

TearTimes

Autumn '24

 tearfund.org

Rubbish revolution

Reducing waste in
Pakistan

Year in review

See your impact

Tears of Gold

The power of portraits

**Displaced by conflict
but united in love**



tearfund

Welcome

Climate change closes schools



It was a real privilege to visit South Sudan back in March. There I saw first hand how your support is enabling people to release themselves from poverty through our Transforming Communities work with local churches. Thank you.

What I wasn't prepared for was the almost unbearable heat. During the visit, the South Sudanese government issued advice on how to cope as temperatures reached 47°C.

As we sat, sheltered under a mango tree, I asked Rev Canon Edward Jale from the Diocese of Kajo Keji what the extreme weather meant for his community.

'They have closed schools because the extreme heat is too much,' he said. 'It's also harming our harvests. Earlier there was only a little harvest because there was too much rain last year. Our prayer is that God will answer us and immediately bring rain so that it cools the weather.'

Thanks to your prayers and donations, we are supporting communities across the world as they face increasingly volatile and destructive conditions. In the centre pages, you can read a special pull-out impact report which demonstrates how your prayers and generous giving are making a huge difference across the world.

Alongside climate change, conflict is another growing threat to people's lives and health. On page 8, you can find out how your generous support is reaching out and helping families displaced by violence in the Central African Republic.

Thank you and God bless,

Peter Shaw, **Editor**

✉ @TearTimes ✉ editor@tearfund.org

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Cover image: Djara from the Central African Republic
Photo: SAPROD TV/Tearfund

News

Jonas, left, and John, right, worked for Tearfund for many years, following Jesus where the need is greatest.

Photo: Tearfund



Tearfund staff killed in the DRC

Two Tearfund aid workers have been killed in an attack in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Please continue to pray with us.

The two staff members, Jonas and John, were travelling in a convoy from Lubero with a group of colleagues on Sunday 30 June. The convoy was attacked as it arrived in Butembo. The majority of the team escaped, but tragically Jonas and John were killed.

Nigel Harris, Tearfund CEO, said: 'I am utterly devastated by the deaths of Jonas and John in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our staff work selflessly to serve communities living in poverty. This news came as a huge shock to all of us at Tearfund.'

Our priority is to continue to support Jonas and John's families as they continue to grieve. We're also working with the local authorities to ensure the safety and security of our remaining staff in the country. We are working with their families to provide support and the wider team in the DRC in their shock and grief.

'I am utterly devastated by the deaths of Jonas and John'

Please pray for the families and friends of Jonas and John, that God will provide everything they need in this time of crisis. Also pray for the remaining 12 people who were caught up in the attack, thank God that they have returned home safely, and pray for their continued recovery.



See *Prayer Diary* page 8 to pray

Please pray for an ambitious plastics treaty

Tearfund took your concerns about plastic pollution to the United Nations negotiators in April, as efforts continue to agree on a global plastics treaty in Ottawa, Canada.

Millions of communities in Latin and Central America, Africa, and Asia are forced to dump or burn their waste, releasing toxic fumes that cause breathing difficulties for those more vulnerable, particularly children and the elderly.

Miriam Moreno, Tearfund's Environmental and Economic Sustainability regional manager for Latin America and the Caribbean attended the UN talks. She said, 'The treaty is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring about an end to the worldwide problem of plastic pollution.'



Pastor Vásquez from Church of God in El Rincón, Honduras

Photo: None Guevara/Tearfund

'It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring about an end to plastic pollution'

The final session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution will be held from 25 November to 1 December this year in Busan, South Korea. Please pray that an ambitious agreement is reached.



See *Prayer Diary* page 14 to pray



Lent Appeal

Your amazing support is transforming lives in Bangladesh and beyond

Thank you to all of you who prayed and generously donated to our Lent Appeal. Your gifts are helping churches to be at the heart of transformation in their communities in Bangladesh and around the world.

Kamona's fishing net which helps provide an income

Photo: Amit Rudro/Tearfund

Kamona's church changed her life when they gave her a fishing net, enabling her to provide enough food for her children. She's gone from barely surviving to thriving.

'Many more people will be released into their God-given potential'

'I was given a net, weight [for the net] and a large pot, with which I started fishing,' Kamona says.

Now Kamona can go fishing every day, and sell her catch at the local market to earn money and support her family. Your support means many more people, like her, will be released into their God-given potential. Thank you.



James' epic run across the UK for Tearfund

James Norman, 23, from Coventry set off from Land's End in Cornwall on 30 March. He completed his run across the UK, reaching John O'Groats on 12 June. What an amazing achievement!

That's a gruelling 1,406.5km (874 miles) – carrying a tent and cooking stove in his backpack – to support people living in poverty across the world. James said he wanted to show that 'you can achieve anything'.

'I genuinely thought this would be a good story for the grandkids,' James explains. 'If I'm ever going to do something like this, it's now while I'm young.'

'I've also had some inspiration from Russ Cook and I thought that's such an amazing challenge and I wanted to do something on a bit of a smaller scale.' Known as the 'Hardest Geezer', Russell Cook finished his run of the full length of Africa in April. ▶



James paced his journey by covering 12 miles each day, apart from Sundays, which he used as rest days. He documented his travels to 8,500 followers on TikTok and said that the highlight of the run was meeting people on the way. James travelled on his own, often camping or staying in hostels.

'I genuinely thought this would be a good story for the grandkids'

'I've never run a marathon in my life,' James said. 'To be honest, I'm not the best runner and the most distance I've done in the past is around 12 miles.'

With donations still coming in, he's raised **£8,589** so far. What a superstar, we're so grateful, James!

📍 Land's End to John O'Groats runner James Norman meets Emmanuel Murangira, Tearfund's Rwanda Country Director en route
Photos: James Norman, Graeme McMeekin/Tearfund

You'll think you're seeing double in Barnard Castle

Ian Blake has completed a toilet-twinning marathon that he started in his home town, Barnard Castle in 2019, shortly after he retired.



'I wanted to find a little project to help me get to know people in the community,' Ian says. 'I started going to the St Mary's Community Choir and asked if the church would take a collection for Toilet Twinning, and they were great!'

St Mary's church was the first place Ian encouraged to twin their toilets in the town. Five years later, more churches, schools, scouts, cafés, pubs, clubs and many homes have joined them. It culminated in his 101st toilet twinned at 1st Barnard Castle Scouts. After that amazing achievement, Ian has decided to retire from twinning toilets too. Thank you Ian, you are amazing!

Have you linked your loo? Every twinned toilet helps fund a community project to help families build a basic toilet, access clean water and learn about hygiene. To find out more, visit toilettwinning.org, email info@tearfund.org or call **020 3906 3906**.



See **Prayer Diary** page 13 to pray

📍 Ian Blake at a local primary school in Barnard Castle that has twinned its toilets Photo: Toilet Twinning

Prayer pulse

Giving thanks for

- The lives being transformed across the world thanks to your generous donations to our Lent Appeal featuring Bangladesh (page 5).
- Incredible athlete James Norman who completed a run from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for Tearfund (page 6).
- Determined toilet-twinning Ian Blake, whose efforts are providing dignity and better health to 101 homes worldwide (page 7).

Praying for

- A robust and legally binding plastics treaty that will save lives in low-income communities across the world (page 4).
- The amazing impact that your gifts and prayers have made over the last year (centre pages).
- More communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo to seek peace and reconciliation to prevent escalating conflict (page 22).

Displaced by conflict

but united in love

One family's story of rebuilding their lives after fleeing violence in the Central African Republic

Written by Peter Shaw, Tear Times Editor
Photos by SAPROD TV/Tearfund

In recent years, the Ouaka region of the Central African Republic (CAR), its capital, Bambari, and outlying villages have been badly affected by violence. The latest wave of fighting between armed groups swept over CAR following the presidential election in December 2020, once again bringing the country to breaking point. Conflict forced many families to flee to safety. **Djara**, aged 35, her husband and children, were among them, leaving their home and possessions behind. This is their story.

'We used to have a good life. We had cattle, we raised chickens, goats – even turtles. I was the one who took care of our chickens. We'd have enough eggs for my children and more eggs to sell.'

'My husband looked after the cows. Every day we'd have fresh cow's milk to sell and earn money to buy essentials for our home. I would make butter, use some, and sell the rest. We had a nice home. Life was good.'

📍 Above: Djara outside her home in Yakuta, Central African Republic

'Life is difficult when you have almost nothing'

Hit hard by conflict

'Then the crisis happened and trouble came. During the conflict, we lost all our cows and our chickens. We left all our possessions behind. There's nothing left. So we fled to many places before settling here in Yakuta village. We came here to seek refuge.'

'It took a month and a half to get here. We had to walk all the way. Sometimes my husband carried the children.'

'We'd walk for a whole day and then sleep in the forest at night. That was our life until we arrived. We've been here for three years now.' ▶

'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last...'

John 15:16



'Life is difficult when you have almost nothing. Getting enough food to eat is a struggle. We were given a small piece of land to build a hut. But we don't have a field to farm. Every day my husband and I go out seeking odd jobs to do, working in other people's fields.'

'We eat in the morning but have nothing to eat in the evening'

'If we find work we can go home and feed our children. But it's not an easy life. This community is very poor, so finding paying work is a struggle. Most people farm their own land, they don't pay people to help. If there are no jobs there's no food. We go to sleep hungry. We eat in the morning but have nothing to eat in the evening.'

Lacking life's essentials

'We often get sick with malaria and have pains in our bodies, hands and feet. Because we don't have money, the children aren't well fed. When it rains they catch colds. So they often get diseases and suffer from diarrhoea and vomiting. We don't have mosquito nets, decent sheets and blankets. We don't even have a toilet. That causes even more sickness for our children.'

📷 Above: Before she received support from Tearfund, Djara struggled to feed her family

'If one of our children becomes sick we need to earn money before taking them to the hospital. But if we don't have money, what can we do? Even if we manage to get a child to the hospital we still need to take care of them, find money for food and medicines for them and the rest of the family. Paying for school fees is also difficult. If we have money, we pay. If we don't, we don't.'

'We don't have soap or jerry cans and buckets. We have to borrow some to fetch water. Look at the state of this house! It's in a very bad state. When it rains, water comes in. We plug the holes with more straw. But it still gets in. When it's cold, we cover the children with mats. But they are not in good condition so the children still get cold. And that means more sickness.'

How your faithful support fed this family

'But Tearfund has supported us, they gave us food including sugar, oil and rice. And some money. We are so grateful for all the blessings that they have given to us. Thanks to you, we have recovered a little bit of our health and wellbeing. Thank you so much.'

'Before, my children were skinny because the quality of the food was so bad. But now I cook with the oil that was given to me and my children eat well. If I sell a little oil, it gives us some money and pays for other things we need. **Thank you, Tearfund, for this great support.**

'At least it is peaceful here and we are safe. No one comes to hassle us. We live in peace. I am not afraid about the future now. I used to be scared, but not any more. **Thanks to your support, I believe our future will be better.** The little we get we will take care of and share. In our family, we have a united heart. ▶

'In the future, I'd like to have a better house and some cows, chickens and goats. If we had enough money, we would build our own house. But it's difficult. I'd like to learn a new skill, maybe baking bread and cakes. Then I could sell them to earn some money to improve our family's lives. If I had some seeds, I could borrow or rent a field and grow some crops to provide food.'

'Thanks to your support, I believe our future will be better'

'I want my children to go to school, have a good home so we can do well and prosper. In fact, I want my entire country to prosper.'



See *Prayer Diary* page 9 to pray

📷 Above: Djara and her family



£9 Please give today

£9 a month (30p a day) could help provide three families with livestock like goats or chickens to provide food and an income. Your donation today will support communities like Djara's in these times of greatest need.

Donate today at tearfund.org/CAR or by scanning the QR code.



'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

John 1:5

📷 Djara's son Hawa, age 10



You can make a World of Difference

Your monthly gift can help many more families like Djara's across the world who are facing hunger, poverty and disaster.

When you sign up to give regularly to Tearfund using the form on page 9 or online at tearfund.org/CAR, we'll send you regular updates with amazing stories from around the world called *World of Difference*. Every time a new community, every time a surprising destination...

Your World of Difference updates will feature a mix of inspiring stories that demonstrate how your giving is helping transform lives. Plus a warm welcome from each new community, who will show you that transformation in action.



Here's what people are saying about World of Difference

‘Tearfund does make a world of difference. I want to be a part of that.’

‘Through Tearfund, I'm empowered to make a difference in parts of the world that I have no access to. I get to love my furthest neighbours.’

‘I can see the impact my support is having, and I'm confident my money is being used well.’

☐ Your monthly gift can help many more families like Djara's

tearfund

See your impact!

Your Impact Report 2023 – 2024

Local Church, Lasting Transformation: how your faithful giving transforms lives

Thank you for your incredible generosity. This report shows how you're changing lives in communities through the power of local churches. Your prayers and donations support churches to become transformation centres, enabling extraordinary impact and forever changing their communities. This collaboration, made possible by your prayers and donations, allows us to have a far greater impact than working alone.

Your investment is making a real difference. Our study, *Local Church, Lasting Transformation*, shows that for every £1 you invest in communities through the church, communities invest £7 worth of their own resources. For example, nine out of ten communities receiving our innovative training improve or build vital facilities like water points, schools and health clinics.

As a result, a staggering social value of £211 is created. At every level, you're building hope, changing lives, and enabling people to flourish economically, socially, personally and spiritually. Thank you.

Your continued support is resourcing this groundbreaking work and ensuring even more communities can be transformed. This report details this amazing success story. Churches and denominations worldwide increasingly invite Tearfund to support and resource them to enable this transformative approach. This wouldn't be possible without your commitment to make a lasting difference.

Thank you.

Anna Laszlo,
Tearfund's Chair of the Board

☐ Valerie, a Transforming Communities facilitator from Zambokro village, Ivory Coast

Photo: Thiombiano Diouadibi Emmanuel Benjamin/Tearfund



Your support is transforming communities

Transforming Communities through local churches is at the heart of so much of what we do: Encouraging the global church to be active and work alongside people hit hardest by poverty.

Your committed support enables churches to drive long-term change, restore families, reawaken hope, reinvigorate communities and build sustainable economic growth. Thank you.

This is how:

- Churches become active, vibrant and live out an integral mission theology in their communities.
- This means community members experience whole-life transformation, restoring their relationship with God, themselves, each other and creation.

* We're still gathering data; the numbers here are from March 2023 to October 2023.

In just the first six months of the year,* your support has led to:

4,131

more local churches actively engaged in transforming their community

412

more denominations and church networks now running Transforming Communities programmes

39

theological training organisations integrating community transformation into their teaching

‘Nobody is too poor here now. Since we started the group, nothing bad has happened to anyone. Never! I pray that God will bless our church and that we will grow.’

Svay Yon from Cambodia, whose life has greatly improved by being part of a Transforming Communities savings and loans group

Photo: Roun Ry/Tearfund



You are helping to care for God's creation

Environmental and Economic Sustainability: Calling for a world that lives fairly and sustainably, in which everyone can meet their basic needs and extreme inequality no longer exists.

Your support is making sure that environmental protection and economic development go hand in hand in the places where we work. You're enabling churches and communities to tackle environmental and climate challenges while creating green jobs to improve people's livelihoods and allow them to prosper. Thank you.

This is how:

- Creating jobs that generate long-term, sustainable income.
- Visibly restoring and enhancing the environment at local, national and global levels, using resources in the most sustainable ways.

This year, your support has led to:

33

changes in policy and practice to better protect the environment

46

countries working on sustainable environment-related projects

10

research papers and resources, 9 events and 2 theological consultations in Africa promoting environmental sustainability

‘Before Tearfund's partner came, we used to throw away or burn the plastics. They told us how important it was. So we started gathering plastics for them. May God bless and prosper you for helping us! We are grateful.’

Amina from Nigeria, who was given a new source of income collecting discarded plastic

Photo: Anthony Nanmet/Tearfund



Your support is promoting peace and forgiveness

Reconciled Peace-filled Societies: You're training and supporting people to tackle the root causes of conflict to create lasting peace for themselves, their communities and the world.

Your support helps communities to work together across divides to peacefully resolve conflict and violence. By supporting Tearfund, you're equipping churches, faith groups and local communities to address the effects and systemic causes of conflict and bringing lasting peace for themselves, their neighbours and the wider society. Thank you.

This is how:

- Churches and faith communities carrying out effective conflict resolution and driving lasting change at a local level.
- Reducing gender-based violence through awareness and education and increasing women's and young people's participation in community decisions.
- Supporting initiatives that help increase trust and reduce violent conflict.

This year, your support has led to:

3,836

local churches building resilient, peace-filled societies

280

active projects focused on peacebuilding and gender justice

594

community projects focusing on peacebuilding and gender justice



You are helping communities facing disasters and emergencies

Crisis to Resilience: Equipping communities with the skills to prepare for and respond to crises and disasters, and building shared resilience and hope together.

By supporting Tearfund, you're enabling communities to be restored by equipping churches and local communities to be better prepared for disasters. You're helping them respond to emergencies, investing in building resilience in the long term. Thank you.

This is how:

- Local churches and communities are prepared for crises, with plans in place so they can respond better and quicker when disaster strikes.
- People of faith are increasingly recognised as a crucial part of disaster response work.

This year, your support has led to:

923

local churches understanding disaster risks, preparing for crisis and mobilising in response

27

partners trained through our capacity-strengthening programme

119

disaster responses in 28 countries

‘Tearfund was amazing. They financially supported our small business. Now I can buy more items for the store. This will increase the number of customers. The business course covered everything from the first step till the last one.’

Aseel from Syria, whose retail business is now thriving thanks to a Tearfund loan

‘There are dangers for young girls in the community. My life has become better since I came to the dormitory because it has helped me a lot. I will be able to complete my education here.’

Margaret, a schoolgirl from Zambia, has found a safe home at a Tearfund-supported dormitory

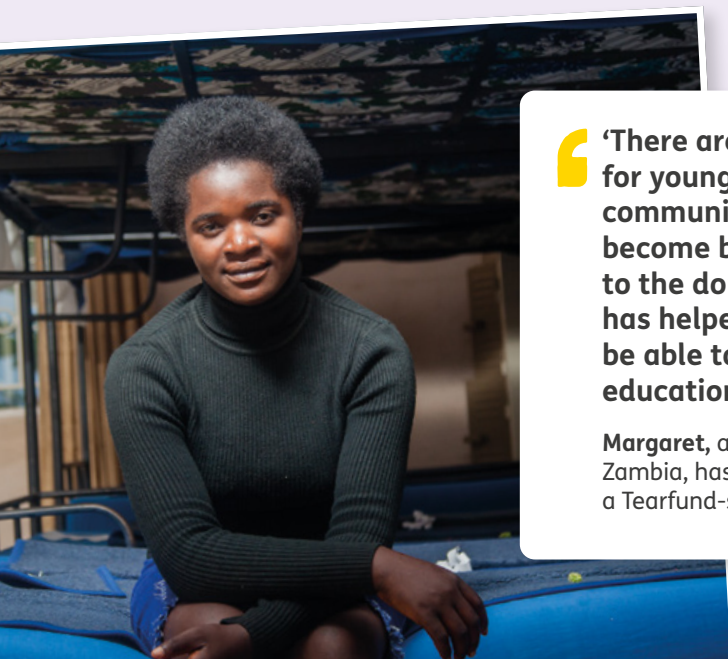


Photo: Chipema Chinyama/Tearfund



Photo: Raymond Salloum/Tearfund

Income 2023/24

Thank you for your support!

Here's how generous you have been, and how we have invested your gifts



£43m

General donations – 52%

Gifts donated to Tearfund to support all of our work. This includes money from fundraising events and activities, individuals and churches.



£30.4m

Government grants – 37%

Grants awarded to Tearfund from sources such as the UK Government and the US Government to carry out work overseas.



£8m

Emergency appeals – 10%

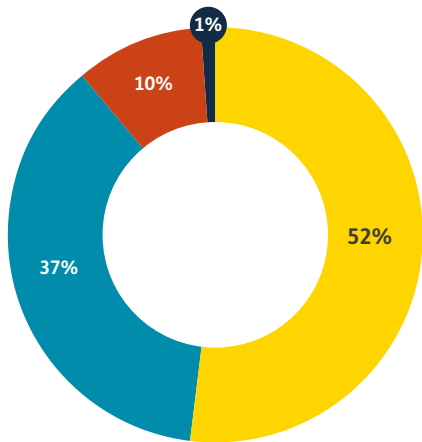
Gifts donated through fundraising events and activities, individuals and churches in response to emergency appeals and disaster situations.



£1.2m

Other income – 1%

Income from contracts awarded to Tearfund, trading activities and interest from investments.



Total income **£82.6m**

Expenditure 2023/24

For every pound donated

Your gift follows Jesus to the place of greatest need. This is how we invested the money you entrusted to us...



13p

Transforming Communities

Local churches releasing whole communities from extreme poverty.



35p

Crisis to Resilience

Making sure communities are prepared and ready for emergencies.



16p

Environmental and Economic Sustainability

Helping communities to care for creation and get sustainable jobs.



13p

Fundraising

Raising even more money and support to fund our transformation work.



11p

Reconciled Peace-filled Societies

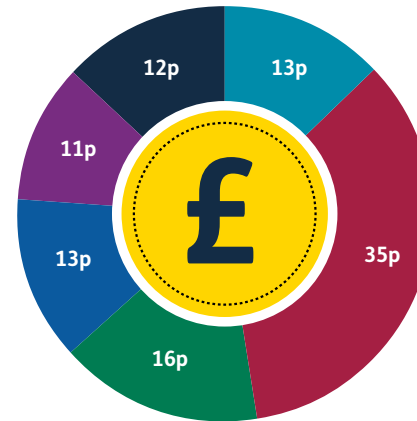
Promoting, peace and reconciliation to enable communities to thrive.



12p

Support costs

Putting robust systems and processes in place, and improving our effectiveness.



Total expenditure **£82.7m**

‘Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.’

Hebrews 10:23



Thank you

so much for your faithful support and prayers

‘I want to thank all of you who support Tearfund and ask that you continue doing the good work. Because your efforts are not in vain, many lives have been transformed.’

We have seen and heard the impact of the work that has been done in their communities because of your support.’

Carolyn Chinyemba, National Coordinator for Jesus Cares Ministries, a Tearfund partner in Zambia

Poverty is not God’s plan. You are.

Every pound you give provides emergency support and life-changing community transformation that move us closer to the end of extreme poverty as we know it. Thank you.

You can read the full Tearfund Annual Report and accounts by visiting tearfund.org/annualreport or request a printed copy by emailing info@tearfund.org or calling 020 3906 3906.



Tears of Gold

Looking into the eyes of women who have suffered so much

‘I am praying for the women while I paint’

🖼️ Paintings by Hannah Rose Thomas

In March this year, in collaboration with a number of organisations,* Tearfund hosted Tears of Gold, an event to mark International Women’s Day. It was an amazing day of art, photography and discussion.

One highlight of the event was a display of beautiful paintings showing courageous women created by artist Hannah Rose Thomas. The exhibition featured portraits of Yazidi women who escaped ISIS captivity, Rohingya women who fled violence in Myanmar, Nigerian women who survived Boko Haram violence, and Ukrainian refugees fleeing conflict. Alongside the paintings are the women’s own words, stories and self-portraits.

‘I think art gives us a way into understanding the stories of some of these women in a unique way,’ Hannah explained at the event. ‘Through a piece of artwork, a product of contemplation that requires a great deal of time, you can encounter the stories of the women for yourself. It’s not the same as meeting the women in person, but it’s the next best thing.’

‘I use early Renaissance painting techniques and gold leaf. I find these methods to be very prayerful and contemplative. I am praying for the women while I paint. I hope these paintings create a space for those who see them to contemplate. To imagine the stories of the women. And imagine themselves in their shoes.’

Many of the portraits and stories feature in Hannah’s debut book, *Tears of Gold: Portraits of Yazidi, Rohingya, and Nigerian Women from Plough Publishing* and is available from their shop (plough.com) and other bookshops. All publisher profits from this book are being donated to charities working with women in these countries.

‘May her powerful paintings spread the word and, God willing, have a positive impact in relieving the suffering of some of the most vulnerable and marginalised communities around the world.’

HRH Prince Charles, from his foreword to the *Tears of Gold* book, written before his accession as HM King Charles III. ▶

* *Tears of Gold* partners are Tearfund, Justice and Care, Plough Publishing, Open Doors, Novi and Bellwether International.

📍 Above: Samkina, aged 15, who fled her village when the Myanmar military burnt it down

Maria and Nadiia's story

Maria and her mother Nadiia, who were guests at the Tears of Gold event, were living in Kyiv when the conflict in Ukraine started in February 2022. At first, they stayed in the city, but after 12 days hiding from bombardment in their basement, they left Ukraine to seek refuge in the UK. *Tear Times* Editor, **Peter Shaw**, spoke to Maria and Nadiia at the event, standing next to their portrait.

📷 Maria and Nadiia fled from Kyiv because of the war in Ukraine.

Q

What do you think about when you see this painting?

Nadiia: When I look at this painting, I think I look like I have fewer wrinkles now than two years ago when it was painted. That's because of all the care and love I have received. I'm very grateful for the support of people in England over the last two years. I have a roof over my head, a bed and new friends. When we left our home, we never dreamed this would happen.

Q

After your experiences as a refugee, what do you think our response should be to the refugee crisis in other countries, many of whom are not as welcome here as people from Ukraine?

Maria: It's a huge responsibility to respond to such a question. Before my experience, I never thought about this problem, this tragedy, that many people go through... There are so many countries going through the same. But no one deserves this, no matter where you are in the world. The most honest answer would be that no one should have to face this. In the 21st century, we should be able to live life without war.

G

'In the 21st century, we should be able to live life without war'



See *Prayer Diary* page 12 to pray



A stitch in time

How two blankets united two families 6,000km apart

Written by Liz Spall, Legacy Team Leader

Margery Jackson, who's been a Tearfund supporter for many years, shares the story of the gift of two blankets that have stitched two families together for more than 40 years.

Margery worked with Tearfund in a refugee camp in Thailand in the early 1980s. At that time, it provided support for Vietnamese people who were escaping oppression by boat following the end of the Vietnam War.

It was there she met Mai, a 15-year-old Vietnamese girl who was rescued from pirates that were raiding ships and killing passengers. Mai had been badly abused. Sadly, her brothers and all the other passengers on their boat did not survive.

As she started to recover, Mai struck up a friendship with Margery. When Mai found out Margery's sister was expecting a baby, later named Shona, she decided to crochet a blanket for her.

📷 Margery, Mai and a group of Vietnamese refugees in Thailand in the early 1980s
Photos courtesy of Margery Jackson

Feeling joy

'I was touched that somebody who'd lost so much could feel such joy on my behalf,' says Margery. 'I sent it to my sister who was thrilled.'

When Margery returned home to Scotland, the two women kept in touch, exchanging Christmas cards. In 2017, Mai – who was now married with four daughters, living in Canada – contacted Margery to say her daughter, Jennifer, was coming to the UK to study for a Master's degree in Manchester.

So Margery invited Jennifer up to meet her family in Lenzie near Glasgow, and Mai and her husband came too. The two families had a reunion gathering including Margery's daughter Lesley and her baby granddaughter, Lucy. Mai had heard about Lucy and crocheted a new blanket for her.

'It's been lovely over the years to know how happy Mai is and how well her four daughters are doing in their life,' says Margery.

Margery was delighted to see Mai in person after so many years. 'In many ways, she was the same. The people in the refugee camp were remarkably resilient. Despite the awful stories that almost all of them had, they didn't go about feeling sorry for themselves.'

'It was such a tragic situation for all of the refugees. It was good to be able to help in some way in their lives.'

📷 'It's been lovely over the years to know how happy Mai is and how well her four daughters are doing in their life'



📷 Mai crocheting a blanket for Margery's niece

A lifetime of connection

This lifelong connection with Mai echoes Margery and her husband John's commitment to supporting families facing extreme hardship across the world. They have pledged a gift in their wills to Tearfund.

'I think part of our Christian life has always been giving.' For my husband and me, our giving is an expression of our faith. So our eventual gift in our will is to reflect the same thing. Tearfund is an organisation that I have been involved in for a long time and I trust them.

'It's God's love that makes you want to be involved with Tearfund and see that transformation in people's lives.'

'I was touched that somebody who'd lost so much could feel such joy on my behalf'

God's love. Your legacy. Lasting transformation.

Choosing to leave a gift in your will to Tearfund, like Margery, could make a massive difference to someone in need, enabling them to escape poverty and step into a brighter future. It is a gift that is both long-lasting and tangible, and that can impact generation after generation for years to come.

Find out more about leaving a gift in your will to Tearfund by completing and returning the tear-out form above, by scanning the QR code below or by visiting tearfund.org/transformfutures



📍 Mai's family reunited with Margery



📍 Mai and her husband meeting Margery's daughter, Lesley, and her granddaughter, Lucy

Happy and clean communities in Pakistan, thanks to you!



Written by Asher Loyal from Tearfund's Pakistan team

In 2019, Tearfund launched a matched giving appeal to help build new recycling hubs in Pakistan to prevent further damage to the environment, protect people's health and provide jobs.

The UK Government agreed to match gifts, pound for pound, up to £3 million as part of its UK Aid Match scheme – £2 million for Pakistan and £1 million for Haiti. When that target was reached, an amazing Tearfund supporter agreed to match a further £1 million. With match funding and gift aid, you helped raise an amazing **£8,884,768**. Thank you.

Thanks to your donations, lives were transformed across the world in communities where the need is greatest. Match funding from the UK

Government was used to promote waste management and create recycling hubs in Pakistan and Haiti.

These recycling hubs have huge benefits: reducing the amount of plastics in the oceans, preventing flooding of watercourses blocked by waste and lowering greenhouse gas emissions from burnt waste.

Your support is helping to improve the health and wellbeing of communities by reducing toxic fumes from burning waste, which can lead to illness and death. Each hub can also create jobs for 25 people – a secure and dignified form of employment for marginalised members of local communities. Thank you.

How your support helped Saima, her family and her whole community...

Saima, aged 40, from a suburb in Saeedabad, Karachi, lives in a small house with her husband, son, daughter-in-law and two other family members.

With no rubbish collection or understanding of how to separate waste, Saima and her family used to put all their rubbish into a single bin. Then – like many families in her neighbourhood with no alternative option – she would dump it in the street.

Tearfund established a recycling unit called a Haryali Hub in her district. The unit sorts through waste from around 12,000 homes and puts it to good use. Discarded plastic is turned into new products and kitchen leftovers become compost.


As part of the awareness campaign, Saima's family was encouraged to separate waste and hand it over to the hub. They now have different bins for kitchen and dry waste and send it to be regularly recycled.

'Before, we were dumping all our waste, dry or wet, in the same bin. We never knew that our waste could be recycled,' Saima says. 'Plastic bottles and other waste can now be made into new products. I am so happy to be part of this programme to establish a recycling unit, to make our streets and environment clean and green.'

The Tearfund team in Pakistan organised awareness sessions with many families about how to separate waste. The team also held community consultations to recruit volunteers to promote the programme in Saima's neighbourhood.

Three women, including Saima, offered to volunteer to spread the word about putting waste to good use. Saima has visited many of her neighbours to encourage them to do the same as her. Many more families in her street now separate their waste and hand it over to the collectors.

'I am so happy to be part of this programme to establish a recycling unit, to make our streets and environment clean and green'

 See *Prayer Diary* page 15 to pray

Cleaner communities, thanks to you...



181,643
people were reached
by the projects



30,300
households received
door-to-door waste
collection



433.65
tonnes of material
was recovered and
saved from landfill



 Saima now sorts her waste and hands it to a recycling hub

Photo: Manoj Kumar/Tearfund



Living together in unity amid conflict in the DRC

Since 1996, conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has led to around 6 million deaths. Peace and reconciliation work between different ethnic and political groups is vital to prevent conflict and loss of life. This is how Tearfund and our partners restored relationships and brought peaceful cooperation in one community.

Interviews and photos by Nehemie Babikana, Tearfund Media Officer in the DRC



Chief Kalamba

‘Congo Initiative came to train us to resolve land conflicts. They trained and encouraged the communities to live together peacefully.’

Poppy

‘At Tearfund, we work with local partners to best reach communities. We’re partnering with Congo Initiative, which has a lot of land reform experience. Churches and faith leaders have an essential role to play in peacebuilding. They are trusted and respected in their communities.’



Poppy Anguandia, Tearfund’s DRC Country Director

‘Tearfund is working in many provinces carrying out peacebuilding activities. We chose Tanganyika because of the longstanding conflict and tensions between the Twa and the Bantou groups. We could make a real impact there.’

Abedi Kakese, Pastor at Nyunzu Church

‘How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity. It is like precious oil poured on the head...’ My pastor friends and I are very pleased with the training Tearfund has provided us. It taught us how the people of Nyunzu can find grace in their hearts to live peacefully. We teach these principles in our churches.’

Kalonda Kyungu, a Tearfund-trained peace champion from Nyunzu

‘Since the arrival of this project, the Twa and Bantou people have lived in harmony. We get along very well.’

Kalamba Hubert, Chief of Kalamba Village

‘Back in the day, we used to live in harmony between the communities. We lived together, ate together, and traded together. Everything changed when the war broke out.’

Adele Bahat from Nyunzu village

‘One of the causes of conflict is around who owns the land. Being able to have a formal system of who owns what is helping to resolve conflicts in the long term.’

Adele

‘Congo Initiative and Tearfund mediated between me and my neighbour. In the end, we sorted out our rights.’

Poppy

‘The project has had a massive impact on people’s lives. Before, there were killings and reprisal killings on both sides. Communities and families now work alongside each other in the communal gardens. What we’ve done through this project is sow seeds of change and transformation that will last.’

Poppy

‘One of the causes of conflict is around who owns the land. A formal system of who owns what is helping to resolve conflicts in the long term.’



Thank you for your faithful support and prayers, which are helping to promote peace and unity initiatives like this in the DRC and across the world.

 See *Prayer Diary* page 19 to pray



'Life is difficult when you have almost nothing'

In December 2020, another wave of violence hit the Ouaka region of the Central African Republic. 'During the conflict, we lost all our cows and our chickens,' says Djara who, along with her husband and children, was forced to flee from their home. 'We left all our possessions behind. There's nothing left.' Read the full story on page 8.

£9

Please give today

£9 a month (30p a day)
could help provide three
families with livestock like
goats or chickens to provide
food and an income.

tearfund.org/CAR



tearfund.org

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