

Tearfund's definition of integral mission

Integral Mission is the work of the church in contributing to the positive physical, spiritual, economic, psychological and social transformation of people. Tearfund is particularly committed to working with people who are living in poor communities.

Micah Declaration

Integral mission is the church speaking of and living out its faith in Jesus Christ in an undivided way in every aspect of life. The Micah Declaration on Integral Mission states: "It is not simply that evangelism and social involvement are to be done alongside each other. Rather, in integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. If we ignore the world we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God we have nothing to bring to the world. Justice and justification by faith, worship and political action, the spiritual and the material, personal change and structural change belong together. As in the life of Jesus, being, doing and saying are at the heart of our integral task."

Tearfund and integral mission

The aspect of integral mission that Tearfund particularly supports is the work of the local church in contributing to the economic, physical, psychological, social and spiritual transformation of poor people. Tearfund recognises that poverty is the result of a social and structural legacy of broken relationships with God, damaged understanding of self, unjust relationships between people, and exploitative relationships with the environment. Integral mission is the prayerful and God-guided work of helping to restore these relationships where they are broken, and is a work that takes place at both a human and cosmic level. The community of Jesus' disciples is the key context in which restored relationships are expressed, so, the local church, as a caring, inclusive, servant-hearted and witnessing community, is central to the task of integral mission.

Evidence of integral mission

In supporting integral mission, Tearfund would expect to see evidence of:

- Basic needs being met - the meeting of people's absolute basic needs for food, water, sanitation, health, shelter, education and information
- Participation and empowerment – the enabling of poor people to make choices, take part in actions and decisions that affect their lives, and become agents for change
- Good stewardship of resources – the sustainable and compassionate use and distribution of resources, ensuring that the material needs of all are met now and in the future
- Advocacy – the engagement of people in advocacy to address structural injustice and to protect the vulnerable
- Values change – the recognition by people of their true worth as made in the image of God, and the challenge and transformation of their values and worldview
- Local church engagement - the encouragement of sustainable Christian communities in their commitment to Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and their service of the poor
- Opportunities for exploration of the Christian faith – the provision of opportunities for people to encounter, acknowledge and follow the lordship of Jesus Christ.
- Christians in leadership - Christians serving their communities and taking positions of leadership and responsibility outside the church.

Tearfund is a Christian relief and development agency building a global network of local churches to help eradicate poverty

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