tearfund

Discovery

Trips 2026

What is it?

Tearfund's Discovery Team trips offer an experience to help Church leaders and donors to understand Tearfund's humanitarian work. Throughout the experience, you'll gain understanding of the countries we work in through the lens of the local population, the church, and our local partners. We will also see what God is already doing.

Discovery Team 2026/2027

Ethiopia and Kenya

In 2025/2026, Tearfund will be leading several Discovery Team trips to Africa including Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya, where we have been working for decades, and are currently implementing major projects through our strong local partners and the church.

Participating in a Discovery Team will provide you with the opportunity to witness first-hand the programs you support, you will gain an understanding of how through Tearfund's interventions, communities are transformed. But most importantly, you will see what God is doing through you and the lives you helped.

When will it be?

Ethiopia

July **16th** to **26th** 2026

Ethiopia

November **19th** to **29th** 2026

(waitlist only)

Kenya

January **28th** to February **6th** 2027

(limited spots left)

**Dates subject to flight availability and do not include travel times.*

Why would one participate?

As part of an inspirational journey, the Discovery Team will provide each member with the opportunity to understand why Tearfund does the work it does, and why working with the local community is important. It will help you understand where their financial support is going and how it is being used to support people across the world.

Traveling as a non-tourist but guest of our national partners will provide insight comprehension of needs, church-based community developement and transformation. It can help each person gain a deeper understanding and meaningful connection with other countries and cultures.

Ministries Opportunities: This is designed as a learning experience, not a ministry or service experience. However, there may be opportunities to share and minister among our Ethiopian and Kenyan brothers and sisters.

Please be prepared for:

- One 3 to 10-minute short devotional, testimony, or explanation of favourite Bible verse (please inform team leader if you are not comfortable sharing)
- Prayer ministry for and with our fellow brothers and sisters
- Sharing the challenges and victories that you face in your day-to-day Christian journey

What will one gain from the Discovery Team?

Over the course of the trip, Discovery Team members will visit several communities in the visited countries, meeting local farmers, church leaders, and members of Tearfund's Self-Help and Saving Group projects.

You will learn about the importance of Conservation Agriculture, Saving Groups, Church Transformation, Creation Care, and how communities are transformed from our interventions.

The team will build relationships with our national partners in the country, the local communities, and truly understand the culture.

Testimonies from recent Discovery Team Members

'The Ethiopia Discovery Trip greatly increased my understanding of Tearfund, and the successful impact their programs have on the poor living in remote villages. The people we met were so proud to tell us about how poverty is a mindset, and their achievements with the programming. The individual stories we heard do not paint the full picture of the hope and the confidence they exuded while recounting their stories...I had read about the stories and reports before, but to hear, see, and taste it first hand is a valuable experience that tripled my understanding of what we do, why we follow Jesus where the need is greatest and why we are making a difference.'

Nora Teo (board member)

'I was very excited at the opportunity to participate in a Tearfund Discovery Trip, and was very impressed with how well run and comprehensive the poverty alleviation programs are. I used to think ending global poverty was an insurmountable task but the Discovery Trip allowed me to witness the tremendous impact and successes Tearfund has had in Ethiopia.

As a donor, we are even more confident in Tearfund's stewardship of its resources and will continue to support them. The Discovery Trip has made us even greater advocates of Tearfund's amazing efforts.'

Karl Lee

‘I had the privilege of travelling to Ethiopia to see Tearfund’s work in action. I had heard reports of the work in Ethiopia, but was blown away by the quality of their development programs. They exclusively do training, with the goal of teaching people financial and agricultural skills that empower them to get out of poverty. Though global poverty is on the rise, let’s not lose hope. There are some pretty incredible people and organizations working hard to give people the tools to break the cycle of poverty in an empowering and dignified way.’

Andrea Leung (board member)

How does TFCA ensure the safety of the team?

Ensuring all guests are immunized

- Immunizations are mandatory
- Tearfund Canada will advise you on the immunization process.
- Each person will need to visit a health clinic before leaving where they will receive immunizations for yellow fever, hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus, and an antimalarial prescription. (The travel health clinic will also advise on what immunizations are needed).

Safe accommodation

- Accommodation will include guest houses and clean hotels – based on what’s safest, available, and suitable.
- All rooms will have mosquito nets and access to hot & cold showers.

Daily Debriefs

- Participants will have daily debriefs led by experienced team leaders to ensure maximum learning and a deeper understanding of the local cultural context.

Insurance

- Each participant will be required to provide proof of medical travel insurance. Participants can be covered from an employer’s benefit plan or by purchasing coverage through a bank, travel agent or credit card company

Team Size

6 - 10 Team Members – Teams will be led by senior Tearfund staff members.

Pre-Departure Training

Pre- and post-departure training is designed and delivered to encourage personal growth, spiritual development, and cultural awareness. Pre-departure training will help equip participants to effectively relate cross-culturally and make a positive impact on hosts and national leaders.

It will include:

- Reading assignments (books and articles)
- Completing inventories/surveys
- Two 90-minute team meetings via Skype/Zoom
- Packing and travel tips
- Praying for the host country and its people

Cost

- $4,000 all-inclusive cost. (All expenses are tax receiptable, participants may raise support)
- This cost includes airfare, accommodations, in-country food and transportation, and visas. Note: immunizations and other pre-departure health costs are only included in this amount if coverage cannot be attained through the participant's personal benefit plan.
- The cost does not include travel health insurance, passports, and medications (recommended: anti malaria and dukoral)
- Upon confirmation, each participant will be required to sign a Release/Waiver Form
- If interested contact **Abby** at **abennett@tearfund.ca** or call **(905) 447-4230** to reserve your space

Leadership

Each Discovery Team experience is unique, but it is expected that training experiences will come from:

- Trisha Okenge – CEO
- Roberta Pronteau – Director of Philanthropy
- Steve Weir – Church and Legacy Giving Manager

Re-entry Debrief

Two weeks after returning from your discovery trip there will be a debriefing to ensure maximum learning. This debrief will help to ensure that new learnings are integrated into your life experience.

If you have any questions about Discovery Teams or about the application process, please contact **Abby Bennett** at **abennett@tearfund.ca** or call **(905) 447-4230**

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