

tearfund

CONNECT

Spring 2021

You prevented families from sliding back into extreme poverty.

COVID-19 threatened to reverse years of progress in the Democratic Republic of Congo. **You didn't let that happen.**

Kavira thought her children would go hungry, **but you made sure their bellies are full every day!**

(pages 4-5)

These 5 countries account for **HALF** of the world's extreme poor.

Learn more.
(page 6)

Thank YOU for providing hope to the DRC!

As one of the poorest places on Earth, we were particularly worried when COVID-19 hit the Democratic Republic of Congo last year. What would happen to the thousands of families who had been working so hard over the last few years to slowly climb out of poverty? What would COVID-19 do to the progress that was made? Would the disease, shutdowns and crippled economy force thousands back into extreme poverty?

It was a real possibility. **But you made sure it didn't happen!**

Last year we were blown away by your generous gifts and prayers for the DRC. Starting in August 2020, generous people like you joined us in a special project aimed at preventing vulnerable families in the DRC from sliding back into extreme poverty.

I am happy to say that your gifts have made a tremendous impact. Because of you, families could continue to make progress out of poverty: farmers were able to find new ways to sell their crops, churches continued to reach out into their communities, and savings groups employed innovative methods to keep on running - and even expand! We hope you will be encouraged about the impact you helped create. Donors like you are instrumental in helping us change lives.

Thank you and God bless,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Johnson".

Wayne Johnson
Executive Director
wjohnson@tearfund.ca
416-707-9066



How you prevented the advancement of poverty in the Congo

For years, people like you have been making a difference in the lives of Congolese families living in extreme poverty. You have helped local churches reach out into communities, you've taught farmers new agricultural techniques and grow more food, you've helped established savings groups to provide families with places to save and start new businesses.

But with COVID-19 spreading into Africa, all of the progress you helped make suddenly became threatened. The disease closed down borders and roads and farmers couldn't get their crops to the city markets to sell. Economic activity slowed, threatening entire villages. For a country whose people have recent memories of Ebola, panic began to take hold.

We couldn't let families go back into the poverty they worked so hard to escape.

Your generosity helped us mitigate the effects of COVID-19:

- You helped establish stores so that farmers could sell their products locally
- You helped farmers diversify their crops to ones that don't rot quickly. Crops like potatoes, onions, ginger, and garlic - which last longer and can be sold later.
- Your donations helped continue the success of savings group, investing directly into them with crop seeds when cash flow was low.
- You helped create farming cooperatives to help farmers work together and sell crops at fair prices.

Thanks to you, we could intervene in the DRC and help families continue on their path out of poverty. But we're not out of the woods yet. Your continued support will ensure that more families can climb out of poverty; both in the Congo and elsewhere.



This widow thought her children would go hungry

— but you made a difference

It was another humid night in the village of Bulambo and Kavira Elodie's young children were crying out in hunger again. She did everything she could to calm her children down, despite her feelings of hopelessness and defeat. When her husband tragically passed away, Kavira was left with next to nothing to care for her growing children. She felt trapped, not knowing how she would make it through the coming weeks.

Life in the Democratic Republic of Congo was anything but easy. A banana tree disease had devastated many livelihoods and rebels were constantly a threat. The village had just been declared Ebola-free, but now they were hearing rumours of a new disease... COVID-19. Would it be the same as Ebola?

A few days later, Kavira went to her local church. There she heard an answer to her prayers. The pastor introduced her to a ministry that would change her life. This ministry, a savings and loans group of about 30 local women, welcomed Kavira with open arms. She learned new ways to sell her maize and slowly build her wealth. After a little while, she was able to take a loan of \$8.50 to make improvements to her farm. She repaid the loan in 3 months. She soon took another loan to pay for upgrades to her kitchen where she could start a small catering business.

Because of you, Kavira has been able to grow a sustainable business out of her home. Despite the threat of COVID, her children are taken care of. Her family has enough to eat. Kavira's next goal is to save enough money to send her children to school.

Your ongoing support is critical to providing people like Kavira with the tools and training they need to climb out of poverty. Savings groups are highly effective, good value for money, and highly popular with the local villages.

Over the last 3 years, nearly 6,000 individuals in the DRC have eagerly enrolled in these savings groups, blowing past our goal of just 1,000.

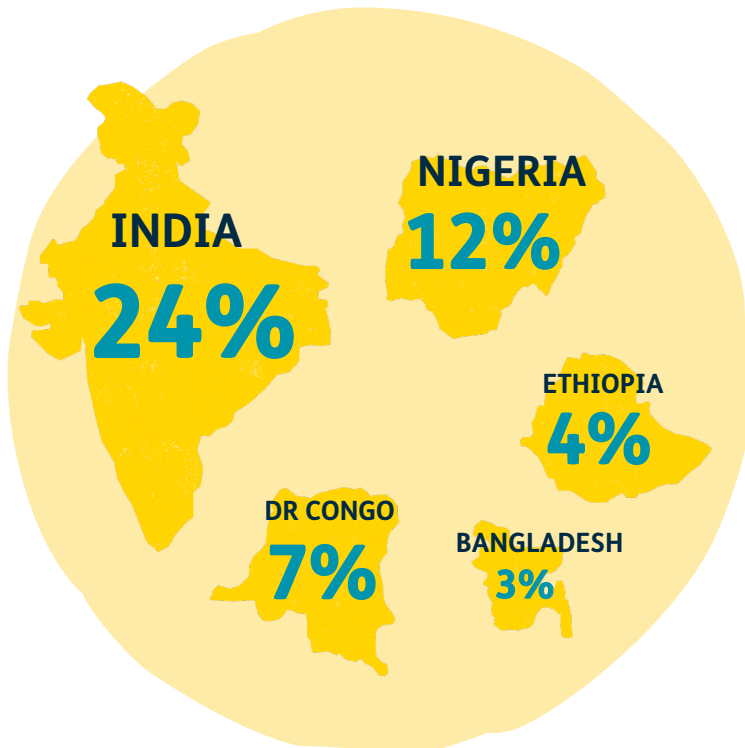
But... we could do more. As COVID-19 spreads in vulnerable areas, more families will need help like Kavira. **Your ongoing donations will help us expand the programming to more people and further the work of God is doing in these village churches.**



📹 Last year, Kavira was wondering how she would feed her children. But today, thanks to your donations, she shows us her upgraded kitchen where she operates a small catering business!

Following Jesus where the need is greatest

HALF of the world's extreme poor live in these 5 countries.



Home to 1.3 billion people, it's not a surprise that India has the highest proportion of the world's extreme poor. Although India has been advancing economically over the past couple of decades, families in many areas - especially in the rural countryside - continue to suffer in extreme poverty.

By giving to Tearfund you can be confident that your donations are going to help those most in need. It is not by accident that we currently work in 3 out of 5 of these countries (**India, DRC, and Ethiopia**). Through Tearfund, you are serving the "least of these" throughout the world - **helping meet families' physical, emotional and spiritual needs.**

Source: World Bank, 2019



You can Support our Work through Prayer

Prayer is at the foundation of what we do. We believe that God guides where our organization should work, gives us wisdom in difficult situations and strengthens us in times of trouble.

It has been over a year since the global COVID-19 pandemic began. We've seen over 2.6 million people die from the virus and millions more have fallen gravely ill. We've witnessed a global movement rise up speaking out against inequality and racial injustice. We've seen strife and division across the world. In the middle of all of this chaos, we invite you to pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,

We are weary and worn from the events of the past year.

We pray for the millions who have fallen ill and died from this disease.

We weep for the injustices that affect our sisters and brothers of colour, people made in your image.

We ask that you would end the violence, wars and instability we've seen across the world.

As we turn to you for comfort, we ask that you would help us shine your light, that we would radiate compassion, and help those in need.

Lord, you are our everlasting hope!

Lord Jesus Christ,

We are grateful for your ministry of salvation and reconciliation.

We are grateful that you showed us a whole new way of being human.

We are grateful for your death and resurrection, providing us eternal hope.

We are grateful that you choose us, your church, as your hands and feet in this world today.

We are grateful for the movement of your Holy Spirit, inspiring peace, justice and healing.

We are grateful for your loving presence today and every day.

May we dwell in your love, your hope, your grace, as we work for change across your creation.

Amen.

Receive Monthly Prayer Points!

As a prayer partner, you will receive an email with updates from our global partners and ways you can pray for the poor around the world.

Sign up at www.tearfund.ca/pray



THE **JUSTICE**
CONFERENCE

GLOBAL

MAY 22

You're invited to join a global gathering of justice seekers!

The Justice Conference is a global movement of Christ-followers passionate about living the message of Jesus and making justice a way of life.

Join us for a 24-hour worldwide virtual event; an opportunity to connect with people from all over the world, hear from prominent speakers, explore the theology of justice, and wrestle with the most pressing issues of today.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



DR. KRISH KANDIAH



LISA SHARON HARPER



DANIELLE STRICKLAND



REV DR. JOEL EDWARDS



ROY NJUABE



KATHERINE HAYHOE



RAY MINNIECON



REV. EUGENE CHO

REGISTER TODAY AT: www.thejusticeconference.ca

tearfund.ca

PO Box 3220 Stn Industrial Park, Markham ON, L3R 9Z9 Canada
T (905) 415-8181 E contact@tearfund.ca [f](https://www.facebook.com/tearfundcanada) [i](https://www.instagram.com/tearfundcanada) [t](https://www.twitter.com/tearfundcanada) /tearfundcanada

Registered Charity No. 10822 2191 RR0001

tearfund