

One Voice

Your weekly
prayer resource

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Rohingya refugees at risk during monsoon season

It's the middle of monsoon season in Bangladesh – a time of added challenge for Rohingya refugees. Their lives, homes and health are put at risk from heavy rainfall and flooding, but with limited resources they have nowhere to turn.

It is four years since almost 890,000 Rohingya people fled extreme violence in Myanmar and found refuge in Bangladesh. Half of these are children. They now live in crowded camps in Cox's Bazar, in shacks made of bamboo and plastic sheets that cling to steep, bare hills.

And when the rains come, life becomes even harder for them.

Flash floods and landslides

In the last few weeks, monsoon rains triggered landslides and flash floods in the hilly areas of the camps. Eight people have lost their lives and more than 25,000 shelters have been destroyed, along with toilets, showers and taps.

'The unaccompanied and separated children are at high risk in this monsoon period, as no one is beside them to support [them],' shares Said Iqbal Mosaraf, Field Coordinator for our local partner, COAST Foundation. 'Most of the shelters are extremely damaged by heavy monsoon [rains] and need urgent repairs.'

And that's exactly what COAST has been doing. They have also been relocating families that have lost their homes or are most at risk from further damage. Many families have also received essentials such as soap, water purifying tablets and clothes.

Hope for the future

Rohingya refugees have already been through so much. Tearfund's local partners offer mental health support to help them recover from the trauma they have faced, but it's hard to rebuild your life when your home is not a place of safety.

Please join us in prayer for Rohingya refugees during this challenging season.

Pray with us

God of peace,
Who sent angels to comfort Elijah, bring your restful sleep and ease to Rohingya refugees who are feeling anxious and fearful.

God of creation,
Who made the Earth and everything in it, bring your protection to Rohingya refugees and keep them safe in this season and beyond.

God of provision,
Who fed the Israelites in the desert, bring shelter, food, warmth and opportunity to Rohingya refugees.
Amen.

A note from...

'My family moved last month, and my three year-old and I are currently discussing which colour his new room will be. As his mum, I know how important stability and familiarity are for his well-being. I can hardly imagine what it feels like to lose that, twice. I'm praying the Rohingya refugees have a real sense of the closeness of the God in whose wings they can find refuge.'

Gemma Brown, Northern Ireland Team

Pray for the world



Tearfund is heartbroken to hear the devastating news of the attacks at Kabul airport in Afghanistan. We and our partners on the ground grieve for the bereaved and injured. Please join us in praying for all those who have lost loved ones, for the injured, and for all who are afraid. Pray for safety for the people who remain in Afghanistan, and for peace to prevail.



In Lebanon, shortages of food, medicine and fuel are getting worse. Without fuel, generating electricity becomes more difficult – hospitals are struggling and businesses have been forced to shut. Traffic and street lights are turned off for much of the time. Now, internet providers are struggling to maintain services. Pray for long-term solutions to this crisis, and pray that the internet doesn't get shut off, so that communication can continue.



In the last few weeks there has been a rise of flu cases in Nepal. Healthcare workers are now treating patients for both flu and coronavirus. Pray for protection for people across Nepal from these illnesses and that hospitals will not become overwhelmed. Thank God for our local partners who are sharing advice on how to stay safe – pray they reach those in need.

A prayer walk to change the world

Praying for an end to extreme poverty can seem like a daunting task. You may feel overwhelmed or unsure where to begin. But your prayers can truly make a difference in the lives of people around the world (James 5:16).

Throughout scripture, God repeatedly asks his people to care for and stand up for those in need. Praying is one way that we can 'uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed' (Psalm 82:3). And when you start a conversation with God about the issue of global poverty, he can start to guide your prayers and highlight specific issues to you.

Your prayers make a difference as Tearfund and our partners go into challenging situations to support some of the most vulnerable communities around the world. Not everyone can go to these places in the world, but everyone can play a part through prayer.

Getting out and about to pray

A prayer walk is simply spending some time praying and talking to God as you go on a walk. Getting outside and going for a walk can give you a new perspective, and the things you come across during your walk can also prompt and guide your prayers.

This prayer walk guide has five prayer stops which explore some of the root causes of poverty, such as the climate crisis and conflict, as well as looking at the ways in which poverty impacts people and how they can be empowered to overcome this.

Try it with your church

If you are in a group, you could split off into smaller groups to do different activities, or you can go through each of the five activities together. Use the guide as a starting point for further discussion and prayer.

Please note: if you are doing this as a church, you may need to carry out a risk assessment. If anyone in your group struggles with walking, you may want to choose a location, such as a park, that has benches so that everyone can join in.

Pray with us

Download the different prayer walk activities at www.tearfund.org/OVprayerwalk

A glass of healthy and happy in Brazil

Jaime hated drinking water. It made him (and his family) sick. ‘When we drank water, we chewed sand,’ he tells us. Jaime lives as a missionary in a region in Brazil where less than nine per cent of communities have access to basic sanitation such as a clean water supply or sewage collection.

As is the case in many riverside settlements in Brazil, before Tearfund’s local partner helped install a water filter, Jamie and his community had no choice but to drink water straight from the river.

Drinking mud

‘We [used to] put the water in a drum or box at the river’s edge and use it for a day or two,’ Jaime explains. ‘We carried it on our heads or shoulders and used it to wash dishes, make food, and drink. It was dark, muddy water.’

Children and adults alike used to get ill frequently from drinking the water.

‘We looked at it and had no desire to drink it,’ Jaime says, ‘but, like all riverside people, we had no access to any other.’

The consequences can be deadly. Jaime’s wife’s grandfather was one of the many who die each year of preventable waterborne diseases.

‘It’s very hot here and we drink a lot of water, but the water didn’t quench our thirst because it was hot and muddy. And when we drank a glass of water, it made my stomach ache,’ says Jaime.

Clear, refreshing hope

Now that the community has a water tank with a filter, it’s very rare to see a child crying with a stomach ache because everyone has clean water to drink. Jaime describes it as ‘delicious’!

Working together with our local partner organisation, Asas de Socorro, and the local community, Tearfund has built water treatment plants in Jaime’s community and in 16 other riverside communities in the region – improving the health and quality of life of around 1,700 people.

‘From the river, the water goes to the water tank, from there, to a filter, and from the filter, it comes out of the tap,’ Jaime shares happily.

‘Instead of going to the river to get water, we leave the house and go to the tap. We don’t have to go down and up the ravine to get water, which was very tiring. Now, we get the water easily from the tap, and it comes out filtered and clean, pleasant to drink. You take a large glass and drink it to quench your thirst willingly.

‘I am very grateful to God. It took work, and the whole community got involved in building the water tank and filter structure... Everything has become easier... Everyone is happy.’

Pray with us

- Thank God for new hope, health and happiness for Jaime, his family and the community as they enjoy the ease of clean water coming out of a tap and the protection against disease that the water system provides.
- Lift up Jaime's missionary work as he shares his love of Jesus with the people in his community. Pray that he will be encouraged and continuously refreshed with living water, as well as clean drinking water.
- Pray for provision for people in Brazil, and around the world, who still have no access to clean water.

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