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 image 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.

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. 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.
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.
1. AWARENESS-RAISING
6,900 people educated about trafficking through prevention campaigns
4,542 children taught how to stay safe

2. EDUCATION
645 children attend educational summer camps

3. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS
74 people receive vocational skill training
97 access credit for business
310 families trained in sustainable farming

4. EMPOWERING THE LOCAL CHURCH
100 church leaders trained annually
12 local churches receive one-to-one support to do livelihoods work in their communities
42 churches trained and implementing CCM

5. CHANGE WE HAVE SEEN
• healthier and more abundant crops
• improved health and nutrition
• surplus crops increase household income

6. 6,900 people educated about trafficking through prevention campaigns
7. 4,542 children taught how to stay safe
8. 645 children attend educational summer camps
9. 74 people receive vocational skill training
10. 97 access credit for business
11. 310 families trained in sustainable farming
12. 100 church leaders trained annually
13. 12 local churches receive one-to-one support to do livelihoods work in their communities
14. 42 churches trained and implementing CCM

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.’

‘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. EMPOWERING THE LOCAL CHURCH TO RESPOND
CAMBODIA AWARDED MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY STATUS

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING
Tearfund’s Global Volunteering Team facilitate short-term overseas placements for young people to volunteer with global partners. In the last 10 years, 209 young people have volunteered with the Cambodian Hope Organisation (CHO). The experience is one of mutual learning and encouragement between the staff and volunteers. ‘We’re always excited to have teams come to volunteer with us. They are like our family and are always welcome.’

LEETA JUMP, PROGRAMME QUALITY COORDINATOR, CHO

Photos (left to right): Ralph Hodgson, Layton Thompson, Will Baxter, Rosa Micheljump/Tearfund
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.

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.’
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.

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
## 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Report title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Bond Evidence Principles score</th>
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<td>Evaluation</td>
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<td>Church and community mobilisation process by PAG, Soroti</td>
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<td>Capacity enhancement project</td>
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<td>Bridging the gap</td>
<td>Research Report</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>Faithful and flourishing communities: The church’s role in community transformation in Uganda</td>
<td>Research Report</td>
<td>2016/17</td>
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<td>Myanmar</td>
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<td>Cyclone Nargis evaluation report</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
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<td>Telling the story of Eden</td>
<td>Review Report</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>Social Capital, Resilience and the Local Church</td>
<td>Research Report</td>
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<td>Our Daughters’ Voices</td>
<td>Research Report</td>
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<td>Malawi</td>
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<td>Research Report</td>
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<td>Improving food security and livelihoods of rural households in Salima district, Malawi</td>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>Engaging faith groups in preventing sexual violence in conflict affected communities in DRC</td>
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<td>Disaster Management Team programme evaluation</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the Umoja approach</td>
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<td>Middle East</td>
<td>Syria appeal real time review</td>
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<td>Emergency cash assistance for displaced households in northern Iraq</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Evaluation of European refugee response 2015</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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</table>
‘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
**ABBREVIATIONS**

ANC – Antenatal Care  
CA – Conservation agriculture  
CAG – Conservation agriculture  
CA – Antenatal Care  
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  
MCPP – 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

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Following Jesus where the need is greatest