

# tearfund



Tearfund's partner TNT is promoting peace in Mali and helping families displaced by conflict. (Photo: JEM, Tearfund)

## PEACE BUILDING IN TIMBUKTU, MALI

ANNUAL REPORT

January 2015 to December 2015

## Summary

Tearfund partner TNT (Tahanint N'Massinag E Tinbuktu which means 'Merciful Grace of God for Timbuktu') has been working in Timbuktu, central Mali, to promote peace and healing in communities which have been affected by food shortages and conflict. Due to high levels of conflict, seven out of ten families in Northern Mali were forced to flee their homes. The project supports people who have been displaced from their communities, through providing food, financial support for income generating activities, repairing schools and supporting radio stations to promote peace and reconciliation.

**The results:** The project has provided 50 vulnerable households with food, supported women to set up small businesses through ten self-help groups, repaired and renovated three schools, financially supported a school to improve the food it provides for children and supported nine radio stations which are promoting messages of peace, hope and reconciliation.

**Thank you so much for your support.**

## How has the project made a difference?

The impact of this project is reflected through many positive testimonies received by our partners working in the area.

**Alhad Imalast Ag, President of CGS school in Tassinsack:** 'For a long time, we'd been approaching humanitarian organisations regarding the canteen situation in our school. The harvest has not been good this year, so families were finding it really hard to meet the nutritional needs of their children. Your help has exceeded our expectations - I know that it's not a lot for you, but for us, it's enormous. You cannot teach an empty stomach! We pray that God will bless your partner that has been helping us. Thank you again, and know that women and children are at the heart of the work you do.'

**Mahammad-Ahmad Ag Houley, Koyra humanitarian camp manager:** 'Your intervention at this time in our lives can only be explained as an act of divine providence. The work you have done has changed the very face of our camp. Look at the women in their market gardens; they are more enthusiastic than before and the children are going to school on time with full stomachs. What more can be said? Take a stroll on the site and you will see for yourself.'

With your help, 477 people like Alhad and Mahammed have directly benefited from the work of this project, and thousands more have indirectly benefited. Alhad's words are so true: you cannot teach an empty stomach. The provision of food to vulnerable households and schools is enabling children to learn and study well, creating a brighter future for some of Mali's emerging generation. The self-help groups for women in places like the Koyra camp is providing mutual support and the opportunity to save and receive loans for starting small businesses. As Mahammed says, women have grown in enthusiasm and confidence. They are seeing the fruits of their hard work, are better able to feed their families, and this is having a ripple effect throughout the community.

## WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

- People's mindsets and behaviour towards each other are changing as 58 hours of peace and reconciliation messages have been broadcasted.
- Women are better able to feed their families, are growing in economic independence and are receiving greater respect from their husbands and communities. Five financial support groups are benefiting 250 refugee women.

- Hunger and malnourishment are being reduced as 50 vulnerable households have been provided with rice, oil and millet on a monthly basis.
- Further conflict is being prevented as 15 religious leaders have cooperated with TNT to spread messages of peace, harmony and reconciliation.
- Children are able to attend school and learn in safe environments as three schools (Infouzwane, Teshagt and Illoi) have had repairs and renovation work completed to roofs, toilets, windows and doors.
- Children are able to concentrate in class and learn effectively because they have enjoyed a nutritious school lunch thanks to the transformation of the canteen at Tassinsack.

## WHAT IMPACT WILL THIS HAVE IN THE FUTURE?

The goal of this project is to change the environment and atmosphere around Timbuktu by spreading messages of peace and hope through radio broadcasting, helping to prevent conflict as more stable conditions are created and people are helped to overcome the challenges they face.

TNT's commitment to helping all in the community, regardless of their ethnicity, religion or gender is bringing people together and showing God's love freely and without restriction.

It has been encouraging to see community and religious leaders from all sides supporting this work, including those who requested an increase in the amount of radio broadcasts following recent attacks by insurgents. They broadcast a total of 58 hours rather than the planned 30 hours. Our hope and prayer is that the messages of peace will bring people together to help create a safer and more peaceful Mali.

## How were the resources used?

Thank you so much for your support. The final amount spent from January 2015 to December 2015 was **£35,840\*\***. A breakdown of the activities and items is below.

ACTIVITY OR ITEM	REVISED BUDGETED (£)	SPENT (£)
Awareness raising among religious and local leaders and the population in 8 areas of Timbuktu	3,430	3,514
Planning, production and broadcast of radio programmes	4,014	3,977
Financial support to ten women's self help groups	3,368	3,368
Food distribution to 50 households	3,930	3,930
Support for meals in schools	674	674
Repairs to school buildings	3,368	3,368
Salaries	11,937	11,937
Annual audit for project	589	0 (Audit was in June 2016)
Monitoring and evaluation costs	965	871
Water/electricity supply costs	421	421
Sub-total	32,696	32,060
UK support costs*	5,323	3,780
Total	38,019	35,840

*\* using an exchange rate of £1 to 890.657 CFA Francs*

*\*\* Tearfund allocates a proportion of gifts directed to specific projects towards our wider work. 7% of this goes towards supporting Tearfund's overseas work in areas of greatest need, and 7% covers running costs in the UK. This is essential for Tearfund's work as a whole and we thank you for this support.*

## PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY

- Praise God for the work of TNT in Timbuktu and for the lives changed by their work.
- Please pray for peace and stability in the Timbuktu area and throughout Mali.
- Please pray that many people, Christian and Muslim alike, will act on the peace building messages broadcasted.

**'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matthew 6:9)**

## THANK YOU

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