

ONE VOICE

TOGETHER IN PRAYER FOR AN **END TO POVERTY**

THE FREEDOM TO PLAY

Every child should have the freedom to be themselves – to have fun and enjoy being a child. However, when conflicts happen this is one of the first things to go.

More than 911,000 Rohingya people have fled violence in Myanmar, and are now living in refugee camps in Bangladesh. Of these, almost 60 per cent are children.

Alamgir* fled Myanmar with his wife and two children. Before arriving at the camp, he was a farmer and homeowner. But it wasn't safe for them to stay. Alamgir was tortured, his crops were destroyed and the family were forced to flee.

Although life in the camp is tough, Alamgir is grateful that his family are safe.

Tearfund's local partners have set up child-friendly spaces in the camps. These are a place for them to play, be themselves and take part in informal learning. They have vastly improved the quality of life of people like Alamgir and his family.

They are vital in ensuring there isn't a lost generation of Rohingya. Children in refugee camps are vulnerable to trafficking, child marriage and other forms of exploitation. The staff who run the spaces are able to warn children about the dangers and help them to avoid them.

Alamgir is now a community leader in the camp. This is a voluntary role, helping those who live there have a voice in the running of the camps. Now that the child-friendly space has been set up, he has more time to help with community issues, as he doesn't have to keep checking on his wife and children to make sure they are safe.

These spaces have brought back a sense of normality for Alamgir and his family, and for countless others too.

PLEASE PRAY

- Lift up the Rohingya people who've lost everything – their family, friends, homes and livelihoods. Pray that God will be close to them as they mourn, that he will protect them from harm and restore what has been lost.
- Pray for wisdom for our partners who are in the camps helping people and giving them the tools they need to overcome hardship.
- Pray for long-term, peaceful solutions to the Rohingya crisis.

**Names have been changed to protect identities*

A NOTE FROM...

'No child should have to experience what the Rohingya children have been through. They've lost family members, friends, homes and schools. Providing safe spaces for children is a priority for Tearfund, so we can help them begin to recover from the trauma they have faced. Please keep these children in your prayers.' **Steve Collins, Asia Team**

SMALL FARM, BIG DREAMS

Emiyas has been a farmer all of his life. As a child he would help his father on the family farm. Now married with five children, he has his own plot of land where he works throughout the year. But for all the hard work he's putting in, he's struggling to earn an income and provide enough food to feed his family.

For many years, Emiyas relied on traditional farming methods. But they are becoming more and more ineffective in the face of climate change. Small-scale farmers like Emiyas are suffering from this growing threat.

In Ethiopia, where he lives, 80 per cent of the population work in agriculture and are dependent on their farm to make ends meet. When crops fail, farmers often have nothing to fall back on. When people lose the ability to feed themselves, it puts their long-term future at risk.

Food for thought

'I used to grow maize and vegetables and pray for enough rain.... If we were lucky, the harvest was good enough to feed us,' Emiyas says. 'During the hard months, I would borrow money or sell small livestock to feed my family.'

Through our local partner, Terepreza Development Association, Tearfund is working with farmers in southern Ethiopia to teach them in new ways of farming. This means they can increase the amount of crops they produce and sell. They are also given training in vital business skills, such as how they can add value to their products and better understand the markets available to them.

This training is done through self-help groups. These groups are made up of around 14 people who meet together regularly to pray, read the Bible and work together to lift themselves out of poverty.

'I never planned for my farm. Every year I would follow the same routine, grow the same crops and wait for the rain... I never thought of planning for my farm – I didn't know how to do it,' explains Emiyas.

A new season

'We were trained and I've gained knowledge on the value of planning for my farm, trying new crops and new methods of farming. Now that I produce with a market-orientated approach I can see a bright future for me and my family.'

Farmers in their self-help groups are now trying a new crop called pigeon peas. Not only is this crop easy to grow, but it's high in protein and vitamins and helps prevent soil erosion too. Although the crop is fairly new in Ethiopia, it has huge local and international market potential. Both the demand and value of the crop are increasing, with India being one of the key importers. 'I want my family to have enough food throughout the year and to see my children go to school... and I think it will be possible,' Says Emiyas. 'With my maize, I would get around 2000 birr [around £50] but now that I have planted pigeon peas and ground nuts, I expect no less than 10,000 [around £230], and this is just the beginning...'

Life is on the up for Emiyas, who is already planning for the next season and dreaming of the day his self-help group will export their produce to India.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for Emiyas and the other farmers in his self-help group as they put these new skills into action. Pray that they will achieve their dream to export their crops to India.
- Lift up communities that are struggling with the effects of climate change. Pray especially for farmers, for protection against extreme weather and for abundant harvests so they provide for their families.
- Pray for the work of Tearfund and our partners as we help people around the world become more resilient to climate change so they will not be pushed back into poverty.

HOW TO PRAY FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS

East Africa is facing plagues of locusts – the worst in decades, destroying vital food supplies and sources of income. Tearfund staff and partners in the region are calling on us to pray for it to not get any worse.

As the climate crisis is increasing it is hitting people in poverty the hardest – the ones that have done the least to cause it. Extreme weather like flooding, cyclones and droughts are becoming more severe. They are destroying crops, displacing communities and pushing people further into poverty.

One of the first things God asks of us is to care for his creation (Gen 2:15). Then, throughout the Bible, God reminds us through Jesus and the prophets to speak up for the oppressed, the marginalised and the poor.

God wants to bring restoration and peace to all of our relationships – with him, ourselves, other people and creation. And he wants us to join him in doing this.

Prayer first

From the 9–19 November world leaders will be gathering in Glasgow for this year's United Nations' climate talks, also known as COP26. In preparation for this, Tearfund is partnering in prayer with CAFOD and Christian Aid.

Prayer underpins everything we do at Tearfund. Our God can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (Eph 3:20). Will you join us and pray?

Pray as you go

Wherever you pray – on your commute, walking back from the school drop-off, on your lunch break or before you go to sleep – WhatsApp is a simple way you can commit to praying.

Here's how you can sign up to receive prayer points every one to two weeks about the climate.

1. Add +44 (0)7916 874441 to your phone's contacts.
2. Text 'PRAY' via WhatsApp to the number above.
3. We will add you to our list and send you prayer points every one to two weeks.

Set up a prayer room

Invite your church and community to get involved and pray together about poverty and the climate crisis. When we're alone these issues can seem overwhelming, but where two or three gather in his name God promises to be with us (Mat 18:20).

We have created a helpful guide on how you can set up a prayer room. This includes ideas for prayer stations and tips on getting started.

PLEASE PRAY

Take some time now to reflect on how you can make praying for people in poverty and the climate crisis a regular part of your prayer life. As you do this, think of people who you can invite to join you. Commit all of this to God in prayer.

PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

-  A series of kidnappings in Haiti's capital city has left the nation in shock. Armed gangs are demanding large sums of money as ransom, but sometimes still killing those being held – including children. Pray for the authorities as they try and stop the kidnappings happening, and for those being held to be released safely.

-  The Church of England has agreed to drastically reduce its carbon emissions, with the aim of being carbon-neutral by 2030. This is hugely positive, as reliance on fossil fuels is a key factor in the climate crisis. Praise God for the church taking this ambitious step as it plays its part in tackling climate change.

-  Thank you for your continued prayers for the Democratic Republic of Congo. Encouraging progress is being made by health workers tackling Ebola. Praise God for the slowing down of the spread of the virus in the country. Pray for people still being treated and for peace in this nation, so this progress isn't disrupted