

'Who is my neighbour?'
Luke 10:29

www.tearfund.ie



Tearfund Ireland, Ulysses House,
22-24 Foley St, Dublin 1
enquiries@tearfund.ie
Tel: 01 497 5285

We are bringing hope and demonstrating love to the most
vulnerable and marginalised people – through the local church.

Registered Charity No. CHY 8600

THE HEART
OF THE MATTER:
OUR VISION



tearfund
BE PART OF A MIRACLE

YOUR DETAILS

Title: _____ Full name: _____
 Address: _____

 Church: _____
 Tel: _____
 Email address: _____

Please fill in this postcard and send it to us today and we'll present your postcard to the Taoiseach. Before we do, we'd like to know if you want to get more involved (*tick all that apply*):

- Tell me more.** Receive our newsletter three times a year to find out how we are transforming lives worldwide.
- Help me pray.** Prayer makes a difference. Give us your email address above and we'll send you a prayer update email and tell you about prayer events.
- I want to give.** Help local churches respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people. We'll send you information on ways to give.
- I want to go.** Be transformed by spending time working alongside local churches in Africa and Asia. We'll send you information on forthcoming trips.

We would like to keep you informed about our projects and activities. If you would rather not receive this information, please email us at enquiries@tearfund.ie or call 01 497 5285. We will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

TFI-013

ACT NOW

Dear Taoiseach,

More than 860 million people are hungry in the world today and 3.5 million children die from hunger every year.

We should not, and need not, tolerate this continuing level of deprivation. The problem can be solved. We just need to decide to act.

Despite the current economic challenges, we ask our government to focus on the following areas:

Keep the promise – In September 2005, Ireland made a commitment to reach the target of 0.7% of GDP for overseas aid by 2012 and an increased effort to 'tackle the root causes of hunger'. Don't renege on this commitment.

Support the most vulnerable people – War and HIV have been hugely significant factors in causing malnutrition, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In Asia, the low status of women and consequent poor education have helped child malnutrition and mortality rates to rise. Continue to ensure that overseas aid is targeted at those people in greatest need.

During this time of financial crisis, we pray that you have the courage and wisdom to make tough and just decisions.

Thank you

Signature

Please sign and post this card today.

PLEASE FOLD HERE



Keep the promise
Help end hunger

No stamp
required

Tearfund Ireland
Freepost 4602
Ulysses House
22-24 Foley St
Dublin 1

BE PART OF A MIRACLE

War, famine, loneliness, disease. Can we really make a difference?



We live in a broken world, a world that is filled with doubt, fear and hate. When I worked in the refugee camps in Darfur, hunger and death were the daily reality of the people there. I sometimes felt overwhelmed

by all the problems that faced us. But then, an elderly lady called Miriam said to me, 'You have brought us hope.' Incredible. That is the miracle of allowing God to work through us.

In following Jesus' example, Tearfund is bringing hope and demonstrating love through a network of global churches. We have an exciting vision for seeing God's kingdom come 'on earth as it is in heaven', and each one of us has a unique role to play. Together, we are making little miracles possible, every day, for people like Miriam.

Reuben Coulter

Reuben Coulter
Chief Executive Tearfund Ireland

'If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.'

Isaiah 58:10

Photo (right): Layton Thompson/Tearfund
Cover photo: Caroline Irby/Tearfund



OUR VISION

We are bringing hope and demonstrating love to the most vulnerable and marginalised people – through the local church.

Each year, more than 8 million people around the world die because they are simply too poor to survive. More than 800 million go hungry each day. More than 100 million primary school-age children cannot go to school. The statistics are shocking and the challenges that face us are enormous.

At Tearfund Ireland we are prioritising the **most vulnerable and marginalised people**, working through churches and Christian organisations to bring help and hope to people living in dire poverty – people who aren't being helped by other agencies. That's why we have chosen to work with **forgotten children, vulnerable women**, people affected by **HIV**, and to provide **emergency** relief to people who have often lost everything in times of disaster.

As part of the global church, we're committed to **empowering and equipping local churches** to respond – because they know the people in greatest need. They live and breathe the problems affecting their communities, day in, day out, so they know what is needed.

At Tearfund, our inspiration, since the outset, has always been the example of Jesus, who changed people's lives physically and spiritually. We believe that's what God wants his people worldwide to do. Will you join us?

'Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received.'

Mother Theresa



Responding rapidly to **EMERGENCIES**

EMERGENCIES

Floods, droughts and earthquakes are on the increase. When disasters strike, it is poor communities who feel the impact most.

Tearfund helps people all over the world to deal with the aftermath of emergencies and prepare for future disasters. We support the local church so it can respond quickly to the immediate needs in their community. Where the scale of the emergency is beyond their capacity, we send disaster response teams of engineers, nutritionists, doctors and project managers to bring relief. We provide clean water and sanitation to prevent the spread of diseases. We provide food for the hungry and shelter for the homeless. We train local farmers to plant drought-resistant crops to prevent future famines. We can't stop disasters happening, but we can save lives when they strike.

Photo: Geoff Crawford/Tearfund

UNSPEAKABLE HORRORS
Ahmed was three years old when he witnessed his father being killed and his village burned by the Janjaweed rebels in Darfur, western Sudan. For two years afterwards, Ahmed didn't speak a single word. Then, at the age of five, he started attending a children's club run by Tearfund. Week after week, he went along with his mother, to learn about health and hygiene through games and songs. Halfway through a session, Ahmed miraculously began to sing. 'Our lives have been restored,' says his mother. 'I have hope for the future.'

FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

Some children are living on the edge but they are not beyond our reach.

Millions of children worldwide grow up trapped in poverty, fear or despair, their lives stunted by abuse, war, HIV, homelessness or the loss of their parents. These children can't be helped through traditional child sponsorship as their lives are too precarious. These children don't need pity. They need physical and emotional security and the chance to fulfil their God-given potential. We are supporting children orphaned by AIDS in their communities and ensuring they get an education. We are caring for children who have been abandoned by their families and helping to restore their lives. We are supporting children with disabilities to receive physiotherapy. We are helping street children get an education. The church is acting as the parents that many children have already lost. We are bringing childhood back to life.

MORE THAN CONQUERORS
Abandoned by his alcoholic mother, Peah (right) – who has cerebral palsy – could not speak or walk when Cambodian partner Little Conquerors first met him. Now, he shuffles slowly on a walking frame towards his foster father, a huge smile stretching from ear to ear. 'We love him like our son,' says his foster father, 'but without the help of Little Conquerors, we wouldn't have been able to cope.' Thanks to their support, Peah attends a school for children with disabilities and receives physiotherapy. 'I would like to be a motorbike driver when I grow up,' he says slowly – as he smiles again.



Reaching the world's **FORGOTTEN CHILDREN**

Photo: Reuben Coulter/Tearfund

VULNERABLE WOMEN

At least one in every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

It's estimated that between 500,000 and 2 million people are trafficked every year. In most parts of the world, women hold an extremely vulnerable position in society and this gender inequality has tragic consequences. The local church has a vital role to play in bringing transformation. We are restoring broken relationships between men and women. We are providing skills training for women to enable them to earn a living and escape poverty. We are helping to rescue women trapped in prostitution. We are providing care and counselling to women who have been abused. We can't undo the past but we are able to provide a hope and a future – so vulnerable women can lead the life that God has planned for them.

SOLD
When she was 13, Farheen was sold to a brothel owner for 5,000 rupees (€65). Her captivity lasted for years and years. But, one day, outside the brothel, Farheen met staff at Tearfund's partner Aruna. The Aruna team worked tirelessly for eight years to secure her freedom. Now, Farheen is a cleaner at the Aruna drop-in centre in the mornings and works as a counsellor for a government organisation in the afternoon, visiting girls who work as prostitutes.

Restoring hope for **VULNERABLE WOMEN**

Photo: Marcus Perkins/Tearfund



Stopping AIDS. **ALL TOGETHER.**

HIV

HIV is devastating entire communities, leaving families destroyed and children without parents.

There are now more than 33 million people living with HIV worldwide and 3 million dying of AIDS-related illnesses every year. Years of progress in development will be wiped out unless something is done now. We are raising awareness about how HIV is spread, especially among young people. We are helping mothers to access medicines so their babies can start life free from HIV. We are supporting churches so that they can care for children orphaned by AIDS. We are training church volunteers to provide love and care so that people with HIV live longer, healthier lives by accessing medicines. By mobilising the local church we are beginning to halt the spread of HIV and reverse the impact of AIDS.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER
Esther (left) knew she might have passed HIV to her daughter. Alinafe was born with her eyes, her smile, her blood. So, why not her HIV as well?
Alinafe is unaware of the risks. 'I don't want to tell her,' says Esther. 'When I'm ill, I tell her I might not get better. But it makes her so sad.'
In Malawi, the stigma surrounding HIV is a huge problem. Tearfund partner Eagles is working hard to overcome these prejudices. The church also helps mothers like Esther with practical support, providing access to HIV medicines and clean water.
Thankfully, Esther did not pass the virus onto her daughter; she prays she will live long enough to see Alinafe marry. And she prays that the church will play its part in stopping HIV.



Photo: Marcus Perkins/Tearfund

THE LOCAL CHURCH

**Do you believe the local church can make a difference?
We do – because we are seeing results.**

The best way to help someone in need is to stand with them in their place of need. This is one reason why Tearfund Ireland works through **professional, accountable partners** who work with and through local churches. They operate at the point of need and from within the need. In Tearfund's experience, this is the recipe for **truly sustainable development**.

'The local church is the hope of the world.'

Bill Hybels, co-founder of Willow Creek Community Church, USA

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Fiona is a Tearfund volunteer passionate about justice

She shared this passion with her church in Mullingar

Her church raised funds through a cake sale and prayed for a church in Malawi

The church in Malawi, led by Pastor Cuthbert, is helping mothers affected by HIV...

And providing drought-resistant crops to farmers affected by a changing climate

Fiona is part of a miracle. A global miracle that's transforming lives

Wanted: another miracle-worker

OUR APPROACH

We believe God wants us to bring transformation in people's lives, physically and spiritually. We start on our knees, because action begins in prayer.

Poverty is complex. It is caused by lack of education, inequality, unpredictable weather, corruption, disasters, unjust trade agreements and myriad more deep-rooted social and global issues. At the root of it all lies the fact that we live in a broken world. Solutions aren't easy. Bringing transformation requires us to address the root causes of injustice as well as responding to people's immediate needs. Prayer is not the least we can do: it is the most important place to start.

Photo: Caroline Irby/Tearfund



FAITH – We inspire and equip Christians in Ireland to understand God's heart for the poor: to pray, to give, to act. It all counts.



LOVE – We transform the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalised people by supporting local churches: with finance, training and technical expertise.



HOPE – We speak out against injustice and lobby for positive change.

OUR VALUES

We want to be the people whom God has called us to be – authentic Christians.



Photo:Tearfund

- **Christ-centred** – We live to follow Christ. Our roots go down deep in him: his Spirit energises us, his word steers us, his presence steadies us.
- **Relational** – Good relationships are vital. We aim to put those we are serving first, being humble and learning from others. We live with integrity.
- **Empowering** – We choose to be servants to others, working with them, recognising their calling, encouraging them in their journey and developing their gifting.
- **Passionate** – We are passionate about the people whom the world ignores. We are irrevocably changed by the people we meet and we respond to their suffering.
- **Highly effective** – We are catalysts of change, using our resources wisely and with accountability to make the biggest difference possible.
- **Excellent** – We believe that those we serve deserve the best. We aim to be creative and imaginative in finding sustainable solutions to the issues of poverty and injustice.

OUR HISTORY

We are spiritually passionate and professionally excellent.

Tearfund was founded in the UK in 1968 to help the people affected by war in the short-lived republic of Biafra, southern Nigeria. Tearfund's operations are run according to internationally recognised standards and Tearfund is a signatory of the International Red Cross Code of Conduct. It is recognised worldwide as a leading relief and development agency.

Tearfund has operated in the island of Ireland for more than 40 years with a strong network of supporters and churches.

In 2008, Tearfund Ireland was launched as a separate, independent charity. As a sister organisation we work closely with Tearfund in the UK, sharing their values and benefiting from their considerable experience and expertise. We will continue to be both spiritually passionate and professionally excellent.

EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE

We are indebted to a wide variety of churches and individuals in Ireland whose generosity and compassion make it possible for us to respond to the needs of the world's poorest people. Tearfund is also funded by the Irish government. We use our finances as effectively as possible and have consistently maintained low administration costs in order to ensure help reaches those in need. This is also made possible through the support of enthusiastic volunteers who raise funds, pray, work in our office and share our vision with others.

'I love Tearfund's heart for the poor. Through them I have been able to make a difference.'

Sheila MacDougal, a volunteer for 40 years and a founding director of Tearfund Ireland

Photo: Reuben Coulter/Tearfund

