

tearfund

A reason to smile

Mozambique

Proposal for Holy Trinity Church Hurdsfield

April 2020 to March 2023 - Year two



Chinguema and his wife Maria at their home in Goonda Sede, Chibabava District. They were deeply thankful to receive support from one of Tearfund's partners in 2019 following the devastation wrought by Cyclone Idai. Source: David Matua/ Tearfund

Overview

Tearfund's work in Mozambique is centred around equipping the church to serve the most vulnerable in the poorest regions of the country. This is accomplished by empowering people to unlock their God-given gifts and use their potential to become agents of change in their communities. This project will build community resilience to climate change, improve health, and increase households' income, giving families cause to smile.

“The worst is yet to come”¹

The full consequences of Covid-19 around the world are unknown, but for Mozambique, the outlook is frightening. Already reeling from the 2019 cyclones, Idai, Kenneth, and Eloise, Covid-19 is exacerbating the challenges faced by one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world², where 2.5 million Mozambicans are in need of humanitarian assistance. At the time the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a pandemic, nearly 100,000 people across Mozambique were already living in makeshift shelters. In addition to the strain the pandemic is putting on Mozambique's health system, malaria, tuberculosis and diarrhoeal diseases remain significant problems and 2.2 million people live with HIV/AIDS³. Whereas the U.K. has 280 doctors per 100,000 people, in Mozambique, it is three per 100,000 (International Growth Centre 5/5/20).

In a country where 46 per cent of the population lives in poverty⁴, and where nine out of ten people work in the informal economy, *“the spread of Covid-19 represents an unprecedented shock for Mozambique”*⁵. Some people won't recover. Some families will not experience an 'up' after this 'down'. According to the World Food Programme, 80 per cent of people cannot afford an adequately diverse diet and a staggering 42 per cent of children under five are stunted. And regardless of how Covid-19 develops there, with the insurgency in Cabo Delgado⁶ displacing 800,000 people internally (UNOCHA), and the growing impact of climate change on the country, it is certain that the worst is yet to come. **For many families in Mozambique, their lives are filled with sadness and despair. There is little to rejoice about.**

You turned my wailing into dancing

But in Mozambique, God is using the church to work hand in hand with communities, unlocking divine potential and possibilities. Poverty is being overcome in Mozambique today, and for future generations. People like Cecilia are discovering that God has given them resources to transform their lives.

Cecilia Mwiniwa, 69, lives in Caiaia, a town in the Alto Molócuè district. She had always enjoyed making things with clay and has decades of experience making pots and stoves for her own home. But it was only recently she realised that her passion for pottery could bring in a regular and much-needed income for her family.

Cecilia attended a community group at her church, run by Tearfund's local partner, where they discussed how to make money by using readily available resources. That's when she discovered she was already making a product that others wanted to buy. ***“I spent a lot of time going to church empty-handed, not knowing that I could make money through my work,”*** says Cecilia. Cecilia started making kitchen utensils to sell to her neighbours and soon sold out. Now, she and her daughter regularly make a range of products to sell in their local community. Poverty is multi-faceted and the challenges here are profound, but now Cecilia and her family have a reason to smile.

¹ *“Extreme weather events will occur in Mozambique more frequently, with increasing ferocity”* says Katarina Johansson, acting UNICEF Representative in Mozambique (17 March 2020).

² Dr J Mahmood, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) *“We have seen a clear trend of these disasters increasing”*.

³ According to UNAIDS, there were 150,000 new HIV infections during 2018 in Mozambique.

⁴ Mozambique has one of the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) numbers in the world (180 of 189 countries) - UNICEF, 17/3/2020.

⁵ *“...with wide-ranging health, welfare, nutrition, food security and socio-economic consequences, especially due to the expected loss of livelihoods.”* FAO Mozambique: Addressing the impacts of Covid-19 - 26/5/20.

⁶ Militants linked to the so-called Islamic State group are behind the conflict which seems to be rooted in the deep inequality felt in one of Mozambique's poorest regions. More than 3,000 people have been killed.

Cecilia's small business (pictured below) has brought big changes to her life and is helping to lift her and her family out of poverty. Her clay products are growing in popularity, and she's expanding her business and even starting to teach others how to work with clay. "I can tithe at my local church and I manage to buy clothes for me and my grandchildren and can purchase school supplies for the grandchildren," says Cecilia. "The difficulties I face now are less than those I was facing before."

You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.
(Psalm 30:11)



How will this project make a difference?

This project will envision, equip and strengthen local churches in 92 communities so they can effectively address the needs of the people around them. In 92 communities, living standards will be improved and households will be less vulnerable. In 92 communities lives will be transformed in the provinces of Gaza, Inhambane, and Zambezia. Can you imagine transforming 92 communities?

These communities rely on small-scale agriculture to survive. But climate change, erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells and flooding, and now pressures on the supply chain resulting from Covid-19 are increasingly proving ruinous to livelihoods, crops and livestock. But there is a solution...

Tearfund's partners, the Diocese of Niassa (DoN), and RCHS (Rede Crista Contra HIV) are committed to working with local churches to build hope-filled, disaster-resilient communities. **With your help, over the course of this three-year project, 73,939 people in 92 vulnerable communities will be able to smile like Cecilia in the face of these great challenges.** A further 89,009 people will benefit indirectly. 2,496 volunteers will be enlisted and trained and 204 trainers will be equipped.

Principal activities are below:



The church will spearhead development initiatives in their community, (such as communal farms, or health and education infrastructure), and will be salt and light. Leaders and facilitators from 98 local churches will be envisioned and trained in Tearfund’s Church and Community Transformation process (CCT). The CCT process outlines how churches can help their communities to address the physical needs, negative attitudes and unfair relationships that keep people in poverty. Skills-based training is given, whilst at the same time addressing the underlying psychological issues of despair and hopelessness.



There will be a reduction in the prevalence of HIV, malnutrition and tuberculosis. Counsellors will be selected in each community to represent ten neighbouring households and provide them with health and nutrition advice. Each group of 20 counsellors will receive health training from a community ‘animator’ who will attend periodic meetings throughout the project on various health, nutrition, and water and sanitation (WASH) topics.



New robust livelihoods will be established and families will have increased quality of life. Self Help Groups will be formed, where members can pray, save and receive livelihoods training together on topics such as conservation agriculture. Termed ‘Farming God’s Way’, this course improves the fertility of the soil and conserves water, negating the need to plough, and introduces farmers to improved drought-resilient seeds and affordable, organic pesticides and fertilisers made from local resources⁷. Entrepreneurship and new agricultural businesses will be encouraged through training. The result is higher crop yields, improved income from the sale of surplus food, reduced manual labour, and greater resilience to climate change. It also benefits the environment, with outcomes such as healthier soil, erosion control, water conservation, and keeping carbon in the ground.



There will be a better understanding of climate change and increased capacity to foresee and mitigate future disaster risk. Church and community infrastructure and early warning systems will be developed through community disaster committees, who will promote climate-friendly communal activities and advocate with the local government for the provision of services to these remote areas.

By enabling people to lift themselves out of material poverty, they are able to see themselves as agents of change within their community. They understand that God hasn’t set them up to fail. The proposed changes to these communities are profound in scale and depth. **They are profoundly needed, but profoundly possible.**

You can do something

You can bring smiles to faces here, where previously there was little reason to rejoice. We need to raise **£46,512*** for this project and are inviting you to help. The year two budget breakdown is below:

ACTIVITY OR ITEM	COST (£)
HIV/AIDS & nutrition	4,923
Livelihoods & food security	3,473
CCT	3,974
Monitoring, evaluation, and project review	5,546
Personnel	27,421
Administration (transport, communication, audit)	6,824
UK support costs**	6,512
Total costs	58,673***

* using an exchange rate of £1 to 0.73USD

** 7% of your gift will go to our wider international work, ensuring your money is well spent. 7% will go to help cover running costs in the UK which includes fundraising enabling us to raise further vital resources. Any Gift Aid received from your donation will go to Tearfund’s general work to help where the need is greatest.

*** £12,161 is being carried over from last year.

⁷ The course promotes compost-manure making, irrigation, small livestock production, crop diversification, community seed systems, post-harvest crop management, backyard and sack vegetable production, maximum soil cover principles, agroforestry, vetiver grass planting along ridge contours, and year round tree planting.

A note on coronavirus

Covid-19 is still having a huge impact and has affected our partners' work across the world. We are hoping to implement this work as planned but would ask for your patience and understanding if future restrictions affect some of the activities. Currently, government guidelines allow for meetings of up to 50 people but participants will be provided with facemasks, sanitiser, and each meeting will include awareness-raising on Covid-19 prevention measures.

“As we present our prayer points, please pray in your heart and in your church.”

Edgar Jone, Tearfund Country Director Mozambique.



Pray for the government and local churches as they try to respond to multiple crises and serve their communities. Covid-19 has hit Mozambique's economy badly, livelihoods are struggling and according to Tearfund's country director, some families are living on only one meal a day. As of the 18th of October 2021, 1,927 people have died. No more than 5 per cent of the population have received two doses of a vaccine, whereas in contrast, by the end of this year, the G7 nations will have thrown away 241 million vaccines that have passed their expiry date (Nick Cohen, The Observer).



Pray for communities that were struck by Cyclone Eloise in January 2021. These are the same communities that were recovering from the devastation caused by Cyclone Idai in 2019. Tearfund's country team and partners have provided seeds to restart farming activities and are building 300 shelters for vulnerable families.



Pray for peace and reconciliation in Cabo Delgado and for neighbouring Nampula and Niassa, where hundreds of thousands of people have fled to overcrowded camps, where the water supply and sanitation facilities are insufficient and cholera is raging. **Pray for the protection** of those who have lost everything and are now at risk of losing their lives. **Pray for Tearfund's country team and partners** who are providing food for 3,000 people for three months and offering trauma healing. This is likely to be a protracted crisis putting further strain on Tearfund's country operations over the coming years.



Give thanks for the way the work of DoN and RCHS is bringing transformative changes and heartfelt smiles to vulnerable families in Mozambique, like Cecilia's.

Thanks for being brilliant! Keep doing amazing things! Ally :-)

Thank you

