

# Harvest Appeal

## Give communities the freedom to grow

### This harvest, your church can give communities the freedom to grow

The climate crisis is forcing families in Nepal to shrink back from their dreams. Trapped by hunger and poverty, communities are withering away. But your church's support this harvest could help them find the freedom to grow again...

#### Tell me more about Nepal

Landlocked between India and China, Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world:



**A quarter** of its population lives in poverty



**More than 85 per cent** of people rely on farming and agriculture to survive



**Almost 20 per cent** of people do not have access to electricity



#### Mahima's story

'Our Jesus Christ says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." I am also weary in this world,' shares Mahima, a mother of three.

The climate crisis has caused the weather patterns to change in Nepal. The rains are no longer coming as expected.

'We had to keep looking up into the sky... hoping for rainfall,' Mahima says. 'When we planted apples, they would wither.'

**Most farmers in Nepal are subsistence farmers – meaning they plant enough to feed their families. When crops fail, families go hungry. Young people are forced to move away from once thriving villages to find work elsewhere and communities perish.**

📍 Above: Mahima at home in a village in the Rukum East District, Nepal with her two daughters Namrata (6) and Khusi (3).

## What is Tearfund doing?

Tearfund has been working in Nepal for more than 50 years. This means we have great established relationships with local authorities and communities, so we're able to partner with them effectively to transform lives.

### Through our local partners we are:

- training farmers in new techniques to help them produce more crops in this changing climate
- setting up irrigation systems to make people less dependent on the rains
- teaching communities how to farm sustainably so they can protect the land for generations to come

**The people and the land have the potential to flourish again... and hope with it.**

## How your church can be an answer to prayer

**'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'**

**Matthew 7:7**

'I like [this verse] very much,' shares Mahima. 'Whatever we ask, we pray to Jesus Christ. And when we needed this [water irrigation] in place, we knocked, and you helped us.'

Tearfund's local partners built a water irrigation system in Mahima's community. They also set up community groups for people like Mahima to learn new farming skills.

'Since the irrigation came, we don't have to worry now... we get to eat organic – it's true – from our own farm.'

**The irrigation systems are reviving local communities.** Mahima now has more than enough to feed her family.

But the need is great – we would love to reach even more people with support like this. People on the frontline of the climate crisis desperately need our support, and you can help.

## How you can help: Give

Your church can be an answer to prayer for people like Mahima around the world who are living in poverty. A gift from your church could bring their community back to life.

**£41** could train a farmer like Mahima in new farming techniques so they can free themselves from poverty.

**£88** could help set up a new water irrigation system, enabling local farmers like Mahima to adapt to the climate crisis.

**£184** could provide a farmer like Mahima with materials to launch a new business in struggling communities, investing in them for the future.

📍 **Left:** Mahima uses the irrigation system in her field in Rukum East District, Nepal.

📍 **Below:** Hills and villages in rural Nepal.





# More ways your church can help...

## How you can help: *Pray with us*

Food shortages in Nepal, made worse by climate change, have meant that all communities can focus on is survival. There's no room for growth, no room for people to flourish. Let us pray in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Nepal today.

- **People and land to flourish again:** begin by declaring John 10:10 over these communities – 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' Ask God to bring life to the barren land, to weary families and to shrinking communities.
- **Reuniting families and revival in communities:** pray for those who have been forced to leave their families and communities to find work elsewhere. Pray for farming to become profitable again in these communities so that businesses will move back to these areas. Ask God to reunite families and provide opportunities for communities to grow again.
- **Protection and provision in these challenging times:** pray for those who are suffering from the change in weather patterns – long periods of drought, flash flooding and landslides. Pray for provision of nourishing food and clean water all year around. Ask God for protection from disasters caused by the extreme weather events. Pray that our partners will be able to reach even more people with farming training and irrigation pipelines.

## How you can help: *Act*

There are steps we can take in our own lives to answer God's call to care for our neighbours and for creation:

- Review and reduce your energy use in your home, office and church – and choose a green supplier if you can.
- Check where your shopping is sourced from – buy local, sustainably-grown produce where you can. Try to eat more plant-based foods, which have a lower environmental impact.
- Reuse items – ditch single-use plastics. Set up a refilling station at your church.
- Buy Fair Trade. Where possible, only serve Fair Trade teas, coffees and snacks in your church.
- Change how you travel; try cycling, walking or carpooling where you can. Fly less.



## We can also use our voice to amplify the concerns of people like Mahima.

It is unjust that countries on the frontline of the climate crisis are having to divert vital funding away from public services such as education, healthcare and schools to protect themselves against the effects of the climate crisis.

Back in 2009, wealthy countries promised \$100 billion a year from 2020 onwards to help climate-vulnerable nations adapt to climate change. But this pledge has yet to be fully met. Together as the church, we can put pressure on

the UK Government to influence other wealthy countries to pay the money they promised to help vulnerable communities tackle the extreme weather conditions they are facing.

**Lower-income countries are already dealing with the impact of climate change. It's time to deliver.**

Ask your congregation to sign our climate petition now at [tearfund.org/timetodeliver](https://tearfund.org/timetodeliver)

Let us send a powerful message as the church that we stand with our global neighbours on the frontline of this crisis.

[tearfund.org](https://tearfund.org)

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