

MOZAMBIQUE



PRECARIOUS PEACE: Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, gained independence in 1975 after 10 years of war. It then suffered a period of civil war until a peace agreement was reached between government and opposition forces in 1992. In 2013 the opposition withdrew from this agreement and the country experienced further instability with over 11,000 people displaced. A new peace deal was signed in 2018. Mozambicans hope the upcoming general election might deliver long-term peace for their country.

POVERTY: Mozambique is still one of the poorest countries in the world despite the best efforts of government and development agencies to reduce poverty. It was ranked 181 (out of 188 nations) on the Human Development Index.

PRONE TO DISASTER: Mozambique is very vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and droughts due to its geographic location. As such, food security is a major issue for this fragile state.

PROBLEM INVESTMENT: Mozambique has maintained a high average GDP with annual growth at around 6.5%. But this growth is externally driven and benefits the external investors rather than helping to change life for the country's poorest people. Whilst poverty indicators have shown some improvement in urban areas, rural areas remain marginalised with poor access to services and sufficient food.

PROMISE: All of these factors threaten the development gains made in the past 22 years... but through the work of Tearfund's partners, like CEDES, there are also seeds of hope.

HOW CAN I HELP?



LEARN

Please use the resources provided by World Development, available online at www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development. Find out more and learn how lovely it is when God's Word reaches out through the local church and calls forth a shared response from the local community to bring the seeds of hope they hold for their future to fruition, and how relationships and neighbourhoods reap a harvest of benefits.

PRAY

Prayer is a vital activity in the communities where Tearfund and Christian Aid work and partner. Use the information available through this appeal to pray knowledgeably for the people involved.

GIVE

The 2019 World Development Appeal highlights partner communities in Inhassoro, Mozambique, with a secondary focus on Bangladesh (see website). The emphasis is on the long-term challenges and the capacity-building required for good and sustainable development in fragile places, with an emphasis on food security, but also recognising the 'trickle down' effect of such development work on community relationships. Your giving will enable organisations like CEDES and others to support some of the world's poorest people, seeding the hope of a more secure future, where communities work together to enjoy the fruits of the resources and resilience within them. Funding supports projects, including their monitoring and ongoing evaluation.

For further information:
World Development, Assembly Buildings, Belfast BT1 6DW
www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development
Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC104483)
Registered Charity in the Republic of Ireland (20015695)



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FARMING GOD'S WAY

WORLD DEVELOPMENT APPEAL 2019




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A FRAGILE AND DANGEROUS PLACE:

Prone to natural disasters. 1.5m people affected by drought. 2.1m people without sufficient access to food. 27% of the population unemployed. An uneasy peace between government and opposition forces. This is Mozambique.

Yet, Horácio Valoi, who works with Tearfund partner CEDES (Comité Ecuménico Para O Desenvolvimento Social), says, “The land that God has given us, it has everything”. And the smile that spreads across his face says even more about the hope and confidence he has for the future.

In the rural communities of Mozambique farming in semi-arid conditions with limited water resources is unspeakably hard. As Horácio bluntly states, his main objective is for families not to die of hunger. Yet, together, the people of the community with which he works are discovering fresh hope as they apply what they learn from the Bible to their local context. They are looking to the future with confidence as they learn farming techniques which enable them to become more resilient and to understand that, by working together in sustainable ways, they can play a crucial role in shaping that future.

The World Development Appeal 2019 aims to support and strengthen such communities as they discover the resources and potential within them, and to empower them to sow seeds of hope, both in their fields and for their future.

Inhassoro district lies within the cyclone region of Mozambique. Even if the cyclones do not come, communities in the area are vulnerable to strong winds and either heavy rains, which can cause flooding, or low rainfall which contributes to drought-like conditions.

Eking out an existence through subsistence farming in this fragile and dangerous place is hard work but through Tearfund’s partner, CEDES (The Ecumenical Committee for Social Development), communities are discovering within themselves the resources and the capacity to do more than that.

They are, together, learning how to adapt their farming methods so that they can be more resilient in the face of the challenges that come their way. And conservation agriculture techniques are not only bearing fruit in terms of the harvest that is reaped from the land. They are also bearing fruit in the lives of families, communities and neighbourhoods. For people are being empowered to understand themselves as those with the agency to use the resources they have to shape a more hopeful and sustainable future. A future where one can dream of more than merely ‘existing’.

Through CEDES, and under the aegis of Tearfund, Horácio was trained as an ‘umoja’ facilitator. ‘Umoja’ is a Swahili word meaning ‘togetherness’ and the ‘umoja’ process sees a trained facilitator lead community groups in Bible studies. Through the studies, members of that community are enabled to focus on identifying and using the resources they have to lead and control their own development. This removes the sense of disempowerment that can accompany being dependent on an external donor.

Tearfund also recognises the potential within local churches to take a lead on development issues within the communities in which they are located. Through the church and community



transformation process, ‘umoja’ helps churches to understand integral mission. Local churches come to see how important it is that they look after the whole of people’s lives, spiritual and physical, in the communities they serve. They even begin to identify and take the lead on sustainable development initiatives.

The World Development Appeal video this year tells the story of how conservation agriculture or ‘farming God’s way’ has been transformative for the community with which Horácio works. Working with family units, households have been trained in sustainable farming techniques which generate a small surplus income. This can then be reinvested through self-help groups which, in turn, generate small businesses in the neighbourhood. Relationships within families are improved. Relationships grow between families and the church as people interact in the Bible studies. And the community is developed from within, becoming an example others can learn from.

Horácio’s prayer is that God will not take him away from his work with this community until they reach their full potential. As you prayerfully and practically support this year’s World Development Appeal, you can play a part in helping communities in Mozambique and other fragile and dangerous places unlock the potential within them to sow and nurture the seeds of a more sustainable future.