



tearfund

# INSPIRING CHANGE

IMPACT & LEARNING REPORT 2017

*celebrating a 10-year vision*

# 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.

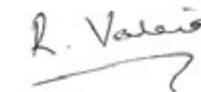
As people move out of extreme poverty, we will see countries shift from poor to middle-income status. We will work with the church and partners in these countries to enable them to be key agents of change, so that they, as local actors, are at the forefront of development gains in their countries. Cambodia 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

## REFERENCE LIST

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

Following Jesus where  
the need is greatest

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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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