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CANADA

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Following Jesus where the need is greatest



HELPING OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES

Last year I met face-to-face with women and men in Kenya and Tanzania whose lives had taken a turn for the better because of savings groups, supported by people like you.

Every single person I met, already had the strength and determination they needed to transform their own lives; what they lacked was the right opportunity, information and skills to make the necessary change. Tearfund's church partners empower women and men to use what God has already provided to exit poverty -- no matter how small it seems at first glance.



Rather than providing handouts, our local partners working across Africa and India show people how pooling tiny amounts of their own money opens up new possibilities. Suddenly people who were once stuck in generations of poverty, now have access to loans, new ideas for cooperating with neighbours, and are multiplying scarce resources, to support their families and help their communities.

When I see that 39,966 people, are taking part in savings groups this year - doing business, breaking free from corrupt money lenders and joining forces with neighbours to improve their communities -- I see those excited faces of empowerment from Kenya and Tanzania echoed thousands of times, and I thank God that our partnership with you, is making it all possible.



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tearfund
CANADA

SUPPORTS

VILLAGE SAVINGS
& LOANS GROUPS IN

COUNTRIES

5

DR CONGO
INDIA
TANZANIA
KENYA
ETHIOPIA

1,655
GROUPS

WITH

39,966

MEMBERS



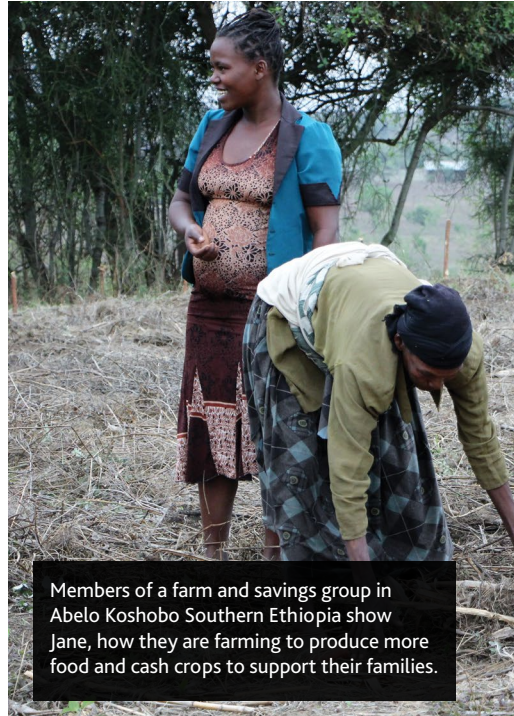
VSL GROUPS ARE MADE UP OF

86%
WOMEN

DISCOVERING YOUR IMPACT

Although Jane Roach has been a supporter of Tearfund Canada for five years, she always wanted to learn more about Tearfund's programs. When she heard about the opportunity to join a discovery trip to Ethiopia she decided to make the journey, to see and learn first-hand for herself.

Over the course of 2 weeks, Jane visited 9 communities in Southern Ethiopia with local partner staff of the Terepeza Development Agency, -- Tearfund Canada's local church-based partner. She met farmers, church leaders and members of self help savings groups. She asked questions and saw the effect that programs are having on people's lives. Jane took some time to answer questions about her time in Ethiopia



Members of a farm and savings group in Abelo Koshobo Southern Ethiopia show Jane, how they are farming to produce more food and cash crops to support their families.

It was amazing to see the impact Tearfund supported training was having in their lives. Especially the tenacity of the TDA project staff in convincing people to consider self help groups."

Q. WHAT EXPERIENCES DID YOU ENJOY THE MOST?

"I most enjoyed visiting homes and walking the fields. I was humbled by the way the poor in Ethiopia live. How much energy and time they spend to fill their basic needs, especially getting water for themselves & their livestock - all of which I take for granted.

Q. WHICH PROGRAM OR PEOPLE DID YOU FIND MOST INSPIRING?

"I was most impacted by the savings groups of women. Watching them speak with such pride about their plans with their communal farmland, their goats, their long term goals for various businesses, their ability to help family members in crisis, and putting food on the table was inspiring."



Kebede Workineh/Tearfund Canada

Q. BASED ON YOUR VISIT TO ETHIOPIA, WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU WOULD LIKE OTHER DONORS TO KNOW ABOUT TEARFUND PROGRAMS?

"I would love to see more supporters participate in a discovery trip and take their stories and their experiences back to their churches & workplaces.

I would want other donors to know that Tearfund impacts lives where the need is greatest. As a result of Tearfund programs, families are becoming more self sufficient and they are giving back to their

community. Savings groups are doing community projects like tree planting and financing projects for their members."

Terepeza Development Association has started 249 savings groups made up of 4,811 people across Southern Ethiopia where Jane visited. Each of the savings groups members are part of families that enjoy the benefits of being able to access loans and build better lives for themselves.

Jane Roach, serves as an elder at the Barrie Free Methodist Church and has been a Tearfund supporter since 2013.



Kebede Workineh/Tearfund Canada

Jane learns about the impact of conservation agriculture, savings groups and land reclamation projects from TDA staff.

SUPPORTING THE LOCAL CHURCH

Pastor Kambale Muliba (age 54) has been a pastor for over 20 years. His church is very poor and he has no salary, but he is allowed to farm the church land with his wife Kavujho.

He juggled farming with his work as a pastor in order to support his children, but it was very difficult. He had been serving Mole village in the Democratic Republic of Congo for two years when he first heard about the Tearfund supported program from staff at the Baptist Church of Central Africa.

Pastor Kambale has seen wonderful benefits for his family and his church from being part of the Tearfund supported programs. They've learned to mulch, grow vegetables, and pool their savings for lending needs. They now have more food to eat and to sell, can pay for health and school needs, and the church's offering has

increased! Savings groups provide a weekly opportunity for sharing and praying together, They are playing a role in reducing conflict, helping to move old factions back together in a practical and positive way!

"Praise God. I hope that all members of my church's group will be able to reach economic self-reliance. "Tell supporters in Canada that we are very happy with the support provided with the agricultural and savings trainings."

Tearfund joins local church-based partners as they empower their neighbours to lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we work towards a world where every person's basic needs are met, and have a chance to flourish using their own resources to exit poverty. This is what the church is called to do.



Pastor Kambale Muliba

"THE SAVINGS GROUPS I REVIEWED AROUND BUTEMBO, MEASURED VERY HIGH ON OUR TEARFUND SUCCESS MONITORING TOOL. IT IS VERY REWARDING TO SEE SUCH GOOD PROGRESS AND MANY HAPPY SMILING PEOPLE"

BRUCE SYVRET

Tearfund, International Program Director and Savings Group Advisor



GET MORE INVOLVED WITH TEARFUND CANADA



HOW CAN YOUR CHURCH GET INVOLVED?



Sign up for World Relief Sunday

1. Pick a date and register at worldreliefsunday.ca
2. We will send you materials and resources
3. Host your World Relief Sunday



Pray with us

- Sign up for our monthly Prayer Point Bulletin at tearfund.ca/pray



HOW CAN YOU AND YOUR FAMILY GET INVOLVED?



Join a Discovery Trip

- If you're interested in going on a trip to see how your gifts transform lives contact us at connect@tearfund.ca for more information and trip schedules.



Make a Legacy Gift

- Make a lasting impact with a planned legacy gift. See insert for more information and email mabuffam@tearfund.ca to get started.



Pray with us

- Sign up for our monthly Prayer Point Bulletin at tearfund.ca/pray

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT - ROHINGYA REFUGEES

The annual monsoon season in Bangladesh brings torrential rain, flash flooding and cyclones right to the area where the refugees have put up temporary shelters. Please pray that we will be able reduce suffering and save lives as we provide safe drinking water, kitchen supplies and lighting in the camps.

"It was a Thursday, the day they started the violence. They began killing the people in our villages and burning our houses. I heard the gunshots near the mosque and saw my eldest son killed on the spot. My entire body felt it. He was 18 years old. I tried to go to him to help him with the gun shot and they tried to shoot at me. I left my goats, cows, property and everything I had in Myanmar. I didn't even bring one grain of rice. My daughter and my husband are living with me in this camp. But my husband is sick. This is a very terrible situation. I don't have a personal plan for the future. I just think about how I used to have seven children and now I have six."


Murshida, age 40


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