

## EU-CORD Member NGO USP's (Unique Selling Points)

You are being asked to complete your NGO profiles for sharing to help members identify potential consortia members and to identify agencies with expertise which may assist one another.

Please write no more than three pages adding notes under the suggested headings below. Please feel free to amend the headings to suit your NGO.

### Name of NGO: Tearfund Belgium

1. **Introduction:** *(Say something about your Christian identity, year founded and country where your HQ is located).*

“Tear Fund – The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund” originated in the UK in the 1960-ties, when the media brought the plight of the victims of war and disaster into people’s living room. What was first a fund, developed into an independent organisation, and other countries followed: after Tearfund UK in 1968 Tear Australia in 1971, Tear NL and Tearfund New Zealand in 1975. Belgium followed in 1979.

The aforementioned Tearfunds were initialised by their national evangelical alliances. In Belgium, things went the other way around: the initiative to start Tearfund came directly from the evangelical churches, but the evangelical alliance didn’t exist yet. In fact, Tearfund was one of the co-founders of the evangelical alliance in Belgium in 1980.

Tearfund grew gradually into what it is now: the first full-time paid employee was hired in 1982, the first overseas staff in 1983, in 1986 Tearfund was recognised as an NGO and became eligible for federal funding. In the years that followed Tearfund grew in professionalism and increased relationships and alliances.

Today, Tearfund has 6 staff members and is located in Vilvoorde, where she has been since 1988. Tearfund Belgium has come to the point where she can celebrate her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday – and is still trying to answer to the same call, i.e. to be the diaconal arm of the evangelical church of Belgium.

2. **Main Objectives:** *This may include localisation of aid, working through the local church etc.*

Tearfund’s vision is (to co-create) a world where every person counts, without poverty or injustice. In the world of today, millions of people cannot experience life as a gift from God, but have to endure it as a tragedy. But as every man, woman and child is created by God, they are worthy of attention and care. Through our looking and acting we hope to break the downward spiral so many of God’s beloved children are in, so they can develop their God-given potential.

Our mission is to realise this vision by uniting people in the battle against poverty and injustice. We do this first by supporting local initiatives in the South. Through financial support and capacity building we assist community level organisations and churches in fighting poverty and eradicating the causes of injustice. While we cooperate with churches and Christian organisations, we and our partners assist people without discrimination in religion, race, age, gender or political views.

Secondly, we feel it is our responsibility to sensitise the people of Belgium – particularly our constituency, to the plight of the poor. We seek to inform, educate and advocate.

3. **Areas of expertise in Programming:** *(Comment on particular areas where your NGO has expertise and the programming approaches usually adopted such as self-help groups, cash programming etc.).*

Tearfund focusses on the following areas:

- A. Emergency relief and rehabilitation: we respond to acute emergency situations through fundraising. We support Integral partners who are active in the field.
- B. In our development work we pay specific attention to neglected, orphaned and otherwise disabled children. A lot of our projects focus on helping children or strengthening families. This includes strengthening the position of women in the family as well as wider society.
- C. Tearfund seeks to contribute to the development goals. We particularly focus on projects that work in two area's: health and education.

4. **Capacity:** *Income in 2018 and key donor awards including key consortia with other peer NGO's.*

Our income in 2018 was €2.797.698. In 2018 we were part of a consortium with IHP and MTI, funded by the Belgian *Consortium 12-12*.

5. **Which donors** *do you receive most finance from?*

The biggest funding comes from our federal government, DGD (Directorate-General Development).

In 2018 we received funding for one 5-year development program (2017-2021) and one 1 year humanitarian project. (Approx. 60% came from DGD in 2018.)

We also receive funding from smaller donors, such as cities, provinces and funds, but these amounts are much smaller than the federal grants. (Approx. 12% in 2018.)

6. **Reach:** *Say something about the key countries you work in and the main areas of programming.*

About 90% of our projects are in Africa. This includes our DGD-funded programs and most our overseas personnel. As described above (3) most projects focus on health and education.

In Asia we mostly work in emergency response; in Latin-America we support a few smaller projects (health and poverty) including a financial adoption program. We are active in one European country: two of our expats do humanitarian work among the Romani in Serbia.

7. **What are the three main value adding areas** *where your NGO contributes to consortia?*

1. We have a strong and faithful constituency we can count on for long-term support as well as emergency response.
2. As a co-operational partner, we enjoy strong relationships with partners. We have long-standing relationships with local organisations, as well as with Integral Alliance-members. At the same time, we are quite flexible in who we support, when and where. We make use of our partner's expertise in the field, so we are able to choose strong and efficient programs to support.
3. In consortia, as a co-operational partner, Tearfund has usually been the lead agency and as such main point of contact with the donor, the coordinating partner between all members of the consortium and the one following up and consolidating PME.

8. **Innovations:** *Say something about areas where your NGO has developed or is developing something innovative.*

Currently, Tearfund is part of a consortium with Tearfund UK, Islamic Relief Worldwide, RedR UK, The Joint Learning Initiative and the University of Leeds, funded by DGD – Humanitarian (Innovation). This concerns a one-year project called Bridging the Gap: The role of local faith actors in humanitarian response. The project aims to increase and strengthen the cooperation between humanitarian aid workers and local faith actors. The expected output will be an evidence-based model for future cooperation.

Summary: humanitarian workers are generally quite aware of the strength of working with local partners, partners that are embedded in the local community and can offer a lasting presence after a disaster or humanitarian crisis. Among the first responders we often find religious people and groups. These ‘local faith actors’ (LFA’s) tend to be deeply rooted in the communities, have a certain authority and access to remote areas. They work from deeply rooted values, with great motivation and a broad base of volunteers. They tend to be the first ones there, and remain present after the immediate threat subsides. These actors would be an interesting partner for humanitarian organisations. Research has shown that the work carried out by local faith actors was rooted more deeply and reached further.

Nonetheless, local faith groups and religious actors are still regarded with scepticism, for several reasons. The result is that this faith-driven work and the work being done by INGO’s, is often done in parallel, which means we miss opportunities and the impact of the work remains limited.

This project aims to bridge that gap between humanitarian actors and local faith actors, so as to increase the impact and effectiveness of humanitarian response. Concretely, it works at capacity building, among humanitarian workers as well as LFA’s, through workshops and other learning tools (*RedR*). LFA’s can apply for a grant in support of their projects, and if they are eligible they also receive guidance in carrying out their project from our partners in-country (*Tearfund UK* and *Islamic Relief Worldwide*). There is also a large research-component. A baseline is presented through a research paper, and local researchers follow up the project so as to come to an evidence-based model near the end of the project (*Joint Learning Initiative* and *University of Leeds*.)

9. **Contract person and e-mail:**

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*When you have completed this sheet please return to Adrian who will upload all those received on the EU-CORD shared hub under Programme Resourcing and Collaboration for access by members.*

*Thank you*