

ONE VOICE

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

Home schooling as a refugee

As schools closed due to the pandemic, many homes around the world became classrooms, and parents became teachers. Aleyna, a refugee from Syria now living in Lebanon, shares her story of stepping into this new role...

Aleyna* had only recently managed to enroll her children into school. The family didn't have any formal identification (ID), and so most schools in the area wouldn't enlist the children.

Life was hard. Lebanon was facing an economic crisis; food prices were doubling and there were few jobs available – especially for people with no IDs.

Good news

'There was a time where I used to beg for money so we survived,' shares Aleyna. 'I never really cared about myself, I could handle it, but my children couldn't, they had to eat.'

The Tahaddi Centre, who Tearfund works with, are helping Aleyna's family apply for IDs and supporting them with food. But – best of all (or, so the children will tell you) – they've enrolled them into their school.

'I am so happy to see that my children love school,' shares Aleyna. 'Being around children their age, making friends, and studying has made them less shy and more outgoing.'

Home schooling

Unfortunately, lockdown has put a stop to face-to-face learning. But thankfully the support has been able to continue. The classes have moved online. The Tahaddi Centre has provided them with a prepaid card for their phones so they can access the internet and won't miss out.

It was a difficult transition for the family, but for Aleyna, there has been an added benefit: she has been learning alongside her children. 'In English, I learned how to read and write with them which benefited all of us. I sing with my children during music and help them with art projects as well... I feel very blessed to receive such support and encouragement.'

The children are desperate to get back to school, but through the help of the Tahaddi Centre, the months of lockdown has brought the family closer together.

Please pray

- Lift up Aleyna and her family and pray that they will continue to flourish, even in these difficult times.
- Thank God for the support that the Tahaddi Centre offers families like Aleyna's, which gives them hope for the future.
- Pray for an end to coronavirus and that the children will be able to return safely to school.

**Name changed to protect identity*

As children are on half-term, we wanted to share with you a resource that you can do with them at home. It includes a story about our work, as well as questions for reflection, scripture and worship. We pray that you and your children will find it encouraging.

Download the free resource at www.tearfund.org/HomeChildrensResource

A note from...

'An economic crisis, protests across the country, coronavirus and then the Beirut blast: it has been an incredibly difficult year for the people of Lebanon. I have just returned from Beirut and was truly amazed that despite all the troubles, our partners remain positive. They are completely dedicated to serving families like Aleyna's and giving them hope.'

Karen Soerensen, Country Director for Lebanon

Extreme flooding brings chaos to Cambodia

The country is facing some of the worst flooding it's seen in the last decade. Tens of thousands of people have been affected. Our local partners have asked for urgent prayer. Please stand with us in prayer for our global brothers and sisters.

During October, torrential rains have led to severe flooding across Cambodia. Government officials say 24 people have been killed, and more than 60,000 families across 19 districts affected.

One of our local partners is providing an immediate response to the floods and is trying to reach the most vulnerable with food and other essential supplies. The other three will be continuing their vital work helping communities become more resilient to disasters such as floods, and working to help people lift themselves out of poverty.

Just the beginning

Floods do more than just damage property. They are extremely damaging for communities. They destroy clean water supplies and expose families to deadly waterborne diseases and illnesses, such as cholera and diarrhoea. Treatment can be expensive, and it's money that many people don't have.

Our local partners have been providing families with clean water and water filters to help prevent this. However, our partners have shared with us that many people have already gotten sick.

For people living in poverty, rebuilding after floods is even harder. Many will not be able to afford the repairs needed to their homes. For the high percentage of people in Cambodia who rely on fish ponds or home gardens for food and to earn an income, this flood will be catastrophic. Many will not have the money to replant or restock, meaning their families will go without.

Through our local partners, Tearfund will continue to support these communities and help them to rebuild. Let's keep these communities in our prayers as they face an uphill battle to restore what's been lost.

Please pray

- Pray for the families affected by the floods – that God will protect and provide for them.
- Pray for our local partners as they respond to this crisis. Many roads have been badly damaged: pray that our partners will be able to reach people with support.
- Pray for the rain to ease so that communities can have some respite and begin to restore what's been lost.

Let it flow: helping Zimbabweans have clean water again

A Tearfund local partner in Zimbabwe is helping people access clean water after a severe drought dried up wells and reservoirs.

Over the past year, Zimbabwe has experienced its lowest rainfall since 1981. The ongoing climate crisis has meant less rainfall year by year in this typically dry part of the country. Some communities haven't had clean tap water for more than six months.

Many people have been feeling desperate and are at risk of waterborne diseases, like typhoid and cholera. Some have been forced to spend nights sleeping in queues for city council water trucks, waiting to fill up their jerry cans and buckets.

'The taps are dry'

Jenitah is a 68-year-old widow who lives in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second largest city with her son, his wife and three children. She has seen first-hand how the water situation in the city has deteriorated.

'My son, the taps are dry and we only have one borehole [a deep hole in the ground where water is extracted] with a hand pump to service this whole area, causing long queues,'

Jenitah told us. 'It forces us to walk long distances just to fetch water in some other parts of the city.'

Our partner, Zimbabwe Orphans Through Extended Hands (ZOE), reached out to Jenitah and her community. They drilled new boreholes, and put in motorised pumps, storage tanks, solar lights and taps. This was repeated in five other parts of the city to help ease the water crisis. Tearfund was able to support ZOE after receiving money from the Start Fund, which provides financial grants when vulnerable communities face crises.

Constant supply

'I am really grateful for the new borehole as we can now use the toilet again,' says Jenitah. 'The water situation had become a real headache as it was very erratic. As a result we had resorted to use the bush to relieve ourselves, and we were living in fear of diarrhoea and cholera outbreak.'

'Now that the water is near us and easy to access I can rest. As a community we are truly grateful because all our headaches are gone. May God bless those that brought the water near to our homes.'

Please pray

Jenitah shared a prayer request with us: 'I really want you to pray for good rains so that our dams can be full again and that we are able to plant our fields and have enough food.' Please lift up in prayer Jenitah and others like her, asking God for 'good rains' and a good harvest season.

Pray for the world

-  Years of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between different armed groups have forced around 5.5 million people from their homes. Families are often separated as they run for their lives. Pray for peace for the DRC – especially in the eastern region. Lift up the families torn apart by violence and pray they will be safely reunited.
-  The Ethiopian government has set up committees to identify children who have been forced into work or marriage during the pandemic. It is estimated that 16 million children were trapped in forced labour before the pandemic. Pray that the authorities will be able to reach the children affected. Pray for an end to child marriage and forced labour.
-  Locusts are threatening farmer's income in Zambia. They have already destroyed crops across eastern and central Africa. Pray that the measures the Zambian government is undertaking to limit the destruction will be successful. Pray for provision for farmers who will go hungry if they lose their crops.