

One Voice

Your weekly
prayer resource

tearfund

Road to the G7

The Bible calls upon us to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:2). It also reveals how God cares deeply for people who are marginalised and oppressed, and invites us to be part of his restoration plan (Psalm 82:3).

On the 11-13 June, the UK is hosting the Group of Seven (G7) summit in Cornwall. This is a conference where leaders from the seven largest economies – the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States of America, this year also joined by South Korea, India, South Africa and Australia – will meet and discuss how they can play a strong role in tackling global challenges, such as the climate emergency.

These countries are not only some of the world's wealthiest countries, but also the ones that produce the most pollution.

A meeting that could change the world

Leaders at the G7 summit can make commitments that help get us on a path to a fairer world – or ones that hinder this effort. They have the power to hold businesses accountable. And they can influence other leaders and governments to take action.

This has never been more important as they will be discussing how to build back better from the coronavirus pandemic – in a way that will address the climate crisis.

Recovery and climate change must be tackled together. This is because of the devastating impact the climate crisis is already having in many of the world's poorest countries. Communities are experiencing more deadly and more frequent disasters. People are losing their homes, their jobs and their hope. These are the people who have done the least to cause this crisis.

Taking a stand

At this meeting, countries could signal their ambition to tackle the climate crisis as part of their recovery plans. And the church can be a part of that.

Please join with us in praying for this summit and for world leaders who have the power to set in motion significant action to tackle the climate crisis.

Pray with us

Pray that the leaders representing attending the summit will have the following Bible verses at the heart of what they seek to achieve. Name each country – UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States of America, South Korea, India, South Africa and Australia – and declare the following verses over them:

- Deuteronomy 15:7-8
- Psalm 82:3

A note from...

‘In the lead up to the G7 summit, one article each week in One Voice will be dedicated to how you can join us in prayer for this conference. We will be sharing resources for children and families, and reflections on how the climate crisis is impacting people living in poverty and how you can pray about it. Thank you for joining with us to help build a fairer world for our global brothers and sisters.’

Agnes McGrane, One Voice Team

Mozambique’s growing humanitarian crisis – how you can pray

Warning: contains mentions of violence that some readers may find upsetting.

At the end of last year, the crisis in northern Mozambique escalated dramatically. The now four-year conflict shows few signs of ending soon. As the violence continues to increase, and even more people are being forced from their homes, your prayers are vital. Here’s an update to help guide how you can pray.

Since 2017, al-Shabaab, an armed group that has ties to the Islamic State, has led a reign of terror in the Cabo Delgado province. Locals report kidnappings, beheadings, human trafficking and violence against children. More than 2,000 people have been killed and more than 700,000 have fled their homes, many taking refuge in temporary camps.

In the Metuge Camp, near the town of Pemba, northern Mozambique, facilities are basic. Houses are made from bamboo, mud and grass, and toilets are few and far between. There is no school, and children are at risk of being abducted or trafficked.

Missing school

For nine-year-old Dorca*, life isn't what it should be. 'I miss school and my friends as I do not know where they are, or are we ever going to meet again,' she shares.

Her family was forced to flee their home when armed men attacked her village in Quissanga, in the northern part of Mozambique.

'One day we woke to the screams of our parents telling us to run towards the river where we hid as men with guns were torching our village,' Dorca tells us. 'Then the army came and brought us here to Metuge. This has been our home ever since.'

Dorca's mum, Ester*, hopes that one day Dorca and her friends will be able to return to school as she has high hopes for her.

'I never finished [school], but she is a bright child and can be a nurse one day.'

Taking refuge

When the al-Shabaab militants attacked her village, Rosa* and her five children fled. Her husband was sick with malaria and wasn't able to run with them. He was dragged from his sick bed, beaten, and later died.

'All I could hear were screams, shouting and houses on fire. I quickly gathered all my children and ran towards the river,' recalls Rosa.

They took refuge in a camp, living in temporary shelter, alongside hundreds of other families who had escaped attacks on their homes.

Without a husband, life in the camp is not easy for Rosa. Her eldest son helped her build their new home made of bamboo, mud and grass. With heavy rains and cyclones threatening this part of east Africa, this kind of shelter is prone to collapsing.

'I couldn't wait for someone to come and help me, so I just had to come up with something that can protect us from the rains,' says Rosa.

Rosa's main challenge is hunger. Food is in short supply and so her family only eats twice a day.

'I've never seen anything like this'

Tearfund has been working through local churches in Cabo Delgado for many years. But since this crisis began, churches have only been able to do about 30 per cent of their usual outreach activities because of the threats of violence and restrictions on travel.

We are also working with the Christian Council of Mozambique and Food for the Hungry, who have been supporting 600 people in the camps since the start of the crisis, with food, clothing, shelter, hygiene kits, emotional support and medical supplies.

Edgar Jone, who leads Tearfund's work in Mozambique, says the crisis in Cabo Delgado is 'catastrophic'.

'In 15 years of working with humanitarian organisations, I've never seen anything like this. You can see people are emotionally scarred from the traumas they have seen – particularly the younger generations.

'We need more international assistance here. People don't have hope. They can't see a future. So we need to help them have a future,' says Edgar.

'We are grateful to all people who are supporting us in prayer as we continue to help more people.'

Pray with us

- Please pray for a peaceful end to this crisis, and for justice for people who have been victims of attacks.
- Lift up those living in temporary camps; pray for their protection and provision, and that they will have hope again for a better future.
- Ask for strength and resources for Tearfund's partners, churches, and other humanitarian groups, who are providing for people in such challenging circumstances.

**Names changed to protect identities.*

How a Bible study helped a student fund their studies

Milton, from Bangladesh, is the eldest of his siblings and the first person in his family to attend university. When he got a place studying management, it was a dream come true. His family had always struggled financially, but now he had the opportunity to turn this around. However, during his second year of university, Milton's dreams were suddenly put on hold.

Milton's parents were finding it difficult to cover the costs of everyday expenses such as food and rent. Paying the fees to keep him and his younger brother and sister in education seemed impossible.

Everything Milton had been working for came crashing down.

'Our family had many dreams, but we couldn't afford them,' says Milton. 'I used to feel very bad when I saw my parent's suffering. I couldn't find the way.'

New hopes and dreams

A turning point for Milton and his family was when they started attending a Bible study group at their local church, run by Tearfund's local partner, LAMB.

Through this, Milton's family were invited to be part of LAMB's 'Umoja' programme. This programme helps community groups to identify common needs, save money together and develop business skills – all alongside studying and applying biblical principles.

With the support of the group, Milton began to grow in his faith and see hope for his future again. He soon started making plans for his own business venture.

A family blessing

Milton bought 80 ducklings with a small loan from the group. After caring for them until they were fully-grown ducks, he was able to sell them for a profit. He made enough money to pay back his loan and buy more ducklings to repeat the process.

Milton's duck farm has now become a regular source of income for his family, and he has been able to return to his studies. The success of the farm has helped to relieve the intense stress that Milton's parents were under, and ensured that his younger siblings are able to continue at school.

'Milton is playing a very big role in our family by raising ducks,' shares Rubina, Milton's mother. 'Everyone has benefited in our family by his initiative.'

Leading the way

Milton now leads the Bible study and Umoja group at his church, encouraging others to step out into business.

'Milton's role in resolving his family's financial crisis is an example for all of us,' says Pastor Chandray Murmu.

Milton is just one of thousands of people enrolled in the Umoja groups run by Tearfund's local church partners around the world. They have all learned how they can use the resources available to them to start making an income.

Please join us in praying for each individual as they step out in faith towards a better future.

Pray with us

Dear God,

Thank you for Milton and the many others who have been part of an Umoja group. We ask that their business ventures will continue to thrive and that more people will have the opportunity to be equipped by these groups.

We pray that those who are struggling financially will reach out to you for the strength and wisdom you promise to give (James 1:5), and that you will guide them and provide for them during challenging times.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen

Pray for the world



Keep praying for an end to the violence in Tigray, Ethiopia. The conflict between armed groups in this district and the Ethiopian government has been escalating over six months, and has led to 4.5 million people needing humanitarian assistance. Tearfund is providing food and urgent supplies, but the need is great. Pray for provision, so that Tearfund can reach even more people.



It's cocoa harvesting season in Ivory Coast, but more rainfall is urgently needed. A prolonged dry-season is threatening to ruin the harvest, which thousands of farmers depend on to earn an income. Pray for increased rainfall, and for a successful harvest. And ask God that farmers will be paid a fair wage for their work.



Praise God for how, in Burundi, different faith leaders and communities are coming together to promote peace. Through the workshops Tearfund is running, churches are also becoming equipped to help address trauma within communities, which has been caused by years of conflict. Pray for the continued success of this work.

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