

tearfund

Connect

Summer 2021

Your Impact in Ethiopia

Thousands of lives have been
forever changed because of you!

You brought hope
to **Alaye** during
the lockdown.

(page 3)

The Hobicha Valley:
An entire region being
transformed by the
holistic Gospel

(page 4-6)

A special
prayer for
Ethiopia

(back cover)

New Challenges and Opportunities in Ethiopia

Dear friend,

I've travelled to Ethiopia numerous times and heard countless stories of how the local church has ministered to the needs of thousands.

And you are a part of this!

As we reflect on the crisis in Tigray (back cover) and the new project in the Hobicha valley (pg. 4-6), **I wanted to demonstrate the ways that you've stood in solidarity with the people of Ethiopia and the impact it has made.**

In 2015, you helped us launch a five year [Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture \(SUCA\) project](#) with other members of the [Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#). We had a goal of training 10,850 farmers through the SUCA project, but because of your support, we were able to train **over 14,000 farmers!**

Between August 2020 and March 2021, you also brought hope to people who were on the brink of sliding back into poverty like Alaye. **Because of you, thousands of families are no longer going hungry during the COVID crisis.**

As we look forward, there are many challenges, but also excitement. In Tigray, a violent conflict is pushing thousands of families to the brink of famine. The need is great and we need your help. You can read more about this with the associated letter. In Hobicha, we are excited to start a one-of-a-kind new project aimed at transforming the entire valley.

Challenges may come and go but we know our God remains the same. Thank you for ongoing support. You are making a difference in the lives of thousands in Ethiopia.

Every blessing,



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

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Finding Hope During Lockdown

You made sure that Alaye's family didn't go hungry.

Alaye was isolated from his community and didn't know how to make ends meet. Pandemic restrictions around his village meant that he couldn't travel or go to the workshops he had signed up for at his church.

Alaye and his family were just beginning to learn how to use new sustainable farming methods when the pandemic hit. TDA, our local church partner, told Alaye that he could double, even triple his harvests using these techniques. **This meant that his family could finally have enough to eat each day.** He could even sell the extra crops they had grown and finally send his children to school.

For the first time in his life, Alaye had hope!

But that hope was snuffed out when COVID hit and the rainy season began. The rains had become unpredictable. Floods had destroyed neighbouring farms, and the soil in Alaye's fields was getting too moist to grow anything. All seemed lost.

Because of you, this wasn't the end of Alaye's story. Working with TDA, we developed strategies to teach farmers without having to hold in-person workshops.

Collaborating with local radio stations, TDA was able to reach up to 48,000 farming families over the radio. Thousands have received training on how to grow and sell their crops effectively despite lockdowns and the changing climate!

Despite the restrictions, Alaye is becoming hopeful once more.

Alaye regularly checks in with a TDA instructor on the phone, asking questions about his growing techniques. He's learned how to grow vegetables like hot peppers and taro (a root vegetable) that are selling well in local markets. Alaye's neighbours are taking notice and are learning how to better grow their crops too.

Because of you, farmers like Alaye aren't being left behind during the pandemic. They are continuing to lift themselves out of poverty despite the hardships of COVID-19.



In Hobicha as it is in Heaven

An invitation to join local churches in our newest project in Ethiopia

Can you imagine a place where everyone has enough to eat, a place to sleep, and is treated with dignity and respect? Imagine trees, forests and fields being treated with care and honoured as a gift from God. Imagine families unified, with women and men treated equally. Imagine children laughing as they run off to school each morning with full bellies.

In the valley of Hobicha, Ethiopia, these are the hopes of the people. But today, they remain out of reach. The levels of poverty in the Hobicha valley are some of the worst that we've ever seen.

72% of families in this part of Ethiopia are facing hunger and malnutrition.

They often go for months at a time with only enough food for one meal per day. Farmers who manage to grow enough food end up losing 40% of their harvests to rodents and insects.

The combination of poor harvests, lack of food storage, and limited access to



trade markets has contributed to extreme poverty in Hobicha.

Some farmers have resorted to working on tobacco plantations for low wages. Children are unable to go to school. Some families send off their daughters to be child-brides or prostitutes in nearby towns. Vulnerable people like the elderly, orphans, and people living with disabilities have become dependent on handouts.

Things don't have to be this way. The local churches of Hobicha are inviting you to join them as they work and pray to bring God's Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven.

(more on the next page)

Quick Facts

Location: Hobicha Woreda, Wolaita Zone, Ethiopia

Population: 61,905 (31,390 female; 30,515 male) or 10,756 households

Church Partner: Terepeza Development Association of the Wolaita Kale Heywet Church

Project Length: 3 Years (2021-2024)

Project Reach: 5,000 households (30,000 people)



Meeting the spiritual and physical needs of Hobicha, Ethiopia

Working closely with our church partner, The Terepeza Development Association, we've developed a plan that will transform the valley of Hobicha, addressing the spiritual and physical needs of the people.

TDA will begin working with churches to transform every sphere of life by starting programs centring around climate-adaptive farming workshops, storage containers to protect harvests from pests, Bible studies on gender equality, and savings/loans groups to help people to start their own small businesses. This holistic plan is focused on not only ending material poverty but spiritual poverty as well, with an aim to empower people to lift themselves from poverty with hope and dignity. **As part of the project, you will:**



Equip the Local Church to be a Catalyst for Change

- **153 church leaders** from **27 churches** will expand their view of ministry to address both their village's spiritual and physical needs.
- **63 church leaders** will be qualified agriculture trainers who will go on to disciple others.
- Churches and villages will be empowered to learn how to identify and solve community problems using the skills and resources they have around them.
- The church will continue to engage and implement projects with its community long-term, not relying on outside handouts.



Make Sure Families Won't Go Hungry

- **3,750 farming families** will increase their crop yields by over **40%** by using new farming practices and crop storage solutions. Some families will double, even triple their harvests!
- **22,500 people** will have food year-round, even during the "lean season", without having to sell household assets, skip meals or take predatory loans.
- **19,500 people**, particularly women and children, will improve their health by having access to fresh, healthier food.



Help Increase Household Income

- **2,000 households** will increase their income from selling the extra food from their harvests and milk from animals like cows and goats.
- **3,750 households** will be able to afford medical care as a result of their improved harvests and new small businesses.



Help Equip Farmers to Adapt to a Changing Climate.

- **5,000 farming households** will know how to grow and protect their crops despite unpredictable rainfalls.
- **3,750 households** will plant trees in areas to prevent soil erosion & to protect their crops.
- **20 church properties** will plant trees on their land as an act of creation care, protecting valuable topsoil.



Empower Women and Girls

- **5,000 households** and at least **50 church leaders** will receive gender equality training.
- **1,500 women farmers** in **1,500 households** report that their decision-making at community levels has improved, and that they are participating in leadership roles, including church leadership.
- **3,750 women** will report that household tasks are shared equally and don't fall solely on women and girls.

You can make this dream a reality

Your prayers and donations will ensure that 30,000 people in Ethiopia will know the love of God, with their lives forever changed. We're excited for you to join us!



How you can pray for Tearfund's work in Ethiopia

We would not be able to do our work in Ethiopia without your prayer support. Please join us in praying for the needs of the country and its people.

- Pray for all those whose lives have been suspended by the conflict in Tigray. As they seek safety, may they have access to food, clean water and other essentials. Pray for those who have suffered violence, particularly women and girls who have suffered sexual violence.
- Pray for those who are still facing health challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for our church partners responding to immediate needs of the community.
- Pray for our local partner in the Hobicha region, Terepeza Development Association. Pray that their financial needs would be met as they begin to work with over 30,000 people living in extreme poverty.

A Prayer for Ethiopia

O Lord, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty in places like Tigray and Hobicha.

Powerful God, you are present in the whole universe. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty from the threats of violence, sickness and changing climate.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,

so precious in your eyes. Help us to stand in solidarity with the local church.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with each person facing extreme poverty in Ethiopia and beyond.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen.

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