their pregnancies, including attending antenatal care visits. Evidence suggests that increasing male partner involvement can reduce infant mortality by as much as 40 per cent.<sup>45</sup>

*'The IMPACT phone is my strength; I use it to record information about my clients. The women I work with are very happy with the support I can offer them.'*

MARTHA, MOTHER BUDDY

### OVERVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE

A quantitative impact assessment was carried out in 2015 using surveys, two years apart, to compare a range of indicators between women who had been supported by Mother Buddies (clients) and a control group of similar women who had not received support (non-clients). The indicators focused on key determinants of maternal and new-born health and factors ensuring that children born to HIV positive mothers are born HIV free.

### EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

The study provided strong evidence of the ways in which the IMPACT project has made progress towards improving health outcomes for vulnerable women and infants in Nigeria.<sup>46</sup> These include:

**Clients achieving four or more ANC visits** – There was a 15 per cent increase over the two years in clients having at least four ANC visits (84 per cent, compared with 73 per cent of non-clients). HIV testing also increased among clients, with 92 per cent of clients receiving tests compared with 83 per cent of non-clients.

**Professionally attended clinic deliveries** – Being able to give birth in a hospital or health clinic, with a trained professional in attendance, is another key determinant of maternal and infant survival. There was a 22 per cent increase in deliveries by a health professional and 70 per cent of clients had had clinic deliveries, compared with 62 per cent of non-clients. Over time it is thought that the significant increase in four ANC visits, together with the increase in professionally attended clinic deliveries, will lead to a good reduction in maternal and infant mortality.

**Increased male partner involvement** – There was a 34 per cent increase in male partner attendance at ANC visits overall. Forty-three per cent of clients were accompanied to antenatal care by their partners, compared with 32 per cent of non-clients. This is an important achievement, as evidence suggests that male involvement is key to reducing transmission of HIV.

*'I am proud that I am actively involved in my wife's pregnancy. I have also started teaching other men to come together with their wives for antenatal visits.'* Matthew, husband of a client

**Changed knowledge and attitudes** – Eighty-one per cent of clients received specific advice on how HIV might be transmitted before and after birth (compared with 68 per cent of non-clients). There was a 27 per cent improvement in comprehensive HIV knowledge among clients, and a 45 per cent higher level of maternal health knowledge.

For the HIV positive women in the study, treatment with antiretroviral drugs increased from 77 per cent to 100 per cent. Early infant diagnosis increased from 25 per cent to 87 per cent and there was a reduction from 50 per cent to 0 per cent in the transmission of HIV from mother to child.

The Mother Buddies have become a vital source of information, guidance and friendship to mothers in their communities. As Caroline, the IMPACT project coordinator says, 'The mothers on the project love and look forward to their Mother Buddy visits.'

### RUTH'S STORY

Ruth and her eight-year-old daughter did not know they were HIV positive until Ruth was tested during her third pregnancy: 'It was very hard for me, I couldn't believe it. If it were not for the free tests at the clinic I wouldn't have known our HIV status.'

Ruth was put in touch with a Mother Buddy, Julia, who provided Ruth with information on how HIV might be transmitted before and after birth to her unborn child, and helped her access appropriate treatment for her and her daughter. As a result, both are in good health and Ruth's third baby was born safely, free from HIV:

*'With the support of the project I gave birth to an HIV-negative baby and my daughter and I are now receiving the medication we need.'*

Ruth has now become a Mother Buddy herself, and is using her own experience and empathy to provide other women with crucial information and support during their pregnancies.



*'With the same passion and zeal I got from my Mother Buddy, I will encourage other expectant mothers with love, concern, prayer and practical medical advice.'*

📷 Mother buddies in Nigeria are helping women to have safe and healthy pregnancies. Photo: Andrew Philip/Tearfund

*'Tearfund's approach to addressing SGBV starts with the premise of helping people to understand that gender equality and their faith are not mutually exclusive, but are compatible and most importantly are rooted in the values and principles of their faith.'*

PRABU DEEPAN, TEARFUND'S TECHNICAL LEAD  
FOR TRANSFORMING MASCULINITIES





DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

## KEEPING THE FAITH: ADDRESSING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) IN DRC

Faith leaders have a unique potential to speak out against harmful social norms and be catalysts for positive change. Over the last 10 years Tearfund has worked with faith leaders in DRC to respond to the HIV epidemic, provide support to survivors of sexual violence and re-envision concepts of masculinity to end the cycle of violence for good.

### REASONS FOR OUR RESPONSE

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a dangerous place to live, especially if you are a woman. The country has suffered many years of civil war, which has caused the displacement of people, the division of communities, the collapse of social services and widespread poverty. As a result DRC consistently ranks among the lowest countries in the UN Human Development Index.<sup>47</sup>

One of the most shocking features of this conflict is the widespread occurrence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls, as well as men and boys, as a tactic of war.

More worryingly, research suggests even higher levels of sexual violence within communities and intimate partner relationships.<sup>48</sup> It is estimated that one in four women will experience sexual violence at some point in their life in DRC.<sup>49</sup>

Survivors of SGBV face physical and emotional trauma, and stigma, blame and rejection by their partners, neighbours and even churches. Sexual violence and poverty also contribute to the HIV epidemic in the country. Twenty per cent of women who have been subject to sexual violence in eastern DRC are HIV positive.<sup>50</sup>

There is a lack of information about HIV and SGBV, and a lack of access to treatment and support, as the government struggles to provide public services, particularly in remote areas.

No woman, man or child should experience such violence. Tearfund has been mobilising and equipping local faith leaders and faith communities to transform the harmful social and gender norms that are root causes of stigma and violence. This approach is having impact because of the powerful influence faith leaders have to change negative belief systems related to gender roles and behaviours.

'Faith leaders are influential local opinion leaders, and they've got a unique mandate to speak to their communities on these sensitive issues,' says Maggie Sandilands, who leads [Tearfund's response to SGBV](#) in humanitarian contexts.

This chapter follows the journey of Tearfund's work in this area over the last 10 years.

### OUR WORK IN DRC



#### CHURCHES ENVISIONED

Churches mobilised to play their part in addressing poverty and injustice in their communities.



#### COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED

Projects include DFID-funded 'SWIFT' WASH programme, in collaboration with Oxfam and ODI (see [Impact and Learning Report 2016](#)),<sup>51</sup> livelihoods and food security, SGBV, and peacebuilding.



#### POLICIES CHANGED

Advocacy on issues related to good governance, water and sanitation, SGBV, HIV and child rights.



#### DISASTERS RESPONDED TO

Meeting the emergency needs of conflict-affected communities in eastern DRC with WASH programming, food assistance and livelihoods regeneration.

COUNTRY PROFILE	2006	2016
POPULATION*	57 MILLION	79 MILLION
LIFE EXPECTANCY*	54 YEARS	59 YEARS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**	0.370	0.435
FRAGILE STATES INDEX***	2 <sup>ND</sup>	8 <sup>TH</sup>

\*Data obtained from the World Bank (data.worldbank.org), \*\*1 = most developed, \*\*\*1st = most fragile

# DRC HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



REASON FOR  
RESPONSE

2006

HIV prevalence rates  
as high as 5.5%  
High rates of sexual and  
gender-based violence<sup>52</sup>

487

religious and community  
leaders trained as HIV advocates

15

health centres providing free HIV  
treatment and psychological support

150,000

people reached with messages  
about HIV prevention

2009

1  
RESPONDING  
TO HIV  
EPIDEMIC

CHANGE WE  
HAVE SEEN

80%

reduction in transmission  
of HIV from mothers  
to babies in the  
project

80%

of beneficiaries feel  
comfortable revealing their  
HIV diagnosis to their  
faith leader who  
welcomes them into  
the community

2

GREAT LAKES  
RESEARCH



2013

Study carried out in  
Burundi, DRC & Rwanda  
1,233 participants  
(610 men & 623 women)

KEY FINDING  
religious teachings used  
to justify male dominance  
over women

2014

360

faith and community leaders  
mobilised and equipped to respond  
to SGBV

114

men and women participating in  
Transforming Masculinities training

675

individuals trained to support  
survivors through 45  
Community Action Groups

3

PREVENTING  
SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE IN  
CONFLICT  
INITIATIVE  
(PSVI)



CHANGE WE  
HAVE SEEN

481

survivors  
supported

90

churches develop  
community action  
plans to prevent  
SGBV

'16 Days of  
Activism' and  
'We Will Speak Out'  
campaigns led by  
church leaders

2014



*There is now a respect  
between me and the other  
male leaders, they let me  
lobby during the meetings  
and I am now Chief.'*

MAMA YVONNE, ELECTED  
COMMUNITY LEADER

## 1. RESPONDING TO HIV EPIDEMIC

In 2009, Tearfund secured UK government funding to deliver a five year HIV programme in eastern DRC. Faith leaders were trained to raise awareness and reduce stigma around HIV in their communities, and six local partners provided healthcare and psychosocial support to those diagnosed with HIV.

Church leaders became champions in increasing awareness and knowledge of HIV in their communities. This led to reduced stigma,

increased support for people living with HIV, more people being tested and reduced transmission from mothers to infants.

Working with faith leaders had a strong impact because of their influence over community norms and behaviours. However, to have a long-term impact Tearfund needed to work with faith leaders further to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), a key driver of the HIV epidemic.

## 2. GREAT LAKES RESEARCH

Tearfund conducted extensive research in the Great Lakes region between 2013 and 2014, to understand the cultural context of SGBV and how to effectively respond. Interpretations of religious teachings justifying male dominance and violent behaviour was a significant finding.<sup>53</sup> This confirmed the need to engage with religious leaders, as well as men and boys directly, to challenge harmful concepts of masculinity.

## 3. PSVI PROJECT

In 2014, the research informed the development of Tearfund's first SGBV programme in northeast DRC, funded by the UK government's [Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative](#) (PSVI). Religious leaders of different faiths were mobilised to tackle SGBV in their communities.

An approach called '[Transforming Masculinities](#)' was developed using scriptural reflections to promote value-driven and respectful relationships between men and women

4

#### UK GOVERNMENT HOSTS GLOBAL SUMMIT TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

1,000 participants  
123 countries

*'Faith groups are uniquely placed to change hearts and minds, and challenge cultural and social norms, including notions of masculine identity as it affects sexual violence.'*

WILLIAM HAGUE MP, CLOSING SPEECH OF THE GLOBAL SUMMIT



5

#### 'WHAT WORKS' PROJECT

330

faith and community leaders mobilised and equipped to respond to SGBV

2,070

men and women participating in Transforming Masculinities training

225

individuals trained to support survivors through 15 Community Action Groups



2015

#### CHANGE WE HAVE SEEN

214

survivors identified and supported

faith leaders in 15 communities speaking out against SGBV to over 20,000 people

#### CHANGE WE HAVE SEEN

increased awareness of SGBV and positive behavioural changes around gender equality

40

faith leaders and

32

Gender Champions trained in Transforming Masculinities

6,234

individuals reached through community dialogues and scripture-based talks on gender equality

6

#### PASSAGES PROJECT

2015



#### TRANSFORMING MASCULINITIES TRAINING MANUAL

sharing Tearfund's approach and learning around SGBV with the wider sector

#### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

695 survivors supported

730 faith and community leaders mobilised and equipped to respond to SGBV

#### INSPIRED INDIVIDUAL

Daphrose Kyakimwa Muteho



Tearfund is supporting Daphrose, a passionate and innovative youth counsellor and chaplain, to run the Gratia Counselling Centre in one of the largest schools in Goma, DRC. The centre provides psychosocial support to over 1,000 students annually who have been traumatised by the conflict and sexual violence they have witnessed, helping them to rebuild their lives, succeed academically, and become a future generation of values-driven leaders. Daphrose's model is present in 45 other schools and she plans to train 500 teachers and parents and 1,300 chaplains to deliver similar support by 2020.

(see case study). Community Action Groups were established to help survivors access treatment, to provide psychosocial support and to teach income-generating activities.

As a result, faith leaders are speaking out against SGBV, and communities are prepared to provide support to survivors. There is notable change in gender attitudes and behaviours among participants in the training, including increased respect between family members and opportunities for women.

#### 4. UK GOVERNMENT GLOBAL SUMMIT

From grassroots work to national and global discussions; at the UK government's first Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, 2014, Tearfund, as founder of the We Will Speak Out Faith Coalition, hosted a panel discussion on the role of faith-based organisations in prevention and response to SGBV. The Summit resulted in an unprecedented display of political commitment to tackle sexual violence and included recognition of the unique role of faith groups in this work.

#### 5. WHAT WORKS PROJECT

In 2015, Tearfund received UK government funding to gather further evidence for the value of working with faith leaders, through a research project called 'What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls'. Tearfund's approach was taken to 15 new communities, and results to date verify that our faith-based approach is leading to the transformation of deeply rooted negative attitudes and behaviours. It also highlighted that violence between partners was a huge and neglected issue in DRC, and hard to address since it is not considered an offence.

#### 6. PASSAGES PROJECT

In response, Tearfund became a consortium partner in a project called 'Passages' in 2015, alongside Georgetown University, funded by the US government. Tearfund's contribution is the Transforming Masculinities approach working with young married couples in Kinshasa to raise awareness of and prevent intimate partner violence. Early findings show a clear shift in attitudes and knowledge around SGBV and more churches are now requesting for the training to be carried out with their congregations.



DRC CASE STUDY

## Transforming Masculinities: A faith-based approach to restoring relationships

An estimated 84 per cent of the global population are affiliated to a religious tradition or faith belief.<sup>54</sup> Belief systems and faith leaders have a powerful influence over social norms, including gender roles and behaviours. Certain interpretations of religious texts can play a powerful role in reinforcing patriarchal attitudes, dominant forms of masculinity and rigid gender roles, which are harmful to men and women, boys and girls.

As a faith-based organisation, Tearfund's experience and understanding is that faith leaders and sacred texts can equally be powerful agents for change in addressing SGBV, as seen in Tearfund's [Transforming Masculinities](#) approach.

Designed and developed based on formative research, Transforming Masculinities brings discussions on gender, masculinities and SGBV within the context of participants' faith and culture, to address underlying beliefs and promote change in behaviour and social norms on gender, masculinities and SGBV.

### NOT JUST A WOMEN'S ISSUE

Responses to sexual violence have typically focused on the needs of survivors and the empowerment of women, but SGBV is not purely a women's issue. It is a gender issue and requires work on gender justice and equality of individuals to tackle the root causes of violence. It is crucial to involve men and boys in addressing SGBV in their communities, since it is often the harmful ideologies of what it means to be a man which normalise violence as a masculine trait.

Tearfund's approach is to work with faith leaders, and uses scriptural reflections to encourage communities to question the underlying values and status traditionally assigned to men and women. The goal is to promote positive models for being men and women, for leadership, for restoring relationships and for promoting gender equality in every sphere of society.

*'Before, I didn't work at home, I considered my wife as a thing, I did not respect her. But today, I have been transformed. At home, I started helping my wife, going to the field with her, looking after our children, I feel very happy.'*

GENDER CHAMPION, PSVI TRAINING

### Transforming Masculinities training involves three key stages:



#### FAITH LEADERS

National-, provincial- and community-level faith leaders attend workshops that engage and equip them to provide leadership and support for the Transforming Masculinities process.



#### GENDER CHAMPIONS

Community faith leaders select key male and female members of the community to be trained as facilitators of small group discussions called 'community dialogues'.



#### COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

Small groups of men and women meet weekly in their communities for six weeks for discussions led by Gender Champions. Weeks 1-5 are conducted in single-sex groups and Week 6 in combined-sex groups.

The groups consider topics including SGBV, and how it affects their communities, and the underlying harmful norms that cause broken relationships. They are encouraged to rethink gender attitudes and behaviours from a faith perspective to promote value-driven and respectful relationships between men and women.

### WHAT CHANGE HAVE WE SEEN?

The Transforming Masculinities training is part of Tearfund's three SGBV programmes in DRC. Over 400 faith and community leaders and Gender Champions have currently been trained in the approach, reaching over 2,500 men and women through community dialogues.

The PSVI programme has been using the approach with communities in northeast DRC since 2014. An external evaluation in 2016 found that faith leaders trained in Transforming Masculinities have become committed to teaching their communities about positive masculinities and are key players in the prevention of SGBV.<sup>55</sup> As one pastor reflects:

*'Any change must start with oneself; having followed the gender training I committed myself to live out gender equality in my own home. I began by asking my wife for forgiveness and showing my love and consideration to her. I am ready to transform others in my church and to be a model example.'* Pastor from Transforming Masculinities training

In these communities, the church has become a place where survivors are welcomed and supported. The commitment of faith leaders is demonstrated by the advocacy work they have undertaken, such as developing community action plans with local authorities to prevent and monitor SGBV.

The community dialogues have led to changes in the mindsets of participants, including increased understanding of issues related to SGBV, awareness of harmful gender behaviours, and increased respect between family members. This is leading to behavioural changes including increased confidence among women and a reduction in violence within communities and intimate partner relationships.

Transforming Masculinities is now being successfully adapted by Tearfund in nine other countries including Nigeria, Myanmar, Iraq and Colombia.

### MARY'S STORY

Mary suffered the abuse and control of her husband for more than six years, 'He would come back home drunk at around 10pm and would immediately attack and insult me in front of the children.'

Mary had no voice in her relationship, especially when it came to money: 'Each time I would try and say something about the management of our household income, we would end up in a quarrel and fight most of the time.'

Then her husband began attending one of Tearfund's community dialogues as part of the PSVI project. 'Papa Kapisa, who is the chairman of the dialogue, began talking to my husband,' Mary remembers, 'and he agreed to start attending the sessions.'

After her husband attended the training she began to notice a positive change. 'I was so amazed by the way my husband started changing little by little and acting differently;' Mary says,

*'Now he speaks to me in a soft voice, we even get to discuss questions in our home. He comes back home at 7pm at the latest and he is now concerned with the education of the children and most importantly, not being drunk. I do not know how to thank you enough.'*



📷 Tearfund's Transforming Masculinities training promotes value-driven and respectful relationships between men and women. Photo: Bryony Dobson/Tearfund

*'The church has a powerful role to play in transforming communities and that transformation is not simply spiritual, it is holistic – social, material, physical and spiritual.'*

ROMNAL COLAS, CCM COORDINATOR, HAITI





HAITI

## RESTORING LIVES: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF NATURAL DISASTER IN HAITI

Haiti is a country trying to develop in the face of two significant insecurities: frequent natural disasters and political instability. Tearfund has worked in Haiti before, during and since the most recent disasters, to repair damage, rebuild lives and strengthen the capacity of local people to be more resilient in the future.

### REASONS FOR OUR RESPONSE

Haiti has a Natural Catastrophe Risk Index rating that is among the highest in the world.<sup>56</sup> Lying in the Atlantic Ocean 'hurricane belt', the island is regularly struck by extreme weather, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and landslides. Due to the changing global and local climate conditions, the severity and frequency of these events is increasing.

Not only do these disasters cause loss of life, livelihood, shelter and community, they prevent people from flourishing and living life to the full. They create or accentuate poverty and leave communities more vulnerable to shocks in the future.

The resilience of the Haitian population to withstand disasters is low given the widespread poverty, poor housing, lack of local knowledge about disaster preparedness, and dependence on subsistence agriculture.

The country also has a history of political instability, social unrest and underdeveloped infrastructure. This has undermined the government's ability to respond in the aftermath of disaster and leaves the country dependent on foreign aid.

In the last 10 years, Haiti has experienced two major natural disasters which have drawn worldwide media coverage and an outpouring of humanitarian assistance.

In 2010, Haiti was devastated by its worst earthquake in 200 years, which caused mass destruction to areas around the capital, Port-au-Prince, killing thousands and leaving many more injured or homeless.<sup>57</sup>

Then, in 2016, the south west peninsula was struck by the heavy rain and raging winds of Hurricane Matthew. Extensive flooding and mudslides destroyed homes, assets and infrastructure and left 1.4 million people in desperate need of assistance.<sup>58</sup>

*'When the storm started coming, I was sitting on the bed when the roof above me flew off and the rain came in. I was wet and scared because of all the debris flying everywhere, and I was also very worried about my children and their safety.'* – Darline, hurricane survivor.

Tearfund is committed to going where the need is greatest and was working in Haiti before and during these two disasters, and remains there today. This work has involved meeting people's immediate needs, restoring infrastructure and livelihoods, and building resilience for the future. Tearfund strives to work in a sustainable and localised way by operating through local partners, networks and the local church.

Throughout this work there have been achievements to celebrate as well as learning points for future work. This chapter looks at what Tearfund's work in Haiti has to teach about effective humanitarian and disaster resilience work and how Tearfund is adapting and developing to improve in the future.

### OUR WORK IN HAITI



#### CHURCHES ENVISIONED

Churches envisioned to serve the community through CCM, including establishing SHGs and community protection committees.



#### COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED

Partners working to improve livelihoods and food security, alongside HIV prevention and community health programmes.



#### POLICIES CHANGED

Government, civil society and international donors held accountable for the creation and implementation of policies relating to equality, child protection and good governance.



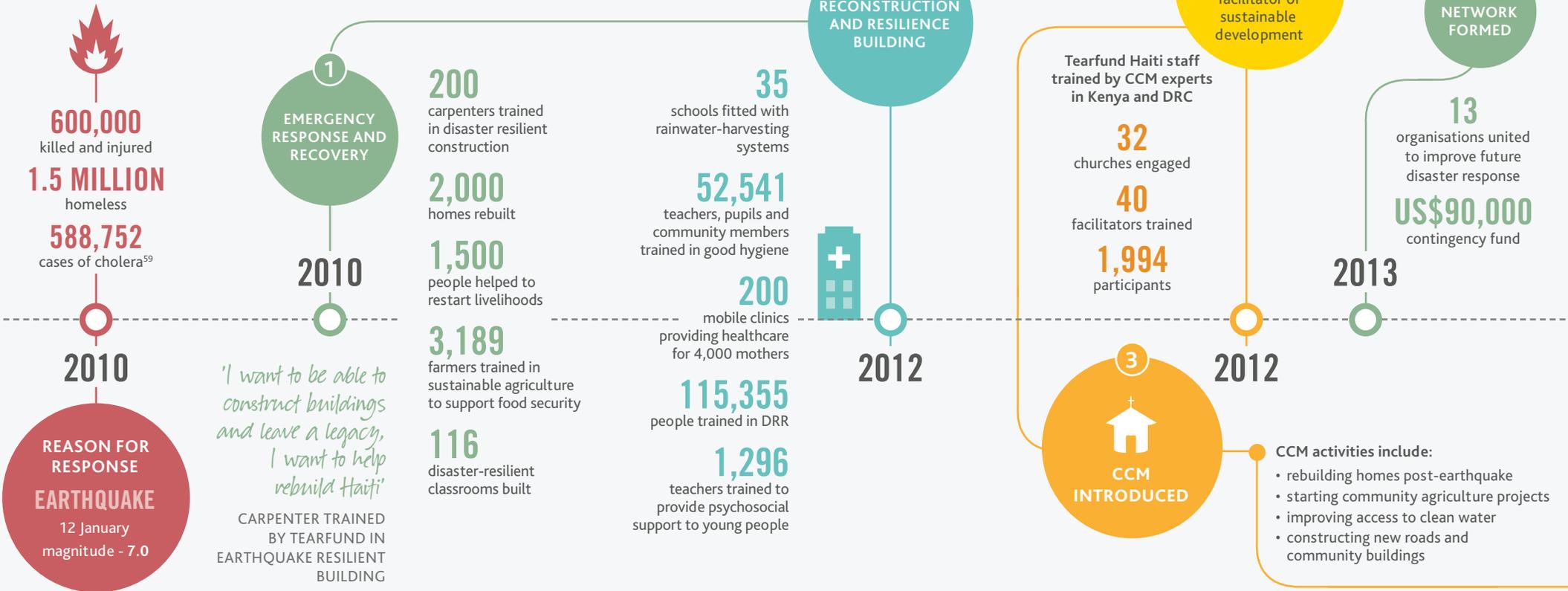
#### DISASTERS RESPONDED TO

Hurricanes, earthquakes and floods responded to through partners and direct response teams as well as building partner and community capacity on DRR.

COUNTRY PROFILE	2006	2016
POPULATION*	9 MILLION	11 MILLION
LIFE EXPECTANCY*	60 YEARS	63 YEARS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX**	0.458	0.493
FRAGILE STATES INDEX***	8 <sup>TH</sup>	10 <sup>TH</sup>

\*Data obtained from the World Bank (data.worldbank.org), \*\*1 = most developed, \*\*\*1st = most fragile

# HAITI HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



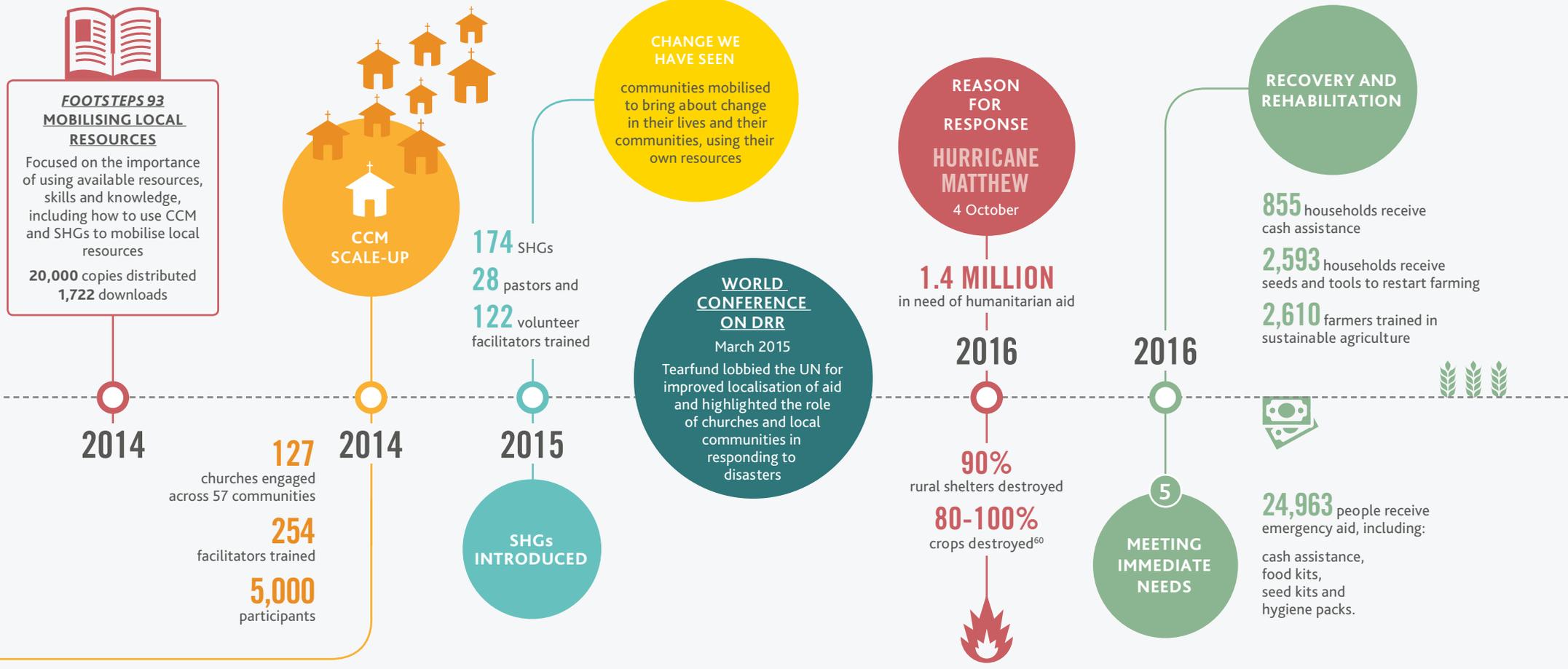
**1. EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**  
When the 2010 earthquake struck, Tearfund's established presence and relationships with local partners, churches and communities enabled a quick and effective response. An emergency appeal was launched, raising £4.2 million (US\$5.33 million), and a strategy was agreed to support relief, recovery and reconstruction.

Working alongside local partners, Tearfund's disaster response team focused on communities in the mountains while our partners focused on areas around the capital. For the first two weeks Tearfund provided emergency food, water, medicine and temporary shelters 24 hours a day. Next, Tearfund began longer-term recovery work to help rebuild lives. Priorities were restarting livelihoods, improving food security and getting children back to school by repairing buildings.

**2. RECONSTRUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING**  
Reconstruction and resilience building continued over the next two years, including re-establishing WASH and healthcare facilities. Communities' capacities to respond to future disasters were built by delivering disaster risk reduction (DRR) training in schools and churches and setting up a vocational school teaching earthquake-resistant building.

Tearfund also offered psychosocial support to survivors; contributing to emotional, as well physical and social, wellbeing is central to Tearfund's way of working. An evaluation in 2012 highlighted the 'striking emergence of hope' being restored, 'giving individuals and communities back their sense of dignity and purpose'.<sup>61</sup>

But despite good intentions, the global humanitarian response was criticised for lacking coordination between agencies and local actors.



The overall international aid distribution method was challenged for creating a dependency culture and failing to build local communities' capacity.<sup>62</sup>

While Tearfund does work through established local partners who understand the context, and delivers long-term resilience training, an evaluation recommended even more joined-up planning with other NGOs and local organisations to ensure local actors play a lead in future.<sup>63</sup>

### 3. CCM & SHGs INTRODUCED

Since the earthquake, Tearfund has been building the capacity of communities to lead their own development by working closely with the local church. In 2012, CCM was introduced to pastors to encourage congregations and their neighbours to work together to improve their situations, using their own resources.

In 2015, SHGs were introduced as part of the CCM training to build people's resilience by enabling them to save small amounts of money

collectively to spend on food, healthcare, shelter or starting small businesses (see case study).

### 4. RIHPED NETWORK FORMED

Tearfund also formed a network, RIHPED, of 13 international and local organisations to prepare for future disaster response in Haiti. A contingency fund was established (to which Tearfund contributed 90 per cent) to support local capacity-building activities and future humanitarian responses through the network.

### 5. HURRICANE MATTHEW RESPONSE

When Hurricane Matthew landed, RIHPED mobilised its members and provided grants for them to deliver localised, rapid assistance to the most vulnerable communities. In addition, larger grants were made to bigger Tearfund partners to form a wide-reaching response. Recovery and rehabilitation work is now underway, including cash grants and training to restart farming and rebuild homes in hurricane-resistant ways so communities are more resilient in the future.



## HAITI CASE STUDY

## Working together: Community driven and self-help approaches to sustainable development

Following the 2010 earthquake, Haiti received an outpouring of international aid. The £7.4 billion (US\$9.4 billion) given was three times the revenue of the Haitian government between 2010 and 2012.<sup>64</sup> However, the delivery of this well-intentioned support was criticised for failing to build the capacity of local communities to recover and be more resilient to disaster in the future. Instead, many people were left feeling dependent on external assistance to solve their problems.<sup>65</sup>

### SELF-HELP AND SELF-VISION THROUGH CCM

Tearfund has brought a new model of community-led development to Haiti through training local pastors in the church and community mobilisation (CCM) process. This sustainable model of development inspires, empowers and builds the capacity of local churches and communities to work together to achieve positive change, using their own skills and resources.

*'This is a transformation from a dependency mentality to a new one – together we can!'*

Romnal Colas, Tearfund's CCM coordinator, Haiti

From a pilot project in 2012, training 40 facilitators, by 2014 Tearfund was working with 127 churches and 254 facilitators across 57 communities, reaching over 5,000 people through CCM.

Many positive changes are resulting from the local initiatives started through CCM. Buildings, roads, wells and gardens have been built and repaired, providing improved shelter, access, water and food supplies.

One of the first churches to begin CCM was in the capital, Port-au-Prince. They first mobilised the wider community to clear rubble left after the earthquake, then began a sanitation project to distribute clean water to the whole community. This reduced the time people spent fetching water by an hour or more. They were also inspired to turn the land behind their church into a community garden to grow bananas for local families.

'A deep change takes place in the mentality of people, churches and communities,' says Romnal. 'Before, most people were entirely dependent on external support to solve their problems, but CCM encourages self-help and self-vision, it helps people to do things by themselves.'

*'To me, SHGs are the only hope for very poor people to fight against poverty and leave behind the unhealthy conditions in which they were living.'*

SAMUEL, SHG TRAINER

### SELF-HELP GROUPS BRING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

In 2015, Tearfund introduced self-help groups (SHGs) to the CCM process, bringing together groups of 15 to 20 people to save a small amount between them each week. As capital grows, members can take small loans to pay for food, schooling, healthcare and home improvements, as well as investing in small businesses to increase household income.

So far, 174 SHGs have been set up across three geographical regions in Haiti. Tearfund has trained 122 volunteer facilitators to help the groups develop good relationships, set up their saving scheme and agree rules and procedures.

Combining CCM with SHGs in this way demonstrates how the church can be a facilitator of sustainable development and give people the tools and processes by which to support themselves, grow in confidence and become drivers of change in their own lives and communities. This is key to helping people be more resilient in the future.

The SHGs are sanctuaries where members can come to discuss their problems, find solutions and build a support network. Seventeen of Tearfund's SHGs were based in areas that were badly affected by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Being part of an SHG provided members with a safety net from which to access credit to repair their homes or restart income-generating activities.

Tearfund continues to provide resources to meet people's basic needs, but by also building people's capacity to help themselves Tearfund can have a more sustainable long-term impact:

*'People always describe Haiti in one way – the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. If all the churches work together, if people can access credit and start businesses, they can take care of themselves and their children. It might take a long time, but one day that perception will be different.'* Romnal Colas, CCM coordinator

### SELF-HELP GROUPS CHANGING LIVES

The Plaisance region of Haiti has been leading the way in introducing SHGs to its communities. The area is very poor, with a lack of government services, few income-generating opportunities and high incidence of disease.



Since members of the community were invited to join Tearfund's SHGs, to start saving small amounts of money among themselves, families have seen many positive changes in their living standards and have a more positive outlook.

The groups make small weekly savings which enable members to access credit to invest in income-generating activities and productive assets to grow their businesses and improve their standard of living. The groups are very proud of their progress.

*'I used to take loans from microfinance institutions, my economic situation was a disaster. But when I joined the SHG things became different, now I can take credit from what we, as a group, have saved together.'*

Daniel, SHG secretary

Beyond economic benefits, SHGs are having a holistic impact on the community. The members have received training about hygiene, income-generating activities and farming and, as a result, parents now have more money to spend on their children's education and healthcare.

*'We always make sure to build strong communication with the beneficiaries, we show them respect and dignity, we are there if they need someone to hear and listen to them. Many say this is the first time they have been treated like this.'*

ALI FAKHRULDDIN HUSSEIN, TEARFUND BENEFICIARY ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER , IRAQ





## BRINGING HOPE: HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND PEACEBUILDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has caused one of the largest, most volatile and most complex humanitarian crises in the world. Tearfund has been responding to the emergency needs of displaced communities from Syria and Iraq, as well as building the capacity of local peacebuilders to bring about longer-term stability and peace in the region.

### REASONS FOR OUR RESPONSE

To date, the conflict in Syria has taken the lives of an estimated 322,000 people and has caused large-scale displacement and humanitarian need.<sup>66</sup> About 85 per cent of the population are living in poverty, 6.3 million Syrians have been internally displaced and five million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, including Jordan and Lebanon.<sup>67</sup> They have had to leave everything behind – homes, possessions, jobs and communities.

The influx of refugees has put a huge strain on the host countries. The 1.5 million refugees who arrived in Lebanon, for example, have increased the country's population by 25 per cent.<sup>68</sup> Refugees are without adequate food, water, sanitation or shelter. Extended families can be found sharing one room or tent, and many children have been out of education for several years.

*'We were so scared, we didn't know what to do. We set up a makeshift tent with one room. All of us live there, my children and grandchildren, because we do not have money to pay rent. We have nothing here.'* – Miran, internally displaced person (IDP).

As the humanitarian need in Syria escalated, Tearfund launched its response to the crisis in 2013 and worked with international and local partners to meet the needs of Syrian refugees living in Jordan and Lebanon.

By 2014, ISIS controlled parts of Syria and moved swiftly to take territory in Iraq, causing the displacement of an estimated 3.1 million people by 2016.<sup>69</sup> In response, Tearfund began an operational programme in Iraq in 2014 to meet the needs of the internally displaced people (IDPs), who face very poor living conditions and emotional trauma.

The psychological impact of losing homes, professions and the ability to provide for one's family is huge. Men, who are traditionally the breadwinners and heads of household, are left frustrated and lacking self-esteem. These exceptional circumstances place a huge strain on personal relationships and can lead to cases of violence against women.

The urban environment in which this humanitarian crisis is unfolding presents unique challenges for a humanitarian response. Throughout the region, IDPs and refugees are located both in camps and within host communities, in abandoned or incomplete buildings, in makeshift shelters and rented rooms. This can make it difficult to identify those in need and creates new needs to be met, such as finding money for rent.

This chapter explores how Tearfund has been meeting the needs of people affected by conflict in the Middle East and how this response has been evolving in reaction to changes on the ground.

### OUR WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### CHURCHES ENVISIONED

Envisioning and equipping local churches to address humanitarian needs and bring transformation, hope and peace to their communities.



#### COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED

Researching and piloting new approaches to peacebuilding including training and empowering Local Communities of Peacebuilders.



#### POLICIES CHANGED

Advocating for the UK government to be a leader of the international community to increase humanitarian aid to the region.



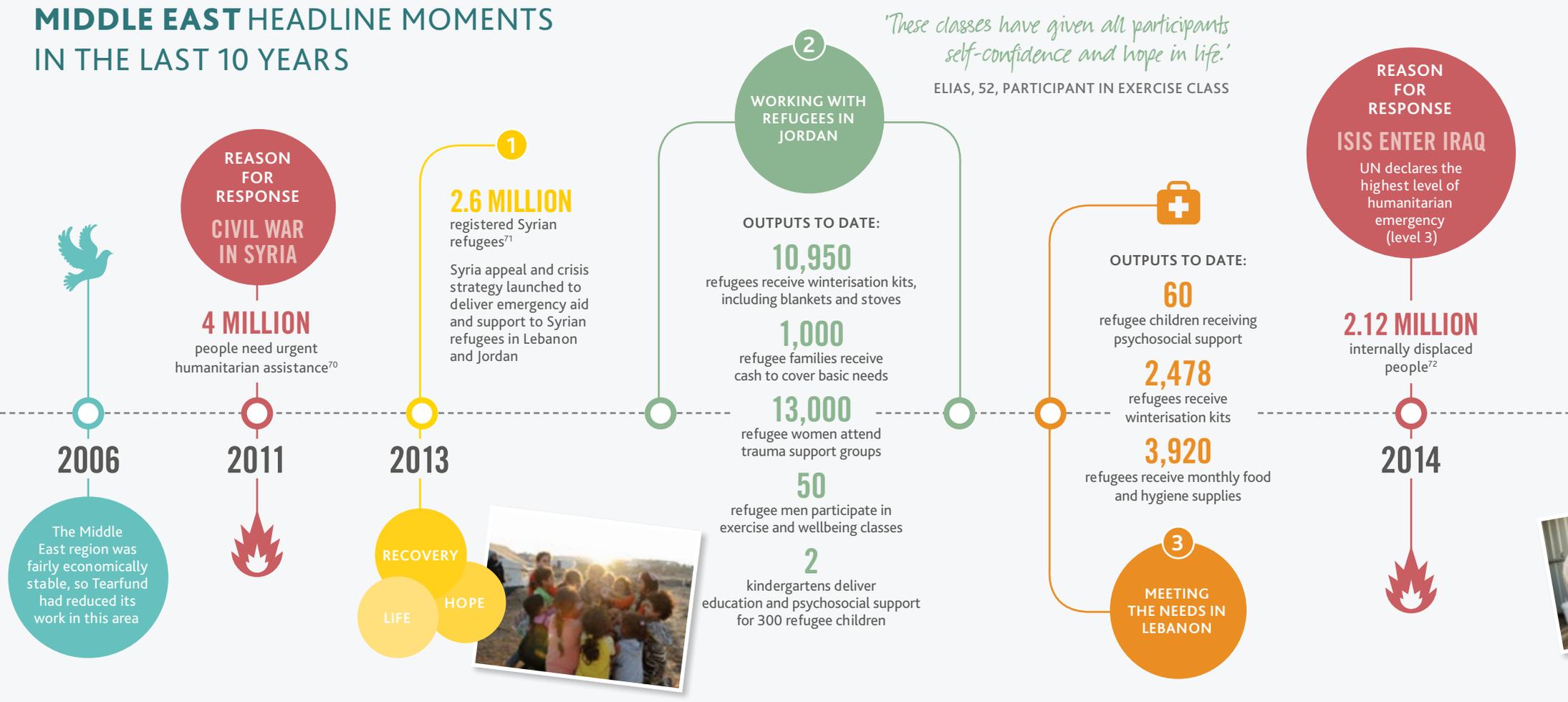
#### DISASTERS RESPONDED TO

Meeting the needs of people affected by the conflict through food, shelter, water and sanitation facilities, cash transfers, psychosocial support, trauma care and SGBV prevention.

*'I witnessed the war in Syria and I watched the buildings collapse next to my house, and then my house too. I heard bombs and I knew that everything was being damaged by war.'*

AIMAR, 10, SYRIAN REFUGEE

# MIDDLE EAST HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



## 1) SYRIA CRISIS STRATEGY

With the humanitarian crisis escalating in Syria, and growing numbers fleeing to neighbouring countries, Tearfund launched an emergency appeal and an initial two year Syria Crisis Strategy in February 2013. Working through international and national partners, Tearfund delivered vital aid and support to Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.

Tearfund's response was based on three principles: 'Life', to ensure the survival of displaced people and meet their basic needs; 'Recovery', to bring psychological healing and rebuild infrastructure and livelihoods; and 'Hope', to equip the church to play its part in restoring broken relationships.

## 2) WORK WITH REFUGEES IN JORDAN

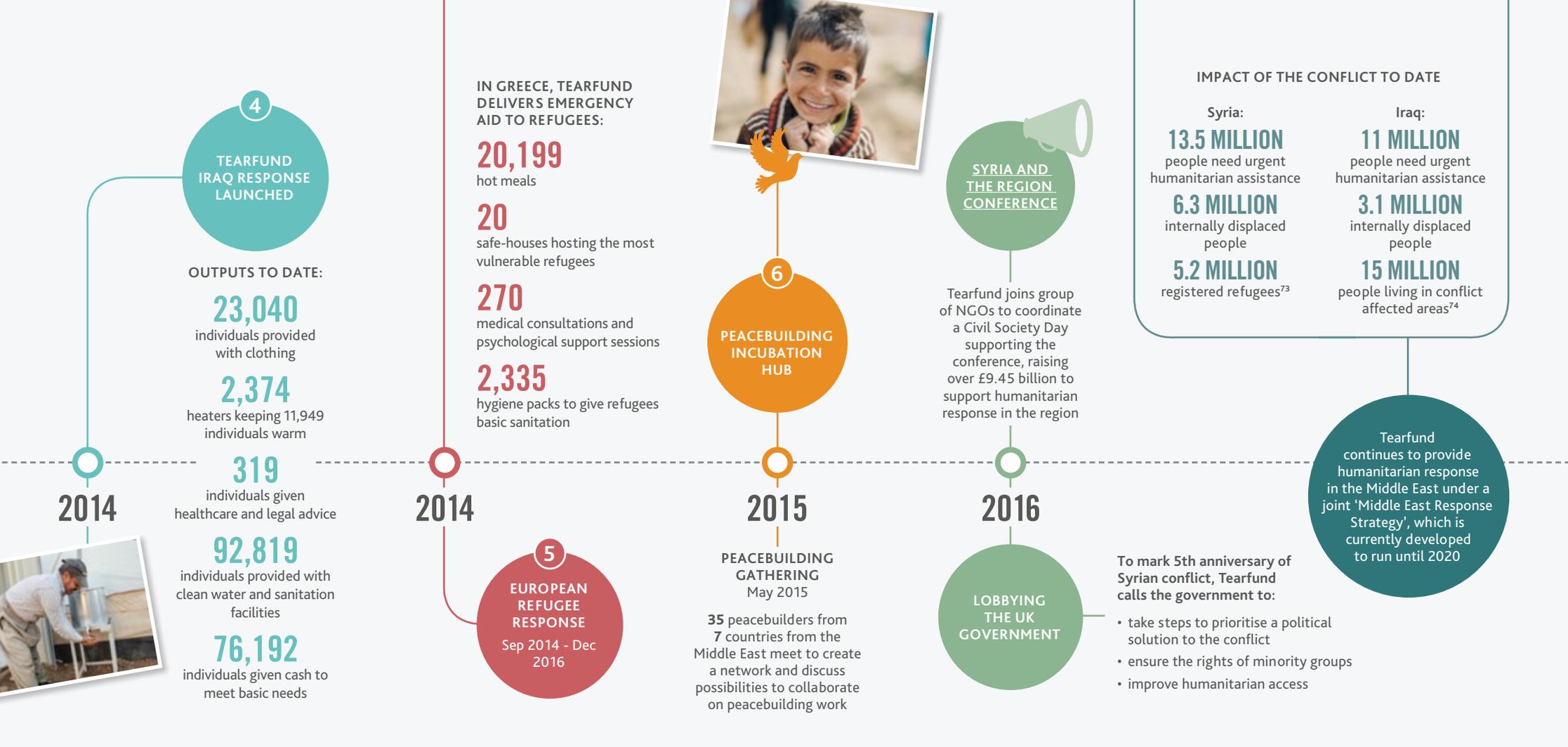
In Jordan, Tearfund worked with local partners to distribute essential items such as bedding, toiletries, kitchen equipment and 'winterisation

kits' to prepare refugees for the winter months. Through our partner Medair, Tearfund provided vulnerable families with money for rent and, later, to cover basic needs.

Tearfund also provides psychosocial support to refugees. One Tearfund partner runs support groups, with trained coaches, for refugee women to safely share and process their experiences. Another partner runs exercise classes for refugee men to help build positive physical and mental health and promote healthy relationships.

## 3) MEETING THE NEEDS IN LEBANON

In Lebanon Tearfund is working through local partners, including church-run organisations, to help refugee families cope with daily life by taking care of their nutritional, health and shelter-related needs. This shows how the local church can use its position and resources to understand and serve the needs of the refugees on their doorstep and begin to overcome deep historical divides between religious and ethnic groups.



#### 4) IRAQ RESPONSE

In 2014, Tearfund launched a direct operational programme in Iraq delivering quick and effective assistance to IDPs. The response first distributed essential items and later moved on to SGBV and protection work, WASH programming and cash assistance.

The WASH programme initially focused on delivering safe water and sanitation facilities, such as latrines, hygiene kits, handwashing facilities and access to clean water. The second

phase involved rehabilitating water sources and sanitation facilities for when IDPs returned home. The multi-purpose cash projects proved very effective as beneficiaries were empowered to determine how they spent their money to meet their emergency needs – maintaining their dignity and independence (see case study).

Tearfund continues to implement these activities, responding to new waves of IDPs as well as those still displaced.

#### 5) EUROPEAN REFUGEE RESPONSE

In continental Europe, refugees were arriving by sea in search of safety. Greece alone received 924,724 refugees, with half remaining in camps across the mainland and islands.<sup>75</sup> Donations from Tearfund's supporters enabled us to help local partners to deliver food, shelter and psychological support to those most in need, as they transited through.

#### 6) PEACEBUILDING

In 2015, Tearfund established its Peacebuilding Incubation Hub to explore its response to the growing number of fragile and conflict-affected states it was working in, with a key focus on piloting in the Middle East. Here, new models of peacebuilding are researched and tested and local Communities of Peacebuilders receive mentoring to develop and achieve their visions for restoring peace in their communities.



MIDDLE EAST CASE STUDY

## Maintaining Dignity: Cash programming with displaced communities

### SAMI'S STORY

Sami's life changed forever the night ISIS came to his village. 'I was a farmer and I enjoyed life in my village,' Sami says. 'There were no strangers, we were all relatives and friends who supported each other.'

Then one night, 'ISIS came through our streets on motorbikes shooting bullets in the air, I could not sleep, I was so worried for the safety of my family. I gathered my family, I did not have time to get my clothes or items from the house.'

Sami fled with his wife and six children, leaving everything behind. 'We were hoping to go back but there is nothing there now. ISIS have stolen our possessions, and our buildings and homes have been destroyed by the fighting.'

Sami and his family sought refuge in Kirkuk, Northern Iraq, but health problems kept Sami from working. Thanks to Tearfund's cash transfer programme the family can now meet their primary needs, such as purchasing essential items for the winter like heating and blankets.

They have felt respected and valued by Tearfund throughout the process: 'The Tearfund staff treated us with so much respect. They even had water for us and we were able to make copies of our documents,' said Sami.

*'Thank you so much, we have everything we need for winter. We are so grateful.'*



📷 Cash grants give people dignity and power to make choices for themselves. Photo: Abigail Drane/Tearfund

*'Each person has their own story, each family its unique strengths and challenges. Giving cash grants, where the context is appropriate, allows people to make choices for themselves. That is the true power of cash. This is dignity.'*

DORA PISCOI, TEARFUND CASH ADVISER

### WHAT IS CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMING (CTP)?

CTP is a form of humanitarian response that involves the provision of cash grants or vouchers to cover people's basic needs and support the economic recovery of communities affected by disasters.

Where the context allows for it, the use of CTP in emergencies is a popular response across the humanitarian sector, with widely recognised benefits.<sup>76</sup> Tearfund partners and operational teams have been implementing a variety of cash and voucher programmes for several years. In 2016 alone Tearfund implemented cash programmes in 12 countries, reaching 106,800 people.

The trend has been to move from cash assistance for specific needs, such as food or rent, to predominantly 'multi-purpose cash' that beneficiaries can spend on their specific emergency needs.

Evidence suggests that beneficiaries prefer receiving cash over in-kind assistance as it gives them the flexibility to prioritise their needs in a dignified way. When faced with disaster, people know what they need and spend money wisely.<sup>77</sup> There are also benefits for the local economy, as money is spent on local goods and services.

### KIRKUK, NORTHERN IRAQ

Cash transfers have been a key part of Tearfund's response to the Iraq conflict since 2014. As a result of the conflict many families have been forced to flee their homes and relocate to relatively safe areas, with many settling in the Kirkuk governorate.

The IDPs arrived with few possessions and took refuge in abandoned buildings, makeshift shelters, or with host families. They had limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities, had few income-generating opportunities and lacked essential items such as heating fuel, clothes and bedding. To survive, many IDPs were forced to reduce food consumption, send their children to work, sell assets or take out large loans.

Tearfund found that the needs of the displaced population were diverse and markets were functioning well enough for IDPs to purchase goods locally. Cash was therefore an appropriate form of assistance. An example of this work is the multi-purpose cash project run by Tearfund in Kirkuk from July 2015 to June 2016. An estimated 5,277 individuals from 1,282 of the most vulnerable households were reached with cash assistance.

Working with the wider humanitarian sector and the local government, Tearfund also developed a referral system to ensure IDPs

had access to other essential services, such as healthcare and psychological support. Tearfund led the Cash Working Group in Kirkuk to coordinate all cash programming activities in the area and develop standards of best practice.

### WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES CASH MAKE?

An evaluation conducted in 2016, found that cash grants helped beneficiaries to meet their diverse needs and avoid resorting to negative coping strategies. Beneficiaries preferred cash to any other kind of assistance since their needs were so varied; 98 per cent said they had no problem accessing markets to buy the resources they needed.<sup>78</sup>

Cash was predominantly spent on rent, medical expenses and food, with some families paying off their debts and a few investing in productive assets.

Beyond the economic benefits, cash had an important psychological impact. Beneficiaries said that they felt respected and dignified because they were trusted to choose how to spend their money and more relaxed knowing some of their urgent needs would be met.

Tearfund is committed to ensuring that beneficiaries feel trusted and empowered throughout their programmes and works hard to ensure the process of distributing cash is a comfortable and dignified process.

### THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS IN A CRISIS

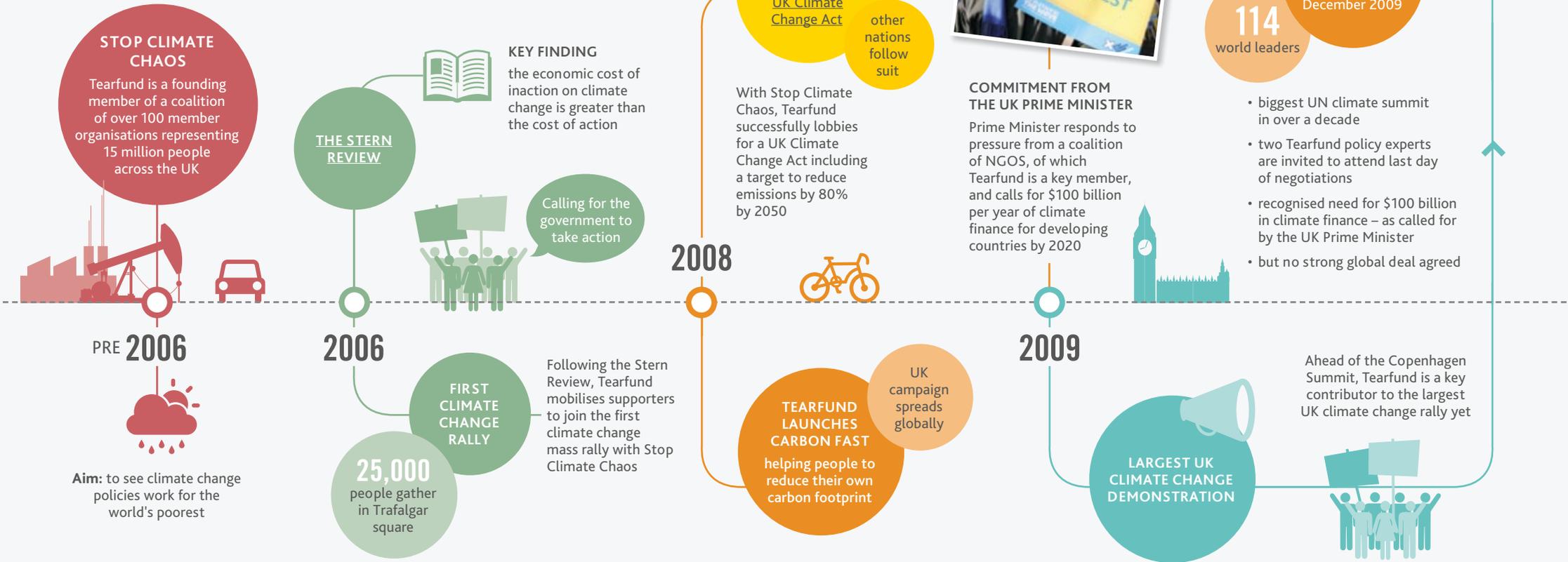
Understanding social connections and trust dynamics within communities is important to designing contextually appropriate relief and development work that builds on local resilience.

Tearfund is working with Queen Margaret University in an innovative research project in Iraq, analysing social connections and perceptions of trust within communities, in terms of meeting basic needs, conflict resolution, and SGBV.

This approach could help Tearfund, and other humanitarian agencies, to better understand community dynamics and social contexts, particularly among conflict-affected and displaced populations, and to design effective programmes that encourage local resilience.

This could benefit Tearfund's cash programming work by highlighting existing trusted local structures for meeting basic needs, which could be strengthened and supported through cash transfers, and exploring the levels of access and barriers for different groups – men and women, displaced or 'host' communities – to access support.

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY HEADLINE MOMENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



## RESTORING BALANCE TO OUR WORLD

Tearfund is committed to tackling the root causes of poverty, such as climate change, through advocacy. Climate change threatens the natural balance of the world. Tackling it is about both the environment and people. It's about securing a better life for future generations and communities today. Tearfund has been a pioneering voice telling decision-makers that the world's poorest communities need support to adapt to the effects of climate change and protection from greater impacts in the future.

In 1992, Tearfund became the first large international development NGO to work in this area, because of the effects being caused to its partners globally. Climate change has the potential to push over 100 million people back into poverty by 2030.<sup>79</sup> More frequent droughts and floods mean crops ruined, people going hungry, and children missing out on education.

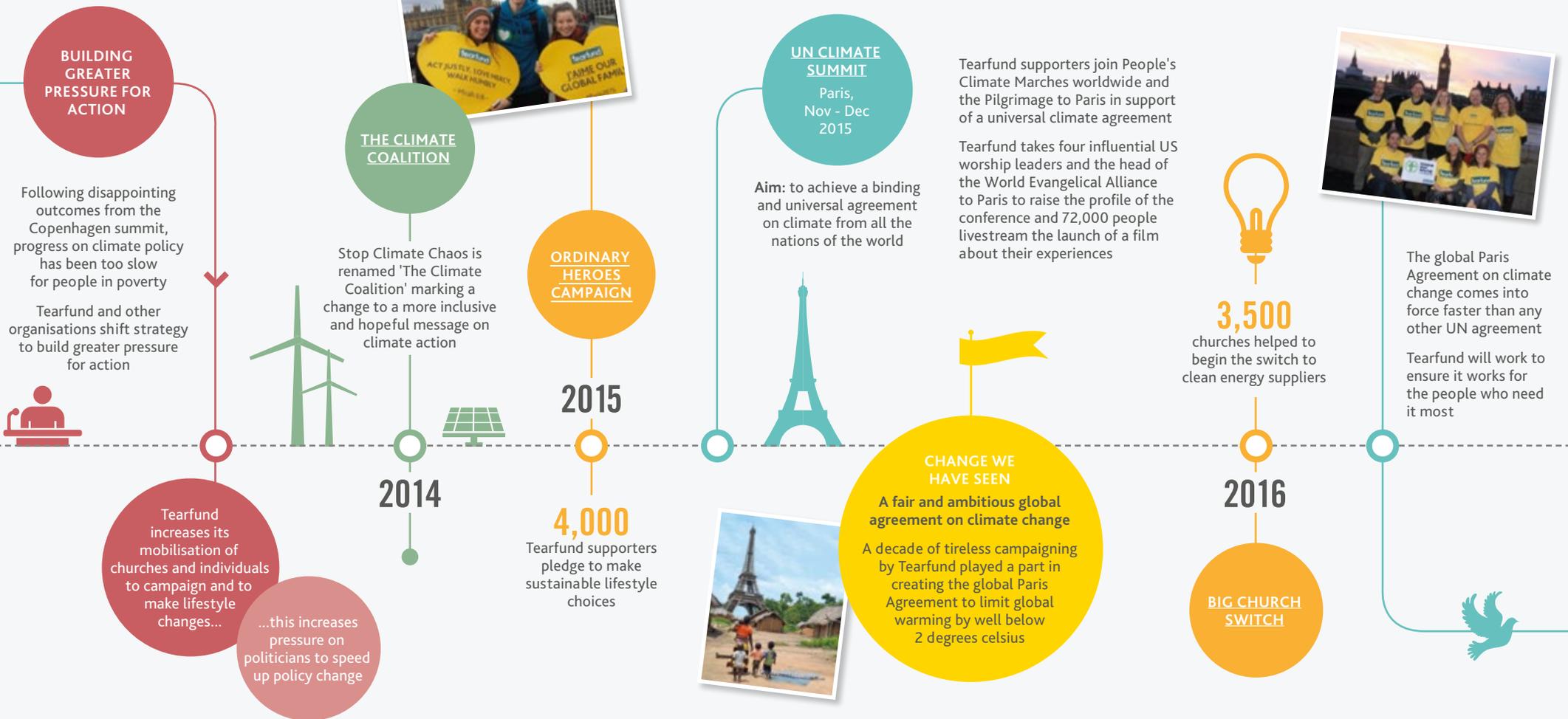
A global issue on the scale of climate change requires everyone to play their part. Tearfund has taken a collaborative approach, co-founding the

Stop Climate Chaos coalition in 2005. Tearfund brings something distinctive to coalitions, being recognised as a trusted voice on how climate change is impacting developing countries.

In 2009, the UK Prime Minister responded to pressure from a coalition – of which Tearfund was a key part – to call for US\$100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries adapt to climate change. The 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit recognised this need; these resources will have a positive impact on millions.

Internationally, however, progress was slow and not ambitious enough. Tearfund recognised that more public action and mass mobilisation was needed. Over the last decade, thousands have been mobilised to join climate rallies and change their own lifestyles. When thousands of people match their advocacy with changes to their own lives, decision-makers listen.

In 2016, an ambitious and binding global climate agreement came into force. Tearfund will work to ensure it works for the people who need it most.



### GERRY'S STORY

Part of Tearfund's advocacy work to see policies work for the world's poorest involves mobilising and supporting churches and individuals to campaign and make lifestyle changes.

Gerry Edwardson is one of the individuals who has journeyed with Tearfund in our campaign to bring about a more just and sustainable world.

Gerry joined one of Tearfund's 'Action Communities' where he was able to meet other like-minded people and learn skills to

live in a more fair and environmentally-friendly way. Gerry headed back to his church, Holy Trinity Northwood, convinced of the power of community to bring about change.

*'The Action Community is one of the most exciting things I have been involved with in recent years. The model for community has encouraged me to think wider and deeper and then develop my thoughts into actions.'*

With support from friends and a mentor from Tearfund, Gerry started mobilising and inspiring

his church to work towards becoming an Eco Church. This involves showing care for God's world in all aspects of church life, from looking after buildings and land, to engaging in the local community and in global campaigns.<sup>80</sup>

*'Lots of people have become involved – people on the very edge of the church have found their voice. As a church we have looked upwards and outwards.'*

Holy Trinity Northwood have held a Green Family Service, started a community garden, made bird

boxes and hedgehog homes, supported Tearfund's climate change campaigning and hosted a meeting with their local MP, the Minister of State for Climate Change, at their church. As a result the church recently achieved the Eco Church Bronze Award and they are now planning how they can develop their environmentally-friendly outlook in the future.

*'It has been a very great privilege to journey with Tearfund in their campaign to bring about a more just and sustainable world.'*

# CONCLUSIONS

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Over the last 10 years we have learnt many lessons about what is working well and how we can improve to do better work in the future. We are committed to continually reflecting, learning and adapting to make sure we have the most positive impact on the people we seek to serve. Some of the key lessons we have learnt over our 10-year journey include:



### OUTCOME 1

## CHURCHES ENVISIONED

- The local church has an important role to play in bringing about whole-life transformation that touches all aspects of people's lives – spiritual, social, emotional, physical and economic.
- The CCM process is an effective and sustainable model of community development because it builds the capacity of local churches and communities to lead positive change, using their own resources. There can be social dynamics that may exclude marginalised groups from the process, so it is important to be aware of power relationships and intentionally include the most vulnerable.
- Working with faith leaders to address challenging issues has a strong impact because of their authority and influence over community norms and behaviours. Faith leaders may need to go through a process of transformation themselves so that they are aware and committed to address the underlying issues.



### OUTCOME 2

## COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED

- Empowering communities to lead their own development, using their own resources, can create a sustainable way of reducing poverty. For many communities resources are still limited and the government does not always fulfil its obligations. Communities need support to identify and access local government resources as part of addressing their development needs.
- Many communities are struggling to cope with the challenges posed by climate change and significant shocks, such as drought, which threaten livelihoods and income. It is critical to support communities to develop resilience to these challenges.
- Integrating technology into development work offers exciting opportunities to improve efficiency and impact, and in some of the contexts in which we work people are more ready to adopt new technologies than in more technologically advanced countries.



### OUTCOME 3

## POLICIES CHANGED

- The local church often provides an effective space to strengthen local governance and accountability to local communities by bridging the gap between communities and government. First the church needs to be envisioned to understand its role in addressing injustice and poverty.
- Advocacy can take many years to see impact and the church can be a key game-changer. At a global, national and local level, the church is speaking out and acting against poverty, inequality and environmental issues.
- Successful advocacy requires multi-generational engagement to envision and mobilise future generations to bring about positive change.



### OUTCOME 4

## DISASTERS RESPONDED TO

- Working through networks of international and local partners is an effective way of delivering aid, utilising local knowledge and building local expertise for future disaster response. The need for immediate relief must be balanced with local ownership, especially where the local organisation may itself have been directly impacted by the disaster.
- Alongside meeting survivors' physical needs, it is crucial to address their emotional and mental wellbeing, in order to address their immediate trauma and build self-esteem, dignity and hope for the future. Building strong and healthy social and personal relationships is key to ensuring long-term resilience.
- In conflict situations, it is important to consider how to promote peace and reconciliation in the longer term by working with local peacebuilders. This is often more complex and takes far longer than delivering immediate aid.

## WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Gains have been made globally over the past 10 years in reducing the number of people in extreme poverty, but there is still more we feel called to do. The new Sustainable Development Goals strive to leave no one behind, with a focus on the most vulnerable in the hardest-to-reach places. This matches Tearfund's calling to reach out to those in extreme poverty; to see individual lives, communities and nations changed and transformed. We seek to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, and ensure the last is first.

We will see an ever-increasing number of people living in extreme poverty located in the most fragile and hostile places. We are seeing unprecedented levels of migration and displacement; environmental change; increasing natural disasters; over-consumption hitting the poorest the hardest; and the rise of digital technology supporting, but also disrupting, traditional ways of working.

**Tearfund feels called and equipped to respond to these challenges in the following ways:**

**Church and community transformation:** As our chapters on Uganda and Myanmar show, we are seeing churches awakened and taking a frontline role to see their own communities transformed, not just physically through livelihoods, assets and health, but also by bringing a message of hope, dignity and peace.

We will further expand our work to support churches and faith leaders to change negative social norms and respond to crises, such as those highlighted in the DRC, Haiti and the Middle East.

**Fragile states:** By 2030 most of the world's poor will be living in fragile states.<sup>81</sup> We are committed to going where the need is greatest and responding to the dynamic global and national contexts by further strengthening our work in these countries, committing to long-term solutions and support for those in greatest need.

In Nigeria, we have balanced responding to crisis with supporting longer-term development. Our work in the Middle East and the DRC shows how relationships, dignity and hope are critical in conflict situations. We believe Tearfund and its partners have a unique role to play in restoring relationships, dignity and hope, in the midst of instability and fragility.

**Environmental and economic sustainability:** There is a high risk that the progress made in poverty reduction will be undone by environmental degradation. We will, along with the church and our partners at the global, national and local levels, champion the reduction of negative impacts of climatic change on the poorest communities. We will work to find the most appropriate solutions to help communities both adapt and sustainably support their livelihoods and create future opportunities.

In Malawi, we are discovering new ways of tackling changing climatic conditions and pressure for resources in order to strengthen and support vulnerable communities. Our work in Nigeria has enabled us to support initiatives on environmental management and adapt to climate change. Our global advocacy has positioned us well to continue speaking into climate change, how it impacts the most vulnerable and the ways to combat it. The church will continue to be our key ally and collective voice.

As people move out of extreme poverty, we will see countries shift from poor to middle-income status. We will work with the church and partners in these countries to enable them to be key agents of change, so that they, as local actors, are at the forefront of development gains in their countries. Cambodia is one such place, and the work we have been doing to support and build up the capacity of the church and partners is an example of how together we are supporting and catalysing leaders.

The year, 2018, will be an exciting one for Tearfund as we celebrate all that has been achieved over the past 50 years. Motivated by the relentless love of Jesus, we continue to follow him to where the need is greatest and we are closer than ever to ending extreme poverty.

We will be launching a new strategy that will set out our vision and mission, outworking the three areas. The good news today is that we have seen incredible release and restoration through our work with local churches around the world. We have much to be thankful for that is only possible with the support and commitment of the communities, churches, partners, staff, donors, supporters and volunteers, who walk the journey with us. And we still have work to do. So let's together recommit to ending extreme poverty for good. We won't stop until poverty stops.



Myles Harrison  
International Director



Ruth Valerio  
Global Advocacy and Influencing Director

## ANNEX A

## EVIDENCE LIST

The following is a list of significant evaluations and research used as evidence for this report. We have scored our evaluations against the Bond Evidence Principles to ensure quality in the evidence used. Only evidence that scored 40 or above was chosen to be included. The scores have been assessed and cross-checked by Tearfund's Impact and Effectiveness Team.

This list does not represent all the evidence used in the report – only the significant evaluations and research documents. The Impact Narratives were constructed by triangulating different sources of evidence, including project reports, annual reports, interviews and qualitative and observational knowledge from our teams and partners.

Country	Report title	Type	Date	Bond Evidence Principles score
Uganda	Participatory evaluation process implemented by PAG	Evaluation	2008	74
	Church and community mobilisation process by PAG, Soroti	Evaluation	2011	61
	Capacity enhancement project	Evaluation	2015	74
	<i>Bridging the gap</i>	Research Report	2016	77
	<i>Faithful and flourishing communities: The church's role in community transformation in Uganda</i>	Research Report	2016/17	83
Myanmar	Evaluation of the capacity building programme for Myanmar Baptist Convention	Evaluation	2008	48
	Cyclone Nargis evaluation report	Evaluation	2010	41
	Telling the story of Eden	Review Report	2014	68
	<i>Social Capital, Resilience and the Local Church</i>	Research Report	2014	82
	<i>Our Daughters' Voices</i>	Research Report	2016	69
Cambodia	Integrated rural community development programme	Evaluation	2006-2008	50
	Integrated rural community development programme	Evaluation	2012	53
Malawi	<i>Investing in communities: the benefits and costs of building food security in Malawi</i>	Research Report	2010	68
	Improving food security and livelihoods of rural households in Salima district, Malawi	Evaluation	2015	73
	Malawi: water and climate justice project	Evaluation	2015	61
	Enhancing water management project, Malawi	Evaluation	2016	52
	Khwamba sustainable livelihoods improvement project	Evaluation	2017	62
Nigeria	FCS Aid4Life programme	Evaluation	2012-2015	52
DRC	Faith-based coalition on holistic responses to HIV and gender in eastern DRC	Evaluation	2014	67
	Engaging faith groups in preventing sexual violence in conflict affected communities in DRC	Evaluation	2016	64
Haiti	Real time evaluation of Tearfund's Haiti earthquake response	Real Time Review	2010	42
	Disaster Management Team programme evaluation	Evaluation	2012	57
	Haiti mid-term learning review	Learning Review	2012	46
	Evaluation of the Umoja approach	Evaluation	2014	53
Middle East	Syria appeal real time review	Real Time Review	2013	66
	Emergency cash assistance for displaced households in northern Iraq	Evaluation	2016	73
	Evaluation of European refugee response 2015	Evaluation	2017	64



*'If another big drought hit, it wouldn't be like before, ample food would still be available within the community since some farmers have greatly increased their production and we have savings from previous years...we are much more secure now.'*

PARTICIPANT FROM TEARFUND'S DISASTER RISK REDUCTION TRAINING, MALAWI

## ANNEX B

## ABBREVIATIONS

**ANC** – Antenatal Care

**CA** – Conservation agriculture

**CAG** – Community Action Group

**CCM** – Church and community mobilisation

**CHO** – Cambodian Hope Organisation

**CTP** – Cash Transfer Programming

**DFID** – Department for International Development

**DRC** – Democratic Republic of Congo

**DRR** – Disaster risk reduction

**ICD** – Integrated Community Development programme

**MBC** – Myanmar Baptist Convention

**MCPPP** – Malawi Church Partnership Programme

**MoH** – Ministry of Hope

**NGO** – Non-governmental organisation

**ODI** – Overseas Development Institute

**PAG** – Pentecostal Assemblies of God

**PSVI** – Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative

**QuIP** – Qualitative Impact Assessment Protocol

**SGBV** – Sexual and gender-based violence

**SHGs** – Self-help groups

**SWIFT** - Sustainable WASH In Fragile contexts

**TNE** – Theology Network Engagement

**WASH** – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**WHO** – World Health Organization

## ANNEX C

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📷 Boys in a village in Bihar, India. Photo: Jenny Barthow/Tearfund

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Cover photo: Women in Kigezi district, Uganda, prepare lunch for the community who are building a rainwater harvesting tank with help from Tearfund. Marcus Perkins/Tearfund  
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