

St Albans Diocese Appeal 2021 - questions from the Diocese

What action have you (Tearfund) taken to ensure the legal requirements for charitable fund-raising have been met, so that all monies can be passed on with confidence?

As an organisation we pride ourselves in the quality of our work and our website has much information about this. We'd recommend those interested look at our quality standards page. <https://www.tearfund.org/our-policies/standards>

We are committed to the highest standards of financial controls and accountability in all of our UK and international operations. As a UK registered charity and company limited by guarantee we are required to comply with UK charity legislation and are the subject of an annual audit by a major international firm of chartered accountants.

We are also subject to regular audits both in the UK and overseas by our institutional donors. The institutional donors we receive grants from include the UK Government (through DfID), United States Government (through USAID, amongst others), the European Union (through ECHO), Canadian Foodgrain Bank and the United Nations. The terms and conditions of the majority of the grants include the need for an audit, with ECHO and USAID being the most frequent and regular.

Notwithstanding these procedures and controls, we recognise that there is an ongoing risk of both fraud amongst our own staff and of aid not reaching its intended beneficiaries. To mitigate against the risk of fraud we have standard procedures in place for fraud prevention and detection, and follow rigorous selection procedures in recruiting staff. Any suspected cases of fraud are thoroughly investigated and, in the event of an individual being found guilty, he or she is likely to be dismissed (and possibly subject to prosecution). To minimise the risk of aid being diverted, we work closely with local communities, where possible building on links already established through our international network of evangelical Christian partners.

As a Christian organisation committed to integrity, we truly believe that transparency and accountability is important. In this spirit, a breakdown of our expenditure and accounts are available on our website [here](#). All our spending is regulated by the Charity Commission which monitors all registered charities in England and Wales.

Please advise us of the percentages you have agreed with your partners in DRC – so the amount that is given to the project is transparent to all parties?

With Partnerships projects we normally allocate 6% to support UK costs, 6% for Tearfund's international work - supporting the grant and project with the partner and the remaining 88% goes on the grant to the partner.

How do Tearfund give donors confidence that monies get through to designated projects, especially in places where there have been adverse press reports?

Our partner agreements and financial management procedures mean that we have a system in place to ensure funds are spent appropriately. Every grant and payment

must be fully accounted for before subsequent payments are made. We often work with local church based organisations, which helps us to be able to ensure spending is appropriate.

We work closely with our partners, checking they have the capability to look after funds well before setting up projects and regularly auditing them to ensure things are running smoothly. Anything that might be highlighted as an area of weakness in an audit will be seen by our country teams who can then work with the partner to strengthen that part of their organisational capacity.

How we work with our partners:

Once we have entered into a partnership, the partners will submit project proposals that are consistent with the country's strategies. They are then subject to a complete audit and solvency check by an accountant before we consider funding their project. There are many processes and mechanisms in place to ensure that your generous donations are meeting the material and spiritual needs of the most deprived communities and that the work of our partners has a lasting impact. This includes project cycle management checks, verifying bank accounts, financial reports, annual reports, auditing accounts and internal and external evaluations.

Many of the countries where we work are vulnerable politically, economically and geographically. As Tearfund we suggest projects in good faith that they will happen, yet occasionally things happen that are out of our control, which could mean that start dates are delayed, projects could have to adapt slightly depending upon circumstances, and in very rare cases some projects may not be able to continue. In this case we would inform the Diocese and aim to use the funds to fund another project that has very similar objectives.