

ONE VOICE

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

DEADLY CYCLONE HITS SOUTHERN AFRICA

Cyclone Idai has devastated parts of Southern Africa. Winds of up to 106 mph tore down homes and other buildings, and severe flooding has left thousands displaced and homeless.

Across Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi where the cyclone made landfall, reports indicate that over 2.6 million people have been affected. More than 300 people have died, with many thousands more injured and homeless. In all three countries the work of Tearfund's partners has been impacted.

Florence from Muvandi village in Zimbabwe saw most of her home destroyed by the cyclone, along with the crops she relies on to sell and earn a living. 'I was due to harvest in a few weeks,' she says. 'My major challenge is that I am the bread winner, I look after my husband who [had a] stroke, as well as my grandson and two children.'

'Pray for our community. I have lived [here] for over 30 years now and never seen a flood. We were completely unprepared, so this has shaken us.'

Tearfund is working with local partners to assess the needs of people affected and provide help where it's needed most.

Edgar Jone, Tearfund's Country Director in Mozambique, told us: 'This is a huge setback for the work we are doing to support people to overcome poverty in Mozambique. Our priority now is reaching those people who have lost so much and support them to get back on their feet. Cyclone Idai has destroyed so much in an instant, but it will take years for people to rebuild what they have lost.'

Please pray

Father God, we pray for the people of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. We lift up to you families and communities devastated by the cyclone. Comfort those who have lost loved ones and homes, and heal and restore those who are injured or traumatised. Strengthen and guide our partners, so that they can reach and help people in greatest need.

In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen

Thank you for your prayers. If you feel led, you can also donate to our Cyclone Idai Appeal. We've also produced a prayer PowerPoint to help you pray as a church or group.

A NOTE FROM...

'The situation is dire, the damage to infrastructure is beyond comprehension, the need is enormous. The prayers and material support of the global church will go a long way in bringing relief...'

Earnest Maswera, Head of Tearfund's work in Zimbabwe

BOTTLING A BETTER FUTURE

An eye-watering 500 billion single-use plastic water bottles are used worldwide every year. This World Water Day, Tearfund's overseas volunteers are looking at how they can make their water consumption more sustainable.

Clouds float in the river's reflection on a sunny afternoon near Northampton. Two girls stoop down to the murky water, fill up their water bottles and take a sip. Your typical Tearfund Go training weekend wouldn't usually involve drinking local river water. However, Ellie and Maria aren't using any old bottles to collect their water.

Travelling with Tearfund Go in July, they are some of the first volunteers to leave for their overseas placements kitted out with a reusable, recyclable water bottle. When used correctly, the bottle's ingenious inbuilt filter removes bacteria from contaminated water that can lead to diseases like cholera and typhoid.

In many of the countries where Tearfund works, the threat of contaminated water can make bottled water the only viable option for our volunteers.

'Plastic pollution is something that many of us are already concerned about, so we are really happy to have these reusable water bottles to take overseas with us on placement,' explains Ellie, who is travelling to Tanzania in July.

'Some of us are travelling to countries with no waste management services – not only are we reducing single-use plastic, but we are also reducing the burden on the communities we will be hosted by.'

Tearfund Go sends around 150 volunteers on placements every year, and destinations can be hot. On average, one volunteer will use over 1,000 single-use plastic water bottles on a three-month placement. By replacing this with one filter bottle, volunteers will have reliable access to safe water, while reducing their impact on local communities and respecting the planet.

'Reducing the use of single-use plastic is something we are really passionate about,' explains Hazel Swan, Tearfund Go Manager. 'So we are really excited to be able to provide our volunteers with these bottles.'

'This is one of the easiest ways that our volunteers can reduce their use of plastic on placement,' Hazel said. 'This World Water Day we're thinking about how, in small and simple ways, we can value God's creation and demonstrate that we want to live in a less wasteful world.'

For more information on Tearfund's overseas placements, visit www.tearfund.org/go

PLEASE PRAY

Thank you God, that Tearfund's overseas volunteers have the opportunity to reduce their use of plastic water bottles.

We pray that they will be inspired, and continue to make small changes that have a big impact on the world around them. Please guide us as we seek to value your creation and change the future of our world.

Amen.

INSIDE OUT TRANSFORMATION IN CAMBODIA

Our partner World Relief works with some of Cambodia's most vulnerable communities. Not only does their relational approach release the potential of churches to help communities overcome poverty, it touches the lives of individuals too...

Kannitha, a 24-year-old mother of one, grew up craving a faith that felt real, but struggled to connect with the God she had been taught about.

One day, Kannitha was invited to participate in some skills training with World Relief. As she got to know the staff there, she started to experience the gospel of Jesus. 'I got to hear and learn about God's love for the very first time in my life,' says Kannitha.

Kannitha began to explore the Christian faith, discovering more about Jesus and inviting him into her life. She now volunteers with World Relief, and loves talking about her new-found faith. She finds particular joy in seeing people, 'not just believing, but (being) fully transformed economically, socially and spiritually.'

It's not just her faith that Kannitha is excited about, as people in her village are benefiting materially as well as spiritually. Local pastor, Savuth Oum, has been supported to introduce savings groups. This powerful approach is bringing people together to combine resources, face and overcome challenges together, and start to work their way out of poverty. And as lives are changing, relationships are building. 'I have learned that we came together as one unity in sharing failure, success, sadness and love with one another,' says Savuth Oum, happily.

PLEASE PRAY

Thank you, Lord, for the work you're doing in the lives of people in Cambodia, and for Kannitha and Pastor Savuth Oum who find such joy in sharing the gospel.

We pray your good work will continue through World Relief Cambodia, and for the team that serve you in this region. Strengthen their voices and restore their energy as they go forward in your name.

Amen.

PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Tearfund is one of the only organisations left in Butembo, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. There are new cases of Ebola in the area, and treatment centres have recently been attacked by militia groups. Please pray for those suffering, and for protection, courage and peace among our staff. Pray also that our work there will help to prevent the further spread of Ebola.



To mark four years of conflict in Yemen, Tearfund is supporting a week of action co-ordinated by a number of organisations, calling on MPs and others in power to do more to bring an end to the conflict. Join with us in praying this will help bring peace for the people of Yemen.



A record number of civilians were killed in Afghanistan last year according to the UN, and hundreds of thousands of Afghans have been displaced by conflict. Please pray for comfort for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones and pray for the ongoing peace process, that it will lead to a permanent solution for the people of Afghanistan.