

## The role of the local church in contributing to resilient communities - capturing country case studies Terms of Reference (ToR)

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### Acronyms

*CCM* Church and community mobilisation

## 1. Background

### Research Title:

Country case study into the role/s of the local church in contributing to resilient communities, with a focus on disaster management

### Why is this research being commissioned?

#### *Background*

Tearfund wants to better understand the role of the church in contributing towards and resilience and as part of this exploration to capture 3 in depth country case studies. Previous research proposes that the Tearfund could partner better with the church by being "tailored to the inherent strengths of churches, including spiritual and emotional support to the community and peace building". This sits alongside findings that some of the recommended responses and tools within our resources are beyond the capacity of the church. Therefore in order for us to better collaborate with the local church in building resilience there is a need for us to better understand what the appropriate role is.

#### *Research Logic*

**Goal** The goal of Tearfund's resilience work is for 'people and communities to have the ability to cope with shocks or stresses without crisis and recover quickly'<sup>1</sup>.

**The Resilience Framework** sets out 6 factors that contribute towards this: Hope, Health and Relationships, Disaster Risk Management, Sustainable Natural Resource Management, Resilient Livelihoods and Adaptive Capacity<sup>1</sup>. A major focus of Tearfund's work is on working with local churches and Tearfund's experience shows that there is an important role for churches in building resilience<sup>2</sup>.

**Challenge** There is currently a lack of clarity about what role(s) local churches should play.

**Overarching Research Question:** How can local churches most effectively and sustainably contribute to people and communities having the ability to cope with shocks or stresses without crisis and recover quickly?

This research will follow **Tearfund's understanding of resilience** - 'Resilience building increases our focus on risk management rather than disaster management, from responding to the needs of those

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<sup>1</sup> [Introduction to Resilience](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Guidelines for disasters and the local church](#)

impacted by shocks and stresses after the event to reduce the likelihood and severity of a disaster before it happens as intrinsic to truly sustainable development. The focus then is not so much on getting people and communities back to where they were - vulnerable to whatever the shock or stress was - but helping them reduce their vulnerability, so that they are less likely to suffer the same level of impact for a similar shock or stress’.

## 2. Purpose/Objectives

### Overall Research Question:

How can local churches most effectively contribute to people and communities having the ability to cope with shocks or stresses without crisis and recover quickly, (with a focus on disaster management)

## 3. Key objectives and research questions

### Key objectives and research questions:

*Objective 1: Develop a methodology reference document based upon a meeting with stakeholders, the Characteristics, Resilience framework, relevant country reporting, disaster crunch model, [internal](#)<sup>3</sup> and external<sup>4</sup> review and theological review to review our church based resilience projects.*

*Objective 2: 3 country case studies using the developed methodology reference document and input from stakeholders to identify and categorise the the role(s) of the local church in contributing towards resilience within the 3 countries.*

## 4. Research methods

Using [‘Characteristics of disaster-resilient community’](#), disaster crunch, and with reference to the [Resilience definition paper](#), the theological review, internal and external review the researcher will develop a methodology to explore the role of the church in contributing towards local level resilience. Through a mixture of literature review and in-country fieldwork, the research will map the specific role of the church, drawing out key characteristics where the church has played a significant role in supporting resilience building

This will involve desk reviews and in-country field research conducted by local consultants following a developed methodology.

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<sup>3</sup> Completed by Grace Thompson, Research Assistant

<sup>4</sup> Completed by John Twigg, Resilience consultant and researcher

- Desk review/ literature review
- Semi-structured interviews
- Focus group discussions (FGDs)
- Direct participant observation

**Of the following -**

- Tearfund staff
- RIHPED member organizations
- Beneficiaries
- Local Govt staff
- Other civil society actors, eg other NGOs or IN

**Literature Review**

- Project Reporting
- Evaluations - full range
- Existing documents (see secondary data)

**Key considerations**

Consider in each context about a recent major disaster (mix of slow and quick onset, perhaps man-made and natural too) and ask people what role the church played in Responding, Recovery, Mitigation (reducing people's vulnerability / exposure) or Preparedness. Then categorise against 6 pillars of framework.

**Planning for primary data quality**

**5. Dissemination plan**

Stakeholder / audience	Outputs	What will they use the findings for?	Will they need the resources translated? If so, indicate language(s)
<b>Internal Stakeholders</b> <i>Groups within Tearfund who have interest in the research findings</i>			
Humanitarian Support Team	Report & summary Infographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To influence policy makers (Humanitarian Policy Officer)</li> <li>● To influence</li> </ul>	No

		donors (Humanitarian Business Development Manager)	
<b>External Stakeholders</b> <i>Those outside the organisation who have an interest in the research findings</i>			
CLIO, UN, etc	Video Infographic Summary (maybe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To understand the impact of CCM</li> <li>To be inspired to support CCM</li> </ul>	No

## 7. Secondary data

- [Characteristics of a Disaster Resilient Community](#) (2009)
  - [Resilience definitions paper \(2018\)](#)
  - Tim Raby's Research on DRR and CCM in NE Uganda.
  - Review of disasters and the local Church [final report](#) and [infographic](#) (2017)
  - Protracted Crises & the Church Research (literature review expected in May 2019, final report expected in August 2019). The ToR is available [here](#). It is important that these studies compliment one another.
  - [Theological expectations & the church - Catherine Hickey](#)
  - [Internal review of the role of the local church in building resilience - Grace Thompson](#)
  - [Literature review of the role of the local church in building resilience - John Twigg](#).
  - [10 Principles for Movements](#).
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- **Haiti docs in annex**  
**RIHPED response report and supporting docs**  
**CEEH Contingency Plans**  
**PADR reports**  
**GNDR reports**

## 8. Key deliverables

Deliverables	Specification/Expectations
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Research Report Draft submitted	<i>Including data and findings from FGD, field research and key informants. February 11, 2022</i>
Case study submitted	<i>Written document (3-5 pages) and video (3-5 minutes) February 16, 2022</i>
Workshop with RIHPED Members	<i>Presentation of reports and findings February 18, 2022</i>
Final Report submitted	<i>1 page Executive Summary, Maximum 10 pages, Tearfund template February 28, 2022</i>

## 9. Timings

Approximate Date	Activities planned
December 2021	Design data collection tools Agree methodology
January 2022	Literature Review Conduct fieldwork Data analysis & write-up
February 2022	Presentation of findings at RIHPED workshop Draft Submitted Final Report Submitted along with video

## 10. Responsibilities

Activity	Duration
Desk Review	2 days
Key Informant Meetings	2 days
Field Visits for FGDs and data collection	3 days
Compilation of data and draft report	2 days

Research project TOR  
Last updated December 2021

Presentation of draft to Tearfund	.5 day
RIHPED workshop, presentation of findings	.5 day
Final report	1 day