

tearfund

CONNECT

Summer 2020

# HOPE IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

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- New project! Expanding into agriculture in **Kenya**
- Update from **Colombia** (Venezuelan refugees)

*Following Jesus where the need is greatest*

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## EQUIPPING HOPE

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***"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*** – Hebrews 13:20-21

Have you ever thought about how unlikely it was that the 11 men Jesus called would change the world? A rag-tag team comprised of low-class fisherman, tax collectors, and outcasts – they never looked at themselves as something special before Christ came along! Or Saul, later Paul, who went from the church's biggest enemy to its greatest advocate?

But God sees what we don't. For three years Christ taught, loved, and equipped the disciples to be the greatest force of change the world had ever seen. And through the Holy Spirit, Christ still calls and equips us today. What an amazing thought!

At Tearfund, we're not helping the poor by "giving stuff" or offering programs. We focus on building relationships and equipping people so that they can change their lives and transform their communities. These deep relationships, embedded in strong local partners, has allowed us to continue to transform lives even in the midst of COVID-19. I hope you enjoy this edition of Tearfund Connect, which highlights a few of the ways your support continues to make a difference in the lives of so many.

Thank you for your generous heart and willingness to follow Jesus where the need is greatest.

Blessings,



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# COVID-19 IN LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE

## Keeping One Step Ahead

Four years ago marked the end of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, which swept through Liberia and Sierra Leone. It killed many people, left behind orphans, broken families, and broken spirits. The Ebola crisis forced many into extreme poverty, and it has been a hard road back. In many ways, the region still hasn't fully recovered.



In Liberia, your donations have helped our church partners distribute hundreds of hand-washing stations to rural villages.

stations equipped with soap and clean water so that villagers can prevent the spread of COVID-19. Moreover, your donations have provided our partners with masks, gloves, and COVID-19 training so that the life-transforming work local churches are involved with does not stop. Because whether there is a disease or not, people still need to be able to grow crops in order to feed their families.

Throughout it all, our partners are steadfast in prayer knowing that God is the one that looks after them. In Sierra Leone, a weekly prayer is broadcast over public radio for comfort and to remind people where their hope is. Thank you for all your support. Because of your prayers and generosity, no one in our communities has become sick and people are still able to be trained to grow more food to feed themselves and their families.

So when COVID-19 started to spread around the world, our church partners in these countries acted fast. They called out to us for help, and you responded.

Over the last 3 months, generous donations have provided communities with hand washing



# EXPANDING THE GREAT WORK

## EXPANDING CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE IN KENYA

*The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.*

**Matthew 13:31-32**

She can barely hold back her excitement.

For years Jackline has struggled to feed her growing children. She often skipped meals so that her kids would have just a little more to eat. It is only one of the many sacrifices mothers like her in Kenya make.

But thanks to donors like you, this season is different from all the others. As Jackline walks through her small 1-acre field, she is excited to show us her crops which have already experienced tremendous growth despite the lack of rainfall this year. The secret of her success has been the new **Conservation Agriculture** training she has been able to learn from Fadhili – one of our local church partners.

Unlike the farming methods the government teaches, which results in soil erosion and poor yields, conservation agriculture focuses on enriching the soil with nutrients and preventing water loss through proper mulching and extensive groundcover.

Your donations enabled Fadhili to expand its excellent training from Village Savings Groups to include conservation agriculture as well. By combining the two, people like Jackline can earn more income through farming and grow their wealth exponentially through the savings groups.



Jackline with **Conservation Agriculture** crop



Jackline with **Traditional Farming** crop

The results are so remarkable that we have seen people climb out of poverty in just a few years – not only being able to feed their children but also send them to school – even college!

But feeding bellies is not the only outcome of the training. Run with local churches, before and after each training session a prayer time is held. People learn that they are valued by God and that he has given them gifts and abilities to use.

Thanks to your donations, Jackline now has a hope for the future and says:

“**MY NEIGHBOURS ARE AMAZED AND ASKING ME TO TEACH THEM ABOUT CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE SO THEY TOO CAN HELP PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES NEXT YEAR.**”

### AMAZING RESULTS!

In 2019, your support provided families across **Africa** and **Asia** with training that multiplied their crop yield **3X-4X!**

**91,125**

people now have access to food year-round


**687%**

average increase in family income after planting Taro with **Conservation Agriculture**



# FEEDING HOPE

AN UPDATE FROM COLOMBIA




Last December, hundreds of Christians across Canada gave generously to help local churches in Colombia run a feeding program for Venezuelan refugee children. Children visit the churches to receive a hearty lunch, play games, and be cared for by loving volunteers.

Since the spread of COVID-19, we have had to modify the program to instead deliver the food to the homes where these children and their families live.

One of these families is Eliainy, her husband and two children – one of which has Epilepsy. In Venezuela they had a successful life; Eliainy worked in a pharmacy. But since the crisis they have lost everything. With no medicine for their child, they decided to take the long journey to Colombia and settle as refugees next to a garbage dump in Barranquilla.

Their hopes for refuge were destroyed when Eliainy and her husband couldn't work without proper documentation. With nothing and nowhere to go, they were in disbelief as to what their life had become.



Eliainy holding her youngest son, who has Epilepsy.

It was just then when Pastor Gabriella noticed the young family and invited them to be part of the Oasis Food Program. Since then, Eliainy's children have been getting daily food, and have been gaining some weight.

**“I NO LONGER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT OR WHEN THEIR NEXT MEAL WILL BE. I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THE CHURCH FOR RUNNING THE PROGRAM”**

– Eliainy



Pastor Gabriella praying with the many Venezuelan families and children

But Pastor Gabriella says that the program goes far beyond food. *“While providing meals to children to decrease malnutrition is important, the most influential impact of our work is that through our church, God restores a feeling of hope to the refugees. Only Jesus can satisfy the emotional and spiritual needs of His people, and we have the duty to point each Venezuelan refugee towards Him.”*

Your donations have created the possibility of feeding children who desperately need food and nutrition, like Eliainy's children; but they have also enabled men and women to find emotional support through the church and spiritual healing through Jesus Christ.

Your donations have helped our church partners prepare lunch for **500 refugee children a day**, giving them the strength and nourishment.



# YOUR LEGACY, THEIR GIFT OF LIFE

It's easier than you think to leave a gift to Tearfund in your will. And when you do, you'll be setting something extraordinary in motion.

Today, and in the years to come, lives and communities across the world will be changed for the better. Churches in the poorest places will be empowered and equipped to transform their communities. Men and women will receive training and come to learn that God has given them skills and resources they can use to lift themselves out of poverty for good.

Your legacy will help people be freed from poverty, live transformed lives, and reach their God-given potential.

**IT IS EASY TO GET STARTED. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN LEAVING A LEGACY, PLEASE CONTACT OUR DIRECTOR  
OF FINANCE HENRY XU BY:**

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