

Tearfund Partnership Mozambique

Update January 2021

A New Partnership

This year Holy Trinity starts a new partnership with Tearfund Mozambique. Over three years we'll be helping to support a project that will envision, equip and strengthen local churches in **92 communities** in the provinces of Zambezia, Inhambane and Gaza.

Provinces of Mozambique



Tearfund's partners in this project are the **Diocese of Niassa** and Rede Crista Contra HIV. They are committed to working with local churches to build hope-filled disaster-resilient communities.

We met some of the staff of the Diocese of Niassa when we visited in 2018. This Anglican Diocese actually covers the entire northern half of Mozambique, not just the province of Niassa.

**Meeting with staff in St James' Church
Morrumbala, Zambezia, September 2018**



The project's aim is for the church to transform communities by spearheading development initiatives such as communal farms or health and education infrastructure.

Leaders and facilitators from **98 local churches** will be trained in Tearfund's Church and Community Transformation process, which outlines how churches can help their communities to address the physical needs, negative attitudes and unfair relationships that keep people in poverty. Volunteer counsellors and "animators" will work in each community to reduce the prevalence of HIV, malnutrition and tuberculosis. Self Help Groups will help establish robust livelihoods and provide training in conservation agriculture that improves yields and preserves the environment.

Update from Edgar Jone

On 16th January Ricci and Karen had a Zoom conversation with Edgar Jone, Tearfund's Country Manager in Mozambique. This was to get some prayer points for the Church Prayer Evening on 26th January and to catch up with him and how things are going in Mozambique. Hopefully Edgar will be able to join us live that evening too. Jared has also put the whole video is on Youtube.



The prayer points are:

Give thanks that the church in Milange is seeing growth through the Church and Community Transformation programme. Pray for the expansion of this model to more churches in the districts of Milange and Morrumbala.

Please pray for the protection of Diocese of Niassa staff members as they implement Church and Community Transformation and Coronavirus Prevention projects. There have been huge numbers of infections in recent days and people are worried.

Pray for peace in the northern region (Cabo Delgado), where there's ongoing conflict as a result of a militant Islamic insurgency. More than 565,000 people have been displaced and are in need of shelter, clean water, sanitation and food. International funding runs out in March.

There have been further storms and floods in the Beria area, causing more damage to areas still recovering from the previous cyclones. Morrumbala area also suffers from drought. Pray for the success of Smart Agriculture projects and funding for the necessary irrigation equipment.

Cabo Delgado

You may have heard about the increasingly serious situation in this northernmost region of Mozambique. Edgar told us about it at length.

Huge multinational companies are exploring for gas in Mozambique. The trouble in Cabo Delgado started since they started exploring for gas. Edgar doesn't have sure evidence that it's linked but it started when the gas companies started their operations. In that region people are being moved and displaced to safe areas. There are increasing numbers of displaced people.

Partners such as the Diocese of Niassa, other international NGOs and the World Food Programme have been giving out food items. However as of March they will not have any more money to support the 700,000 people who need help. This number includes the people who are being hosted in the community as well as internally displaced persons in camps. Tearfund is starting a project to support at least 8,000 displaced persons with food items, dignity kits and shelter materials. This will run for 6 months but after that there will be no more funding for it.



Tearfund is also helping people with livelihoods. Where the government has allocated people 1.5 hectares of land, Tearfund supports them with seeds and agricultural implements. This season 5,000 households have been able to plant (maize, cassava, groundnuts, sesame seed and beans) and they will harvest in 3 months' time.

Smart Agriculture

There hasn't been rain in Morrumbala. This means that people in Morrumbala haven't been able to plant yet, although the season started in November. Small-scale agriculture is the main livelihood here but erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and flooding are proving ruinous.

A small project has been started with the Tearfund partner Codesa. It's called Smart Agriculture and will run for 3 years to maximize the use of water (drilling boreholes, using river water, harvesting water during rains) and then pump water and use gravity for drip irrigation and sprinklers.

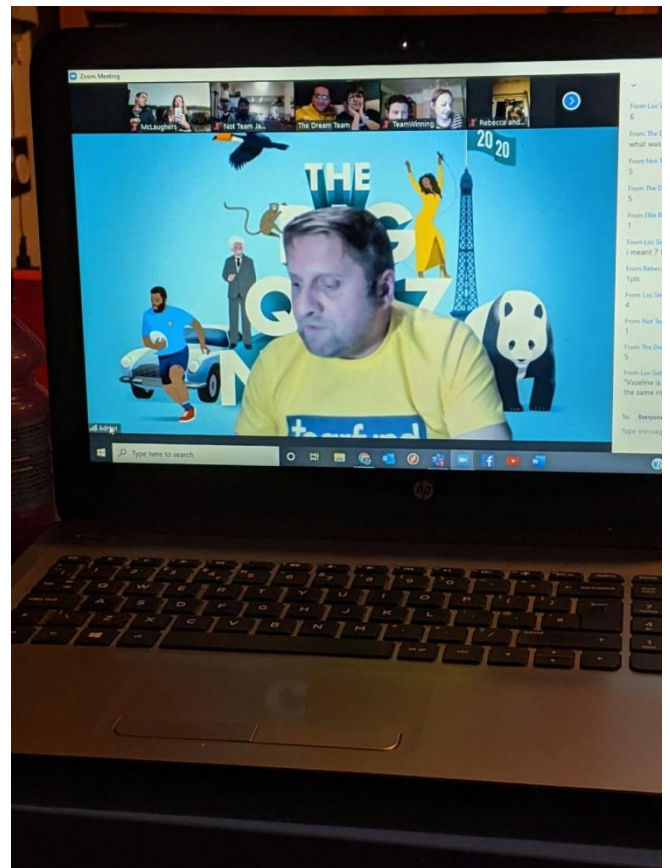
We saw some of the work being done by Codesa when we were there. Here fields were irrigated using pumped river water and ridges to keep the water in place.



Plans are being made for similar projects in Morrumbala but the problem now is the cash as irrigation requires a lot of money to get started.



Fund-raising



We made a great start in November with a Zoom version of Tearfund's Big Quiz. It was a fun evening that brought some social cheer during lockdown. Many people made up teams linked by phone or WhatsApp. There was a bundle of Fairtrade chocolate bars for the winning team. Many thanks go to the Vincent family for hosting the event.

Spring time will see a sale of skirts, bags and other accessories made from African fabrics.

Thanks for reading

Karen and Ricci Downard